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**Obama's Farewell Address (2017):
A Linguistic Analysis**

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

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Dedication

Every challenging work

Needs self- efforts

As well as

Guidance of other people

Especially those who are close to our heart.

With special feelings of gratitude, we dedicate our humble work to:

Our loving parents to whom we wish long and healthy life, whose love, encouragements and prayers made us motivated students to be able to achieve such success and honor.

Our grandparents who are our first teachers in life, whose affection made us strong girls and students.

Our brothers and sisters, we could never succeed without their support and pieces of advice.

All our family members, whose words encouraged and motivated us.

Our teachers, for teaching us to believe in hard work and that so much could be done with little by having self-confidence.

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Abstract

This study is a linguistic analysis of Obama's Farewell Address which was delivered in 2017. The central focus of this analysis is to highlight the different linguistic features used in this speech. Thus, the first aim is to pinpoint the different figures of speech that characterize Obama's style such as alliteration, anaphora, hyperbole, metaphors, simile, oxymoron, personification and parallelism. Secondly, highlight some lexical semantic relations that exist in the text like synonymy, antonymy, repetition, metonymy and hyponymy. Finally, apply Leech's Model of Linguistic Deviations (1969), usually applied on poetry, in the analysis of Obama's final speech; this model is divided into eight main deviations which are as follows: phonological, lexical, grammatical, graphological, semantic, dialectal, register and historical period deviations. For this, a qualitative design was adopted on the analysis, thus, it is important to note that there is a quantification of some qualitative data and this is shown through the use of some frequencies and tables where necessary. After an extensive analysis of the text, we can say that Obama's Farewell Address (2017) is rich of the following linguistic elements: figures of speech (that is to say that the text is colorful), lexical semantic relations (that is to say the text is well-structured), and linguistic deviations. These elements play a prominent role in attracting and persuading the audience and most importantly influencing their view point and behaviors. This study also brought some evidence that Leech's Model (1969), which is purely poetic, can be applied in political discourse analysis.

Key Words: Discourse Analysis, Linguistic Analysis, Leech's Model (1969), Obama's Farewell Address, Linguistic Deviations.

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List of Abbreviations

DA: Discourse Analysis

PDA: Political Discourse Analysis

CA: Conversation Analysis

MMDA: Multimodal Discourse Analysis

CDA: Critical Discourse Analysis

MDA: Mediated Discourse Analysis

CBDA: Corpus-based Discourse Analysis

USA: United States of America

US: United States

IO: Indirect Object

S: Subject

O: Object

V: Verb

C: Complement

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General Introduction

When reading the biography of Barak Obama, especially his studies and career, we understand that the slogan of his campaign “Yes We Can” is inspired by his successful career. First as student, he could win the trust of his mates by being their representative and he was an active student who sought for the wellbeing of his students’ community. After graduation, he was a community organizer, a professor of law, and a lawyer. In all these positions, the art of speaking and language mastery are a capital and of great importance. In January 20th, 2009, Barak Obama was elected the forty fourth US president. Since his inaugural address, many scholars have manifested interest in his speeches from many perspectives such as linguistic, stylistic and critical ones. Politicians have manifested interest in his politics and policies; economists in his economic plans and budgets; military officers in his security plans and measures, etc. More importantly, Obama’s speeches have attracted the attention of many researchers in the field of Arts, Linguistics and Discourse Analysis such as Wang (2010) who made a critical discourse analysis of his speeches, Gallo (2017) who studied his farewell Address (2017), Kazemian and Hachemi (2014) who analyzed five speeches of this great person, in addition to many students from different universities all over the world who started studying the Obama’s speeches. Thus, the present study is a linguistic analysis of Obama’s Farewell Address which was delivered in 2017. The aim is to show the colorfulness of Obama’s speeches, the beauty of his style and his good morals. The attempt is also to show that the speeches of this skillful orator can be used as a modal to train those who suffer from linguistic weaknesses and challenges during public speeches.

1. Statement of the Problem

Barack Obama is the forty fourth president of the United States of America who left office in 2017 after serving for two presidential terms. He is well-known for his eloquence and colorful speeches and is considered as a successful orator since his early career. As a tradition in the White house, every new elected president must have a first address where he meets his citizens for the first time and present his main projects and hopes for a better country under his office. Similarly, every leaving president must give his last speech to his nation in which he thanks them for the trust they put in him, the work realized together with all the government structures, and he begs pardon for any drawbacks and failures from his administration.

Thus, in the present study, Obama's last speech entitled "Farewell Address", delivered in January 10th, 2017, is chosen for analysis. The basic reason for choosing this topic is to discover the linguistic components and elements that make this speech attractive, colorful, and powerful. We know that there are no rules that govern a speech and make it enjoyable and successful; there are no instructions that govern the game of words or in more simple words, the game of selecting and choosing the right word to use it in the right place and right moment. Thus, every orator works hard and puts enormous efforts to strengthen his speech and touch the soul of his listeners for the sake of changing their view points. Therefore, "The Farewell Address" (2017), will be analyzed from a linguistic perspective to shed light on the different linguistic elements used by Hussein Barak Obama which made of him a skillful and well-known orator besides making this speech very powerful and engraved in the memory of the US nations.

2. Research Questions

The present study is a discourse analytical study of Obama's Farewell Address from a linguistic perspective. The focus is on three main linguistic elements: The identification of the figures of speech, the lexical semantic relations and the linguistic deviations used by Obama.

The present study aims to answer the following research questions:

1. What are the different figures of speech used by Obama in his Farewell Address?
2. What are the different semantic relations that feature the text?
3. What are the different linguistic deviations used by Obama in his last speech?

3. Research Purpose

Every scientific research is purpose-oriented. This study does not differ from any other scientific research; we have some respective goals that we want to achieve throughout the analysis of Obama's Farewell Address (2017) which are as follows:

1. Pinpointing the different figures of speech used by the 44th president of the USA, Hussein Barak Obama, in his last speech.
2. Identifying the different semantic relations used in this text (Obama's Farewell Address).
3. Highlighting the different linguistic deviations used by Obama in his last speech.

4. Applying “Leech Model” (1969), usually applied on poetry, in the analysis of a political speech.

4. Significance of the Study

This discourse analytical study draws its importance from the fact that it is the first in the Department of English at the University of Bejaia, so it is an original study as no student has dealt with before. Furthermore, the present study aims to contribute to the literature on linguistic and discourse analysis of spoken discourse. Another significant point in the present study is the application of “Leech Model”(1969)to study political and spoken discourse as it was only applied on poetry. In few, our study introduces and highlights different linguistic features that are among the secrets behind the success of Obama’s farewell address.

5. The Organization of the Linguistic Analysis

The Linguistic Analysis of the Farewell Address (2017) of the American orator Hussein Barak Obama relies on three main linguistic components which are as follows:

1. Figures of speech.
2. Lexical semantic relations of the text.
3. Leech linguistic deviations.

The First part deals with the selection of the figures of speech in the text, after that, we move to the selection of the lexical semantic relations that feature the text and realize cohesion. Finally, we move to the third part of this analysis which is the linguistic deviations that Obama used in his text.

6. The Organization of the Work

The present work is divided into four chapters in addition to the general introduction and the general conclusion. The general introduction contains the statement of the problem, the research questions; in addition to, the research goals, and the significance of the study.

Chapter one is named: Theoretical Background and is divided into four main sections. The first section is an introduction to discourse analysis; it contains significant and pertinent points that explain deeply the field of discourse analysis. The second section is about the stylistic of text; it explains the meaning of style, stylistics in general, and the method of

stylistic analysis. The third section of this chapter is an introduction to the model applied in the analysis: “Leech Model” of linguistic deviations (1969). The fourth and the last section entitled: Literature Review, discusses some related studies to Barak Obama’s speeches. Chapter two, named: Research Methods and Study Design, is devoted to the research methods and the design adopted in this study. Finally, chapter three, entitled: Results and Discussions; it reports the results of the linguistic analysis of Obama’s Farewell Address (2017). The last part discusses the limitations of our study and presents the conclusions drawn from this study

The following figure summarizes the organization of the whole work.

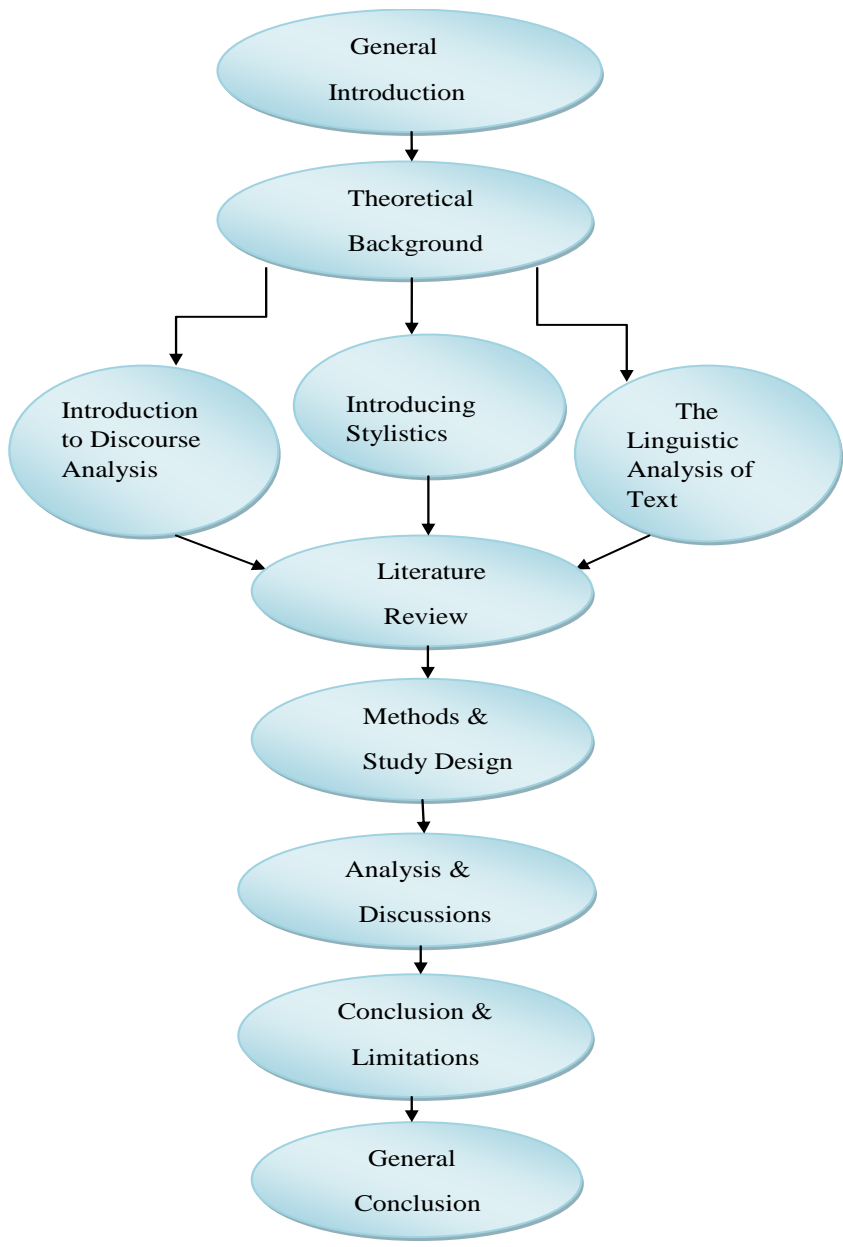


Figure 1: The Organisation of the Thesis

Chapter One: Theoretical Background

This first chapter is concerned with the theoretical background the present study. It is divided into three main sections and each section elaborates several ideas about the field of discourse analysis. The first section is devoted to the field of discourse analysis. In the second one, we introduce and define style and stylistics because our analytical study contains some stylistic elements. Finally, in the third section, we introduce the focal points of our study which are figures of speech, lexical semantic relations, and mainly the linguistic deviations. In this latter, we introduce Leech Model (1969) since we want to apply it to pinpoint the different linguistic deviations that exist in the text.

Section one: Introduction to Discourse Analysis

This section introduces Discourse Analysis. The attempt is to answer four major questions: What is discourse? What is discourse analysis? What is political discourse analysis? And approaches to discourse analysis. These elements contain prominent ideas which are directly related to this field.

1. What is Discourse?

The word “Discourse” has become a well-known developed industry in linguistics. Many researchers and scholars have conducted researches about this concept, and most of the linguistic studies were about written texts and the functional utterances in human conversations and interactions.

The term “Discourse” has been defined differently by different scholars. Many have defined it according to the context, that is, it changes the meaning from one context to another and from one field/domain to another. In simple word, “discourse” has no single and stable definition; it is a paramount in the negotiation in addition to construction of the meaning in the social world (Adjei, 2013).

As already mentioned, the term “Discourse” does not have one single meaning, it is defined in a wide range of domains besides linguistic areas (linguistic perspectives). Shiffrin, Tannen and Hamilton (2001) stressed on this idea, and they stated:

“Since semantics, pragmatics, and discourse all concern language , communication, meaning, and context, it is perhaps not surprising that these

three fields of linguistics are those whose definitions seem to be most variable".(p.02).

