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**Biden's Inaugural Address (2021):  
A Critical Discourse Analysis**

A Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the  
Requirements for a **Master's Degree in Linguistics**

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## **Dedication**

This work is a fruit of countless and arduous sacrifices. I wholeheartedly dedicate this study to my beloved parents who have been my abundant source of inspiration and who gave me strength and provided me with moral, emotional and financial support.

To my brothers, sisters, supervisor and friends who advised me and constantly encouraged me to keep trying and never quit until I finally succeed in this research paper.

Above all, to the Almighty God, who showered me with his blessings in my everyday life, especially for the power, wisdom, courage, patience, time and guidance in the realisation of the present modest work.

All of these, I offer to you.

Nassera,

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## Abstract

After the president was sworn as the 46<sup>th</sup> president of the USA, Biden delivered his inaugural address on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at Washington D. C. This inauguration ceremony was completely different from the previous ones as it witnessed a number of cascading crises that threatened the whole country. In the present study, we treated the themes along with the ideologies and beliefs that were embedded in this speech, by relying on Van Dijk's Model of "Discourse Structures" (1980). The ultimate aim of this research is to identify the discourse structures namely Macrostructures (i.e., the themes of the speech), Microstructures (i.e., semantic, stylistic, syntactic and rhetoric analyses), as well as the Superstructures (i.e., the schema or plan of the discourse). Concerning research methods, we opted for a mixed-method, where we used the quantitative method for frequencies and tabulations of the lexical choices and structures, as well as the qualitative method for the thematic and schematic analyses of this political discourse. The findings of the present analytical study reveal that 1) the president used a powerful language to emphasise on Unity and Democracy throughout the whole speech. 2) His ideologies are completely contrastive to the former's president. Besides, he showed that he does not hold any negative attitude towards immigrants and Islam, but he is against racism, terrorism, and white supremacy. 3) He emphasised on the current period more than past and future as it is shown in the results of our syntactic analysis. 4) Also, he praised for unity, showed resilience, tolerance and respect for people's differences and for the parties with different political ideologies. Hence, many lexical items and syntactic structures emphasised the significance of unity. 5) Moreover, his ultimate objective was to bring America back to restoration from the tremendous issues threatening the unity of the nation. 6) The president intelligently employed parallel structures and functional repetitions as persuasive techniques to highlight his intentions and plans and to gain a pleasing and a positive impression of the audience. 7) Furthermore, Biden eloquently promoted his ideologies and beliefs through the use of the figurative language like metaphors, personifications, epithets, antitheses ..., among others. 8) Finally, he used several sound devices namely alliterations, assonances and consonances which made the tone of the speech optimistic, memorable and beautifully rhyming.

**Keywords:** Biden, Inaugural Address, Political Discourse, Ideologies, Critical Discourse Analysis, Unity and Democracy, Discourse Structures, Van Dijk (1980).

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## **List of Abbreviations**

**DA:** Discourse Analysis

**CDA:** Critical Discourse Analysis

**CA:** Conversation Analysis

**CBDA:** Corpus-based Discourse Analysis

**CL:** Corpus Linguistics

**PD:** Political Discourse

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## **Definition of Terms**

### **Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)**

According to Van Dijk (2000), CDA is a type of discourse analysis study of abuse of power, domination, focuses on the study of how abuse of power, inequality, produced and rejected through text and oral (talk) in social and political contexts.

### **Ideologies**

According to Van Dijk (2003), discourse serves as a medium by which ideologies are communicated in a society and helps reproduce power and dominance for a specific group or social class. In other words, they are particular ways of representing and constructing a society that reproduces distributed power relations. They also need to be shared between group members. Thus, political speeches are the most effective way to share ideologies.

### **Political Discourse**

According to Van Dijk (1997), political discourse is 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.

### **Macrostructures**

According to Van Dijk (1980), Macrostructures of a discourse refer to the structure of the global significance of an observable text from the topic (theme raised by a text).

### **Microstructures**

According to Van Dijk (1980), Microstructures refer to the local meanings of a text can be observed from the choice of words, sentences, styles used by a text (syntactic and semantic analysis).

### **Superstructures**

According to Van Dijk (1980), Superstructures refer to the framework, such as the introduction, contents and conclusions. They should not be confused with Macrostructures because superstructures are the global structures not of meaning but of form.

## **General Introduction**

All over the world, politicians are in a constant struggle for power during the race towards presidency. As a result, the use of persuasive discourse strategies is vital for those whose primary objective is summarised in the manipulation of others as well as getting them to accept or reject certain beliefs, ideas and plans of action. It is obvious that persuasion requires discourse and rhetoric; therefore, language plays a crucial role in the art of persuasion because politicians appeal to public speaking in order to control or dominate their behaviour and eventually make them deliberately embrace certain ideologies that is their ultimate aim. Moreover, political discourses attracted the attention of many researchers. Besides, many of them investigated on the linguistic features of political genres from multiple stances such as pragmatics, stylistics, syntax and rhetoric, ...etc. After winning in the presidential campaign, the new elected president delivers the inaugural speech using persuasive techniques and a careful word choice. Besides, he addresses the whole nation for the first time and discloses about his ideologies and his future plans. On January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the results of elections came with Joe Biden's victory. Indeed, this was a crucial and a pertinent event for the United States of America in particular and for the whole world in general.

### **1. Statement of the Problem**

Inauguration speeches are considered as the most influential political discourses. In simple words, they are exceptional events where the newly elected political leaders take the oath and reveal about their future plans to be achieved and the different ways to approach particular issues. The inauguration ceremony is the turning point of a peaceful transition of power and a remarkable event in history, for this reason the former president preferred not to be present. Biden's inaugural speech took place during the most agonizing period (i.e. on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021) where a massive group of riots stormed the Capitol of the USA and resulted in the death of five persons (a police officer was beaten, a rioter was shot, and three others died during the rampage as referred to by Jack Healy). In addition, at the time of this ceremony, the American population was still suffering from the COVID-19 pandemic. This sanitary crisis had dreadful results not only on the health of the whole humanity but also it badly hit the economy of the whole world. Hence, people looked for a glimpse of hope for the future following the start of the new presidency. Accordingly, in our present study, we attempt to analyse the new president's speech from a CDA approach; where we try to reveal his linguistic strategies to

make the American population feel in security and peace as well as united for the progress of the whole nation.

## **2. Questions of the Study**

In this paper, we attempt to answer the following questions:

- 1- What are the major themes that were articulated in Biden's Inaugural Address?
  - a) What are the dominant themes of this inauguration speech?
  - b) What are the sub-themes referred to in this discourse?
- 2- What are the ideologies and beliefs embedded in this discourse?
- 3- What are the linguistic devices used to reflect the theme of unity?
  - a) What are the different figures of style used in our selected discourse?
  - b) What are the sound devices employed in this speech?
  - c) What are the lexical choices and syntactic structures used to emphasise the theme of unity?
- 4- Does Van Dijk's Model (1980) apply completely in Biden's Inaugural Address?

## **3. Purpose of the Study**

The inauguration ceremony is a transition of power where the new elected president takes the oath and delivers his speech to the whole nation. The present paper is an analytical study that attempts to discuss Biden's inaugural address on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021, from a critical discourse perspective. The main research objective is to identify the dominant theme, as well as the sub-themes that are conveyed in Biden's speech. Additionally, our study will explore mainly the theme of unity, through a syntactic, rhetoric and stylistic analysis, within our selected discourse. Finally, we will apply Van Dijk's Model (1980) of Discourse Structures: 1) Macrostructures (i.e. identifying the themes that are articulated in the speech), 2) Microstructures (i.e. semantic, syntactic, stylistic and rhetoric analysis), and 3) the Superstructures of the speech (i.e. the schema of the discourse) in the critical discourse analysis of this speech.

## **4. Assumptions of the Study**

The main assumptions of this research paper are as follows:

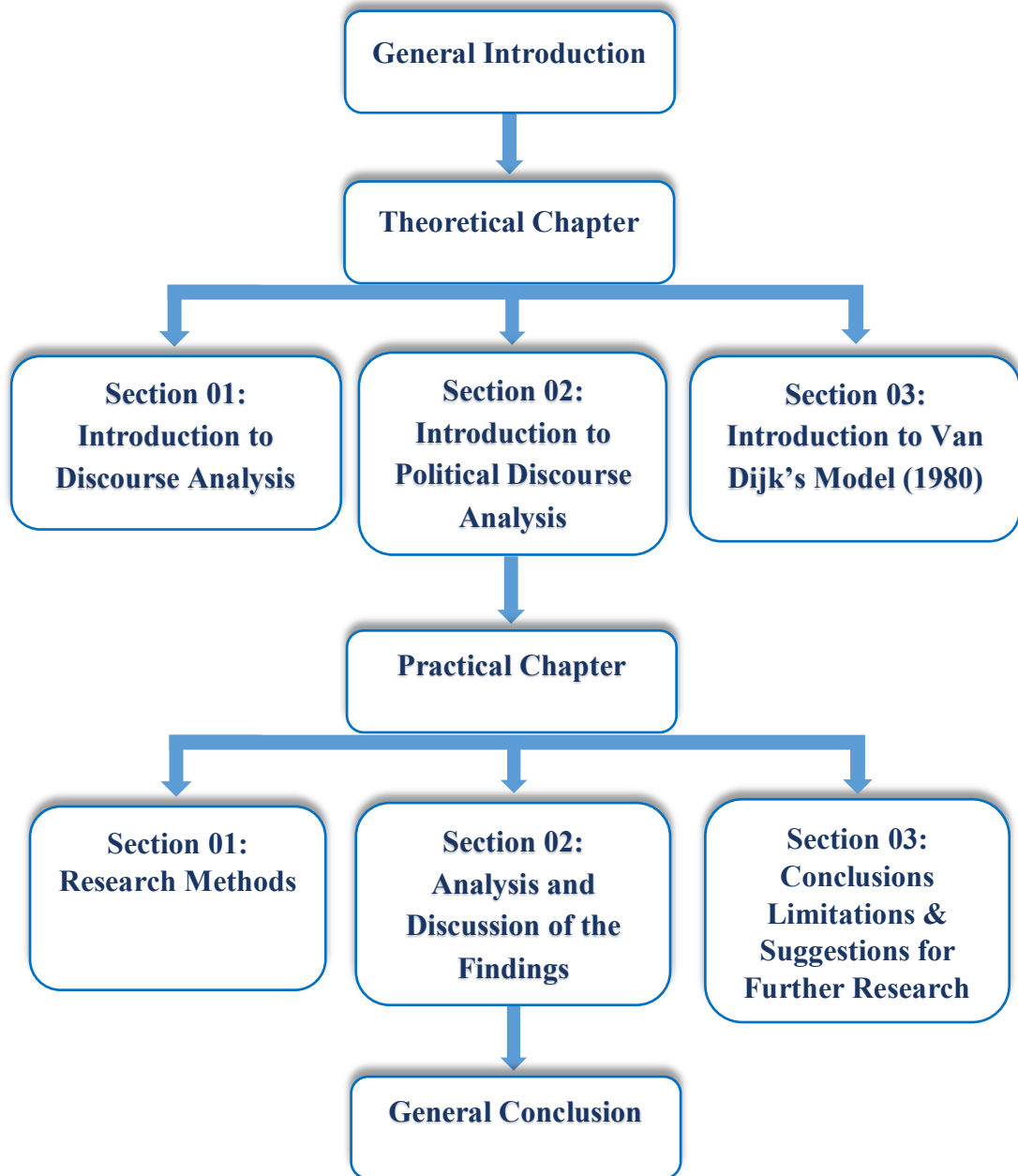
- 1- The dominant themes are Unity and Democracy.
- 2- The speaker used appropriate lexical choice and grammatical patterns to emphasise on the concept of unity in particular, and equality and freedom as well.

- 3- The speaker referred to religion and history to emphasise on the importance of unity.
- 4- The president is eloquent as it is shown in his speech which is full of rhetorical language (which made his discourse hopeful and memorable).
- 5- The elements of Van Dijk's Model (1980): Macrostructures, Microstructures and Superstructures can be applied to critically analyse this discourse.

## **5. Significance of the Study**

The present study is a critical discourse analysis of Biden's inaugural speech (2021). It is essential to assert that the rhetoric of the American presidency is of a remarkable significance because it represents one of the most influential figures in the world and aims at influencing people's hearts and minds. This makes the inauguration addresses exceptional speech events. Moreover, the inaugural speech is an opportunity to eloquently promote his leadership style, his new ideas and plans, so this type of discourse is rich in terms of rhetorical language, persuasion techniques and lexical choices. To our best knowledge, the present speech has not been studied before relying on Van Dijk's Discourse Structures Model. Hence, it will be a new original contribution to the field of CDA. It will show the power of address of Biden in his speech. Also, to show how Unity and Democracy are expressed using his linguistic skills and a variety of rhetorical techniques for persuasion, along his inauguration speech. Finally, we revealed about his ideologies and explained the way he approached the social and political issues that threaten the country's stability.

## 6. Organization of the Study



**Figure 01:** Organization of the Study

# **Chapter One**

## **Theoretical Background**

### **Introduction**

The present chapter is an introduction to the theoretical background of this analytical study. It is divided into three sections where every section elaborates important ideas related to the Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and to the Political Discourse. The first section concerns Discourse Analysis definitions, approaches, principles, aims and some pertinent studies that investigated on CDA of political discourses. The second section explores the Political Discourse Analysis and political ideologies. In the last section, we list some of the main contributions of Van Dijk and briefly explain his theory of Discourse Structures that we adopted in our CDA.

### **Section One: Introduction to Discourse Analysis**

In this section, we introduce Discourse Analysis. Yet, we attempt to answer the following questions:

- What is Discourse Analysis?
- What are the different approaches in Discourse Analysis?
- What are the similarities and differences between Discourse Analysis and Pragmatics?
- What are the principles and aims of CDA?
- What is the relationship between language, power and ideology?

#### **1. Definition of Discourse Analysis (DA)**

According to Bhatia, Flowerdew & Jones (2008), the term Discourse Analysis is used to refer to the analysis of internal language features of either spoken or written discourse. It is a method of analysing the structure of texts or utterances taking into account both their linguistic content and their sociolinguistic context. It first started as a linguistic discipline that focused more on language as a text; then, it moved to the analysis of language in use where many of other disciplines founded the basis of Discourse Analysis such as psychology, sociology, semantics, and rhetoric. Moreover, many scholars have defined Discourse Analysis variously. According to Brown & Yule (1983), “The analysis of discourse is, necessarily, the analysis of language use, it cannot be restricted to the description of linguistic forms independent of the purposes or functions (p.01). The above citation explains Discourse Analysis as being not limited to the analysis of linguistic forms and structures only, but it also studies language in use

covering all the different sociolinguistic aspects and the multiple purposes of discourse. In the same vein, Bhatia, Flowerdew, and Jones (2008) defined Discourse Analysis as follows: “Dating back to the 1960s, it has been defined as the analysis of linguistic behaviour, written and spoken, beyond the limits of individual sentences, focusing primarily on the meaning constructed and interpreted as language is used in particular social contexts.” (p.1). As cited above, Discourse Analysis emerged during the 1960s, and it is the investigation of linguistic behaviours going deeper from the superficial interpretation of sentences to examine language, as it is used in particular social contexts.