They added:

"The different understandings of discourse represented in this volume reflect the rising popularity of the field. Although it is not our interest to explain how or why discourse has gained so powerful an appeal for so wide a range of analytical imaginations" (p.02).

"Discourse" is a growing field that has become the interest of many linguists, it is about language. A high percentage of researchers tend to explain this phenomenon in different ways, it is why its definitions are many in numbers.

Jorgensen and Phillips (2002) stated:

"discourse has been a fashionable term. In scientific texts and debates, it is used, often without being defined. The concept has become vague either meaning almost nothing, or being used with more precise, but rather different, meaning in different contexts. But in many cases, underlying the word «discourse" is the general idea that people's utterances follow when they take part in different domains of social life" (p.01).

To sum up, the above quotation shows that the concept of defining "Discourse" is vague. It is a fashionable term because it is largely used to refer to people's utterances, social contexts, and patterns in addition to rules that humans respect and focus on in order to express the structure of the language.

2. What is Discourse Analysis?

Two separated terms "Discourse" and "Analysis" are used to form a single word unit which is "Discourse Analysis". In order to understand what is meant by discourse analysis, it is very important to define each of these key terms alone. The two words were the subject matter of many researches, thus, they are given different definitions. Shiffrin, Tannen and Hamilton (2001) explained the term discourse and they asserted:

"It is no surprise that the terms "discourse" and " discourse analysis" have different meanings to scholars in different fields. For many, particularly linguists, "discourse" has generally been defined as anything beyond the

sentence. For others, (for example Fasold 1990), the study of discourse is the study of language use” (p.01).

The above citation explains that the term “discourse” does not have one precise meaning; it is interested in the study of language in texts and conversations (coherence, cohesion, interpreting discourse, cooperative principles, hedges, implicature, turn taking, and conversation analysis). The scholars above stated that the study of discourse is the study of language use, that is to say, discourse is all about the rules and principles of how to use the language.

“Analysis” is defined as the breaking down of something into its constituent in order to study and understand it easily. Johnstone (2008) explained this idea and said:”*The most familiar use of the word “Analysis” is of processes, mental or mechanical, for taking things apart” (p.04).*

She added:

“Chemical analysis, for examples involves using a variety of mechanical techniques for separating compounds into their elemental parts. Mental analysis is also involved as the chemist thinks in advance about what the compounds part are likely to be. Linguistic analysis is also sometimes a process of taking apart. Discourse analysts often find it useful to devide longer stretches of discourse into parts according to various criteria” (p.04).

The word “Analysis” also does not have one precise definition and meaning, this latter changes the meaning according to different contexts. This term is defined according to its use in a specialized field or domain.

Even though, the two terms “Discourse” and “Discourse Analysis” have different meanings, they show the same focus on some instances and perspectives of the language (Shiffrin, Tannen and Hamilton, 2001).

Discourse Analysis has different meanings; it has been defined by different researchers and scholars in different manners (Shiffrin, Tannen and Hamilton, 2001). Brown and Yule (1983) explained that DA (for short) has various meanings in various contexts; it is used in a wide range of research questions of different fields. It is a close examination of texts

including both spoken and written language; it is also concerned with both the form and the social context.

Brown & Yule (1983) asserted:

“The analysis of discourse is, necessarily, the analysis of language use. As such, it cannot be restricted to the description of linguistic forms independent of the purposes or functions which those forms are designed to serve in human affairs. While some linguists may concentrate on determining the formal properties of a language, the discourse analyst is committed to an investigation of what the language is used for” (p.01).

For the two scholars, DA is the study of language use, how it is used and for what it is used. It is not only limited to the description of its functions and purposes but also the way its forms are used to serve people. The two linguists examined how people use the language so as to communicate through the study of language conversation; how the addresser produces and constructs the linguistic message and how the addressee interprets this message. They argued that discourse analysis is used to describe activities. “Sociolinguists” are concerned on the study of the structure of the language used in social conversations and their description of the features of this language which is used in different social contexts, this group is working with the transcription of spoken data. “Psycholinguists” work on language comprehension in short texts or sequences of written sentences. “Philosophical linguists” are other specialized researchers who are concerned with the study of semantic relationships between constructed sentences and their syntactic realization. The final group is called “Computational Linguists”, this group is concerned with the production of models of discourse processing, and their methodology of work is characterized by the use of short texts which are constructed in very limited contexts.

Johnstone (2008) stated:

“Calling what we do Discourse Analysis” rather than language analysis underscores that fact that we are not centrally focused on language as an abstract system. We tend instead to be interested in what happens when people draw on knowledge they have about language, knowledge based on their memories of things they have said, heard, seen or written before to do things in

the world: exchange information, express feelings, make things happen, create beauty, entertain themselves and others ,and so on” (p.03).

For Johnstone (2008), the analysis of discourse study is the larger chunks of language especially the social contexts and how this latter affect the meaning of a given discourse. For her, DA is about the knowledge of language and the principles used when the communication takes place, in addition to the principles (in writing or speaking) that people rely on in a conversation. In contrast, the other type of the analysis of modern linguistics is interested in the study of language as an abstract system, that is to say, the study of grammar (rules and structures).

DA can be divided into three main categories: anything beyond the sentence, language use, and a broader range of social practice that includes non-linguistic and non-specific instances of language. (Shiffrin, Tannen and Hamilton, 2001).

DA is a series of interdisciplinary approaches which can be used to search in many different social fields in various studies; there is no precise meaning of discourses or precise methods or techniques to study and analyze them. Jorgensen and Phillips (2002) explained this idea, they stated: *“DA is not just one approach, but a series of interdisciplinary approaches that can be used to explore many different social domains in many different types of studies. And there is no clear consensus as to what discourses are or how to analyze them” (p.01).*

They added:

“In many cases, underlying the word “discourse” is the general idea that language is constructed according to different patterns that people’s utterances follow when they take part in different domains of social life, familiar examples, being “medical discourse” and “political discourse” discourse analysis is the analysis of this patterns”(p.01).

To conclude, it can be said that “Discourse Analysis” is an umbrella word which is vague and ambiguous, its definition is related to a given or precise context, field and domain. In addition, DA is about studying and analyzing the uses of language.

3. What is political discourse analysis?

The present research is concerned with the study of political discourse. More precisely, it is concerned with the study of the Farewell Address (2017) of the American president Barak Hussein Obama. We believe that it is very important and necessary to define political discourse analysis since our linguistic analysis is based on political discourse.

Many researchers shift their interest in the definition and the explanation of PDA (for short); they argued that this notion is vague and ambiguous.

Van Dijk (1997) explained the PDA as follows:

“Obviously, the very notion of political discourse analysis is ambiguous. its most common interpretation is that PDA focuses on the analysis of political discourse, although we then still need to determine which discourse is political and which is not” (p.11).

Through the above quotation, it is easy to understand that the most common meaning of PDA is the analysis of political discourse as it is named, Van dijk focused also on the necessity to know which discourse is political and which is not, this is done through organized studies.

Another point to mention is that political discourse analysis is part of the critical approach of discourse analysis, this latter deals mainly with the reproduction of political power, power obuse and the domination while delivering a political discourse. This is argued by van Dijk (1997):

“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” (p.11).

Isabella Fairchough and Norman Fairchough (2012) defended and explained the same idea as follows:

“Our aim in this book is to present a new approach to analyzing political discourse as a contribution to the development of critical discourse analysis (CDA). The approach

we propose is characterized both by continuity with the theoretical and analytical concerns of earlier work in the version of CDA” (p.01).

Political Discourse Analysis is an interdisciplinary field that can be studied using different methodologies focusing on several dimensions (pragmatics, semantic, social and cognitive psychology, semiotics and many other dimensions) in different settings. Many approaches and perspectives are found in the political discourses studies. Politic orators choose specific words and use specific figures of speech and techniques when speaking in order to achieve specified outcomes. (Alvarez-Benito, Fernandez-Diaz, and Inigo-Mora, 2009).

To conclude, political discourse analysis can be defined as the analysis of political speeches delivered by politicians without forgetting to mention that it is a part of discourse analysis. In more simple words, PDA is an approach in discourse analysis.

4. Approaches to Discourse Analysis

Speaking about approaches to discourse analysis, it is proved that these approaches are many in number. Bhatia, Flowerdew, and Jones (2008) stressed on this idea and claimed:

“The analytical approaches that have grown out of these interdisciplinary developments are many including register and genre analysis, 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, argumentation analysis, and many others and no book on discourse could hope to cover all of them”(p.03).

The above citation explains that the scholars above enumerated many approaches to discourse analysis. Thus, Bhatia, Flowerdew, and Jones chose to explain seven approaches which are conversation analysis, ethnographic discourse analysis, corpus-based analysis, multimodal discourse analysis, genre analysis, critical discourse analysis, and mediated discourse analysis. According to them, these approaches diverged upon two main issues: what a text is and the social context in which this text is used.

Conversation analysis was developed in the late 1960s and the early 1970s, its main goal is to describe and explain the competences that people use and rely on when they

interact. Specialists on this domain explained that the context is constructed in a period of time and the aspects of this latter which are not conversationally attended by speakers or participants cannot be considered as part of the analysis. In few words, CA (for short) is based on conversations and interactions and the analysts at this level believe that interaction is more important than social structures and ideologies. Ethnographic approaches are other interests to this interdisciplinary field; they are inspired from anthropology and social psychology in addition to the context which is at the center of communication. The specialists on this field explained that the analysis is based on text-external because the linguistic data cannot satisfy their analysis for a reason that these data cannot make people understand the language as it is used in social and cultural context (Bhatia, Flowerdew, and Jones, 2008).

Corpus-based discourse analysis is also an approach to DA; it is mainly concerned with texts. This approach goes beyond the analysis of the sentence, short texts, and huge amount of texts as it is used in the study of language variation in specific, academic, and professional situations. CBDA (for short) can be used in three main ways: quantitative, both quantitative and qualitative, besides mainly qualitative. Multimodal discourse analysis is another approach; it is used as a communicative mode to express social meaning through social interaction. MMDA (for short) integrates both semiotics and texts as an adequate mode for interaction (Bhatia, Flowerdew, and Jones, 2008).

These are not the only approaches to discourse analysis. Genre analysis is an approach that studies the English language use variation in professional and academic settings. In recent time, genre analysis emerged in Australia and U.S.A in the study of rhetorics. Critical discourse analysis is another approach which emerged. It studies the political issues that occur in society like injustice and dominance. CDA (for short) sheds light on the linguistic discursive dimension of both social and cultural phenomena. It covers lot of areas, for instance, racism, rationalism, identity, democracy, and politics. The last approach which was explained by Bhatia, Jones, and Flowerdew is mediated discourse analysis. This latter focuses on the study of social actions and it shares some similar links with CDA in considering social issues as the basic element of their analysis. MDA (for short) attempt to study and analyze social issues developed through social actions to become later social practice that is to say, MDA seeks to understand the functional role of both social practice and social action relationships in the creation of ideologies and identities in the immediate setting including real time and actual interaction. In conclusion, the above approaches are different but they share a

common point which is paying attention to both text and context (Bhatia, Flowerdew, and Jones, 2008).

Section two: The Stylistics of Text

Stylistics is a dynamic ingredient which accomplishes the linguistic analysis, it is a topic with strong interest for many researchers and this section allows the readers a better understanding of what is meant by style and stylistics, and what their importance is.

1. What is Style?

The term “Style” means the way an individual does something or the way he presents something. It is a technique which distinguishes one person from another. In other words, style varies from one writer to another or from one linguist to another. It can be related to the voice in addition to the tone; this is for readers; each one has a preferred way of reading. Style is not limited only to one person, but it depends on one’s own culture, background, feeling, language (word choice), and syntax.

According to Leech and Short (2007), the general interpretation of the word “Style” is the way in which language is used in a given context or given situation, by a given person, for a given purpose. For more clarification, the above scholars stated in their book that the Swiss linguist “Saussure” distinguished between “langue” and “parole”, where “langue” is considered to be the code or the system of rules used by speakers of one precise language(for example English), and “parole” is the particular uses of this system.

The word “Style” has another meaning in the domain of literature. Its definition on this position is various. Leech and Short (2007) explained this idea in their book and pointed out:

“With the field of literacy writing, there is again a scope of varying definition and emphasis. Sometimes the term has been applied to the linguistic habits of a particular writer (the style of Dickens, of Proust, etc), at other times it has been applied the way language is used in a particular genre, period, school of writing or some combination of these: “Epistolary style”, “Early eighteenth century style”, “Euphuistic style”, “The style of Victorian novel”, etc. all these seen natural and serviceable” (p.10).

In this saying, the two linguists explained that style does not have one precise definition in the field of literature; they argued that it has various meanings, for example, it can refer to the linguistic habits of a writer/author (Dickens) which means in other words, the way the writer presents his work. They also explained style can refer to the language use in a particular genre (type) or specific period of time, in more simple words, how language is used and changed in a given period. Another meaning of the word “style” can be the combination of the previous discussed points, a combination of the linguistic habits and the language use.