## **2. Approaches to Discourse Analysis**

The approaches to Discourse Analysis are diverse. Some of these approaches are summarised in the following quotation:

...The discourse analytical approaches that have grown out of these interdisciplinary developments are many, including register and genre analyses, critical discourse analysis, discursive psychology, conversation analysis, interactional sociolinguistics, the ethnography of communication, stylistics, mediated discourse analysis, corpus-based analysis, narrative analysis, multimodal discourse analysis, rhetorical-grammatical analysis, argumentation analysis, and many others,... (Bhatia, Flowerdew, and Jones, 2008, p.3)

### **2.1 Conversation Analysis (CA)**

In the late 1960s, according to Whalen & Raymond (2000), Sacks developed Conversation Analysis in collaboration with Schegloff & Jefferson. This approach is deeply rooted in sociology; consequently, it embraces the principles of ethnomethodology. The ultimate objective of CA is to describe and explain individual competences that are embedded in daily informal interactions to understand the discourse patterns in social life. Conversation analysts consider discourse as a social action as referred in Austin’s famous work *How to Do Things with Words* in 1962. He outlined his theory of Speech Acts and the concept of performative language. That is to say, saying something is equivalent to the performance of an action. For example, promises, requests, orders, apologies...etc. In simple words, CA is based on interactions of all kinds either formal or informal, sociable or task-focused, face-to-face or technologically mediated like telephone conversations or teleconferences and in specific contexts such as educational, social and so on and so forth.

## **2.2 Corpus-based Discourse Analysis (CBDA)**

Before discussing Corpus-based Discourse Analysis, it is important to explain the two concepts: corpus and corpus linguistics. First, a corpus is a principled collection of large amounts of authentic and real language (either written texts or recorded and transcribed speeches); these texts are stored electronically and analysed using specialised software and applications. Hence, the combination of the two terms results in Corpus Linguistics (CL). Moreover, Sinclair (1991) defined Corpus Linguistics as follows: “Corpus Linguistics is the study of a collection of naturally occurring language text chosen to characterise a state of variety of a language” (Sinclair, 1991). Accordingly, CL is a branch of linguistics that studies large databases of authentic language in order to capture and reflect the language used by specific communities of language users. Additionally, Paltridge (2012) asserts that:

Corpus studies may look at words that typically occur together (collocations) or they may look at the frequency of particular items. Corpus studies may look at language use in general, or they may look at the use of a particular linguistic feature in a particular domain, such as spoken academic discourse, or use of the item in a particular genre, such as university tutorial discussion (p.144)

As suggested above, Corpus Linguistics studies examine mainly collocations and the frequency of linguistic items. Besides, the selection of texts is not randomly made but in accordance with a number of criteria such as representativeness (i.e. the selected sample should represent the whole language in both specialised and general areas of language use).

Finally, importantly, Corpus Linguistics and Discourse Analysis are complementary because both focus on the analysis of natural-occurring language (language in use). Corpus-based Discourse Analysis puts the focus on linguistics, more precisely lexicology and grammar. Therefore, it studies the functional variations and the lexico-grammar features of a language. As referred to by Bhatia, Flowerdew & Jones (2008):

... Corpus-based analysis of language use begins with the creation of a large (by the standards of those days) general corpora representing language use in a variety of contexts, both written as well as spoken, to draw insights from observations about how people use language, both in term lexico-grammar features and their functional variation. (p.7)

## **2.3 Genre Analysis**

Bhatia (1993) defines genre as:

A recognisable communicative event characterised by a set of communicative purpose(s) identified and mutually understood by the members of the



professional or academic community in which it regularly occurs. Most often, it is highly structured and conventionalised with constraints on allowable contributions in terms of their intent, positioning, form and functional value. These constraints, however, are often exploited by the expert members of the discourse community to achieve private intentions within the framework of socially recognised purpose(s). (p. 13)

Accordingly, a genre is a class of communicative events with shared communicative purposes. It is a representation of language use and the participants in that event are mutually intelligible. Genres are well structured and follow certain constraints that belong to a particular discipline or domain.

Furthermore, Genre Analysis is an analytical study of how language is used within a particular area of language use. Every genre has its own structure and goal that is distinct from other types of genres. According to Steven T. Varela (2019), some examples of genres are mentioned as follows:

- Oral genres such as public speaking, podcast, radio show / program, class lecture, interviews...etc.
- Typography: books / textbooks, magazines, newspapers, websites, primary source documents (diaries, essays...etc.), memorandums, laws / policy, editorials, instruction sets, transcribed interviews...etc.
- Iconography: webcast, video, media, posters, cartoons / comics, photography, instruction sets, interviews through media... etc.
- Academic genre like research articles, conference proposals, conference presentations, lectures, seminars, MA dissertations, proposals...etc.

#### **2.4 Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)**

Van Dijk (2000) states that “Critical discourse analysis (CDA) is a type of discourse analytical research that primarily studies the way social power abuse, dominance, and inequality are enacted, reproduced, and resisted by text and talk in the social and political context” (p. 352). CDA provides a detailed description and interpretation of the role of discursive practices, strategies and linguistic patterns that characterise the construction of hegemonic and counter-hegemonic discourses about the past. Many scholars have contributed to the development of CDA, among them we mention: George Yule, Van Dijk, Fairclough...etc. Importantly, Van Dijk is one of the founding fathers of CDA who typically characterises its focus as the study of relationship between discourse, power, dominance and social inequality (Van Dijk, 1995). In

simple words, CDA focuses on socio-political domination and considers discourse as an important component of the society and culture.

In sum, Critical Discourse Analysis is an ideological approach that examines the purpose of language in the social context, reveals how discourse reflects and determines power structures and considers both abstract social structures and concrete social events as parts of social reality.

### **2.5 Rhetorical Discourse Analysis**

Rhetoric is the science and art of persuasion. It includes two traditional meanings: the use of figurative language and persuasive action. It allows the emphasis on either or both senses differently in order to specify more exactly how texts affect their audiences regarding particular power relations “Rhetorical power” (Thomas M. Carr, 2009). According to Friedrich Nietzsche (1889),

Language itself is the result of purely rhetorical arts. The power to discover and to make operative that which works and impresses, with respect to each thing, a power to which Aristotle calls rhetoric, is, at the same time the essence of language; the latter is based just as little as rhetoric is upon that which is true, upon the essence of things. (p. 21)

Hence, Rhetorical Discourse Analysis is the analysis of the rhetoric. That is the art using the figurative language in order to convince the audience to accept or reject ideas and beliefs. Rhetorical Discourse Analysts examine linguistic devices used for the sake of persuasion and explore the effects of rhetorical discourse on the audience. Briefly, persuasion involves discourse and rhetoric to influence the receivers to adopt an attitude towards a particular issue (Van Dijk, 1998). Thus, rhetoric is a crucial factor in the art of persuasion like politicians who tend to use a figurative language so as to control or dominate behaviours of specific audiences and to persuade the target public to accept particular ideologies.

### **3. Discourse Analysis and Pragmatics**

Many studies investigated in language phenomena at different levels and in diverse fields of Linguistics such as pragmatics and discourse. Pragmatics and Discourse Analysis are approaches that study language’s relations to contextual background features. Both have many things in common: they study context, text and function.

First, both disciplines study contextual meaning of utterances and analyse different parts of meaning that entail physical, social and epistemic knowledge and the influence of

factors like sociological and psychological factors, as well as the setting of the speech event. Moreover, both disciplines focus on meaning as communicated by interlocutors because people mean more than the utterances they communicate. According to Brown (1996), the speaker's meaning is dependent on assumptions of knowledge that are shared by both the speaker and the hearer: the speaker constructs the linguistic message and intends or implies a meaning, and the hearer interprets the message and infers the meaning (p.42). Furthermore, Discourse and Pragmatics look at texts, language uses and transcripts of spoken discourse and focus on how language parts become meaningful and unified. This text unification is called in Pragmatics "relevance", while in Discourse Analysis it is called "coherence". Finally, both disciplines are concerned with function. The meaning of function overlaps the short-term goals and the long-term ones of the verbal communication. In conversations, speech acts describe the speaker's intentions that generally result in an action. For instance, promises, threats, apologies, requests...etc. In simple words, the previously mentioned units of language represent the ideologies in CDA and at the same time, they are parts of Pragmatics.

Although Pragmatics and Discourse Analysis have many similarities, they have slight differences mainly in the emphasis on the structure. DA's focus is beyond the sentence level; that is to say, it studies the structure of texts. Whereas Pragmatics is principally concerned with the structure of sentences (Yule, 1996, p. 83). At last, DA gives more importance to social norms and principles; meanwhile, pragmatics tends to focus mainly on aspects of what is unsaid or unwritten yet communicated (i.e. the latter is closer to the socio-cultural aspects of language use while analysing a given discourse as well as the psychological and environmental aspects of the speech event). As stated by Yule (1996), "In pragmatics of discourse, we inevitably explore what the speaker or writer has in mind" (p.83).

#### **4. Principles and Aims of Critical Discourse Analysis**

Critical Discourse Analysis is an approach to the study of text and talk. According to Van Dijk (1993), CDA has several aims and principles. First of all, CDA is problem-oriented rather than paradigm-oriented. That is to say, its main interest is investigating the pressing social issues (power abuse, inequality, racism, ...etc). Second, CDA is an interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary approach as it is more concerned with the socio-political issues and aims at understanding these social problems. Third, CDA studies cover many discourse dimensions such as phonology, syntax, semantics, ...etc. Additionally, it is a branch of critical studies in humanities and social sciences. Critical discourse analysts provide with a detailed and comprehensible explanations of their objectives and perspectives. Furthermore, CDA studies

are not restricted to verbal approaches only, but also considers other semiotic aspects of communication such as sounds, pictures, gestures...etc. Moreover, CDA examines the way social groups reproduce or resist power, dominance and inequality through text and talk. These studies also cover a couple of other areas such as underlying ideological discourse strategies used to influence people's hearts and minds and promote their ideas, beliefs and plans. Most importantly, CDA introduces social and political ethics (what is considered to be right and what is condemned as wrong or rejected). Last but not least, the majority of CDA researches focus on discourse structures and strategies of dominance and resistance involving social classes, gender differences, religion, ...etc.

In conclusion, the principles and aims previously mentioned are the most pertinent ones. CDA deals with structures and strategies of elite discourse and their cognitive and social conditions, consequences as well as with the discourses of resistance against domination.

## **5. Language, Power and Ideology**

It is sometimes assumed that language is simply a medium to convey ideas. However, it is more than that. Language is used to express different ideologies through the use of several discursive strategies and to produce power. It is also used by public speakers to influence the audience to adopt certain attitudes, dominate and manipulate their thoughts to reach a particular outcome.

### **5.1 The Concept of Ideology**

The notion "Ideology" was invented by the French philosopher Destutt de Tracy at the end of the 18th century. Destutt de Tracy started his famous book "*Elements de l'Idéologie*" with a citation that human minds are full of "fixed ideas" that are very difficult to change. He defines ideologies as being nothing less than a general science of ideas that is cognitive science and psychology. In spite of the fact that the study of ideology has received a lot of scholarly attention since Destutt de Tracy's contributions and works, it remains the vaguest concept in social sciences. Furthermore, ideologies have something to do with systems of ideas shared by a social group or movement. According to Van Dijk (2006, p. 6), some examples of the most widespread ideologies in the world are as follows: Communism, Anti-communism, Socialism, Liberalism, Feminism, Sexism, Racism, and Anti-racism, Pacifism, Militarism...etc. In addition, Van Dijk (2000) states that ideologies form the basis of the belief systems or social representations of specific groups; that is to say, ideologies are part of the socially shared knowledge and social attitudes.

Ideologies are foundational social beliefs of people rather than general because fundamental ideologies are not developed overnight. For instance, a person cannot be a feminist or socialist in few days but it takes time for framing the foundation of personal, social, and contextual ideologies including many experiences and discourses. According to Fairclough (1995):

CDA as discourse analysis which aims to systematically explore the often opaque relationship of causality and determination between discursive practices, events, texts and wider social and cultural structures, relations and processes; to investigate how such practices, events, and texts arise out of and are ideologically shaped by the relation of power and struggles over power, and to explore how the opacity of this relationship between discourse and society is itself a factor securing power and hegemony. (p. 132)

Regarding the above citation, ideologies are the practices, events and texts (social forms) that are shared by groups and are shaped by the relationship between these individuals. Similarly, Van Dijk (2006) asserts that ideologies usually control the thoughts of a social group, which represent the essential social characteristics of a group based on their identities, goals, norms, values, positions, and responses to other negative stances (i.e., each society differs from another one in social beliefs, practices, cultures that are proper to a particular social group). As a result, ideologies are different; in some societies an ideology maybe positive while in others it may be interpreted negatively.

## **5.2 The Concept of Power**

Understanding the nature of social power and dominance is one of the most important characteristics of a good CDA. Power is defined as an unequal capacity to control how texts are generated, distributed and consumed in particular sociocultural contexts as well as in between participants of a speech event (Fairclough, 1995). Van Dijk (1993) defines dominance as the exercise of social power by elites, institutions or groups that results in social inequality, including political, cultural, class, ethnic, racial and gender inequality. This reproduction process may involve such different modes of discourse-power relations as the more or less direct or overt support, enactment, representation, legitimation, denial, mitigation or concealment of dominance, among others.

All in all, social power is based on privileged access to socially valued resources, such as wealth, income, position, status, force, group membership, education or knowledge. Even access to various genres, forms or contexts of discourse and communication is also an important power resource (Van Dijk, 1993).

### **5.3 The Relatedness of Language, Power and Ideology**

Principally, an ideology is a system of ideas, which constitutes and pilots the large power blocks of our society. Moreover, language is a medium of ideological forces. As a result, Language is also ideological (Habermas, 1973). Ideologies are not individual and not represented like specific, episodic memories, or as personal opinions. This is also, why the comparison between ideology and language (or Grammar) is so instructive. Both are abstract social systems shared by particular communities and used to complete daily social practices, namely acting and communicating (Van Dijk, 2005). He added that discourse is a construct with personal thought that reflects individual behaviour and attitude, also known as an ideology. The ideas that are socially constructed and conditioned are also considered as an ideology. Similarly, Fairclough (1995) identifies transforming goals with the perspectives of textual and contextual variations; discursive practices may have significant ideological effects, which they can help to produce and reproduce unequal power relations among the different bodies of community and how they represent things and position of people. Furthermore, Van Dijk (2000) states that ideologies are ideas and belief systems of particular group of people defined from multidisciplinary ways involving social, cognitive, and discursive aspects.

In nutshell, Van Dijk (2006) asserts that ideologies are particular ways of representing and constructing a society that reproduces distributed power relations. Therefore, language, power and ideology complement one another.

#### **Section Two: Introduction to Political Discourse Analysis**

In the present section, we first define political discourse analysis; then, we explain how political discourse is considered as a political action. After that, we will shed light on some of the ideological discourse structures. Finally, we mention some of the related studies in the field of CDA, and some others that examined the political speeches of inauguration, respectively.

##### **1. Political Discourse Definition (PD)**

Political speeches are social and representative of some ideology, but also personal and individualised to some extent. According to Van Dijk (1997), political discourse refers to “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” (p.12). He adds that politicians selectively choose the lexical items that they believe they would “effectively emphasize or de-emphasize political

attitudes and opinions, garner support, manipulate public opinion, manufacture political consent, or legitimate political power" (p.25). Moreover, Van Dijk (1997) argued that a political discourse is not a genre but a class of genres defined by a social domain, namely that of politics. Therefore, government deliberations, parliamentary debates, party programs, and speeches by politicians, are among the many genres that belong to the domain of politics, as it is explained below:

PDA is both about political discourse and also a critical enterprise. In the spirit of contemporary approach in critical discourse analysis, this would mean that critical political discourse analysis deals especially with the reproduction of political discourse, including the various forms of resistance or counter-power against such forms of discursive dominance. (Van Dijk, 1997, p.11)

## **2. Political Discourse as a Political Action**

According to Van Dijk (1997), political discourse mainly inauguration speeches seek to get people to accept or reject specific ideas or plans of action or adopt particular attitudes. Therefore, the language employed in the political discourse is a crucial factor in persuading the audience because politicians appeal to language to manipulate others, control or dominate the behaviours of the public. A political speech is necessarily functional and directive in nature. Political leaders usually tend to influence their audiences those who supported them and also adversaries who chose not to do so. Consequently, the use of appropriate discourse strategies is vital.

Moreover, Fairclough (1985) stated that discourses of specific situations accomplish the speech act of an assertion, question, accusation, promise or threat. Members of dominant social groups express commands or threats to the dominated groups depending on the social conditions of these speech acts. In a broader sense, many speech acts are part of dominance, discrimination, marginalisation, ...etc. And they may be associated with power and power groups. Not only by language actions can be performed, but even turn taking, pauses, interruptions, self-representation, closing conversation and others are considered as actions (Van Dijk, 2000). The same thing for the actions that are performed by discourse such as legislation or governing the country. Both the conservative and a socialist government govern the country as well as legislation in parliaments. In simple words, discursive acts like speaking, debating, quarrelling and others may be carried out by social actors with any ideology. Decisions and actions that are performed in speeches are monitored by ideologies: Democratic,

Authoritarian, Conservative, Progressive, Neoliberal, Socialist, Chauvinist, Racist, Anti-racist...etc. (Van Dijk, 2006, p. 43)

### **3. Ideological Discourse Structures**

In everyday interaction and reproduction of ideologies, discourse plays a fundamental role. Ideologies affect mental structures which are involved in the production and understanding of discourse and their function in the society. Discourse is complex, with multiple levels of structures, each with its own set of categories and elements that can be mixed in countless ways. Ideologies can be communicated overtly; therefore, easily detected, but they can also be expressed subtly and implicitly or in a less obvious and clear discourse structures. For example, an intonation, a hesitation...etc (Van Dijk, 2006, p 42). He added that ideologies may be found in almost all types of discourse (being either written texts or transcribed speeches), but it is believed that they may be more typical for some structures rather than others. Consequently, they are more likely to affect the semantic meaning and style than morphology or syntax because the latter are independent from context. In simple words, languages differ in structure but the latter does not have any ideological influence. Conversely, when it comes to word choice (semantics), it has a remarkable influence on ideologies because lexical choices depend on the opinion of the speaker and opinions depend on individual's ideological position. Hence, the use of these ideologies influences various levels of discourse structures like: intonation, rhetoric, presupposition, ...etc (Van Dijk, 2006, p. 44). Furthermore, the ideological communication consists of four moves; thus, called the "ideological square":

- Emphasise positive things about US.
- Emphasise negative things about THEM.
- De-emphasise negative things about US.
- De-emphasise positive things about THEM.

Simply, discourse has many ways to emphasise or de-emphasise meanings: the use of these contrastive pairs permits many forms of variations at the level of structure mainly. That is, it can be achieved by using hyperboles, euphemisms, ...etc. Finally, Van Dijk (2006) states that there are many types of discourse structures: "In sentence syntax alone there are dozens of possible structural forms that might be used to emphasise or de-emphasise meaning" (p. 54). Some of these discourse structures are discussed below:



### **3.1 Discourse Forms**

Van Dijk (2006, p. 55) stated that sentence forms are not context-dependent, and they cannot be used to ideologically mark discourse sentences. However, others, including word order, active and passive voices as well as nominalisations allow for some variation. He added that words can be prioritised by putting them first in a clause or a sentence, or they may be downgraded by placing them at the final position or by removing them completely. For instance, the standard order in English is to match semantic agents with syntactic objects. According to him, putting the subject at first then the objects at last. But, if we want to prioritise the agent by inverting the word order in order to form a passive construction or making the agent implicit by removing it completely. Also, it is possible to transform the verb into noun that is called “nominalisation”. The word order can have many functions namely ideological ones. Therefore, by using many forms we can determine the elements that are extra-emphasised (those that are put at first position) or de-emphasised (placed at the end or removed entirely). The latter will receive less emphasis. The same thing can be applied to ideologies such as sentences that express positive meaning about US and negative about THEM will be put up front and vice versa (Van Dijk, 2006, p.56). Sometimes, the prominent information is put at the end; for example, Conclusions, Recommendations, Summaries, ... etc. But, the importance of information depends on the meaning we want to communicate which is related to the position and order of the information.

### **3.2 Rhetoric**

It is agreed that alliterations, metaphors, similes, irony, euphemisms, litotes and many others are called figures of style. According to Van Dijk (2006, p. 58), rhetoric has an ideological nature, since every ideological group uses a set of rhetorical devices that reveal about their ideology such as the Left and the Right, Racists, Anti-racists, Feminists, Chauvinists, ...etc. For instance, when discussing about ethnic inequality, racism or discrimination, racist discourse may use many euphemisms. However, it may not use them when discussing about others alleged wrongdoings. It is all about which opinions are held regarding whom. Moreover, the different ideological groups may use same figures of style but different meanings within the same figurative style. For example, the phrase “dirty animals” is a metaphor used by the Nazis to refer to their opponents and victims. So, it is a matter of lexical choice rather than choice of particular figure of style. (Van Dijk, 2006, p.59)

To conclude, a rhetorical study of ideological discourse focuses on the figures of style to be used for the expression of positive meanings about US and negative ones about THEM like hyperboles, euphemisms, ... etc.

### **3.3 Implications and Presuppositions**

When we need to express only a part of the information, the missing part is inferred from the sociocultural knowledge; then, presupposed and interpreted accordingly, that is called the implied meaning of discourse. As Van Dijk (2006) said: “In ideological discourse analysis, making explicit the meanings implied by a sentence or text fragment may be a powerful instrument of critical study” (p.47). The option of conveying an information implicitly or explicitly is influenced by ideologies. Furthermore, Van Dijk (2006) adds that people tend to imply the information that show a positive self-image, but any other information that tells about the bad things of others will be expressed explicitly. According to Van Dijk (2006), presupposing information that is not generally shared or accepted and so introducing it implicitly is a popular technique. For example, selecting words that express underlying negative meanings and presuppositions about others (p. 47).

### **3.4 Hedging and Vagueness**

According to Van Dijk (2006, p. 52), managing the clarity and vagueness is a powerful political and ideological strategy, also known as the diplomatic language shows. This strategy is used when the speaker does not know the precise answer of a question, but he does not want to show his ignorance in the subject or he wants to hedge or vague for other purposes. For instance, a politician may be against immigration but may hedge his opinion to avoid being accused of racism. The politician may also vague (use terms that have a vague meaning) such as “popular discontent” instead of racism.

## **4. A Selection of Previous Related Studies**

Studies on Critical Discourse Analysis are numerous, more precisely those that investigated on political discourse mainly the American presidential inaugurations. Listed below in a chronological order, are some related studies of Discourse Analysis of presidential speeches.

Hutton (1967) conducted a rhetorical discourse analysis of the president John F. Kennedy’s Inauguration speech on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 1961, when he was elected as the 35<sup>th</sup> president of the USA. The researcher found that the parts of rhetoric consisted of a studied examination

of the major issues and an adequate use of evidence and reasoning to support his main propositions, pathetic and ethical appeals to support the main ideas. The study sought to test the hypothesis that the president used an elegant style suitable to the audience. Besides, the arrangement of the speech was clear, logical and employing the problem-solution method within the three divisions of the speech (introduction, body and conclusion). The conclusion stated that Kennedy used the available means of persuasion in his “Inaugural Address” and confirmed the hypotheses accurately.

On another front, Savoy (2010) analysed the content of American political speeches and described a corpus comprising 245 speeches delivered by senators John McCain and Barack Obama during 2007-2008. The researcher described and compared the common English words employed more frequently by these political leaders with ordinary usage (Brown Corpus). The results of this study revealed the terms that were overused and underused by these candidates during the last presidential election from a statistical and dynamic perspective.

On the other hand, Matic (2012) investigated the discourse structures in the speeches of two American candidates in the presidential election of 2008, especially those aimed at positive self-presentation and negative other-presentation. The aim of this research was to identify and compare ideologies namely the positive self-presentation and the negative other-presentation and political discourse structures. That is to say, semantic macrostructures, local meanings and linguistic devices which were used in the speeches of the two American president candidates in 2008 presidential campaign. The study concluded with some similarities in the speeches and reported the lexical items used to express objection and criticism.

In a similar vein, Munir (2014) conducted a stylistic analysis of Barack Obama’s second inaugural address. The objectives are to reveal and explain the use of figurative language and identify the lexical and syntactic structures of sentences. The research employed a descriptive qualitative method as it describes the figurative language. The data collection of this paper was note-taking. The results showed that Obama used many figurative devices like metaphors, personification, hyperbole, paradox, simile and metonymy and made his second inaugural address memorable.

Furthermore, Zheng (2014) conducted a stylistic analysis on Martin Luther King’s speech “I Have a Dream”. The paper was based on approaches and theories by Leech and Short. The researcher made a comprehensive stylistic analysis of the selected speech. It attempts to find out how King made his speech delivery remarkable and how the style addresses his tone,

attitude and intentions which can provide some implications for pedagogical application and enrich the techniques in English writing and making speeches. The findings revealed that King chose words skilfully and that he used stylistic means to persuade the audience about equal rights for the blacks.

Altikriti (2016), examined persuasive speech acts employed in Barack Obama's inaugural speeches (2009, 2013). The researcher aimed at underlying and determining the role of speech acts in political addresses. This paper examines three selected political speeches of Obama using the model of Bach and Harnish Taxonomy (1979). In addition, the study found that the president used more sentences that performed contrastive speech acts than other speech acts where he used assertive illocutionary acts as an influential factor. Finally, the research findings have shown the importance of persuasive speech acts and their impact on audiences.

Recently, Dickerson (2019) investigated on the rhetoric inaugural address of the president Trump in 2017. The researcher used three distinct theories: ideographs, dramatism, and the bully pulpit for the rhetorical analysis. The purpose was to figure out whether Trump deviated from presidential inauguration expectation or not. The data selected for the analysis was the presidential inaugural address in addition to the analysis of his rhetoric in social media, more precisely Twitter, and analysed the surrounding context of the inauguration. The findings showed that Trump modernised the inaugural speech through his language and deviated from the traditional framework of inaugurations.

In more recent studies, Biden's speeches attracted the attention of many researchers, such as Siregar (2021) who discussed critically Joe Biden's elected president speech on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The aim of the paper was to identify the structures and ideologies embedded in this discourse. The methodology applied the six critical discourse analysis steps: problem identification, literature specification, code analysis, content analysis and coding, reading and interpretation, and explaining findings. The results of the study revealed that Biden used thematic macrostructure and semantic microstructure such as background, detail and presupposition..., among others.

Furthermore, Abbas (2021) investigated on Biden's election campaign speeches. The main objective was to illustrate the way Biden used positive- good representation of US and the negative- bad representation of THEM by using Van Dijk's ideological square for the analysis of the selected data. The findings showed that Biden skilfully used the discourse of positive US and the discourse of the negative THEM in almost all of his speeches.

In addition, Bani-Khaled & Azzam (2021) explored the theme of unity in president Joe Biden's Inauguration Speech on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2021 from a linguistic perspective. The main research question was: How the theme of unity conveyed in this particular speech through linguistic choices. The methodology adopted a qualitative analytical analysis of the concept of unity. The study followed a thematic analysis in approaching this speech. The researcher examined every utterance for clues on the possible linguistic features that portrayed the theme of unity conveyed by the speaker and the lexical items related to it. The results showed that Biden used religion and history as a source of rhetorical persuasive devices. Also, the overall tone of the speech was confident, reconciliatory and hopeful.

Accordingly, in our present study, Idiri (2022), we investigated on the ideological discourse structures that are embedded in the inaugural address of Biden (January 20th, 2021). In the present paper, the corpus of the study is the transcript of the speech retrieved from the official White House website. We have adopted the model of Van Dijk in CDA "Discourse Structures" summarised in these three elements: Macrostructures, Microstructures and Superstructures. This type of discourse is rich in terms of figurative language and persuasive strategies. Most importantly, it has not been studied before relying on Van Dijk's Discourse Structures Model. Therefore, it will be an important contribution to the field of CDA. Besides, it shows his powerful language and linguistic skills, the different ideologies embedded in the speech, as well as the way Unity and Democracy are being expressed through the use of a diversity of syntactic, semantic and rhetorical structures.

### **Section Three: Introduction to Van Dijk Discourse Analysis Model**

In the present section, we have selected some of the main contributions of Van Dijk in CDA. Also, we explore the Model of "Discourse Structures" and briefly explain every element aside. Finally, we summarise the adopted Model in a figure for a more concrete understanding.

#### **1. The Main Contributions of Van Dijk in CDA**

According to Discourse in Society website, Van Dijk is a famous scholar in Text Linguistics and Discourse Analysis; and he is also among the important linguists whose contributions cannot be denied, precisely in the domain of Critical Discourse Analysis. In the beginning, he took degrees in the French language and literature at Amsterdam University; therefore, his first research was in literature. Then, he shifted to the study of "text grammars", discourse and also pragmatics. After that, he followed his research with Walter Kintsch mainly in the studies of cognitive psychology and discourse processing. In the 1980s, his research

focused on two main areas: the study of structures, production, and comprehension of news reports in the press and the analysis of the expression of ethnic prejudices in various types of discourse, with a special emphasis on the relationships between discourse structures, social cognitions about ethnic minority groups and Third World peoples, and the expression of ethnic prejudices in various types of discourse the way “elite racism” is produced by Western societies. In the 1990s, he turned his attention to the role of power and ideology in discourse, as well as the reproduction of socio-cultural beliefs in the society. Most recently, his works concern discourse, knowledge and context. He also directs an international project on discourse and racism in Latin America (it includes teams from Mexico, Columbia, Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, and Peru). His research consists of more than 200 scholarly articles and 30 monographs and edited books. Furthermore, his publications have been translated into multiple foreign languages including: Russian, Arabic, Chinese and Japanese. Additionally, Van Dijk founded the Dutch linguistics journal (TTT), as well as six other international journals: *POETICS*, *Text and Talk*, *Discourse and Society*, *Discourse Studies*, and *Discourse and Communication*. He delivered several lectures and talks throughout Europe, the Americas and other countries all over the world. Hence, he is multilingual and masters English, Spanish, German, French, and Portuguese.

## **2. Summary of Van Dijk’s Model of Discourse Structures (1980)**

In this paper, we adopted Van Dijk’s Model “Discourse Structures” (1980) to the study of the different components of discourse structures: Macrostructures, Microstructures and Superstructures. According to Van Dijk, all written and oral texts can be observed and examined by using the following elements:

### **★ Macrostructures**

Van Dijk (1980) defined the Macrostructures as the global meanings such as themes and topics. The latter represents the most important information of a discourse and gives us a general overview of the content. In order to avoid confusion between topics and themes, the first refer to the information that is best recalled of a discourse; although topics abstractly characterise the meaning of a whole discourse. Besides, he added that they may be concretely formulated in the text itself such as summaries, abstracts, headlines, ...etc. However, themes are more abstract and they are expressed by single words such as “Discrimination” or “Immigration” which are broad categories and may define different texts belonging to different genres with many topics (Van Dijk, 1980, p. 3). All in all, the notion of macrostructures helps

to account for many discourse and language properties and use as well as explaining how and why language users are able to summarise text and talk.