The most specific domain and concern of “style” is “text” because it is the main source which allows to the researcher to use the specific besides the homogeneous language. Texts are considered to be the starting point to the study of “stylistics”, it tells us more details about the word choice and structures, text tell us something about people’s personality. Leech and Short (2007) stated:

“This brings us to the most specific domain of style, and the one which will be the main focus of this book: we shall be concerned primarily with the style of texts. A text whether considered as a whole work or as an extract from a work, is the nearest we can get to a homogeneous and specific use of language. It is therefore the natural starting place for the study of style. In a text we can study style in more detail, and with more systematic attention to what words or structures are chosen in preference to others” (p.11).

To conclude, the word “style” can refer to the person’s preferred way of doing something or presenting a work using words, structure, tone etc of their own choice.

2. What is Stylistics?

The term “Stylistics” is used to define the linguistic study of different writers, the types of literature, and the elements of language. It is generally used to describe the language use. The main aim of the researchers in this domain is to explain the relationship between language and the artistic function. Three essential questions exist in this phenomena; “what”, “why”, and “how”, linguists explained these issues and they said that the “why” stands for why does the author/writer here choose this form of expression? The “how” stands for: Is such an aesthetic effect achieved through language? Here the researcher looks to the signs which show that the aesthetic effect is achieved on that text, and from this point, it can be said that another reason which make texts the natural focus of the study of stylistics is that texts

are more specific about how language serves a particular artistic function (Leech and Short, 2007).

The definition of the word “Stylistics” varies from one scholar to another, each one has his own understanding of this phenomenon, and there are those who believe that there is no researcher/linguist who could found its real meaning. Lecerclé was one of these persons, and Simpson cited this idea on his book (2004): *“According to Lecerclé, nobody has ever really known what the term “Stylistics” means, and in any case, hardly any one seems to care” (p.02).*

The most common meanings and/or definitions of stylistics are the study of style. Leech (1969) said:

“I mean by stylistics simply the study of literary style, or, to make matters even more explicit, the study of the use of language in literature. When we discuss style, we often have in mind the language of a particular writer, a particular period, a particular genre, even a particular poem” (p.01).

By this account, it is easy to understand that Leech’s explanation of stylistics is the study of literary style which is directly related to a given writer, genre, language, and poem.

According to Burk (2014), stylistics is originated from rhetoric of the ancient classical world, it is simply the study and the analysis of texts, more precisely literary texts; this is why most people and researchers called it “Literary Linguistics”. He mentioned this definition and he said:

“Stylistics, or literary linguistics as it is sometimes called, is the study and the analysis of texts; it is in particular, although not exclusively, the study and analysis of literary texts. The origins of stylistics go back to the poetics and especially to the rhetoric of the ancient classical world” (p.01).

Speaking about modern stylistics, it was in the early twenty-first century very much alive and developed. This phenomenon can be found nearly in all language, literature and linguistics departments in many universities in the world. Many scholars who are interested in this subject make research on it. Therefore, we find many journals, articles, and books devoted to stylistics. Another important point to mention is that modern stylistics is increasingly flourishing and developing by a reason that the stylistic methods are filled and

enriched by new theories such as discourse and society. Simpson (2004) mentioned all these details in his book and asserted:

“Stylistics in the early twenty-first century is very much alive and well. It is taught and researched in university department of language, literature and linguistics the world over. The high academic profile stylistics enjoys is mirrored in the number of its dedicated book-length publications, research journals, international conferences and symposia, and scholarly associations. Far from moribund, modern stylistics is positively flourishing, witnessed in a proliferation of sub-disciplines where stylistic methods are enriched and enabled by theories of discourse, culture and society”(p.02).

3. The Purpose of Stylistics

The analysis of different aspects in different domains is done for specific purposes. “Stylistic Analysis” also is made for given goals, so what is the aim behind doing such an analysis?

According to Simpson (2004) “Stylistics” is made for many purposes. It is used in order to explore the language besides explore the creativity of its use. It is also used so as to enrich the way of thinking about language, and understand the way we look the (literary) texts. He explained that the analytic method has a great importance in a way that it contains reflexive capacity which can shed light on the very language system it derives from. Stylistics tells us something about the rules of language because this method explores texts in which these rules are bent and stretched to break points.

Stylistics analysis contains three essential principals: It should be rigorous, retrievable, and replicable. Simpson asserted that the stylistic method can be rigorous if it is an explicit framework of analysis, the stylistic analysis here is characterized by the use of structured models of language in addition to discourse that explain how we process besides understand the patters of language (Simpson, 2004).

Stylistic method is retrievable if the analysis is organized through explicit terms and criteria; it means that most meanings are agreed upon by other styliticians. Despite the fact that the precise definitions of some aspects of language were really difficult to agree on, but there is a consensus of agreement about most terms in the domain of what stylistic really mean. Moreover, this consensus enables the styliticians to test the categories used and to see

how the analysis reached its conclusion. Stylistics is replicable when the methods are sufficiently transparent in the purpose to allow other scholars to verify these methods; this is by testing them on the same text or by applying them beyond that text (Simpson, 2004).

4. The Method of the Analysis

Leech and Short (2007) worked on the method of the linguistic analysis of style using prose texts. They explained that the simple purpose of the style analysis is to find the artistic principles taking into consideration the writer's choice of language, and from this point, the readers can easily understand that all texts have individual qualities, therefore, they differ in the features; a feature or a characteristic which is very important and prominent in one precise text is not necessarily about the same importance in other texts. The two researchers explained that there is no perfect technique in order to select what is significant for the analysis, they stated: *"There is no infallible technique selecting what is significant. We have to make ourselves newly aware, for each text, of the artistic effect of the whole, and the way linguistic details fit into this whole"* (p.60).

They used a checklist of linguistic categories, they said that the categories are placed under four main aspects: Lexical categories, grammatical categories, figures of speech, and cohesion in addition to context.

4.1. Lexical Categories

The two scholars divided the lexis into five main aspects; they spoke about "the general" and by this concept they refer to the vocabulary used whether it is simple or complex, colloquial or formal, descriptive or evaluative, and general or specific. They referred also to "the nouns" whether they are abstract or concrete. At this level they explained that it is necessary to look for the kind of the abstract nouns; that is to say, to look for the reference of the abstract noun whether it refers to an event, moral qualities, processes, social qualities, and perceptions." Adjectives and adverbs" are other aspects of the lexical categories, "Leech & Short" classified the adjectives to many kinds such as physical, psychological, visual, auditory, colour, evaluative, emotive, and referential etc. They added that "adverbs" perform different semantic functions, in more simple words; they are classified in different types for instance, adverbs of manner, place, direction, time, degree and many other functions. The last lexical aspect is called "verb", they argued that verbs are used to carry an important part of

the meaning, and like the other aspects “verbs” are also divided into various types like the stative verbs, dynamic verbs (Leech and Short, 2007).

4.2. Grammatical categories

As the previous category, Leech and Short (2007) divided the concepts into different types; the sentences are known as declaratives, affirmatives, negatives, interrogatives etc. Clauses are classified as being dependent (relative clauses and adverbial clauses), besides nominal clauses that are divided to other subtypes like *wh*-clauses. These researchers referred also to the clause structure, they asserted that there are special kinds of clause structure which occur such the preparatory *it* or *there*. Following with another principle of the grammatical category is the phrase. At this level Leech & Short explained that phrases are divided into two main categories: Noun phrase in addition to verb phrase. They argued that it is necessary to know whether the noun phrase is simple or complex and each one should know where does the complexity lie (Is it a premodification by an adjective, noun etc or a post modification by prepositional phrases or relative clauses, etc).

Speaking about verb phrases, the two scholars looked for the significant departure from the use of the simple past tense besides the occurrence and the functions of the present tense (the progressive aspect, perfective aspect, and modal auxiliaries). Moreover, they added that each researcher should look for the phrasal verbs and how they are used. To finish with grammatical categories, “Leech & Short” spoke about the word classes; they looked for the minor or the function words (prepositions, conjunctions, pronouns, determiners, auxiliaries, and interjections, etc). (Leech and Short, 2007).

4.3. Figures of speech

Leech and Short (2007) in their work explained the third category called “figures of speech”, the same operation was done on this part too, they divided this section into three essential subparts: grammatical and lexical, phonological schemes, and tropes. Starting from the first concept “grammatical and lexical”, they referred to the formal and structural repetition for instance the anaphora and parallelism, they referred also to the rhetorical effect. The second part is called “phonological schemes”, this concept contains the phonological patterns of rhyme such as alliteration and assonance and many other patterns. Furthermore, it contains salient rhythmical patterns, vowel and consonant sounds patterns, clusters, etc. The most important point on the phonological schemes is to look for the way these phonological

features interact with meaning. The third and the last pattern of the figures of speech is the “tropes”, this section is concerned with obvious violation and departure from the linguistic code like neologism, deviant lexical collocations, semantic , syntactic, phonological, and the graphological deviations. These deviations can be included on the special interpretations which are associated with the traditional poetic figures of speech such as metaphor, metonymy, synecdoche, paradox, and irony.

4.4. Context and Cohesion

The last linguistic category is context and cohesion. According to Leech and Short (2007), cohesion is the ways in which parts of a text are linked together, for example how the sentences of one part of the text are connected together, this is what it is called the internal organisation of the text. “Context” has been defined by these scholars as the external relation of a text or parts of a text; it is the social relation between its participants (the author, the reader, and character).

In the cohesion, many aspects should be taken into consideration; logical links between sentences like the coordinating conjunction and the linking adverbials, in addition to the use of pronouns, substitute forms or ellipsis, the avoidance of repetition, etc. In the context, the social situation plays the important role. Here the researcher should look to the relationship between the writer and the reader, does the writer address to the reader directly? Or by using words or some fictional characters? Linguistic clues also like the personal pronouns (I, *my*, *mine*, etc) should be taken into consideration. Other prominent aspects that should be included while studying the context are the authors’ implied attitudes towards his/her subject, the characters’ words and thoughts (are they presented by direct quotations which mean direct speech or indirect speech?), and the changes of the authors’ style changes.(Leech and Short, 2007).

Section Three: The Linguistic Analysis of the Text

In this section, our aim is to introduce and explain the linguistic analysis besides introducing Leech’s model (1969) of linguistic deviations as it is the model adopted in this study. Moreover, the present section introduces the different parts of the analytical study.

1. What is Linguistic Analysis?

The term “Linguistic Analysis” is composed of two main words “Linguistic” and “Analysis”. Within the broad field of linguistics, the word “Linguistic” is derived from the term linguistics and at this level the latter has been defined as the scientific study of language. Speaking about the word “Analysis”, it is proved that this term does not have one precise meaning. It has been defined as the breaking down of something into its parts for the sake of understanding it and studying it easily (Johnstone, 2008).

Like the other linguistic terms, the term “Linguistic Analysis” does not have a single definition; it has been defined differently from various scholars. Heine and Narrog (2010) defined this word as a general notion which suggests a comprehensive treatment. According to the above scholars, this treatment involves and deals with the analysis of human languages. In other words, they defined linguistic analysis as a general notion in which we find a process that will deal with the analysis of purely human languages. In other words, linguistic analysis is an attempt to describe linguistic data. The two scholars explained this idea in their book and they pointed out: *“Linguistic analysis is a fairly general notion, being suggestive of a comprehensive treatment of what contemporary linguistics has to offer for analyzing human languages”* (p.02).

They added:

“The main goal of this volume thus it to provide the student of language with alternatives that has been proposed in contemporary linguistics for analyzing and understanding the structure of human languages.” (p.03).

They explained also that the main purpose of linguistic analysis is to facilitate the way to language students to better understand and analyze the structure of human languages.

2. Introducing Leech’s Model of Linguistic Deviations (1969)

2.1. Leech’s Model of Linguistic Deviations

Leech’s model of linguistic deviations mainly deals with eight different deviations classified as follows: Phonological, Lexical, Grammatical, Graphological, Semantic, Dialectical, Register, and Historical Period Deviations. These deviations are distinguished at three main levels of language: Realization, Form, and Semantics (Leech, 1969).

According to Leech (1969), knowing a language competently involves not only memorizing the vocabulary and learning a set of rules, but also knowing how to use items of the vocabulary in order to construct sentences. In few words, the knowledge of language involves the knowledge of Lexicon, in addition to the knowledge of Grammar because these are the two parts which comprise the formal aspect of the language. Leech emphasized on the idea that the three types “Realization (either phonological or graphological), Form and Semantics” have to be known. The three levels of this model can be applied for both the productive and the receptive processes of language; that is to say that, it is applicable to listening and reading as much as to speaking and writing.

In the table, Leech (1969) summarized the three levels of language as follows: Realization is realized by phonology and graphology, the form comprises grammar and lexicon, and semantics is realized by denotative or cognitive meaning.

Realization	Form	Semantics
Phonology	Grammar and Lexicon	Denotative
Graphology		or Cognitive Meaning

Table1: Leech’s Classification of Language Levels (1969)

2.2. Leech’s Classification of Linguistic Deviation

Leech (1969) based the linguistic deviations on eight major types. This section will mainly deal and explain each of the eight types. These types are classified as follows:

2.2.1. Phonological Deviation

Leech (1969) in his work explained that phonological patterns are more on the surface than the surface of syntactic structure (it means that they are more about the way they are presented rather than the way how it is formed or how it is structured). The phonological patterns are as follows: conventional composition which is about elision, aphesis, and apocope and these are all concerned with poetry, rhyming, in addition to word stress. His work was about English poetry and he stated that these patterns (phonological patterns) are limited in terms of importance, at this level Leech (1969) asserted:

“Patterns of phonology are even more on the surface than those of surface syntactic structure, so it is not surprising that phonological deviation in English poetry is limited importance.”(p.46).