### ★ **Microstructures**

We mean by microstructures the local meaning of a text. This can be observed from the lexical choices, syntactic structures, styles and the rhetoric of the discourse (Van Dijk, 1980, p. 29).

#### ➤ **Semantics**

According to Cuddon (1999), semantics is a branch of Linguistics which deals with the meanings of words, and particularly with changes in the meanings. It involves study of the relationship between words and things, and between language, thought and behaviour. That is how behaviour is influenced by words uttered by others or to oneself.

#### ➤ **Syntax**

It is the study of the way in which words and clauses are ordered and connected so as to form sentences, or the set of grammatical rules governing such word order. Such studies define the rules that need to be followed including the arrangement and formation of words, clauses, punctuation and phrases, among others (Cuddon (1999).

#### ➤ **Stylistics**

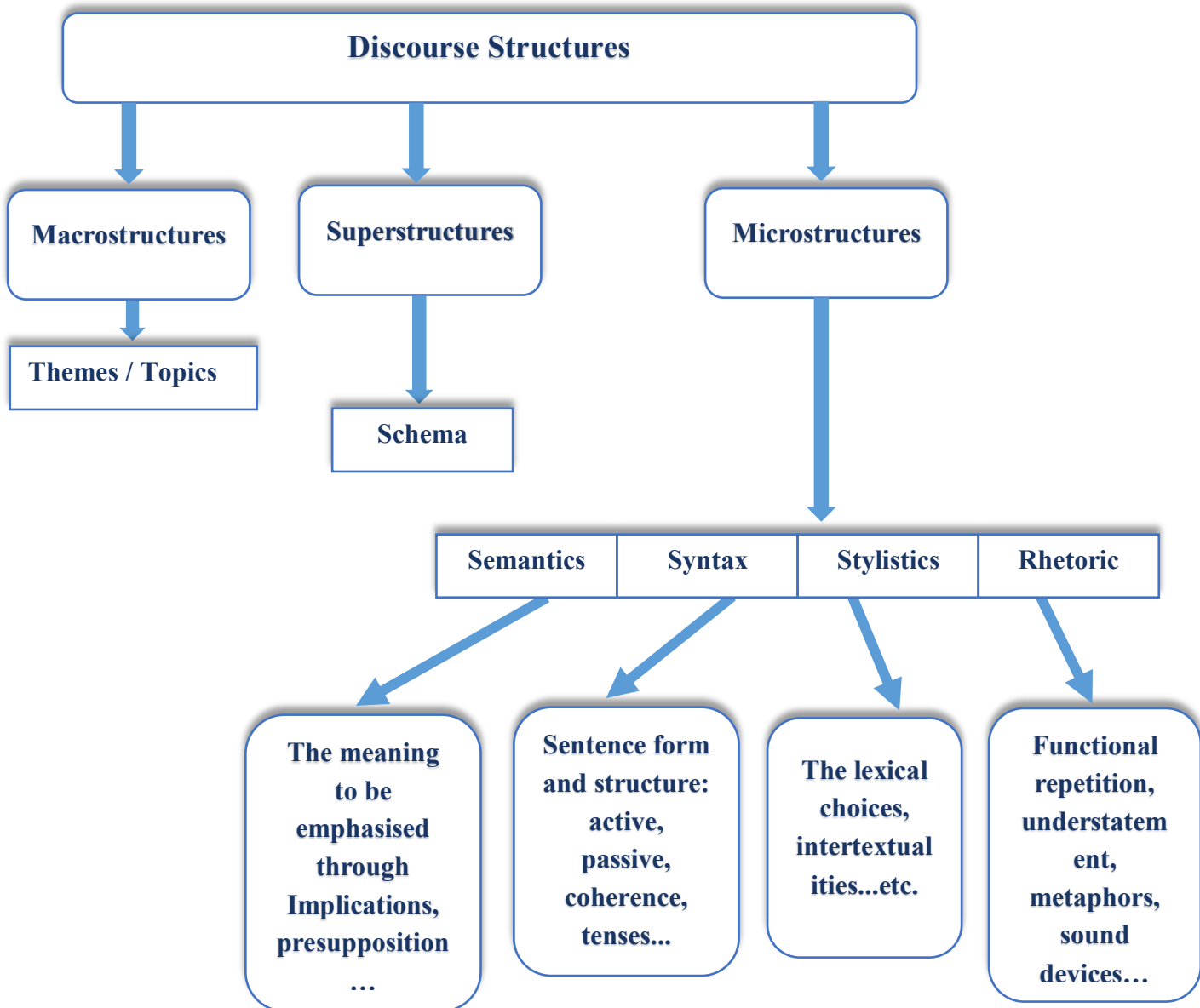
It is the study of style in texts, also called literary linguistics. Stylistics is an analytical science which covers all the expressive aspects of language: phonology, prosody, morphology, syntax, and lexicology (Cuddon (1999).

#### ➤ **Rhetoric**

According to Cuddon (1999), rhetoric is the art of using language for persuasion, in speaking or writing; especially in oratory. The classical theoreticians codified rhetoric very thoroughly. A knowledge and command of it was regarded as essential. In addition, rhetorical devices are the techniques used by speakers or writers to effectively convey ideas, enhance arguments, emphasise, explain and often to persuade. For example, similes, metaphors, personifications, hyperboles, euphemisms, symbols, idiomatic expressions...etc.

## ★ Superstructures

Superstructures are often confused with macrostructures as both of them contain general information, but they are different. While macrostructures are the general meanings in a discourse, Superstructures refer to the overall schematic forms. The latter provides with a format or a schema of a particular discourse such as argumentative, narrative structures, the format of academic research articles, papers, theses, journals...etc (Van Dijk, 1980, p.107).



**Figure 02:** Summary of Van Dijk's Model (1980)



## **Conclusion**

To conclude, in this theoretical chapter we have introduced the principal notions of Critical Discourse Analysis with its different approaches, political discourse and ideological structures of discourse. Finally, we have presented the Model that we have chosen for the analysis of our selected speech of inauguration.

## **Chapter Two**

### **Research Methods, Analysis, & Discussion of the Findings**

#### **Introduction**

In the present chapter, we apply the adopted Model of Van Dijk (1980). This practical chapter is divided into three sections where every section treats important elements of this analytical paper. The first section introduces the research methods, the corpus of the study as well as the procedures that we have followed all along the process of our critical study. The following section is purely analytical; i.e. we apply the selected Model “Discourse Structures” in the analysis of our discourse of inauguration. The final section is dedicated to the conclusions based on the data analysis and discussion, the limitations and suggestions for further research.

#### **Section One: Research Methods of the Study**

In this section, we introduce the research methods, the corpus of our analytical study as well as the procedures of the data collection.

##### **1. Research Methods**

In this M.A thesis, the following methodology is applied in order to analyse Biden’s Inaugural Address. The analysis encompasses the following steps:

First, the Macrostructures, a thematic analysis, involve the analysis of the global dominant themes that are articulated in our selected discourse. Second, the Microstructures, the local meanings of the discourse, is a detailed analysis covering the semantics, syntax, stylistics and rhetoric of the text. The aim of the latter is to scrutinise every utterance regarding the different aspects mentioned above and to determine the lexical choices of the speaker, their significance, the syntactic clues, as well as the rhetorical strategies employed to reach the intentions of the president. Also, the Superstructures which is the plan or the schema of the discourse; i.e. the opening, the content and the conclusion. Accordingly, we have adopted a mixed method where we used the qualitative method for the identification of the global themes, for the schematic analysis of the discourse and for the analysis of rhetorical techniques. Also, we used the quantitative method for the tabulations we used in syntactic and stylistic analyses, where we have mentioned the frequencies of occurrence of particular linguistic items and grammatical structures. Therefore, this will support our findings with statistical frequencies for more precision and concreteness.

## **2. Corpus of the Study**

On the afternoon of Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Joe Biden delivered his first address as the 46<sup>th</sup> president of the USA at Washington, D.C. The corpus of our research is the online transcript of the inaugural speech delivered by the president and retrieved from the official website of the White House. In addition, our corpus is comprised of 2400 words spread in eight pages. Furthermore, Biden calls the Americans to be the great and the united nation, despite the painful historic moments and hardships they witnessed. For him, the only solution is the unification of the nation. His speech of inauguration was unique to the challenges faced by his incoming leadership and its priorities, so the language used shared many insights into the linguistic style we expect from the new voice of the American people. Thus, our choice of corpus is not randomly made because this inaugural speech is notably distinct from the former president Trump's inaugural address in different ways. The uniqueness of our selected discourse will be shown in analysis and discussion of this latter.

## **3. Data Analysis Procedures**

Before embarking in the analysis, we have read and re-read the address several times. We applied Van Dijk's Model of Discourse Structures for the CDA of our corpus. To start, the first element of the Model is Macrostructures. So, the first step is the thematic analysis where we have identified the general themes of the speech which are the theme of Unity and Democracy. We justified the identification of the latter with illustrations from the corpus of our study. In fact, the data analysis goes hand in hand with the data collection. Then, we move to the Microstructures. At this stage, we analyse Biden's inaugural speech regarding many aspects of linguistic analysis: semantics, syntax, stylistics and rhetoric. In semantic analysis, we extracted four elements: presuppositions and implications, the types of speech acts that were employed in this political discourse (relying on Searle's Typology of Speech Acts), as well as the semantic relations (i.e. Metonymy, Meronymy and Homonymy). Moreover, in the syntactic analysis, we enumerate the passive sentences and active ones and the grammatical tenses (past, present, and future). For every syntactic clue, we have drawn tables to illustrate the frequencies of occurrence for more precision and evidence. After that, the stylistic analysis where we identified the lexical choices. The latter includes the lexis of unity, politics, democracy, power, crisis, and eventually the lexis of religion. In addition, we extracted the intertextualities used by the speaker. Then, we analysed the rhetorical strategies used by the president Biden. The purpose of this rhetorical analysis is to extract the functional repetition (it includes Anadiplosis, repeated words and parallel structures), also to find out the types of figures of speech employed

in this speech along with the sound devices (alliterations, consonances and assonances). The final step concerns the Superstructures (i.e. the schematic analysis). At this level, we divide our corpus into parts where every part deals with a different idea. Yet, we summarise the content of each part and explain the ideologies and beliefs of the president that were conveyed in his speech of inauguration.

## **Section Two: Analysis & Discussion of the Findings**

In this section, we apply Van Dijk's Model of "Discourse Structures" (1980) in our analytical study. Yet, we attempt to cover the different elements of the model: Macrostructures, Microstructures, and the Superstructures.

### **1. Macrostructures**

It refers to the global information of a given text or discourse. In our selected discourse of inauguration, we conducted a thematic analysis where we examined every utterance and selected the terms and expressions that emphasise the two major themes that we have identified: Unity and Democracy.

#### **1.1 Thematic Analysis**

After the president was sworn as the 46<sup>th</sup> president of the United States, during the 59<sup>th</sup> presidential inauguration, Biden delivered his inauguration address. He spoke for around 22 minutes. Along this political discourse, there were two major themes: the theme of Unity and the theme of Democracy. It was obvious that the president Biden would emphasise on Unity in his inaugural address because he strongly insisted on it in almost all of his previous speeches during the presidential campaign. Many of the expressions used reveal the importance of unity and its prominent role for the progress of the whole nation. First, he said "We come together as one nation under God, indivisible", "My whole soul is in this – bringing America together" and "It is time to end our uncivil war". He added that "the forces that divide us are deep and they are real" but they are not new. This means that America already struggled throughout history and those troubles are deeply rooted since ancient times. He made a balance between the challenges and the unification of the nation; i.e. his main concern was to bring America back to the restoration from pandemic as well as social and political crises. The president mentioned first the challenges (problems) then unity (solution of the problems). In these crucible conditions, he acknowledged that calling for unity may sound naïve, but importantly the only way to overcome the challenges is reaching the national unity. Also, Biden managed to be

realistic as he begins by acknowledging the coming obstacles; meanwhile, he pursued repeating unity, expressing hope and highlighting the importance of togetherness and union.

The second dominant theme was democracy. He started his speech with “This is America’s day. This is democracy’s day”, “The will of the people has been heard. The will of the people has been needed. We have learned again that Democracy is precious. Democracy is fragile. And at this hour, my friends, democracy has prevailed”. According to a CNBC analysis (2021) from the American Presidency Project, Biden used the word Democracy 11 times more than any president during inaugurations before. The thing that attracted our attention more is the fact that Biden began and concluded his speech with democracy which is really fascinating. To conclude, Biden purposefully employed specific words like America, democracy, unity, among others. Besides, these words have a positive impact on the audience, and the American population hold a pleasing attitude towards it.

## **2. Microstructures**

They are the local meanings and can be observed through the fulfilment of a linguistic analysis at the levels of: semantics, syntax, stylistics and rhetoric.

### **2.1 Semantic Analysis**

At this level, we selected four semantic elements for the analysis which they are: presuppositions and implications, the speech acts, as well as semantic relations.

#### **a) Presuppositions and Implications:**

In communication, the speaker assumes that the listener already knows something about the particular subject being discussed (Yule, 2010). Accordingly, presupposition is an implicit assumption that the speaker supposes the background knowledge that the speaker has in mind. Yule distinguished between six types of presupposition: lexical presupposition, existential presupposition, factive presupposition, structural presupposition, non-factive presupposition and counterfactual presupposition. After several readings of our corpus, we have found only three out of six types of presuppositions. They are illustrated in the table below:

<b>The Utterances</b>	<b>The Type of Presupposition</b>	<b>The Presupposed Meaning</b>
Few periods in our nation’s history have been more challenging or difficult than the one we’re in now.	Lexical Presupposition	The period is now challenging, but America has ever faced even more challenging situations in the past.
We can right wrongs. We can put people to work in good jobs. We can teach our children in safe schools. We can overcome this deadly virus. We can reward work, rebuild the middle class, and make health care secure for all. We can deliver racial justice.	Lexical Presupposition	Things are getting complicated. Many jobs are lost, schools are not safe, deadly virus is uncontrollable, people works are unrewarded, the middle class is getting poorer, health care is not secured, and racial justice is not achieved yet.
Today, we celebrate the triumph not of a candidate, but of a cause, the cause of democracy.	Lexical Presupposition	His victory in election is the evidence or proof of democracy.
Every disagreement doesn’t have to be a cause for a total war.	Existential Presupposition	There is a disagreement happening in the USA and it caused a civil war.
Today, we mark the swearing-in of the first woman in American history elected to the national office – Vice President Kamala Harris.	Existential presupposition	The first woman in American history became vice president.
We must end this uncivil war that pits red against blue,	Existential presupposition	There is an uncivil war between the contradicting parties.

rural versus urban, conservative versus liberal.		
It's taken as many lives in one year as America lost in all of World War II.	Factive presupposition	America lost many lives in the World War II.
What are the common objects we love that define us as Americans? I think I know. Opportunity. Security. Liberty. Dignity. Respect Honour.	Factive presupposition	The common objects define the Americans: opportunity, security, liberty, dignity, respect and honour.

**Table 01:** The Presuppositions and Implications

According to table 01, we observe that most of presuppositions are lexical; then, the existential presuppositions and eventually the factive presuppositions. The other types of presuppositions are not employed in Biden's inaugural speech. Moreover, Biden tried to invite the American population to consider the issues threatening them. While mentioning the economic, social, political, health, and environmental issues, he urged them to believe that these problems will not be solved unless they act as one nation.

### **b) Speech Acts**

Austin's Speech Act Theory (1962) provides a tool for the pragmatic analysis of meaning. Here, speech is considered as an action performed while speaking. Austin divided speech acts into three classes: Locutionary Act (the actual utterance and its apparent meaning), Illocutionary (the intended meaning such as promises and orders) and Perlocutionary Act (the actual effect of the locutionary and illocutionary acts such as persuading, scaring, inspiring or getting someone to realise something). Moreover, Searle (1978) classified the locutionary acts into five categories: assertives, expressives, commissives, directives and declaratives. According to Searle's typology of speech acts (1978), assertive acts are represented by the speaker's assertion of truth. Directives are an attempt to get the hearer to perform an action through orders, invitations and requests. Also, commissives like promises, threats, offers and expressing intentions. Then, expressive acts are the expression of psychological states of the speaker such as apologies and thanks. Finally, declarative speech acts change the world by declaring that something came to existence such as declaration of independence or of war. At

this level, we analysed our corpus following Searle's Typology of speech acts as it is a useful critical tool that discloses the intentions of the speaker such as concluding, describing events, ...etc.

To gain the American people's sympathy, Biden employed several types of speech acts including the direct and indirect speech acts as it is shown below:

➤ **Direct speech acts**

◆ **Assertive**

- "This is America's day. This is democracy's day a day of history and hope, of renewal and resolve."
- "Through a crucible for the ages America has been tested anew and America has risen to the challenge."
- "Few periods in our nation's history have been more challenging or difficult than the one we're in now."

◆ **Expressive**

- "To all those who supported our campaign I am humbled by the faith you have placed in us."
- "I thank my predecessors of both parties for their presence here today. I thank them from the bottom of my heart."
- "May God bless America and may God protect our troops. Thank you, America."

◆ **Commissive**

- "I promise you this: as the Bible says weeping may endure for a night but joy cometh in the morning. We will get through this, together."
- "And I pledge this to you: I will be a President for all Americans. I will fight as hard for those who did not support me as for those who did."

◆ **Directive**

- "I ask every American to join me in this cause."
- "And, we must meet this moment as the United States of America."
- "We must set aside the politics and finally face this pandemic as one nation."

◆ **Declarative**

- "Before God and all of you I give you my word."
- "They healed a broken land. My fellow Americans, I close today where I began, with a sacred oath. Before God and all of you I give you my word."



➤ **Indirect speech act**

◆ **Declarative**

- “If we do that, I guarantee you, we will not fail.”

◆ **Commissive**

- “A cry for survival from the planet itself. A cry that can’t be any more desperate or any more clear.”
- “To overcome these challenges – to restore the soul and to secure the future of America – requires more than words.”
- “It requires that most elusive of things in a democracy: Unity. Unity.”

◆ **Directive**

- “We have never, ever, ever failed in America when we have acted together.”
- “Uniting to fight the common foes we face: anger, resentment, hatred, extremism, lawlessness, violence, disease, joblessness, hopelessness.”
- “Politics need not be a raging fire destroying everything in its path. Every disagreement doesn’t have to be a cause for total war.”

◆ **Expressives**

- “May this be the story that guides us. The story that inspires us.”
- “The story that tells ages yet to come that we answered the call of history. We met the moment.”
- “That democracy and hope, truth and justice, did not die on our watch but thrived.”

c) **Semantic Relations (lexical semantics):**

▪ **Homonymy**

According to Baldick (1996), it is a word that is identical in form with another word in sound (homophones) and in spelling (homographs) but differs from it in meaning. In our corpus, we found one homonym:

- “We can **right** wrongs” and “Thousands of protestors tried to block brave women from marching for the **right** to vote.” The word “right” has a different meaning in each sentence: in the first sentence, it is a verb that means to correct the wrongs or fix things. Conversely, in the second sentence, it is a noun and means the legal entitlement to have or to do something (contextually the right to vote).

## ▪ Metonymy

According to Baldick (1996), it is an image that replaces the name of one thing with the name of something else closely associated with it. Simply, it is the semantic relation between words in which one word is metaphorically used in the place of another (denotes metaphorically the meaning of another).

- “Democracy is **fragile**.”

The word fragile is used for objects that are made of glass; conversely, in this sentence, it is used to describe the concept of democracy and this is what makes the statement a metonymy. So, democracy here is something fragile that can be easily broken.

- “Transfer of **power**.”

Contextually, this sentence means the transition or change of position. Power means the position as an American president. That is to say, power is the word used to indicate the metonymy. This discourse is his first address to the American population as the new elected president following Trump’s rule.

- “Restore the **soul**.”

The word soul is used to refer to something internal and restore means to fix what is wrong. A country or a nation is not a living creature that has a soul. In this context, soul refers to the internal of America and the meaning of this metonymy is to restore the internal chaos of America.

- “**Ugly** reality.”

This phrase is a metonymy because it describes reality as an ugly physical object although reality is an abstract word. The meaning of this metonymy is a bad reality. The bad reality is about racism, nativism and fear which are the words that follow this metonymy.

- “**Red** against **blue**.”

In this context, the words Red and Blue represent two different opponent sides of a civil war. This metonymy means that the civil war was between the American citizens and racism maybe the cause.

- “We need a **hand**.”

In this sentence, the word “hand” can be replaced by the word “help”. Hence, the meaning of the sentence is “We need a help” as Biden said: “There are some days when we need a hand. There are other days when we’re called on to lend one.” Simply, there will be days when we will need help and other days people will need help from us.

▪ **Meronymy**

According to Richard Nordquist (2019), a meronym is a word that denotes a constituent part or a member of something. In simple words, it is the semantic relationship between words in where the meaning of one word denotes a part of the other.

- “To those 400,000 fellow Americans – mothers and fathers, husbands and wives, sons and daughters, friends, neighbours, and co-workers.”

Mothers and fathers, husbands and wives, sons and daughters, friends, neighbours, and co-workers are parts of the whole 400,000 fellow Americans.

**2.2 Syntactic Analysis**

In this title, we extract the syntactic structures such as the grammatical tenses (past, present and future), the active versus passive voices as well as short and long sentences.

**a) Grammatical Tenses**

<b>Grammatical Tenses</b>	<b>Frequency of Occurrence</b>
Past simple	34
Present perfect	27
Present simple	178
Present continuous	3
Future simple	29

**Table 02:** The Frequency of Occurrence of Grammatical Tenses

As illustrated in the table above, the present simple tense is the dominant tense employed for the majority of verbs in our discourse (178). After that, past simple tense (34) and eventually the future simple (29). As a result, the president focused more on the current situation which justifies the higher frequency of the present simple tense. He also used the past tense to remember the previous events and learn from the previous experiences. Finally, Biden used the future simple in hopeful statements to make his speech optimistic and to promote his future plans and actions.

## b) Active versus Passive Voices

Sentence Voices	Frequency of Occurrence
Active voice	The rest of sentences
Passive voice	9

**Table 03:** The Frequency of Occurrence of Active and Passive Voices

According to table 03, the majority of sentences are in the active voice. Only nine sentences are in the passive voice and they are mentioned below:

- “The will of the people has been heard.”
- “The will of the people has been heeded.”
- “Millions of jobs have been lost.”
- “We must reject a culture in which facts themselves are manipulated and even manufactured.”
- “I am humbled by the faith you have placed in us.”
- “A people was a multitude defined by the common objects of their love.”
- “An oath first sworn by George Washington.”
- “The dream of justice for all will be deferred no longer.”
- “In the shadow of a Capitol dome that was completed amid the civil war.”

Moreover, we have noticed that most of sentences are short and simple. Besides, only few are long sentences. To sum up, Biden was brief and direct to the point and the language he used was plain, clear and easily understood to cover all the different social classes and educational levels of his audience. This justifies the use of active voices more than passive ones and the use of short simple sentences rather than long ones.

## 2.3 Stylistic Analysis

At this stage, we identified the lexical choices (lexis of unity, lexis of politics and democracy, lexis of power, lexis of crisis, as well as the lexis of religion) and the intertextualities employed in this discourse.

### a) Lexical Choices

It is important to identify the lexical choices because they disclose the speaker’s ideologies. In our corpus, we have identified five themes that were emphasised: unity, politics

and democracy, power, crisis, and religion. In the tables below, we put every lexical choice in its right place along with the frequencies of their occurrence in our selected political discourse.

**★ Lexis of Unity**

<b>Words and Expressions</b>	<b>Frequency of Occurrence</b>
We	91
Us	27
Together	6
Our	43
All of us	4
As one nation	1
Unity / uniting / union	13

**Table 04:** Lexis of Unity

In table 04, we gathered some expression and words that emphasise the importance of unity. Among them, we mention the highly frequent ones such as we (91), our (43), unity, union and uniting 13 times as well as all of us which was repeated four times. This consistent use of unity related expressions and words reflects the core of the message of this speech “national unity”. Biden deliberately repeated those words to deliver his intentions and communicate his thoughts. Besides, he purposefully overused them in order to create a special feeling among the hearts of the present American audience, not any kind of feeling he wants them to feel members of the same belonging, helping each other, supporting one another and that together they can realise what they have never imagined thanks to the power of unity.

**★ Lexis of Politics and Democracy**

<b>Words and Expressions</b>	<b>Frequency of Occurrence</b>
My fellow Americans	4
American Anthem	1
Oath	3
Nation	13
Fellow	5
America(can)(cans)	38
History	7
Constitution	3

Democracy	11
Country	4
Emancipation Proclamation	1
President	7
Abraham Lincoln	1
Washington George	2

**Table 05:** Lexis of Politics and Democracy

As illustrated above, we observe that Biden used many words that are related to the domain of Politics and Democracy such as my fellow Americans (4), America (can, cans) repeated 38 times, Democracy (11), nation (13) and history seven times...etc. These words belong to the political genre as it is delivered during a special occasion of inauguration.

**★ Lexis of Power**

<b>Words and Expressions</b>	<b>Frequency of Occurrence</b>
Power	5
Hope	3
Optimistic	4
Strength	3
Greatness and goodness	1
Beacon of the world	1
Great nation	1
Liberty	2
Security	2
Rise (has risen)	3

**Table 06:** Lexis of Power

In the table 06, we notice that many words provide with positive ideas and feelings such as power four times, hope repeated three times, optimistic four times and strength repeated three times. Hence, Biden tried to make his audience feel more comfortable with him and hopeful about the future that comes especially after his victory in the presidential campaign.

**★ Lexis of Crisis**

Words and Expressions	Frequency of Occurrence
Challenges	5
Racism	2
Dark winter / Winter of peril	2
Virus / Covid-19	4
Civil war	4
Crisis / cascading crises	3
Pandemic	2
Inequity	1
Joblessness	1
Hopelessness	1
World War II	2

**Table 07:** Lexis of Crisis

In the table above, a collection of words that refer to the crises that the American nation went through such as challenges of frequency of five times, Covid-19 and Civil war repeated four times. In addition, Biden used some expressions to describe how much serious and hard previous periods are like: cascading crises, dark winter and winter of peril. We conclude that the president was realistic when describing the challenges of past and trying to get their trust by telling them real and trustworthy facts.

**★ Lexis of Religion**

Words	Frequency of Occurrence
God	4
Faith	3
Prayer(s)	2
Sacred	3

**Table 08:** Lexis of Religion

As illustrated in table 08, Biden used some religious words such as the word God which was repeated four times, faith and sacred repeated three times, as well as prayers (twice). Obviously, the repetition of such words reveals that Biden is a religious person (Catholic) and believes in God.

## **b) Intertextuality**

According to Richard Nordquist (2020), intertextuality is the interdependence of texts in relation to one another (as well as to the culture at large) through the use of intertextual figures such as quotations, allusions, translations...etc. Texts can influence, derive from, parody, reference, quote, contrast with, build on, draw from, or even inspire each other. In our selected inauguration speech, Biden borrowed quotations from different sources. Yet, we have found six intertextualities as demonstrated in the paragraphs below:

First, Biden referred to Abraham Lincoln when he signed the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863: “If my name ever goes down into history it will be for this act and my whole soul is in it”. He used the expression to reveal about his main objective which is uniting the nation as he said: “my whole soul is in this: bringing America together Bringing America together. Uniting our people. And uniting our nation.”

Second, Biden said: “our history has been a constant struggle between the American ideal that we are all created equal...” this is an extract from the second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence. It was written in this historical document: “All men are created equal that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

Third, calls for unity at inaugurations dated back to 1861. Back to then, during the first inaugural address, Abraham Lincoln said: “the better angels of our nature were not strong enough to avert a disastrous civil war”. Biden extracted the expression “better angels” when referring to the American population, he described them as being morally correct and possessing positive attributes like angels. He said: “through the civil war, the Great Depression, world war, 9/11, through struggle, sacrifice and setbacks, our “better angels” have always prevailed.” Accordingly, the president Biden acknowledged the painful and perilous past in history when Americans struggled and fought in the world war, civil war, and the Great Depression, but in the end, they won as a result of their unity and sacrifice.

Fourth, Biden quoted the definition of Saint Augustine when he described the American nation: “Many centuries ago, Saint Augustine, a saint of my church, wrote that a people was a multitude defined by the common objects of their love.” He mentioned the common objects that unite Americans: opportunity, security, liberty, dignity, respect, honour, and truth. Besides, the original definition says: “a nation is a multitude of rational beings united by the common objects of their love.”



Fifth, Biden discussed about the challenges and hardships the whole nation encountered and will encounter for the future undoubtedly; then, he added: “I promise you this: as the Bible says weeping may endure for a night but joy cometh in the morning.” Here, the president employed a biblical verse in order to make his discourse hopeful and to point out an important thing that every hard moment does not last eternally and ends sooner. After that, he emphasised on the importance of unity as he followed this verse with: “we will get through this together”.

Finally, Biden said: “We will write the next chapter in the American story. It’s a story that might sound something like a song that means a lot to me. It’s called the “American Anthem” and there is one verse stands out for me: “the work and prayers of centuries have brought us to this day. What shall be our legacy? Let me know my heart when my days are through America. America. I gave my best to you.” The president borrowed some lines from the American Anthem and referred to it as a story to emphasise the significance of unity.

## 2.4 Rhetoric Analysis

At this level, we analyse the figurative language that includes: the functional repetition, the figures of speech as well as the sound devices.

### a) Functional Repetition

According to Cuddon (1999), it is an essential unifying element in nearly all poetry and much prose. It may consist of sounds, particular syllables, words and phrases. It helps making an idea stronger and convincing. Contextually, Biden repeated many words as it is illustrated in the following sentences:

#### ◆ Anadiplosis

It is the repetition of the last word at the sentence boundaries; i.e. at the end of a clause and at the beginning of its following clause in order to gain a special effect (Cuddon, 1999).

- “This is America’s **day**. This is democracy’s **day**. **A day** of history and hope, of renewal and resolve.”
- “Today, we celebrate the triumph not of a candidate, but of a **cause**, **the cause** of democracy.”
- “Each of us has a duty and responsibility as citizens, as Americans, and especially as **leaders – leaders** who have pledged to honour our Constitution and protect our nation.”

- “History and faith will show you **the way, the way** of unity.”

◆ **Repetition of words**

- “We have learned again that **democracy** is precious. **Democracy** is fragile. And at this hour, my friends, **democracy** has prevailed.”
- “To overcome these challenges – to restore the soul and to secure the future of America – **requires** more than words. It **requires** that most elusive of things in a democracy. **Unity. Unity.**”
- “**Uniting** our people and **uniting** our nation. I ask every American to join me in this cause. **Uniting** to fight the common foes we face.”
- “**Not** today, **not** tomorrow, **not** ever.”