However, this notion does not refer to all languages; there are some languages such as American and Indian cultures, more precisely that of Nootka; through a set of deviant phonological characteristics. For instance, library recitations are clearly marked from the ordinary speech. (Leech, 1969).

2.2.2. Lexical Deviation

According to Leech (1969), lexical deviation is about neologism which is the invention of new words or items of vocabulary.

Neologism is one of more obvious ways in which a poet may exceed the normal resources of the language. This is not only restricted to a poet but also journalists, copy writers, scientists, and other types of linguistic practitioners renowned for lexical intention. These are not the only ones, even ordinary citizens in ordinary conversations often participate in the discipline of neologism, it is considered as being a way to express their feelings besides opinions (Leech, 1969).

Moreover, Leech (1969) added that it is misleading to suggest that neologism is a violation of lexical rules. According to him, the best explanation of neologism is that an already existing rule; or in other words, “word formation” is applied or applicable with greater generality. In more simple words, it is the use of an existed word for the sake of creating and forming a new one. The best example of word formation is affixation which is the addition of a prefix or suffix to an already existing item in a language.

2.2.3. Grammatical Deviation

Leech explained in his work that the distinction between the different types of grammatical deviations is very important. The first difference which is traditionally drawn was between “morphology” that is the grammar of the word and “syntax” that is the grammar of how words pattern within a sentence. (Leech, 1969).

In syntax, there is a distinction between two main aspects which are “the deep structure” besides “the surface structure” (this is according to recent literature in syntax). According to Leech, the deep structure directly reflects the meaning of the sentence, whereas the surface structure is related to the way a sentence is actually uttered such as the passive form. At this level, he provided an example of a sentence which is “Gladstone was revered by his supporters”. On this case the identification of the logical subject that is “his supporters” belongs to the deep structure; whereas the identification of the grammatical subject “Gladstone” belongs to the surface structure. To conclude, deep structure may be characterized as the semantic end of the syntax, and surface structure as the phonological end. (Leech, 1969).

2.2.4. Graphological deviation

It is known that spelling represents pronunciation. In case of strangeness in pronunciation, there will be reflection on the written form. Moreover, there is a kind of graphological deviation which needs to have no counterpart in speech. The typographical stanza is a unit which is not parallel in non-poetic varieties of English; it is independent and capable of interacting with the standard units of pronunciation (Leech, 1969).

Leech (1969) stated that there are two American poets: William Carlos and E.E. Cummings who explores possibilities of purely visual patterning in poetry. Cummings is famous for his use of other types of orthographic deviation such as discarding of capital letters in addition to punctuation where convention calls for them (jumbling of words, eccentric use of parentheses, etc).For him, capitalization, spacing, and punctuation become expressive devices, not symbols to be used according to typographic custom.

2.2.5. Semantic Deviation

Leech (1969) said: *“It is reasonable to translate semantic deviation mentally into non-sense or absurdity, so long as we realize that sense is used , in this context , in a strictly literal- minded way” (p.48).*

He added:

“Remember that we reserve the term “meaning” for the narrow sense of cognitive information preferring significance when we need to talk generally about what a piece of language communicates”(p.131).

In the citation above, Leech explains that the term semantics or meaning is narrowed and used in the cognitive context; it is about to look what a language communicates or represents. Leech added that the semantic deviation deals with the tropes foregrounded irregularities of context. Furthermore, he stated that these tropes are classified under three main sections: semantic oddity, transfer of meaning, honest deception. (Leech, 1969)

a. Semantic Oddity

From the linguistic exchanges perspectives of everyday life, people expect some cognitive information that are explicitly passed from one participant to another; these information may be about the internal state of the speaker, or about the objective world, or about the way a person or an activity is evaluated etc.(Leech,1969)

Semantic oddity means semantic peculiarity or in other words strangeness of expressions. They are classified into five types which are based and restricted to the simple relations of meaning between small groups of English. According to Leech (1969), the types are as follows: pleonasm which is an expression that is semantically redundant in what it nearly repeats the meaning contained elsewhere, in what precedes or follows it. Oxymoron which is the combination of two expressions that are semantically incompatible, this combination is done for the sake of having no conceivable literal reference to reality. Tautology is vacuous because of self-evidently true. Tautology tells people something about the language. Paradox is the contradiction; it is absurd because it is evidently false. Periphrasis: it is an expression which is of unnecessary length, for the sake that the meaning will be conveyed in briefer manner.

b. Transfer of meaning

Leech (1969) classified the transfer of meaning into four types called tropes of figurative language, they are as follows: Metonymy, metaphor, and simile.

c. Honest deception

According to Leech (1969), the honest deception is the study and the classification of the tropes. These tropes are classified under three parts; Hyperbole which is the figure of over statement, litotes which is the figure of understatement and the irony.

2.2.6. Dialectal Deviation

Leech (1969) asserted: *“Dialectism, or the borrowing of figures of socially or regionally defined dialects, is a minor form of license not generally available to the average writer.”* (p.49).

He explained that the term dialectism in the dialectal deviation refers to the socially and regionally borrowing of features. Dialectism occurs when the writers use words and structures which are from other dialect of that standard language, in more simple words; it is the use of words besides structures that are from dialect that is different from that of standard language (Leech, 1969)

2.2.7. Register Deviation

It is known that each profession has a specific use of language which is known as a register. The Literature domain and literary profession has their own use of words or its own register. However, modern writers freed themselves from the use of constraints of poetical language. Thus, they use more than one register (register mixing) in order to convey their messages successfully. In other words, modern writers use mixed registers within the same texts for successfully conveyed message (Leech, 1969)

2.2.8. Historical Period Deviation

Writers in this type of deviation are not restricted to use language of their own period, but they are free to use archaic language that is not used in standard language for the sake of enhancing the literary work. (Leech, 1969)

Leech (1969) defined archaism and he said:

“Archaism as a survival of the language of the past into the language of the present, is of course an institutionalized licence of poetry, and may perhaps distinguished from linguistic anachronism, or and calculated resurrection of language belonging to a bygone age.”(p.52)

The following figure explains and summarizes Leech Model of linguistic deviations.

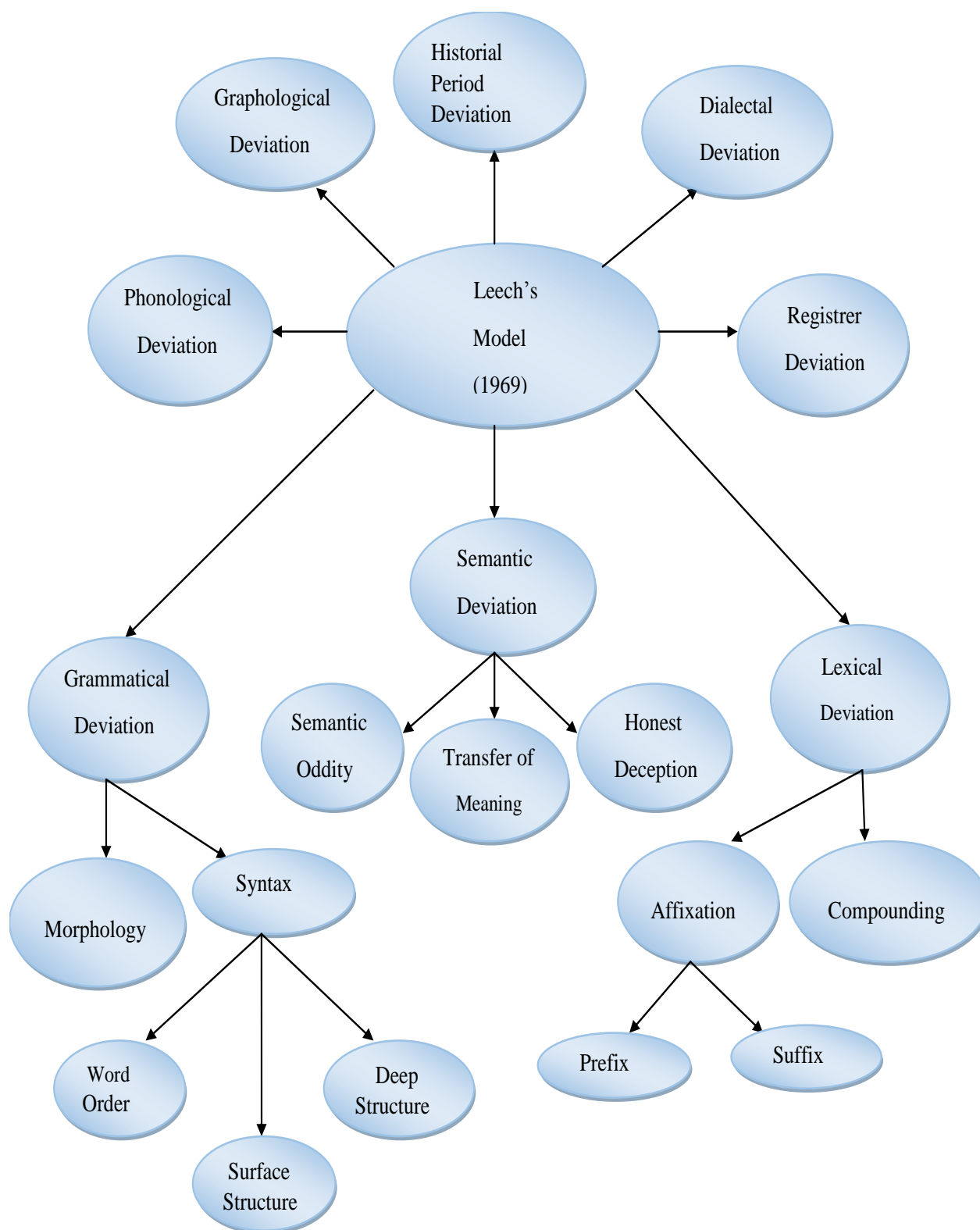


Figure 2: Leech's Classification of Linguistic Deviations

4. Figures of Speech

A figure of speech is an intended deviation from ordinary usage in other words, the writer is allowed to exceed language limits in order to enhance and make a colorful piece of writing or speech. Figures of speech generally communicate writer's ideas and feelings that stand beyond the word's usual meaning (Quin, 1982).

There are many figures of speech that exist in the world of literature and prose. Among them, we choose to talk about the following ones.

4.1. Alliteration

It is a figure of speech in which the initial consonant of words is repeated. This old appliance was commonly used in English poems as well as prose for specific purposes (Cuddon, 2013)

4.2. Anaphora

Anaphora involves the repetition of the same word or group words at the beginning of lines. It is a rhetorical appliance which is used frequently in poem and prose as well as in oratory (Cuddon, 2013)

4.3. Hyperbole

It is about an exaggerative statement which is used to emphasize on something (Cuddon, 2013)

4.4. Metaphor

It is considered to be the basic figure of speech. It refers to an implicit comparison of different things and meaning. The comparison is made without using "like or as" unlike to simile which base on explicit comparison (Cuddon, 2013)

4.5. Simile

Simile is a figurative appliance which is used to compare different things explicitly through the use of some words such as "like and as". This figure of speech is mostly used in order to clarify ambiguous meaning (Cuddon, 2013)

4.6. Oxymoron

Oxymoron is about two contradictory words that are used in speech for specific purposes (Cuddon, 2013)

4.7. Personification

Personification is the act of attributing human characteristic to non human so as to give a virtual image to objects (Cuddon, 2013)

4.8. Parallelism

This device consists of phrases or sentences of similar construction and meaning placed side by side, balancing each other (Cuddon, 2013)

5. Lexical Semantic Relations

According to Halliday and Hassan (1976), lexical cohesion is about reiteration which includes synonymy, antonymy, repetition, metonymy, and hyponymy (Ebrahimpourtaher and Eissaei, 2013)

Reiteration

Reiteration includes:

5. 1. Synonymy

It refers to the use of a word or an item that each one is the synonymous of the other.

Example

What **people** want from the government this frankness?

They should explain everything to the **public**.

5. 2. Antonymy

Refers to the use of a word or an item that each one opposite the other.

Example

I usually wear **dark** colors. I don't look nice in **light** colors.

5. 3. Repetition

It is the most common element in lexical cohesion which refers to a repetition of words or items in sentences within a text.

Example

Reza saw a **dog**. The **dog** was wounded by the children.

5. 4. Metonymy

It refers to the use of characteristic, feature or a part to present or to describe the whole object through the appropriate selection of the words, items that have related meaning with the object.

Example

I live in a large **house**. The **yard** is full of trees.

5.5. Hyponymy

It refers to the word class's relationship where the meaning of the first word or the subclass is included in the second word or the class.

Example

A **Flamingo** lives in water.

This **Bird** is white.

Section Four: Literature Review

Discourse Analysis is a vast field that has inspired many scholars. Therefore, the present study is about this growing field, more precisely, it is about the linguistic analysis of Obama's Farewell Address. This chapter sheds light on some reviewed studies that are directly related to our topic in order to have a fore idea about the different perspectives of analysis of different speeches and texts of the 44th president of the USA.