◆ **Parallel structures**

It is very a common device and consists of phrases or sentences of similar construction and meaning placed side by side, balancing each other. (Cuddon, 1999)

- “If my name ever goes down I to history, it will be for this act and **my whole soul is in it. My whole soul is in it.** Today, on this January day, **my whole soul is in this.**”
- “We have **much to** do in this winter of peril and possibility. **Much to** repair, **much to** restore, much to heal, **much to** build and **much to** gain.”
- “**Here we stand,** in the shadow of a Capitol dome... **Here we stand** looking out to the great Mall... **Here we stand** where 108 years ago at another Inaugural... **Here we stand** across the Potomac from Arlington National Cemetery ... and **here we stand,** just days after a riotous mob thought they could use violence to silence the will of the people.”
- “**I believe** we must and **I believe** we will.”
- “**I will defend** our Constitution. **I will defend** our Democracy. **I will defend** America.”

**b) Figures of Speech**

Obviously, it is the language which uses figures of speech. For example, metaphors, similes and hyperboles. According to Baldick (1996), the figurative language is a form of language use in which the meaning deviates from ordinary language use or from the normal order of words, or in which an emphasis is produced by patterns of sound. Such figurative language is constantly present in all kinds of speech and writing. The purpose of this type of language is to make language more beautiful and interesting for the audience. In our context, the president made use of many types of metaphorical language. Enumerated below are the figures of speech employed by the president Biden in his speech of inauguration:

### ❖ Simile

According to Cuddon (1999), a simile is a figure of speech in which one thing is likened to another, in such a way as to clarify and enhance an image. The comparison is usually explicit (as opposed to the metaphor) where the comparison is implicit, recognisable by the use of comparison tools such as: like, as, similar to, ...among others. In our corpus, we have found two similes:

- “I know speaking of unity can sound to some **like** a foolish fantasy.”

The speaker compares between speaking about unity and a foolish fantasy. That is to say, speaking of unity is similar to something impossible or a crazy thought. So, Biden give a contradictory comparison for those who already believe that he cannot bring the American nation together again, as well as for those who support him and believe he will reunite them. Hence, the core meaning is that uniting America may be impossible to achieve.

- “It’s a story that might sound something **like** a song that means a lot to me.”

The president compares between the story and a song. In simple words, the story of the American nation when facing difficult challenges resembles to an important song which is the American Anthem. So, the surface meaning is what the narrator tries to convey which is the similarity between the compared elements.

### ❖ Metaphor

According to Cuddon (1999), is a figure of speech in which one thing is described in terms of another without using comparison tools. A comparison is usually implicit; whereas, in simile it is explicit.

- “We can join forces, stop the shouting, and **lower the temperature.**”

The temperature represents the conditions of American’s democratic turmoil that preceded the presidency of Joe Biden. The meaning of this sentence is to make the situation serene. Besides, the metaphoric meaning can be easily interpreted from the lexical meaning.

- “Politics need not be **a raging fire** destroying everything in its path.”

It illustrates how dangerous politics can be like a raging fire that burns and destroys everything that crosses its way. He explains that politics should not be dangerous and destroy everything like a raging fire does.

- “We have much to do in this **winter of peril** and possibility.”

It compares between the current situation and winter. The metaphoric expression “winter of peril” means that the actual situation is sad, hard and seems hopeless just like winter where most of days are cloudy, rainy and cold. So, this metaphor represents a dark episode of history.

- “This is our historic moment of crisis and challenge, and unity is **the path forward**.”

This sentence is comparison between unity and a path that leads to the progress and good things forward. This metaphoric expression means that the only way to overcome challenges and the current crises is the union of the American nation.

#### ❖ Allusion

It is an implicit and indirect reference to a person, a character, an event, a place or a myth by using words that stimulate different ideas. It is often a kind of appeal to a reader to share some experience with the writer. An allusion may enrich the work by association and give it depth. When using allusions, a writer tends to assume an established literary tradition, a body of common knowledge with an audience sharing that tradition and an ability on the part of the audience to pick up the reference (Cuddon, 1999).

- “They healed **a broken land**.”

In this sentence, the word “broken” made the statement an allusion. It can be replaced by another word which “poor”. This allusion consists of two words: “broken” which means destroyed or fractured and “land” that is a piece of surface of earth or ground. So, the meaning of this utterance is “poor land”, they healed a poor land.

- “Through a **crucible for the ages**, America has been tested anew and America has risen to the challenge.”

In this sentence, the word crucible made the statement of allusion. It can be replaced by the word test or trial. The allusion consists of the expression “crucible for the ages” which means through a period of a prolonged testing and experience, America has been tested before and till now America always succeeded in this crucial ordeal.

### ❖ Personification

It is the impersonation or embodiment of some quality or abstraction; the attribution of human qualities to inanimate objects. Personification is inherent in many languages through the use of gender and it appears to be very frequent in literature (Cuddon, 1999). In this speech, we identified some personifications.

- “On this hallowed ground, where just a few days ago **violence sought to shake** the Capitol’s very foundation.”

Violence is given the attribute of seeking to shake the Capitol building. Although, violence is an abstract word that stands for the use of power and physical strength, in this context to shake a building.

- “Uniting to **fight the common foes** we face: anger, resentment, hatred...”

The foes or the enemies that are anger, resentment, hatred...and others are given the human attribute of fighting. However, these enemies are abstract notions and thus unable to fight.

- “Here we stand, just days after a riotous mob thought they could use violence to **silence the will** of the people”

The will of the people does not speak; thus, it cannot be silenced. This expression gives the quality of speech to the will for the sake of personification.

### ❖ Hyperbole

According to Cuddon (1999), it is a figure of speech which contains an excessive overstatement or exaggeration in the description of someone or something.

- “The battle is **perennial**.”

The hyperbole is in the adjective “perennial” which means eternal.

- “**Hundreds of thousands** of businesses closed.”

The hyperbole is in the approximate rate of closed businesses.

### ❖ Epithet

Usually, it is an adjective or phrase expressing some quality or attribute which is characteristic of a person or thing. (Cuddon, 1999)

- “Through the Civil War, the Great Depression, World War, 9/11, through struggle, sacrifice, and setbacks, our “**better angels**” have always prevailed.”

The word angels represent human kindness. Better angels mean better behaviours. In our corpus, the president mentioned the challenges faced by the humanity which consists of the World War, Civil War and the Great Depression and most importantly how they succeeded to overcome those hardships. Thus, the better angels refer to the whole humanity that prevailed after the hard times they witnessed.

#### ❖ Idioms

It is a form of expression, construction or phrase peculiar to a language and often possessing a meaning other than its grammatical or logical one. (Cuddon, 1999)

- “If we’re willing **to stand in the other person’s shoes** just for a moment.”

This idiomatic expression means: to see or understand things from someone else’s perspective or position.

- “**Take a measure of me** and my heart.”

This expression means before having any conceptualisation or quick judgment, people should know enough about him.

#### ❖ Antithesis

According to Cuddon (1999), it is contrasting ideas sharpened by the use of opposite or noticeably different meanings (i.e. the use of opposing or contrasting ideas in the same clause or sentence).

- “And together, we shall write an American story of **hope, not fear, of unity, not division, of light, not darkness.**”
- “For without unity, there is **no peace, only bitterness and fury, no progress, only exhausting outrage and fury, no nation, only a state of chaos.**”

#### ❖ Symbols

- “We must end this uncivil war that pits **red** against **blue**...”

These colours refer to the political parties: red is the colour of the Republican Party flag, while the blue colour is the one of the democrat's flag.

### c) Sound devices

#### ▪ Alliteration

It is a Latin word which means repeating and playing upon the same letter. It is a figure of speech in which consonants, especially at the beginning of neighbouring words, are repeated (Cuddon, 1999). The president employed many alliterations in his speech. Some of them are mentioned below:

- “This is a **time** of **testing**. We face an attack on democracy and on truth. A raging virus, growing inequity, the **sting** of **systemic** racism, a **climate** in **crisis**... we will be judged, you and I, by how we resolve these **cascading crises** of our era.” The repeated consonant sounds are: /t/, /s/ and /k/
- “Here **we** stand, **where** 108 years ago at another inaugural, thousands of protestors tried to **block brave** women **from** marching **for** their right to vote.” The repeated consonant sounds are: /w/, /b/ and /f/
- “Today, **we** mark the **wearing-in** of the first **woman** in American history elected to national office – Vice President Kamala Harris.” The repeated consonant sound is: /w/
- “...where **heroes who** gave the last full measure of devotion rest in eternal peace.” The repeated sound is: /h/
- “I thank my **predecessors** of both **parties** for their **presence** here.” The repeated consonant sound is: /p/

#### ▪ Assonance

Sometimes called “vocalic rhyme”, it is the repetition of the same vowel sound, usually close together, to achieve a particular effect of euphony (Cuddon, 1999). In Biden's inaugural address, we identified some assonances:

- “The will of the **people** has been heard. The will of the **people** has been **heeded**.” The vowel sound that is repeated is the long  $\text{ɪ}$  /i:/
- “So now, on this **hallowed** ground where just days ago ...” The repetition of the vowel sound is: the diphthong /əʊ/
- “So **now**, on this hallowed **ground** where just days ago violence sought to shake this Capitol's very **foundation**, we come together as one nation, under God, indivisible, to

carry **out** the peaceful transfer of **power** as we have for more than two centuries”. In these utterances, the repeated vowel sound is: the diphthong /aʊ/

#### ▪ **Consonance**

According to Cuddon (1999), it is the close repetition of the identical consonant sounds before and after different vowels (i.e. not at the initial position). The president employed many consonances. Yet, some of them are mentioned below:

- “We have **learned** again that **democracy** is **precious**. **Democracy** is **fragile**”. The repeated consonant sound is: /r/
- “I thank **them from** the **bottom** of my heart”. The repeated consonant sound is: /m/
- “**As does President** Carter, who I spoke last night...” The repeated consonant sound is: /z/

### **3. Superstructures**

#### **3.1 Schematic Analysis**

After several readings of the speech, we came to divide the speech into nine parts where every part deals with particular ideas elaborated by the American president. Yet, we attempt to explain and summarise each part regarding the lexical choices as well as the ideologies of the president.

**Part 1:** Introduction from “Chief Justice Roberts... perfect union.” (p.1)

The president begins his speech by addressing the audience who were present in the place of the inauguration ceremony. He greets them by name: “Justice Roberts, Vice President Harris, Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Vice President Pence”, also addressed “distinguished guests”, and “my fellow Americans.” The lexical item “fellow” suggests meanings such as partnership and the common characteristics in a society (citizenship and the sense of belonging to the American nation as a whole). Furthermore, he used parallel structures and repetitions of words to put stress on democracy and that that day remains an important date in history. He addressed his people as friends as it is illustrated in this quotation “And at this hour, my friends, democracy has prevailed”. The phrase “my friends” is composed of the personal pronoun “my” which stresses solidarity and “friends” to express unity strongly. The purpose of using such words is to make the American citizens feel solidarity, harmony, share the feeling of nationalism and appreciate his leadership style. Moving ahead in the discourse, Biden argues that unity is the remedy of the nation’s divide. He said: “where just



days ago violence sought to shake the capitol's very foundation, we come together as one nation, under God, indivisible". He continued "to carry out the peaceful transfer of power as we have for more than two centuries". This means that this transition of power is peaceful as democracy is practised not in riots or violent mobs but peacefully. After that, he said: "I thank my predecessors of both parties for their presence here. Moreover, I thank them from the bottom of my heart." In this speech act of thanking, he emphasises on the idea that without partnership, there will be no progress. He thanked former presidents of both parties (democrats and republicans) for their presence because it is a sign of unity and democracy. In addition, the expression "from the bottom of my heart" means that he pleaded for Americans to remain united; even though, their political ideologies are different. According to him, the only way to achieve democracy and that the American story that denotes the past achievements and troubles is conditioned by unity as he said "all of us" and "we the people" which are the first words of the constitution.

**Part 2:** Starting from "This is a great nation...unity." (p.2)

The president carried out his speech by enumerating the current social, economic, environmental, political and sanitary issues and challenges: racism, inequity, political extremism, white supremacy, domestic terrorism, and Covid-19 pandemic. He said: "It's taken as many lives in one year as America lost in all of World War II", "millions of jobs have been lost". In this context, he referred to the rate of deaths because of the pandemic spread and compared it to the tremendous number of victims during the Second World War. After that, he added: "A cry for racial justice... A cry for survival comes from the planet itself"; he pledged to make climate change a priority and protect the planet for the well-being of all. In response to all these challenges, he gave an elusive solution "unity" as it is mentioned in the following statement: "To overcome the challenges – to restore the soul and to secure the future of America – requires more than words. It requires that most elusive of things in a democracy: Unity. Unity." The expression "restore the soul" is metaphoric and means that the soul of America has been lost as a result of division and to highlight unity because soul is immortal while body is not. His main concern was to bring America together and back to restoration from pandemic as well as economic, political, and social crises.

**Part 3:** From: "In another January in Washington... Victory is never assured." (p.3)

He cited some important historical figures. Among them, Abraham Lincoln, George Washington and Martin Luther King. He referred to George Washington earlier in the beginning of his speech when he talked about the first oath sworn back in history. Also, he referred to Abraham Lincoln who signed the Emancipation Proclamation and extracted a famous citation

of this memorable moments when it was declared that all persons held as slaves shall be free “If my name ever goes down into history it will be for this act and my whole soul is in it.” Biden used the same sentence structure to emphasise unity when he said: “My whole soul is in it. My whole soul is in this: bringing America together. Uniting our people and uniting our nation.” Furthermore, he invited his population to fight the common foes the nation faces such as anger, resentment, hatred, extremism, lawlessness, disease, violence, hopelessness, and joblessness. Here, he mentioned the problems they currently face; then he added hopeful expressions and repeated solid lexical items in order to give them positive impression for the future. They can right wrongs, solve these issues together and fix everything. He kept repeating “we can” eight times as possibilities that can occur in reality are the outcome of unity. For example, “With, we can do great things. Important things. We can right wrongs...”. According to him, these issues are not new and speaking of unity in such crucible moments may sound impossible and unrealistic. However, the battle is continuing and victory is not assured, so Americans should remain united during the good and bad phases of life.

**Part 4:** From “Through the Civil War... even manufactured.” (p.3)

In this part, he reminded the audience with the hardest moments of history: Civil War, the Great Depression, World War, 9/11. He reassured them that after the worst moments Americans always succeeded in overcoming the obstacles as it is mentioned in the following: “our better angels always prevailed”. Moreover, he used history and religion to stress on unity as he said: “History, faith, and reason show the way, the way of unity”, “For without unity, there is no peace, only bitterness and fury. No progress, only exhausting outrage. No nation, only a state of fury”. In addition, different perspectives in politics should not be a cause for a war. Instead, citizens should be tolerant and helpful with one another.

**Part 5:** From “My fellow Americans... as for those who did.” (p.4)

In this part, he stated that Americans have to be different and that he believes they can be better. Then, as they stand in the Capitol, he reminded his audience about the Civil War and its results. He also acknowledged Martin Luther King when he delivered his famous speech “I Have A Dream”. In the same place they stand, in another inaugural, thousands of protestors tried to block women from marching for the right to vote. But, today, the first American woman is elected for the first time to national office – Vice President Kamala Harris. In addition, in the same place where they stand, a severe attack on the Capitol by Trump supporters and stormed the Capitol because many of them believed that false claims that elections were stolen. Uncertainty and fears filled the atmosphere. He repeated the expression here we stand five times to highlight the importance of the place. The purpose of reviewing all of these events was to

persuade his population that conditions do not remain the same but change over time and that riots could not use violence to stop the will of people and stop democracy. After that, he showed a special feeling of satisfaction for those who supported him; meanwhile, he asked those who did not support him to think again and know him first before any conception or judgment and he did not view them as political enemies. He promised to be the president for all, fight for those who support him as well as for those who did not.