In her article entitled "A Critical Discourse Analysis of Barak Obama's Speeches", Wang (2010) examined some speeches of the president Obama based on two perspectives: the

critical discourse analysis perspective and the systematic functional linguistic perspective. The aim of her study was mainly to understand how the speaker uses language as a tool to serve ideology and power. The main findings of her study are as follows: Obama uses short sentences and simple words to get closer to his audience. Furthermore, she identified "the process of doing" in the speeches of Obama where this latter highlights the achievements of the US government. Besides, the author identified Obama's use of religious belief as a successful way to shorten the distance between him and the audience.

More studies are conducted about the speeches of the king of the American oratory. Kazemian and Hachemi (2014) analyzed five speeches delivered in 2012. Their objective was to analyze frequency, functions of nominalization, rhetorical strategies, passivation and modality. They based their study on the "Hallidayan perspective". They concluded by arguing that the aspects of nominalization, parallelism, unification strategies in addition to modality dominated Obama's speeches.

Sajjad (2015) says that the manipulation of language serves as a tool for political benefits; as a result, it exploits the ideological assumptions of people on a large scale. In his article entitled "A Critical Discourse Analysis of Barak Hussein Obama's Political Speeches on the Middle East and the Muslim World", he studies the Obama's ideology besides policy towards the east and the Muslim world. He demonstrates the linguistic choices that the president Obama uses and represents the political ideologies of America. Moreover, he shows the implicit exhibition of power, dominance and hostility. The findings of this study are summarized in three main points. Firstly, Obama safeguards the American interest, in addition to his emphasis on some important concepts such as peace, prosperity, democracy, economical support and especially the word change for the sake of highlighting their importance. Secondly, he uses extraordinary contemporary textual and contextual references in addition to historical conventions. Finally, he exclusively tries to revitalize issues of violence, tolerance, international peace, security, human rights and the international political instability to show their necessity in life.

Sajjad (2015) states that the political discourse analysis of Barak Obama regarding the Middle East and the Muslim World show clearly the predominant American ideology about sensitive international issues of terrorism, nuclear weapons and extremism. Furthermore, positivity is clearly embedded in the discourse practices of Obama that portray his political insight and pertinent oratory skills.

A study made by Gallo (2017) entitled “Barak Obama’s Final Speech: Five valuable Lessons for Communicators” analyzed five interesting aspects on apolitical speech. First, the smile; presidents generally when they deliver a speech, they start with soft smile so as to make an impression before giving their words. According to her, the president Barak Obama starts with a gait besides an easy wide smile, this smile made an eye contact with all parts of the room. Second, the humor; Obama wanted to get everyone settled, he said with a smile: “You can tell that I’m a lame duck because nobody is following instructions” and the audience laughed before taking their seats.

After that, the personalized message, he began his speech with a look back:”I first came to Chicago when I was in my early twenties...” this moment brought the president to tears, and he thanked his wife saying:” *Michelle Robinson of the south side, for the past twenty five years, you have not only been my wife and the mother of my children, you have been my best friend*”. Next, the rhetorical devices; Gallo says that Obama mastered classical rhetorical devices that project power and confidence in communication and these are used by worlds’ best speakers. For instance, he used the anaphora which is the repetition of the same word or words at the start of successive sentences or clauses. He also used the rule of three that is called “tricolons” (in the ancient Greek rhetoric), it is used in a paragraph and within sentences themselves. The last valuable lesson is the gestures. In the Farewell speech, the ex-president of the USA uses strong and open gestures in order to emphasize his words, for example he said: “We can and should argue about the best approach to solve the problem” here his two hands were above the waist.

As the previous speeches of the Afro-American president which are the interests of many scholars, Farewell Address is also the topic of many researchers. Azadgan in his article entitled “A Critique of President Obama’s Farewell Speech (2017)” argued that this speech was largely successful and powerful. In his study, he finds that this speech was really impactful and left a great and memorable imprint on the American people and history. He also argued that the ex-president of the United States of America left his audience with strong emotions.

Another study was conducted about Obama’s speeches called “A stylistic Analysis of Obama’s Speech at Hiroshima Peace Park” done by Oladyo (2017). This respective speech was delivered on May 27, 2016 and it plays an important role in showing the power, success and the high status of Obama’s speeches. This study was about the examination of the stylistic

strategies that are deployed inside this speech. According to this researcher, a good and effective persuasive discourse is characterized by the use of multiple strategies which are capable to achieve the most prominent role at this level which is effecting a change in the psychology of the audience, in other words, change their mind and convince them. Oladyo argued that Barak Obama 2016's speech is the best example of a persuasive and defensive speech.

Through this analysis, Oladyo (2017) finds that the 44th USA president employs all the structural sentences types for the sake of achieving some goals that are the persuasion of the Japanese people in order to redefine the conception of the historical bombing, in addition to his exoneration of America. Moreover, this analysis shows that this great president exonerates America through various devices such as negative polarity, juxtaposition and generalization.

To conclude this study, Oladyo (2017) argued that Hiroshima Peace Park is quite rhetorical, defensive and persuasive. He shows that the rhetoric is targeted through securing the speaker's acceptance and gaining the listener's attention. He added that the address is a defense; this is shown through some stylistic resources like topicalisation and negation. Besides, Obama succeeded to change the conception of the Japanese people about their nuclear bombing experience by appealing to their emotions, exploiting their beliefs and emphasizing the present situation in Japan, in more simple words, the existence of peace in Japan.

In his article entitled "The Future Is in Good Hands: A Pentadic Analysis of President Barak Obama's Farewell Address", Dunn (2018) conducted a study on the rhetorical research method. He discussed the rhetorical strategies that are used by Obama to illustrate the importance of farewell addresses. Dunn (2018) claimed that the president used complex rhetorical strategies in order to accomplish his goals such as persuading his audience and change their behavior. Among these strategies, he claimed that the president used a narrative about U.S.A, this technique is used to invite the audience participate on the larger American story for the sake of showing them the hard work of the previous generations on the common purpose which is forming a perfect Union. Moreover, Obama used three tenses in his speech: past, present, and future. Each of these strands (tenses) has a specific pentad. The first strand (past) is used to describe the state of the American nation in the past; this is done to highlight on the importance of this period in the American change and development. The second strand (present) is used to emphasize on the necessity to continue the hard working in the American

democracy always for better nation. Finally, the third strand which is future is used to emphasize on the obligation to see and think about the future of America. In sum, the overall scene of the farewell address is the use of the rhetorical landscape as a rhetorical strategy, in more simple words, Barak Obama used the narrative as a technique to stratify political culture, and this technique marked the rhetorical style of the president Hussein Barak Obama.

Hence, in the present study, we examine three main linguistic components that are used by the president Obama in his speech in order to make it powerful, colorful, successful and especially touching and memorable. His aim is to influence his audience as every orator has a hidden goal behind delivering a speech. The three components are figures of speech, lexical semantic relationships and the linguistic deviations. We selected “Leech model” (1969) in order to analyze the linguistic deviations that are used in the text. In few words, we aim at arguing that the speeches of Barak Obama are good examples of powerful and successful speeches all over the world. Moreover, we aim at showing that Barak Obama’s speeches are suitable forms and models which can be used to teach orators that are suffering from oratory difficulties. Also, to use his strategies so as to influence their audience both mentally and emotionally to change their thoughts, points of view, and acts.

Chapter Two: Research Methods and Study Design

The present chapter presents the research methods and the study design applied in this research work. It also provides a description of the corpus used in this study. Finally, this chapter ends with a short explanation of the data analysis procedures that were used in the analysis of the text.

Methods and Study Design

The present study is a Linguistic Analysis of Obama’s Farewell Address (2017). The aim is to show the beauty of Obama’s style and highlight some of his style’s characteristics which granted him the name of “the king of the American oratory”. Therefore, the suitable design for this study is the descriptive one relying on qualitative method of data analysis. This later is concerned with the identification of the different linguistic elements; in addition to quantifying some qualitative data using frequencies and tables of some items and elements where necessary. In fact, some elements that exist in the text were quantified for illustration.

To sum up, we believe that the descriptive design encompassing the qualitative method with the quantification of some qualitative data is an appropriate way for investigating our research questions, and drawing valid conclusions.

Corpus of the Study

The gathering of data is the starting point of every research. Every researcher makes enormous efforts so as to select the suitable data for his research in order to deliver a pertinent work and draw valid results and conclusions.

The corpus of the present study is the official transcript of Barak Obama's farewell Address delivered in January 10th, 2017. This speech was delivered in American English and it contained around 4900 words printed on A4 format.

Data Analysis Procedures

Discourse Analysis is a field of research that is of strong interest to many linguists and researchers (Sajjad 2015, Dunn 2018). Like the above researchers, we opted for this domain and we think that it is very important to provide our readers with an explanation of data analysis procedures in the current study.

As we have already mentioned, we chose the linguistic analysis of Obama's Farewell Address and we proceed to do our analysis as follows: we divided the text into three main parts namely the figures of speech, the lexical semantic relationships of the text, and the linguistic deviations. After that, in each part, we attempt to identify the existing elements and discuss them fully. Furthermore, we tried to draw some figures or tables in order to show the frequencies of some important linguistic elements used by the orator to convey his message.

The following figure summarizes the research methods and the study design of the current research work:

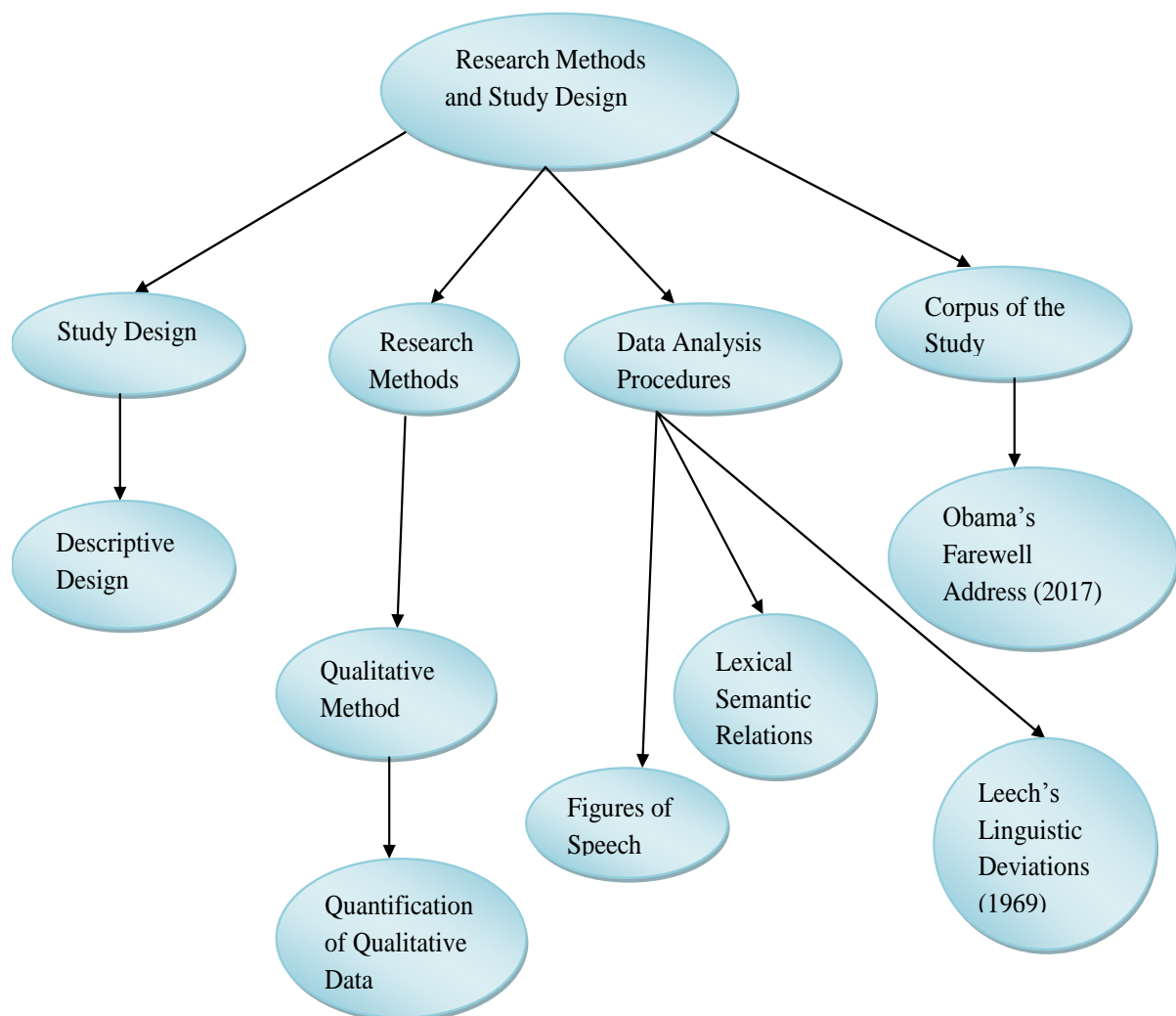


Figure 3: Research Methodology

Chapter Three: Results & Discussions

This chapter describes how Leech's model of linguistic deviations (1969) was applied in the analysis of Obama's Farewell Address (2017). It is divided into two main sections; the first one is about the analysis of the three essential elements of the linguistic analysis which are figures of speech, lexical semantic relations, and the linguistic deviations. The second section reports some conclusions of the study and discusses some limitations that faced us when conducting the research work.

Section One: Analysis & Discussions

The present section deals with the analysis of the three core elements: figures of speech, lexical semantic relation and Leech's linguistic deviations. We want to investigate

wether Leech model of linguistic deviations (1969) which was applied only on poetry is suitable to apply it in prose; particularly, on political discourse. In addition, we want to show our readers the game of words that Obama uses in his speeches which is the secret behind his colorful, successful, and powerful style.

1. Figures of Speech

It is known that orators use many techniques in order to be successful in their speeches. Barak Obama in his farewell address uses many devices to attract the audience's attention and have their confidence. Through the use of figures of speech, he adds the touch of colorfulness and beauty to his speech. He draws many things in a beautiful literary image which makes his words emotional, memorable, and engraved in the history of the United-States of America. He uses many figures of speech which show the beauty of his literary style like alliteration, anaphora, hyperbole, metaphor simile, oxymoron, personification, and parallelism.

1.1. Alliteration

Alliteration is the repetition of the same consonant at the beginning of words. The text contains a lot of examples of alliteration. This device plays an important role to show and highlight the power of Obama's style.

The following sentences represent some examples of alliteration in the text.

"It's the conviction that we are all created equal, endowed".

"That's what we mean when we say America is exceptional".

"You might have said our sights were set a little too high".

"...but we're not where we need to be".

"We have taken out tens of thousands of terrorism".

"I've seen wounded warriors who at points were given up for dead walk again".

The following table shows the repeated consonants (or the alliteration) and demonstrates the frequency of their occurrence (frequency of alliteration) in each sentence:

Sentence Number	The Alliteration	Frequency of Alliteration
1	C & E	2 & 2
2	W	4
3	S	3
4	W	3
5	T	4
6	W	5

Table 2: Examples of Alliteration in the text.

Remarque

While analyzing the text and after extensive examination, we notice that both alliteration and anaphora are the most used devices in the Obama's farewell address.

1.2. Anaphora

Among the remarkable figures of speech that are used by the President Obama "the anaphora" which is the repetition of the same word, phrase, or sentence within the same paragraph or text. The following sentences represent some examples of anaphora among many that exist in the text:

"We, the people, give it power. We, the people, give it meaning".

"You made me a better president, and you made me a better man".

"If I had told you eight years ago that America would reverse a great recession. If I had told you that open a new chapter with Cuban people, shut down Iran's nuclear weapons programme. If I had told you that we all would win marriage equality. If I had told you that you might have said our sights were set a little too high".

"Sometimes you'll win. Sometimes you'll lose".

"I've seen our scientists help a paralyzed man regain his sense of touch. I've seen wounded warriors who at points were given up for dead in their tracks. I've seen our actors

and volunteers rebuild after earthquakes and stop pandemics in their tracks. *I've seen the youngest of children remind us through their actions and through their generosity*".

"Every organizer who moved to an unfamiliar town, every kind family who welcomed them in, every volunteer who knocked on doors, every young person who cast a ballot for the first time, every American who lived and breathed the hard work of change".

The following table indicates the anaphora besides shows the frequency of the repeated word, phrase, and sentence in each sentence.

Sentence Number	The repeated word, Phrase, and Sentence	Frequency of Anaphora
1	We, the people	2
2	You made me a better	2
3	If I had told you that	4
4	Sometimes you'll	2
5	I've seen	4
6	Every	5

Table 3: Examples of Anaphora in the Text

The anaphora makes political speeches more attractive, colorful, and impactful.

1.3. Hyperbole

While reading the text of Obama's Farewell Address, we notice the use of hyperbole which is the exaggeration on the description of something.

The following sentences are examples of hyperboles used by Barak Obama.

*"Politics is a **battle of ideas**"*.

The sentence above quarries hyperbole. Obama exaggerates on the description of politics, he wants to demonstrate that it is not as easy as most people think. Besides, he aims at making the Americans aware about the difficulties that a president can face in this field.

The main goal behind this exaggeration is to inform people that a politician should be strong so as he can fight and break down any kind of political threats to their country. In other words, it is not an easy task to be a politician.

*”...that creed reaffirmed by **those who planted flags from foreign battlefields to the surface of the moon**”.*

This sentence stands for hyperbole. Obama describes people who are fighting and defending their flags besides their liberty in a beautiful image. The exaggeration on the description is not only when he describes the belief of these people to win against their enemies and eliminate them as a result plant their flags, but also on the description of their victory using strong phrase which is the surface of the moon.

*”The imperative to strive together, as well, to achieve a common good, **a greater good**”.*

The sentence above contains hyperbole; this is shown through the use of the phrase “greater good”. The black president uses this phrase to exaggerate in the description of America. The purpose is to say that it is the best place ever to achieve success. He does so in order to address the Americans and inform them that their unity is necessary to achieve the great good and victory.

1.4. Metaphors

Cuddon (2013) defines metaphor as the basic figure of speech which refers to the implicit comparison between two things. It is considered to be the most useful figure of speech in political discourse especially in the text of Obama’s farewell address (2017).

These are some examples of metaphors taken from the text.

*”You can tell that **I’m a lame duck** because nobody is following instruction”.*

Obama in this sentence compares himself to a bird that is the duck, he selected this comparison because at that point he was about to leave his office so he was at the position of outgoing president. He uses nature as the source of his metaphor; the lame duck is derived from an old comparison about a duck that cannot walk because of an injured leg. Through the use of this metaphor, he shows the difficulty of leaving his position as a president as he wanted to show the difficulty of leaving the American people.

*”How do we excuse ethical lapses in our party, but **pounce** when the other party does the same thing”.*

This sentence carries a metaphor. Obama compares the American nation in case of experiencing an economic collapse to a wild animal that pounce in case of danger. At this level, America pounces on any other party or country which will be the reason of this collapse.

*”The laid-off factory worker; the waitress or health care worker who’s just getting by and struggling to pay the bills-convicted that **the game is fixed** against them”.*

The above sentence represents metaphor. A comparison is made between the American economy and a game. Obama compares the economy and he describes it as a game which is fixed against the workers of corrupt politicians.

*”All of us, regardless of party, should be throwing ourselves into the task of **rebuilding** our democratic institutions”.*

In this sentence, Obama describes the American government and compares it to buildings. In more simple words, he compares the abstract constructing of political process to the physical constructing of buildings.

*“If I had told you eight years ago that America would reverse a great recession, **reboot** our auto industry...”.*

In the sentence above, the ex-president uses the idea of rebooting to refer to the success of this administration in order to save the auto industry. He compared this great success or, in other words, his hard work in the administration to a machine to save the auto industry.

1.5. Simile

Simile is the explicit comparison through the use of like and as. These are some extracted examples from Obama’s last address.

*”You were the first decision I made as a nominee, and it was the best. Not just because you have been a great vice president, but because in the bargain, I gained brother. And we love you and Jill **like family**”.*

In the above sentence, the president Obama praised his friend “Joe Biden” on an emotional speech. This pair is so close that is why Obama shows his respect, love, and great importance of their friendship on a beautiful simile comparing their love to each other to family. This simile indicates the importance of Biden’s friendship to Obama and demonstrates that it is his best choice and great joy of his life.

*”Michelle LaVaughn Robinson, girl of the South Side ...the new generation sets its sights higher because it has you **as a role model**”.*

On this passage, the president Obama praised his wife Michelle Obama in a very emotional and touching moment; he shows her his great love and respect. He addresses to her directly so as to demonstrate his gratitude and thankfulness to be with him as a wife, best friend, in addition to a mother of his children. During this emotional moment, he indicates all the good characteristics of his wife and on a very excited and beautiful simile he says that she will be as a role model to the coming generation. In simple words, they will take her as the best example in their life.

*“Violent fanatics who claim to speak for Islam; more recently by autocrats in foreign capitals who see free markets and open democracies and civil society itself **as a threat to their power**”.*

This sentence contains simile. Obama explains that the violent fanatics see Islam as a threat to their power. Moreover, autocrats also see the free markets and the open democracies in addition to civil society as a threat to their power.

1.6. Oxymoron

Cuddon (2013) defines oxymoron as the use of two contradictory words within the same sentence to strengthen the meaning.

The following sentence is an example of oxymoron that Barak Obama uses in his final address.

*“We need to uphold laws against discrimination in hiring, and in housing, and in education, and in the **criminal justice** system”*

The above sentence carries out an oxymoron through the use of two contradictory words “justice” and “criminal”. Obama uses this attractive technique to put much attention on the necessity to look for discrimination and break down the corrupted system.

1.7. Personification

Personification is the act of attributing the human character to non-human. These are some examples of personification from the text.

*“It’s the **beating heart** of our **American ideas**”.*

This sentence carries out a personification. Obama describes USA and the American government as a person who has a beating heart. He contributed the human characteristic which is the beating heart to non-living object which is the country.

*“**America** wasn’t **weakened** by the presence of these newcomers; these newcomers embraced this nation’s creed and this nation was **strengthened**”.*

Obama describes America in a virtual image. He contributes the acts of weakness and strength that are human features to non human object which is America. This later is compared to a person who faces weakness at first time and then, he becomes strength.

*“**Democracy** can **buckle** when we give in to fear”*

The beauty of the literary image in this sentence is shown through the description of democracy as a person. Obama describes democracy as a human who can destroy everything in case of fear, in simple words; such a person can never become a great and successful person if he/she has such feeling. In few words, the personification in this sentence stands on the act of attributing the characteristic of buckling which is a human characteristic to democracy which is non-human.

*“...turn ourselves into just another big **country** that **bullies** smaller neighbors”.*

Obama in this sentence describes the American Nation on an attractive image in which he refers to this nation as a human being. He uses a figure of speech that is the personification to say that America should be as the person who is strong and cruel in order to be the greatest nation in the world. Obama attributes the human characteristic “bullying” to America to draw the meaning in a beautiful virtual image.

*“In the course of a **healthy debate**, we prioritize different goals”.*

Obama in this sentence refers to the debate as a healthy person. He explains that the debate will be successful in case the American people prioritize their goals. The personification in this sentence stands in the act of attributing the human characteristic “health” to the debate which is not a human being.

*“Our **economy** doesn’t **work** as well or **grow** as fast”.*

The above sentence carries out a personification. “Working” and “growing” are human features that Obama uses to draw literary attractive meaning to the American economy. In more simple words, he personalizes the American economy through the use of these two characteristics.

1.8. Parallelism

Parallelism is among the well-known figures of speech that are most used in both poetry and prose. It is about the use of similar constructing sentences or phrases which are placed side by side.

The following sentences are some examples of parallelism taken from the text.

“You made me a better president, and you made me a better man”.

“We, the people, give it power. We, the people, give it meaning”.

“Sometimes you’ll win. Sometimes you’ll lose”.

“You have made me proud. And you have made the country proud”.

After our deep analysis of the text, we noticed that it is full of parallel structures. This shows the creativity of the ex-president of the USA and shows the beauty of his style. As it is shown on the examples above, he uses balanced structures which are played side by side; these sentences carry nearly the same meaning.

Observation

After an extensive examination and analysis of the text, we identified all the figures of speech which are mentioned in the theoretical background. These figures of speech occurred very frequently in the text, this shows the colorfulness of the Obama’s literary style.

2. Lexical Semantic Relations of the Text

Obama uses many elements which realized cohesion in his speech and play an important role to make his message simple and clear that everyone can understand. These elements are the keys that are used by this great president so as to highlight on some points and show their importance, they are as follows: Synonymy, antonymy, repetition, metonymy, and hyponymy.

2.1. Synonymy

The ex-president uses many synonyms in his speech for the sake of avoiding the repetition that will make his listeners feel bad; as a result, they will leave the place. The table below shows some examples of synonymy that are used by Barak Obama in his farewell address (2017).

These are some extracted examples which stress the rich vocabulary of Obama and realized cohesion which is an important element of a successful speech.

The Word	The Synonym
<i>Liberty</i>	<i>Freedom</i>
<i>Rising</i>	<i>Growing</i>
<i>Fast</i>	<i>Quick</i>
<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Goal</i>
Issue	<i>Problem</i>
<i>Children</i>	<i>Kids</i>

Table 4: Examples of Synonymy used in Obama's Farewell Address.

Usually synonyms are used for given goals especially in political discourse, more precisely, political speeches. Barak Obama is not different from any other politician or orator, he uses many techniques in his final address among them the use of synonymy. He not only uses the synonymic relations for the sake of avoiding repetition and realizing cohesion as it is already mentioned, but also to touch his audience's feeling and sensitizing them about the importance of some issues. For example he wants to highlight the role of those things such as children; he uses its synonym (kids) to indicate that they are the nation's hope who will work

hard for USA. This coming generation is the hope to make America flourish, known, and developed more and better than it is now. There are many other examples of synonymy that are used in the text in order to emphasize on many things.