**Part 6:** From “Many centuries ago... more ready for the future.” (p.5)

In this part, Biden mentioned St Augustine when talking about nationhood. He said: “Many centuries ago, Saint Augustine, a saint of my church, wrote that a people was a multitude defined by the common objects of their love”. Then, he listed the common objects that unite Americans: opportunity, security, liberty, dignity, respect, honour, and the truth. These are the objects of love and consist of the moral ethical values that unite a nation. These are the requirements for the restoration of the American soul. Furthermore, truth and lies are an indirect reference to the turmoil that marked the last period (that his victory was not legitimate and a result of widespread fraud). Instead of pointing his opponents out during his speech, he gave a veiled and indirect acknowledgment as he calls for unity. This was a notable choice. Also, he asserts that uncivil war between the two parties (republicans with red flag and democrats with blue flag), and between conservatives and liberals must end. Also, Biden warns against division and urged for solidarity and collaboration. The answer is in this sentence: “open our souls instead of hardening our hearts”. Tolerance and humility are the core components of unity. There are some days when we need a hand and other days when we are asked to lend one. We should be together hand in hand supporting and helping one another. This is the only way to reach prosperous life for the future.

**Part 7:** From “My fellow Americans... Amen.” (p.6)

In this part, he argued that in order to bring America together one should help the other, support each other as it is illustrated in this expression: “My fellow Americans, in the work ahead of us, we will need each other”. Moreover, the president acknowledged that the events of the last months obscured the challenges that lie ahead for his administration, particularly regarding the Covid-19 epidemic. He calls to put politics aside and fight against the virus as one nation. After that, he captured the current situation in an eloquent manner as he used some metaphoric expressions like “dark winter”, “winter of peril” and “the toughest and deadliest period of the virus”. He carried out his speech with a hopeful expression, a Biblical verse: “Weeping may endure for a night but joy cometh in the morning”. This expression brings solace to people during the hardest periods of life. Then, he asked the citizens to make a silent prayer

for all the victims of the coronavirus pandemic and for the whole country: “Let us say a silent prayer for those who lost their lives, for those they left behind, and for our country. Amen.”

**Part 8:** From “This is a time of testing... a broken land.” (p. 7)

Moving forward in this text, Biden reminds his population once again about the current issues: an attack on democracy and on truth, a raging virus, growing inequity, systemic racism, and climate change. He added that if we face these issues all together, we will overcome them successfully to build a prosperous country and welfare of the coming generations. Moreover, he quoted from the American Anthem: “The works and prayers... America. I gave my best to you.” Then, he asked the citizens to add their own works and prayers to write a new prosperous chapter of the American history.

**Part 9:** The conclusion from “My fellow Americans... Thank you, America.” (p.8)

Biden repeated “I will defend” three times, which is a promise to the American nation that he will defend the constitution, democracy and the whole nation. Also, he pledged that he will give his all for the service and welfare of Americans and not for his personal interests. After that, he created an optimistic atmosphere through the use of antitheses that they will write together a hopeful, united and great American story: “And together, we shall write an American story of hope, not fear. Of unity, not division. Of light, not darkness.” In other words, the coming days will show that democracy, hope, truth, and justice will flourish and that the American nation will stand again as the beacon of the world. Finally, he concluded his speech by thanking the nation and praying God to bless and protect America.

### **Section Three: Conclusions, Limitations, and Suggestions for Further Research**

This section is dedicated to the conclusions, limitations of the study, and suggestions for further research.

#### **1. Conclusions of the Study**

In this paper, we have applied Van Dijk’s Model (1980) to critically analyse Biden’s inauguration speech. Based on the data analysis, we came to the following results:

To start, in the thematic analysis (Macrostructures) of the speech, we have identified two dominant themes “unity” and “democracy”. Many expressions, syntactic structures and lexical items emphasise these themes. It was clearly stated that Biden’s main concern was bringing America together again. Besides, we noticed that he is a true democrat as he kept repeating the word “democracy” eleven times along this speech.

Moreover, we analysed the Microstructures of the speech. That is, we conducted a semantic analysis (i.e., presuppositions and implications, speech acts based on Searle's typology, and semantic relations), a syntactic analysis (i.e., grammatical tenses, active vs passive sentences and short vs long sentences), a stylistic analysis (i.e., lexical choices and intertextualities) and a rhetoric analysis (i.e., functional repetition, figures of speech and sound devices).

First, in terms of the semantic analysis, we found three types of presupposition: lexical, existential and factive presuppositions. We noticed that the most frequent type is the lexical presupposition. It is related to the lexical items used intendedly to unite the nation once again while facing countless social and political issues lately. In addition, in terms of speech acts, we distinguished between Searle's classification or typology of speech acts inside the corpus of our study. The president employed assertive acts most frequently in order to narrate events and make connections with the history of America. Additionally, he used expressive acts to express his emotions, gratitude to previous presidents and their lifetime service, as well as expressing positive feelings of solidarity and tolerance. Also, he used commissive acts for his commitments and promises concerning foreign policy like fighting terrorism, systemic racism, supporting democracy, defeating the pandemic, bringing peace and dignity..., among other promises. Moreover, the president employed directives less frequently than the ones mentioned above. In this context, directives are used as a persuasive strategy as he asked the citizens to cooperate for the progress of the country, forget about past dreadful events and work together as one nation. Then, the declarative acts that were used only for the sake of indicating crucial decisions, commitments and actions. Hence, these were the intentions of the president. Concerning the semantic relations, we came to conclude that he employed metonyms, meronyms, and some homonyms.

In terms of the syntactic analysis, based on the analysis of grammatical tenses, we found that Biden made use of the present tense (present simple continuous and perfect) which denotes that the emphasis was put mainly on the current period of time more than the past (history) and the future. He also used the past simple but less frequently in order to recall previous experiences and turmoil of the past. In addition, he used the future simple in hopeful expressions, promises, and plans of action to be achieved later. In another front, we noticed that most of the sentences are short, plain and in the active mood. This means that the president was brief and direct to the point and the language used was easy to understand respecting the social and educational levels of the large public.

In terms of the stylistic analysis, we have identified five lexical choices and six intertextualities. Regarding the lexical choices, there are many expressions and lexical items that highlighted the following topics: unity, politics, democracy, power, crisis and religion. Accordingly, Biden used several words that reflected pandemic deaths, economic fallout, and recent violence. On the other hand, his most repeated words is America. Furthermore, along with the word unity, Biden used other collective words such as we, all, together, us, our... etc. Concerning religion, his speech included collection of words related to religion like faith, prayers, God and church. Also, he used six intertextualities from different important historical figures, songs and religious verses such as Abraham Lincoln, St. Augustine, American Anthem, Biblical verses..., among others.

Concerning the rhetoric analysis, according to the data analysis and discussion, we came to conclude that Biden is eloquent. He used different rhetorical devices: similes, metaphors, personifications, hyperboles, epithets, antitheses, symbols and idioms. Besides, he used different sound devices which made his speech beautiful, rhyming and memorable such as alliterations, assonances and consonances. In addition, he used several parallel structures and functional repetitions in order to stress on particular ideologies and beliefs, most importantly democracy and unity.

Finally, concerning the schematic analysis (Superstructures), we summarised the content of the speech along with the socio-political context of this speech event. First, Biden introduced his speech by addressing all the presents by name and thanking his predecessors and both parties wholeheartedly. After that, the president used history (past events, hardships and experiences) and religion (excerpts from Bible and the prayers) in order to urge the citizens for unity. Also, he disclosed about his ideologies when he promised that he will stand against racial injustice, terrorism, political extremism, white supremacy, health issues and climate crises. Furthermore, he promised the nation that the future of America will be hopeful and that he will be the president for all Americans, supporting them, defending the constitution and democracy. In the end of this speech, he concluded by special and sincere prayers to bless and protect the nation and thanking the American citizens.

## **2. Limitations of the Study**

Due to the limitation of time, scale and scope to incorporate several other speeches delivered by Joe Biden in his political career, our research paper is limited to the CDA of a single political speech which is Biden's inaugural address (2021). Therefore, the research

conclusions and findings are limited to our selected corpus. However, we have successfully applied the Model of “Discourse Structures” (1980), and we have analysed the inaugural address of Biden regarding all of the different components of the model and the socio-political contexts that surrounded the inaugural ceremony. Finally, as a result of the restrictions in page numbers of the thesis, we could not extend the analysis to cover all types of the figurative language and semantic clues. Yet, we have only referred to the most frequent and important rhetorical and ideological discourse strategies.

### **3. Suggestions for Further Research**

In this analytical paper, based on the findings of our study, we suggest some ideas for further research. First, since our study is limited to only Biden’s inauguration speech, other researchers can incorporate the analysis of other speeches delivered by the president Biden. For example, they can analyse Acceptance Speech (of November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020), Biden’s Address to Congress (of April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021), among other speeches. Moreover, we put a special emphasis on the most frequent rhetorical strategies and semantic clues of this discourse; meanwhile, other further studies can cover the whole rhetorical techniques employed by Biden. Furthermore, as we have already mentioned, we have applied Van Dijk’s Model of “Discourse Structures” (1980), but other further studies can apply other models of analysis of Van Dijk or completely apply other models. Finally, other researches can make a comparison between Biden’s ideologies and the predecessors president’s ideologies or compare between the discourse structures of a couple of inauguration speeches in order to find out the different persuasive techniques employed by presidents during inauguration occasions.

### **Conclusion**

In this practical chapter, we first introduced the research methods that we have adopted in this study. Moreover, we presented the selected corpus for the analysis, and we have explained the procedures for data collection and analysis. Furthermore, we followed all the steps of the adopted Model. Hence, we have successfully applied Van Dijk’s Model of “Discourse Structures” (1980) in the CDA of Biden’s inaugural address (2021). Finally, we summarised the findings of our analysis, enumerated the main limitations and suggested some ideas for further research.

## **General Conclusion**

In the present study, we have been able to critically analyse Biden's inaugural address (2021). We modestly believe that we have applied successfully the Model of Van Dijk "Discourse Structures" (1980), which consists of the Macrostructures, Microstructures, and Superstructures. The findings of this study made us believe that ideologies are best expressed and more influential when they are employed in political discourses. Also, we came to assert that the president Biden, as distinct from his predecessor, held opposite ideologies to Trump's mainly regarding the immigrants, Islam, terrorism, racism, extremism, white supremacy and climate crises. The president Biden does not hold any negative attitude towards Muslims and immigrants. Conversely, he always praised for unity and showed at what extent he is tolerant and good towards the different parties and people's differences. Also, after we applied the model, we came to conclude that Biden used religion and history to assert the significance of unity. Moreover, he was realistic, eloquent, and showed wisdom throughout his speech. Importantly, the overall tone of the speech sounded optimistic and his powerful language disclosed resilience, confidence and reassurance.

All in all, we came to conclude that Biden is a true democrat since his opposition to racial injustice, his favour of immigrants, his concerns towards climate change as well as the repetition of "democracy" all along the discourse. Also, when he said that democracy is the cause of his winning in presidential elections. He believes that unity is the key for the progress of the nation. Also, we can conclude that Biden's ideology is completely contrastive to Trump's ideology. The fact that Biden has not used the term Islamic Terrorism is an evidence that he is not Anti-Muslim. Finally, Biden described environmental issues as a "cry for survival comes from the planet itself". Contextually, he showed his standing against climate change issues.



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## **Appendix: Inaugural Address by President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.**

January 20th, 2021

Washington, D.C.

THE PRESIDENT: Chief Justice Roberts, Vice President Harris, Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Vice President Pence, distinguished guests, and my fellow Americans.

This is America's day.

This is democracy's day.

A day of history and hope.

Of renewal and resolve.

Through a crucible for the ages America has been tested anew and America has risen to the challenge.

Today, we celebrate the triumph not of a candidate, but of a cause, the cause of democracy.

The will of the people has been heard and the will of the people has been heeded.

We have learned again that democracy is precious.

Democracy is fragile.

And at this hour, my friends, democracy has prevailed.

So now, on this hallowed ground where just days ago violence sought to shake this Capitol's very foundation, we come together as one nation, under God, indivisible, to carry out the peaceful transfer of power as we have for more than two centuries.

We look ahead in our uniquely American way – restless, bold, optimistic – and set our sights on the nation we know we can be and we must be.

I thank my predecessors of both parties for their presence here.

I thank them from the bottom of my heart.

You know the resilience of our Constitution and the strength of our nation.

As does President Carter, who I spoke to last night but who cannot be with us today, but whom we salute for his lifetime of service.

I have just taken the sacred oath each of these patriots took — an oath first sworn by George Washington.

But the American story depends not on any one of us, not on some of us, but on all of us.

On “We the People” who seek a more perfect Union.

This is a great nation and we are a good people.

Over the centuries through storm and strife, in peace and in war, we have come so far. But we still have far to go.

We will press forward with speed and urgency, for we have much to do in this winter of peril and possibility.

Much to repair.

Much to restore.

Much to heal.

Much to build.

And much to gain.

Few periods in our nation's history have been more challenging or difficult than the one we're in now.

A once-in-a-century virus silently stalks the country.

It's taken as many lives in one year as America lost in all of World War II.

Millions of jobs have been lost.

Hundreds of thousands of businesses closed.

A cry for racial justice some 400 years in the making moves us. The dream of justice for all will be deferred no longer. A cry for survival comes from the planet itself. A cry that can't be any more desperate or any more clear.

And now, a rise in political extremism, white supremacy, domestic terrorism that we must confront and we will defeat.

To overcome these challenges – to restore the soul and to secure the future of America – requires more than words.

It requires that most elusive of things in a democracy:

Unity.

Unity.

In another January in Washington, on New Year's Day 1863, Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

When he put pen to paper, the President said, "If my name ever goes down into history it will be for this act and my whole soul is in it."

My whole soul is in it.

Today, on this January day, my whole soul is in this:

Bringing America together.

Uniting our people.

And uniting our nation.

I ask every American to join me in this cause.  
Uniting to fight the common foes we face:  
Anger, resentment, hatred.  
Extremism, lawlessness, violence.  
Disease, joblessness, hopelessness.  
With unity we can do great things. Important things.  
We can right wrongs.  
We can put people to work in good jobs.  
We can teach our children in safe schools.  
We can overcome this deadly virus.  
We can reward work, rebuild the middle class, and make health care  
secure for all.  
We can deliver racial justice.  
We can make America, once again, the leading force for good in the world.  
I know speaking of unity can sound to some like a foolish fantasy.  
I know the forces that divide us are deep and they are real.  
But I also know they are not new.  
Our history has been a constant struggle between the American ideal that we are all created  
equal and the harsh, ugly reality that racism, nativism, fear, and demonization have long torn  
us apart.  
The battle is perennial.  
Victory is never assured.  
Through the Civil War, the Great Depression, World War, 9/11, through struggle, sacrifice,  
and setbacks, our “better angels” have always prevailed.  
In each of these moments, enough of us came together to carry all of us forward.  
And, we can do so now.  
History, faith, and reason show the way, the way of unity.  
We can see each other not as adversaries but as neighbors.  
We can treat each other with dignity and respect.  
We can join forces, stop the shouting, and lower the temperature.  
For without unity, there is no peace, only bitterness and fury.  
No progress, only exhausting outrage.  
No nation, only a state of chaos.  
This is our historic moment of crisis and challenge, and unity is the path forward.

And, we must meet this moment as the United States of America.  
If we do that, I guarantee you, we will not fail.  
We have never, ever, ever failed in America when we have acted together.  
And so today, at this time and in this place, let us start afresh.  
All of us.  
Let us listen to one another.  
Hear one another.  
See one another.  
Show respect to one another.  
Politics need not be a raging fire destroying everything in its path.  
Every disagreement doesn't have to be a cause for total war.  
And, we must reject a culture in which facts themselves are manipulated and even  
manufactured.  
My fellow Americans, we have to be different than this.  
America has to be better than this.  
And, I believe America is better than this.  
Just look around.  
Here we stand, in the shadow of a Capitol dome that was completed amid the Civil War, when  
the Union itself hung in the balance.  
Yet we endured and we prevailed.  
Here we stand looking out to the great Mall where Dr. King spoke of his dream.  
Here we stand, where 108 years ago at another inaugural, thousands of protestors tried to  
block brave women from marching for the right to vote.  
Today, we mark the swearing-in of the first woman in American history elected to national  
office – Vice President Kamala Harris.  
Don't tell me things can't change.  
Here we stand across the Potomac from Arlington National Cemetery, where heroes who gave  
the last full measure of devotion rest in eternal peace.  
And here we stand, just days after a riotous mob thought they could use violence to silence  
the will of the people, to stop the work of our democracy, and to drive us from this sacred  
ground.  
That did not happen.  
It will never happen.  
Not today.

Not tomorrow.

Not ever.

To all those who supported our campaign I am humbled by the faith you have placed in us.

To all those who did not support us, let me say this: Hear me out as we move forward. Take a measure of me and my heart.

And if you still disagree, so be it.

That's democracy. That's America. The right to dissent peaceably, within the guardrails of our Republic, is perhaps our nation's greatest strength.

Yet hear me clearly: Disagreement must not lead to disunion.

And I pledge this to you: I will be a President for all Americans.

I will fight as hard for those who did not support me as for those who did.

Many centuries ago, Saint Augustine, a saint of my church, wrote that a people was a multitude defined by the common objects of their love.

What are the common objects we love that define us as Americans?

I think I know.

Opportunity.

Security.

Liberty.

Dignity.

Respect.

Honor.

And, yes, the truth.

Recent weeks and months have taught us a painful lesson.

There is truth and there are lies.

Lies told for power and for profit.

And each of us has a duty and responsibility, as citizens, as Americans, and especially as leaders – leaders who have pledged to honor our Constitution and protect our nation — to defend the truth and to defeat the lies.

I understand that many Americans view the future with some fear and trepidation.

I understand they worry about their jobs, about taking care of their families, about what comes next.

I get it.



But the answer is not to turn inward, to retreat into competing factions, distrusting those who don't look like you do, or worship the way you do, or don't get their news from the same sources you do.

We must end this uncivil war that pits red against blue, rural versus urban, conservative versus liberal.

We can do this if we open our souls instead of hardening our hearts.

If we show a little tolerance and humility.

If we're willing to stand in the other person's shoes just for a moment.

Because here is the thing about life: There is no accounting for what fate will deal you.

There are some days when we need a hand.

There are other days when we're called on to lend one.

That is how we must be with one another.

And, if we are this way, our country will be stronger, more prosperous, more ready for the future.

My fellow Americans, in the work ahead of us, we will need each other.

We will need all our strength to persevere through this dark winter.

We are entering what may well be the toughest and deadliest period of the virus.

We must set aside the politics and finally face this pandemic as one nation.

I promise you this: as the Bible says weeping may endure for a night but joy cometh in the morning.

We will get through this, together

The world is watching today.

So here is my message to those beyond our borders: America has been tested and we have come out stronger for it.

We will repair our alliances and engage with the world once again.

Not to meet yesterday's challenges, but today's and tomorrow's.

We will lead not merely by the example of our power but by the power of our example.

We will be a strong and trusted partner for peace, progress, and security.

We have been through so much in this nation.

And, in my first act as President, I would like to ask you to join me in a moment of silent prayer to remember all those we lost this past year to the pandemic.

To those 400,000 fellow Americans – mothers and fathers, husbands and wives, sons and daughters, friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

We will honor them by becoming the people and nation we know we can and should be.

Let us say a silent prayer for those who lost their lives, for those they left behind, and for our country.

Amen.

This is a time of testing.

We face an attack on democracy and on truth.

A raging virus.

Growing inequity.

The sting of systemic racism.

A climate in crisis.

America's role in the world.

Any one of these would be enough to challenge us in profound ways.

But the fact is we face them all at once, presenting this nation with the gravest of responsibilities.

Now we must step up.

All of us.

It is a time for boldness, for there is so much to do.

And, this is certain.

We will be judged, you and I, for how we resolve the cascading crises of our era.

Will we rise to the occasion?

Will we master this rare and difficult hour?

Will we meet our obligations and pass along a new and better world for our children?

I believe we must and I believe we will.

And when we do, we will write the next chapter in the American story.

It's a story that might sound something like a song that means a lot to me.

It's called "American Anthem" and there is one verse stands out for me:

"The work and prayers

of centuries have brought us to this day

What shall be our legacy?

What will our children say?...

Let me know in my heart

When my days are through

America

America

I gave my best to you."

Let us add our own work and prayers to the unfolding story of our nation.  
If we do this then when our days are through our children and our children's children will say  
of us they gave their best.  
They did their duty.  
They healed a broken land.  
My fellow Americans, I close today where I began, with a sacred oath.  
Before God and all of you I give you my word.  
I will always level with you.  
I will defend the Constitution.  
I will defend our democracy.  
I will defend America.  
I will give my all in your service thinking not of power, but of possibilities.  
Not of personal interest, but of the public good.  
And together, we shall write an American story of hope, not fear.  
Of unity, not division.  
Of light, not darkness.  
An American story of decency and dignity.  
Of love and of healing.  
Of greatness and of goodness.  
May this be the story that guides us.  
The story that inspires us.  
The story that tells ages yet to come that we answered the call of history.  
We met the moment.  
That democracy and hope, truth and justice, did not die on our watch but thrived.  
That our America secured liberty at home and stood once again as a beacon to the world.  
That is what we owe our forebearers, one another, and generations to follow.  
So, with purpose and resolve we turn to the tasks of our time.  
Sustained by faith.  
Driven by conviction.  
And, devoted to one another and to this country we love with all our hearts.  
May God bless America and may God protect our troops.  
Thank you, America.  
END

## Résumé

Après que le président a prêté serment en tant que 46<sup>ème</sup> président des États-Unis, Biden a délivré son discours inaugural le 20 Janvier, 2021 à Washington D. C. Cette cérémonie d'inauguration était complètement différente des précédentes car elle a connu un nombre colossal de crise qui ont menacé le pays entier. Dans cette étude, nous avons traité les thèmes ainsi que les idéologies et les croyances qui étaient enracinées dans ce discours, en appliquant le modèle de Van Dijk des « Structures du Discours » (1980). Le but ultime de cette recherche est d'identifier les structures du discours, y compris les Macrostructures (autrement dit les thèmes du discours), les Microstructures (c'est-à-dire les analyses sémantiques, stylistiques, syntaxiques et rhétoriques), aussi bien que les Superstructures (ce qui signifie le schéma ou le plan du discours). Concernant les méthodes de recherches, nous avons choisi une méthode mixte, ou nous avons utilisé la méthode quantitative pour les fréquences et tableaux des choix lexicaux et des structures, ainsi que la méthode qualitative pour les analyses thématiques et schématiques de ce discours politique. Les résultats de notre étude analytique indiquent que 1) Le président a utilisé un langage puissant pour mettre l'accent sur l'unité et la démocratie tout au long du discours. 2) Ses idéologies sont complètement contradictoires au président précédent. En outre, il a dévoilé qu'il ne possédait aucune attitude négative envers les immigrés et l'islam, mais qu'il était contre le racisme, le terrorisme et le suprémacisme blanc. 3) Il a insisté sur la période actuelle plus que le passé et le futur comme c'est indiqué dans les résultats de notre analyse syntaxique. 4) D'autre part, il a sollicité l'unité, a fait preuve de résilience, de tolérance et de respect pour les différences individuelles et pour les partis ayant de différentes idéologies politiques. Ainsi, de nombreux éléments lexicaux et de structures syntaxiques ont démontré l'importance de l'unité. 5) En plus, son objectif suprême était de restaurer l'Amérique suite à d'énormes problèmes menaçant l'unité de la nation. 6) Le président a utilisé intelligemment des structures parallèles et des répétitions fonctionnelles comme des techniques de persuasion afin de mettre en évidence ses intentions et ses plans et pour obtenir une impression satisfaisante et positive de l'audience. 7) Aussi, Biden a promu avec éloquence ses idéologies et ses croyances à travers l'usage du langage figuratif tel que les métaphores, les personnifications, les épithètes, les antithèses..., parmi d'autres. 8) Enfin, il a utilisé plusieurs figures de sonorités, y compris les allitérations, les assonances et les consonances qui ont engendré un ton optimiste, mémorable et magnifiquement rimé du discours.

**Les Mots-clés :** Biden, le Discours Inaugural, le Discours Politique, les Idéologies, l'Analyse Critique du Discours, l'Unité et la Démocratie, les Structures du Discours, Van Dijk (1980).

## الملخص

بعد أن أدى الرئيس اليميني الدستورية بصفته الرئيس السادس والأربعين للولايات المتحدة، ألقى بايدن خطاباً تنصيبياً في 20 يناير 2021، في واشنطن دي سي، وكان حفل الافتتاح هذا مختلفاً تماماً عن سابقه كونه شهد عدداً هائلاً من الأزمات التي هددت البلاد برمتها. في هذه الدراسة، تناولنا المواضيع وكذلك الأيديولوجيات والمعتقدات التي تم تضمينها في هذا الخطاب، من خلال تطبيق نموذج فان دايك "هياكل الخطاب" (1980). الهدف الأساسي من هذا البحث هو تحديد هياكل الخطاب، المتمثلة في الهياكل الكلية (أي مواضيع الخطاب)، التركيبات الجزئية (المتمثلة في التحليلات الدلالية، والأسلوبية، والنحوية، والبلاغية)، وكذلك التركيبات الفوقية (أي منهجية أو خطة الخطاب). فيما يخص أساليب البحث، اخترنا الطريقة المختلطة، حيث استخدمنا الطريقة الكمية لترددات وجدول الاختيارات اللفظية والتراكيب، وكذلك الطريقة النوعية للتحليلات الموضوعية والتخطيطية لهذا الخطاب السياسي. تشير نتائج دراستنا التحليلية إلى ما يلي: أولاً، استخدم الرئيس لغة قوية للتأكيد على الوحدة والديمقراطية في الخطاب بأكمله. ثانياً، أيديولوجياته معاكسة تماماً لأيديولوجيات الرئيس السابق. إلى جانب ذلك، كشف أنه لا يحمل أي موقف سلبي تجاه المهاجرين والإسلام، إلا أنه ضد العنصرية والإرهاب وسيادة البيض. ثالثاً، حسب نتائج تحليلنا النحوي، تبين أنه أصر على الفترة الحالية أكثر من الماضي والمستقبل. رابعاً، من ناحية أخرى، أشاد بالوحدة وأبدى تسامحاً واحتراماً للاختلافات الفردية وللأحزاب ذات الأيديولوجيات السياسية المختلفة. وهكذا، أكدت العديد من العناصر اللفظية والتركيبات النحوية على أهمية الوحدة. خامساً، كان هدفه الأسمى هو استعادة وحدة الشعب بعد القضايا الهائلة التي هددت وحدة واستقرار الأمة. سادساً، استخدم الرئيس بذكاء هياكل متوازية وتكرارات وظيفية كتقنيات مقنعة لإبراز نواياه وخطته ومن أجل اكتساب انطباع إيجابي ومرضي من طرف الجمهور. سابعاً، كشف بايدن ببلاغة عن أيديولوجياته ومعتقداته من خلال استخدام الصور البيانية مثل الاستعارات والكنائيات والتشخيصات والصفات والمجازات، ... وغيرها. أخيراً، استعمل العديد من المحسنات البديعة اللفظية والمعنوية، بما في ذلك الجناس، والسجع والتوافق، مما جعل نبذة الخطاب متفائلة، ذات قافية جميلة وخالدة في ذاكرة الحاضرين.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** بايدن، الخطاب الافتتاحي، الخطاب السياسي، الأيديولوجيات، تحليل الخطاب النقدي، الوحدة والديمقراطية، هياكل الخطاب، فان دايك (1980).

## Agzul

Seld tagallit n uselway wis 46 n Marikan, Biden yefka-d inaw-ines n tżunżut ilmend n usbeddi-ines, ass n 20 yennayer 2021 deg Washington. Tafugla n tżunżut i d-yellan ilmend-is temgarad akk yef tid yezrin, acku temmuger-d atas n tezyan i yeggzen akk tamurt. Deg tezrawt-a, nesqerdec isental d tesnaktiwin akk d tneflas i yezżan deg yinaw-a, s uđfar n tmudemt n Van Dijk "Tiyessiwin n yinaw" (1980). Iswi agejdan n tezrawt-a d akaz n tyessiwin n yinawen, gar-asant tyessiwin timeqqranin (isental n yinaw), tyessiwin timezyanin (ilmend n tesleđt tasnamkant, tayanibant, taseddasant d tin n tesninawt). Rnu yer waya tyessiwin tunnigin (azenziy ney ayawas n yinaw). Ayen icudden yer tarrayin n unadi, nefren tarrayt tamasayt, nesseqdec tarrayt tasmektayant, ilmend n yisnagaren d tfelwiyin n ufran n wawalen d tyessiwin, am wakken i nesseqdec dayen tarrayt tayarayant i tesleđt n yisental d yizenziyen n yinaw-a asertayan. Igemmađ n tezrawt-nney taseldant skanayen-d dakken: 1) Aselway yessexdem tutlayt i iğehden i wakken ad iweşşi yef tdukli d tugdut deg teyzi n yinaw-ines. 2) Tisnaktiwin-is d tinemgalin n tid n uselway i yellan uqbel-is. Yerna ibeggen-d dakken ur yesei kra n wugur d yiğriben akk d lislam, dacu kan atan mgal n trizri d rrebrab d usmenyif n uglim amellal. 3) Yessehres yef tallit n tura ugar n tin i yezrin ney n tin i d-iteddun. 4) Seg tama-niđen, yessuter tadékli d ssmah d uqader n umgired i yellan gar yiterrasen d yikubar s tesnaktiwin-nsen tisertiyin yemxalafen. Dayen, atas n yiferdisen n umawal d tyessiwin n tseddast i d-immalen azal n tdukli. 5) Rnu yer waya, iswi-s amezwaru d aqead n Marikan, imi d-yella wugur d ameqqran i yuggzen tadékli n tmurt. 6) Aselway yessemres s tħerci tyessiwin timsadayin d wallusen iwuranen d tifukas n uqennee, akken ad asen-d-yeegheb wayen i d-inna i wid i as-yesmuzguten. 7) Dayen Biden yefka azal i tesnaktiwin d tneflas-ines s useqdec n wawal anagmađ i icebbeħ s yimerwas, igudam, immerkiden, igemdawalen... gar wayen-nniđen. 8) Di taggara, yesseqdec dayen Biden atas n yigmađ n tayrit, gar-asen asdefrimesla, ayliyel, tameyrut d umsasi n yimesla, i d-yefkan ccbaħa d usirem i yinaw-ines.

**Awalen Igejdanen:** Biden, Inaw n Tżunżut, Inaw Asertayan, Tisnaktiwin, Tasleđt Tuzyint n Yinaw, Tadékli d Tugdut, Tiyessiwin n Yinaw, Tamudemt n Van Dijk (1980).