2.2. Antonymy

Antonymy is another element which is used in the text and which makes it successful speech since it is an element of cohesion. The table bellow shows some extracted examples of antonyms used in the text in order to emphasize on the necessity of change for a better nation.

The Word	The Antonym
<i>Win</i>	<i>Lose</i>
<i>Open</i>	<i>Close</i>
<i>War</i>	<i>Peace</i>
<i>Old</i>	<i>New</i>
<i>Easier</i>	<i>Harder</i>
<i>First</i>	<i>Final</i>
<i>Fall</i>	<i>Rise</i>
<i>Black</i>	<i>White</i>

Table 5: Examples of Antonymy in the Text of Obama’s Final Speech.

Obama throughout this opposition emphasizes on the need to look for all the things he cited for the purpose of realizing some of them such as establishing peace and open a new opportunity to develop the American economy. On the other hand, look to the need of eliminating some of them like racism through stopping to make the difference between whites and blacks. Moreover, avoid any kind of threat that will cause a war. The element of antonymy plays a prominent role in persuading the audience and makes the speech more argumental. The orator Obama, through the use of antonymic pairs, defends and justifies his position that is “greatest America” or “America is the best”, and tries to gain the confidence of his listeners.

2.3. Repetition

Obama in his farewell address repeats many words for the purpose of emphasizing on something. The table below shows some extracted examples of repetition from the text (repetition of some words in the whole text).

The Word	Frequency of Occurrence
<i>We</i>	97
<i>Our</i>	109
<i>America</i>	17
<i>Democracy</i>	25
<i>freedom</i>	7
<i>Change</i>	15

Table 6: Examples of Repetition in the Text of Obama (2017).

The president repeats some words for given purposes, for example, he repeats the personal pronoun “we” and the possessive pronoun “our” as it is shown in the table above for the sake of showing his intimate relationship with the American citizens. He repeats these two pronouns many times to speak as one person; this is done to show togetherness and unity of the US citizens; he wants to show the whole world that America is one united nation which is not possible to be separated. The main purpose is to demonstrate that he considers himself as a simple citizen just like the other Americans.

Obama repeats also the following words: Change, America, Democracy, and freedom. He uses this repetition in order to call for the necessity of change for a better nation. Throughout this repetition, he emphasizes on the necessity to put hand in hand to be as one person to change their country “America”; to be the greatest nation which is free, well-developed and democratic, and especially, to be the best example of a developed nation in all over the world, in more simple words, to be the first country in the world in all sides.

2.4. Metonymy

Metonymy is another element of cohesion, it is the use of a single characteristic, feature or part in order to present or describe the whole object. The following sentences are some examples of metonymy that exist in the text:

*“...**hearts** must change”*

In this sentence, Obama uses the word “hearts” in order to refer to people; he wants to say that every American citizen has to change for a better and great country. In simple words, he uses a single part in order to refer to the whole object which is the person in this sentence.

*”**Poverty** is falling again”*

The orator in this sentence uses one word which is poverty so as to demonstrate that America is flourished. He uses single characteristic “poverty” to refer to the whole objet which is the economy of the United-States of America and this sentence argues that its economy is well-developed.

*”You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view...until you climb into his **skin**”*

This sentence contains metonymy where the US president uses a single feature which is ”skin” for the purpose of referring to the whole part which is a person as it is mentioned in the first part of the sentence.

2.5. Hyponymy

Hyponymy is also among the keys of cohesion that Obama uses in his last speech. It refers to the class’s relationship where the meaning of the whole class is included through the use of the subclass. The following example shows the presence of this element in the text of Obama’s farewell address (2017).

*“If every economic issue is framed as a struggle between a **hardworking middle class** and an undeserving minority...incomes rose for **all races**”.*

This short passage contains hyponymy. The president in his speech refers to races which represent a class or a category and the hardworking middle class represents the subpart or the subclass. As it is already mentioned, hyponymy is the use of two words; one is the class

and the other is the subclass and the extracted sentence stands for hyponymy in a way that the hardworking middle class is one part of races. In few words, it is one race among the races so it is a subpart of races.

3. Leech's Linguistic Deviations

Leech model of linguistic deviations is a model which is prepared for and applied on poetry. In this part, we want to analyze Obama's farewell address (2017) using this model for two main goals. First, to discover whether Leech's model (1969) can be applied to analyze political discourse. Second, to discover the power of Obama's style besides having a look to the game of words which makes him famous and one of the best orators in the world.

3.1. Phonological Deviation

From the deep and extensive study of the phonological deviation in the text, we might to conclude that the phonological patterns which are: elision, aphaesis, apocope, rhyming, and the change of word stress proposed by Geoffrey Leech in his model of poetry in 1969 do not exist in political speech of Obama (2017). Thus, they can be replaced by the repetition of some structures. For instance, parallel structures are suitable to replace rhyming in poetry.

We extract some examples of parallelism from the text of Obama in order to illustrate the existence of phonological deviation since the model is applied on poetry, and all the phonological patterns that are proposed by Leech (1969) are purely used in the analysis of poems (the above phonological patterns are used only in stanzas that are specific to poetry).

"If you're tired of arguing with strangers on the Internet, if you're disappointed by your elected officials".

"Only if our politics better reflects the decency of our people. Only if all of us help restore the sense of common purpose".

"Our youth, our drive, our diversity and openness, our boundless capacity..."

"It's what pulled immigrants and refugees across oceans and the Rio Grande. It's what pushed women to reach for the ballot. It's what powered workers to organize".

The above examples are about parallel structures. In each sentence, there are words, phrases or sentences that are placed side by side and which are pronounced in a beautiful manner that makes the speech more attractive.

3.2. Lexical Deviation

Lexical deviation is about morphology. In this section, we analyze the word formation, at this level we speak about affixation in addition to compounding. We did not come across any neologism in the text. However, we proceed in the examination of the lexico-morphology of the text.

3.2.1. Affixation

3.2.1.1. Prefixes

The addition of morphemes at the beginning of existing words called “prefix” is a process done for the sake of inventing new words. The coming words are words which contain prefixes as identified in Obama’s text.

“Dishonest”.

Dishonest → Dis + Honest.

The prefix “dis” is added to the original word “honest” which is an adjective in order to create a new word “dishonest” which is also another adjective. This process is made for the sake of expressing the negative meaning of the original word or simply expressing the opposite.

“Unfamiliar”.

Unfamiliar → Un + Familiar.

The prefix “un” is added to the original word “familiar” which is an adjective in order to invent a new word “unfamiliar” which is also an adjective. This process is done so as to express the antonym of the original word.

“Inequality”.

In + Quality → Inequality.

Quality is a noun to which the prefix “in” is added in order to create a new noun. This process is made to express the antonym of the first word.

“Impossible”.

Im + Possible → Impossible.

Researchers in the domain of morphology add the prefix “im” to the word “possible” in order to invent an adjective from the existing one.

“Misguided”.

Mis + Guided → Misguided.

The opposite of “guided” is expressed through the addition of the prefix “mis”. Through this process, researchers create a new word that is an adjective from an already existing one.

The following table summarizes and explains the above examples of prefixes that are used in Obama’s text.

The Original Word	Its Grammatical Nature	The Prefix	The New Word	Its Grammatical Nature
Honest	Adjective	Dis	Dishonest	Adjective
Familiar	Adjective	Un	Unfamiliar	Adjective
Equality	Noun	In	Inequality	Noun
Possible	Adjective	Im	Impossible	Adjective
Guide	Verb	Mis	Misguided	Adjective

Table 7: Examples of Prefixes in the Text

3.2.1.2. Suffixes

Suffixes are morphemes added at the end of the word for the sake of creating new words. Here are some examples of words which explain the process of suffixation extracted from the Obama’s text.

“Marriage”.

Marry + age → Marriage.

“Marriage” is a noun formed by the addition of the suffix “age” to the verb “marry”.

“Technological”.

Technology + cal → Technological.

Scholars add the suffix “cal” to the noun “technology” in order to form the adjective “technological”.

“Improvement”

Improve + ment → Improvement.

“Improvement” is a new word added to the family of nouns. Researchers create this word by the addition of the suffix “ment” to the verb “improve”.

“Citizenship”.

Citizen + ship → Citizenship.

The suffix “ship” is added to the noun “citizen” so as to form another noun that is “citizenship”.

“Importantly”.

Important + ly → importantly.

Scholars add the suffix “ly” to the adjective “important”. Through this process, they form a new word “importantly” that is an adverb.

“Hopeful”.

Hope + ful → Hopeful.

“Hope” is an already existing noun to which researchers, in the domain of morphology, added the suffix “ful” for the purpose of creating a new adjective “hopeful”.

“Creative”.

Create + ive → Creative.

The suffix “ive” is added to the verb “create” in order to form the new word “creative” which is an adjective.

“Correctness”.

Correct + ness → Correctness.

Scholars add the suffix “ness” to the existed verb “correct” in order to form the new word which is a noun “correctness”.

The following table summarizes and explains the above examples of suffixes in the text.

The Original Word	Its Grammatical Nature	The Suffix	The New Word	Its Grammatical Nature
Marry	Verb	age	Marriage	Noun
Technology	Noun	cal	technological	Adjective
Improve	Verb	ment	improvement	Noun
Citizen	Noun	ship	citizenship	Noun
Important	Adjective	ly	importantly	Adverb
Hope	Noun	ful	hopeful	Adjective
Create	Verb	ive	creative	Adjective
Correct	Verb	ness	correctness	Noun

Table 8: Examples of Suffixes in the Text

Remarque

The process of affixation is not only limited to the addition of either a prefix or a suffix, but also the addition of a prefix and a suffix at the same time to the same word.

The following words are examples of words which contain both prefix and suffix taken from the text.

- “*Unemployment*” → Un + employ + men.
Noun → Prefix + Verb + suffix.

The word “unemployment” is a noun formed by the addition of the prefix “un” besides the suffix “ment” to the verb “employ”.

- “*Dysfunctional*” → Dys + function + al.
Noun → prefix + Noun + suffix.

The word “dysfunctional” is a noun formed by the addition of the prefix “dys” besides the suffix “al” to the noun “function”.

3.2.2. Compounding

Compounding is the process of mixing already existing words so as to function as a single word for the sake of inventing new words.

“Well-intended”.

Well-intended → Well + Intended.

Adjective → Adverb + Adjective.

“Well-intended” is a compound hyphenated word. Its grammatical nature is an adjective and it is formed through the mixing of two existed words; “well” which is an adverb besides “intended” which is an adjective.

“Middle-aged”.

Middle-aged → Middle + aged.

Adjective → Noun + Adjective.

“Middle-aged” is a compound hyphenated word. Its grammatical nature is an adjective and it is formed through the mixing of the noun “middle” and the adjective “aged”.

“Workforce”.

Workforce → Work + Force.

Noun → Noun + Noun.

“Workforce” is a compound attached word. Its grammatical nature is a noun and it is formed through the combination of two existed nouns: “work” and “force”.

“Powerhouse”.

Powerhouse → Power + House.

Noun → Noun + Noun.

“Powerhouse” is a compound attached noun which is formulated through the mixture of two already existed nouns: “power” and “house”.

“Likelihood”.

Likelihood → Like + Hood.

Noun → Adjective + Noun.

“Likelihood” is a compound attached noun that is formed through the blend of two existing words; the adjective “like” in addition to the noun “hood”.

“President-elect”.

President-elect → President + elect.

Noun → Noun + Verb.

“President-elect” is a hyphenated compound noun. It is formed by blending two words which are the noun “president” and the verb “elect”.

“Throughout”.

Throughout → Through + Out.

Adverb → Preposition + Adverb.

It is an attached adverb which is formed through the combination of the preposition “through” and the adverb “out”. The word “throughout” can be used as a preposition, adjective, noun and an adverb.

“Uphold”.

Uphold → Up + Hold.

Verb → Adverb + Verb.

The above word is a compound attached verb formed through the addition of the verb “hold” to the adverb “up”.

“Show up”.

Show up → Show + up.

Verb → Verb + Adverb.

The word “show up” is a compound spaced verb which is formed through the addition of the adverb “up” to the verb “show”.

3.3. Grammatical Deviation

Grammatical deviation according to Leech (1969) is about two main points: Morphology and syntax which are about the grammar of the sentence.

3.3.1. Morphology

It is already discussed (see on chapter four, section one pp. 51-57).

3.3.2. Syntax

3.3.2.1. The Deep Structure

According to Leech (1969), the deep structure is when the meaning is directly reflected through the sentence. In other words, the meaning is shown directly through an active sentence. Here are some sentences in which the meaning is directly reflected.

“I can’t do that”.

In this sentence, the American people asked Obama to be their president for more years, and he said that he cannot do that this is why he answered by “I can’t do that” in which he directly expressed that meaning.

“I’ve worked to put the fight against terrorism”

In above sentence, Obama spoke about terrorism and expressed what he wanted to say directly. He wanted to inform his audience that he worked for the sake of fighting against terrorism.

“I believe as a result the future is in good hands”.

This sentence is direct. Obama wanted to say that America will continue to flourish because it is between the hands of the Americans.

“You are smart and you are beautiful”.

In this sentence, Obama was addressing his two daughters and he wanted to complement them. He said that they are smart and beautiful and this is what he wanted to mean, so the meaning is directly reflected in this sentence.

3.3.2.2. Surface Structure

The surface structure is about the way a sentence is uttered for example passive voice. The following sentences are examples of passive voice extracted from the text.

“The long sweep of America has been defined by forward motion”.

In the sentence above, “the long sweep of America” represents the surface structure and it is called the grammatical subject. Thus, “forward motion” is the deep structure and it is called the logical subject.

“America wasn’t weakened by the presence of these newcomers”.

“America” is the grammatical subject so it represents the surface structure, and “the presence of these newcomers” is the logical subject and it represents the deep structure.

“That spirit sung by immigrants and homesteaders”.

The grammatical subject of this sentence is “that spirit” so it represents the surface structure, while “immigrants and homesteaders” is the logical subject and it represents the deep structure.

3.3.3. Deviation Norms (Word Order)

The Standard English language has limited syntactic structures. The word order in a sentence may be different. The simplest word order of a sentence in English is subject + verb + object or subject + verb + complement, thus, it changes into other structures for necessary purposes. Obama in his farewell address uses different syntactic structures for different goals. The coming sentences show some syntactic forms that are used by Obama.

“You are kind”.

S + V + C

This sentence is of simple form and the normal word order.

“I’ve watched you grow up”

S + V + O + C

This sentence is also of simple syntactic structure.

“A great gift that our founders gave to us”.

O + S + V + IO

The syntactic structure of this sentence is not of simple form. Obama uses this structure and starts by the object “a great gift” to highlight on its importance. The simple syntactic order of this sentence is as follows: “Our founders gave us a great gift”.

“The real progress that we’ve made”.

O + S + V

The above sentence is not of simple syntactic order. Obama changes the normal form and this change is of great importance, he wanted to emphasize on the progress that the American people achieved during his presidency and stresses on the development of USA. The simplest syntactic order of this sentence is as follows: “We have made the real progress”.

3.4. Graphological Deviation

After repeated and deep readings in addition to extensive analysis of the text, we noticed that Obama did not make use of graphological deviation in his last speech. We did not find attached to any capitalized word, symbols, and parentheses. According to Leech (1969), these devices become expressive when using them in poetry. However, Obama did not make use of any kind of these devices since it is an oral speech.

Possible Interpretations

Obama’s farewell address is a political speech and this kind of speech is classified as part of prose. The expressive devices such as parentheses, symbols, punctuation, spacing and capitalized words in the graphological deviation are useful in poetry. Thus, we can find them in prose but in Obama’s final speech there is no existence of all these devices. Furthermore, this speech was delivered orally and it was not written this is why there was no possible way to use such devices.

It is interesting to mention that specialists on the domain of political discourse turned the speech into written form, and the pauses which were made by the orator while speaking

are replaced by full stops and commas, they represent the device of punctuation. In this case, punctuation is the only device that is present in the graphological deviation in the Obama's text.

3.5. Semantic Deviation

According to Leech (1969), the semantic deviation deals with the tropes foregrounded irregularities of context. These tropes are classified under three main points: semantic oddity, transfer of meaning and honest deception.

3.5.1. Semantic Oddity

Leech explained that "semantic oddity" is about the strangeness of expressions. These expressions are classified under five main types that are based on the simple relations of meaning: Oxymoron, paradox, periphrasis, pleonasm, and tautology.

3.5.1.1. Oxymoron

Oxymoron is about the combination of two expressions that are semantically incompatible. In more simple words, it is the use of two contradictory expressions or words within the same context. The following sentence is an example of oxymoron that Barack Obama used in his final speech.

*"We need to uphold laws against discrimination in hiring, and in housing, and in education, and in **criminal justice** system".*

The above sentence carries out an oxymoron through the use of two contradictory words which are "criminal" and "justice". Obama uses the two incompatible words in order to emphasize on the necessity to stop discrimination.

3.5.1.2. Paradox

Paradox is the use of contradiction that is possible to be realized. Here is an example of paradox extracted from the Obama's last speech.

*"Sometimes **you'll win**, sometimes **you'll lose**".*

The two sentences are two contradictory expressions that Obama uses in his speech. They stand for paradox because they are evident and possible to realize. In more simple words, the two short sentences are opposite but they can be true and not impossible to realize.

3.5.1.3. Periphrasis

Periphrasis is the use of unnecessary lengthy expressions for the sake of conveying the meaning in a brief manner. In simple words, it is the use of a shortened sentence or expression in order to convey meaning in a quicker manner. The following sentence is an example of periphrasis from the text.

“We, in fact, all share the same proud title, the most important office in a democracy: citizen”.

The president Obama uses this short sentence to transfer his message and meaning in brief manner. He wants to say two main things from this sentence. The first one is that he considers himself as a simple citizen just like all the Americans, and the second meaning is that the citizen is the one who brings change, strength and power to democracy for better development of USA.

3.5.1.4. Pleonasm

This device is about the repetition of the same meaning elsewhere, in what precedes or in what follows. Here is an example of pleonasm used in the text.

“We should be making it easier, not harder”.

This sentence stands for a pleonasm because the president repeats the meaning of easier in just what follows it. In few words, the expression “not harder” is the repetition of the word easier using the negation.

3.5.1.5. Tautology

Tautology is vacuous which means a lack in the cognitive content. After deep analysis of the text, we noticed that there is no existence of tautology in the text.

Possible Interpretation

According to many scholars like Dunn (2018), Obama’s farewell address was largely successful. He was meaningful enough that everybody understands his message and there was no existence of any kind of clarification requests. Obama is well-known for his literary and powerful style; he is known for his use of meaningful and simple words and this may be the reason behind the lack of meaningless content.

3.5.2. Transfer of Meaning

According to Leech (1969), transfer of meaning is about the figurative tropes that are metonymy, metaphor, and simile.

3.5.2.1. Metonymy

It is already discussed; see on the second element “Lexical semantic relations chapter four”, page 49.

3.5.2.2. Metaphor

It is already discussed; see on the first element “figures of speech chapter four”, page 41.

3.5.2.3. Simile

It is already discussed; see on the first part “figures of speech chapter four”, page 42.

3.5.3. Honest Deception

Honest deception according to Leech is the study and the classification of the tropes. These tropes are three main points: hyperbole, litotes, and irony.

3.5.3.1. Hyperbole

It is already discussed; see on the first part “figures of speech chapter four”, page 40.

3.5.3.2. Litotes

Litotes is the understatement in which an affirmative meaning is expressed through the use of negative expression. An example of litotes is shown in the sentence below.

“A creed at the core of every American whose story is not yet written: Yes, we can”.

The sentence above shows an understatement which contains negation but to refer to something which is positive. Obama uses the negation in the statement “whose story is not yet written” in order to show that every American people has a great and bright future which is full of success.

3.5.3.3. Irony

Irony is the use of expressions for the sake of meaning the opposite. Here is an example of irony found in the text.

“I’ve got to move. You can tell that I’m a lame duck”.

This sentence stands for an irony. The president Obama said that he is a lame duck but he meant something else, he used this expression for the sake of sharing his feeling with his audience; he wanted to show them the difficulty of giving up his presidency. He was at the end of his presidential tour and he used this irony to show how difficult is the feeling of leaving his place his people.

3.6. Dialectal Deviation

After deep readings and extensive examination of the text, we noticed that Barack Obama did not make use of dialectal deviation in his presidential and political speech. We did not find attached to any regional or social borrowing of features. He limited himself to the purely use of standard American English and at this level, he did not make use of any regional or social borrowing of words and structures.

Possible Interpretation

The present text is the farewell speech of the ex-president Barack Obama. This speech was delivered on a special occasion,; he was at the point of leaving up his presidency and his final address was the event of 2017 where everybody all over the world was waiting for it. Also, Obama limited himself to the standard American English without using borrowing from any other dialect because this speech was delivered in an official occasion.

3.7. Deviation of Register

As it is already mentioned, register is about the vocabulary. Writers use the register mixing for successfully conveying message. Obama in his final address used register mixing to make his message clear, simple, and comprehensible. He used various registers such as register of politics, ecology, religion, and family.

The table bellow shows some examples of different registers used by Barack Obama in his speech.

Political Register	Familial Register	Economic Register	Ecological Register	Juridical Register	Religious Register
Practice political correctness, Voice discontent, Vice president, Election, Politics, and Political dialogue.	I am most proud to be your dad; You have not been my wife and the mother of my children, and family.	Economic opportunity, Poverty, Income, Factory work, Economic dislocation, and credit.	Climate change, Environmental disasters, and waves of climate refugees.	Criminal, Justice system, Discrimination, Laws, and Rights.	Church, Power of faith, Muslim, and Islam.

Table 9: Examples of Register Mixing

It is known that every register is used in its appropriate context. Thus, orators in their political speeches use many registers or register mixing so as to cover all the domains, especially for a president of a country; he should refer to all fields such as economy, law, religion etc for the purpose of gaining the audience's confidence and showing them that he is able to take the responsibility of their country and work hard to make it better than it was. In few words, the table above shows some register types used by Obama in which he succeeded to touch the audience's feelings besides persuade them that he was their best choice when they elected him as president.

3.8. Historical period Deviation

In the text of Obama's farewell address (2017), there is an existence of many archaic words. As it is already mentioned, the archaic language is the use of words that are not from the speaker's or writer's period of time but they are known in the past. The text contains many examples of the archaic language and the following words are good illustration.

The word “*Slave*”.

This word was first used in the 14th century. It refers to a person who is completely subservient to a dominating influence. It is used in middle ages as “sclave” and then developed to be used as “slave”. (Merriam Webster, 2019).

The word “*Span*”.

This word was first used before the 21st century. It refers to the distance and it is derived from the Old English word which is “spann”. (Merriam Webster, 2019).

The word “*Folks*”.

This word was first used before the 12th century. It refers to a group of kindred tribes (people) who form a nation. It is derived from the Old English word” folc”. (Merriam Webster, 2019).

The word “*Church*”.

This word was first used before the 12th century. It refers to a building for public and especially Christian worship. It is derived from Middle English word “cirice”. (Merriam Webster, 2019).

The word “*Guardians*”.

This word was first used in the 15th century. It refers to the person who has the property or the responsibility of another one. It is derived from the Middle English word which is” gardein & wardein”. (Merriam Webster, 2019).

Section Two: Conclusions and Research Limitations

This section is devoted to the conclusions of our study after the application of Leech’s model (1969) and after the identification of figures of speech in addition to the lexical semantic relations. Moreover, it is devoted to the limitations we faced while conducting our research work.

1. Major Findings

Our study is based on three main questions which are about figures of speech, semantic relations that realize cohesion in the text, and the linguistic deviations used by

Obama in his speech. After the analysis of the text, we conclude that Obama uses the techniques of rhetorics in his speech through the use of a variety of figures of speech. Thus, we confirm that the text is rich of these devices; consequently, we argue that Obama cannot delete the element of rhetorics. That is to say that among the powerful techniques of his successful style is the use of figures of speech, and it is important to note that this tactic plays an important role to influence the audience's feelings, thoughts, and actions. After that, we argue that the element of cohesion is realized in the text through the use of many elements such as synonymy, antonymy, and repetition. For example, he uses the tactic of repetition to stress on the importance of the hard working on the American democracy. Furthermore, we identified the repetition of many words and pronouns like "we" and "our", this is done in order to speak as one united and unified nation. Moreover, to avoid any kind of strangeness and show friendship and togetherness with his audience. After the deep analysis of the lexical semantic relations in the text, we conclude that this later is well-structured through the use of the above elements.

Finally, we come to say that we applied Leech model of linguistic deviations (1969) in the analysis of Obama's farewell address easily. To make things clear to our readers, Leech's linguistic deviations are classified under eight deviations and after our extensive analysis to the text, we argue that five deviations exist in the text; these deviations are the lexical, grammatical, semantic, historical period deviations in addition to the deviation of register. In other words, Obama made use of these deviations in his last speech. However, we assume that the three other deviations that are graphological, dialectal and phonological deviations do not exist in the text. In more simple words, he did not make use of these three deviations. Thus, it is very important to note that we replaced the phonological patterns that are used in poetry by parallel structures that are used in the text in order to show the beauty of pronunciation while speaking since the speech was delivered orally. Through the analysis of these deviations, we argue that Leech model (1969) can be applied easily on the analysis of prose, more precisely, in political discourse analysis. As a result, we have shown truly the existence of some deviations in the text.

To sum up, these conclusions can be considered as conclusions of our analysis to the official transcript of Obama's farewell address (2017).

2. Limitations of the Study

While conducting our research, we faced many weaknesses that disturbed us and hampered us to investigate our research work easily. Yet, these weaknesses did not push us to surrender and stop our investigation, but pushed us to carry on our work and look for solutions.

We argue that we faced two main limitations which made us worried. The first one is the subjectivity. We chose the Obama's final address to analyze it from three main perspectives that are: figures of speech, lexical semantic relations, and the linguistic deviations, and while analyzing it, we discovered the game of words which makes most of his speeches memorable as we shed light on the language system which makes him a successful orator who is admired and praised in the world. We were influenced by the beauty and the power of his style, in addition to the techniques he used to change his audience's emotions, view point, and actions. All these characteristics were the reasons which pushed us to be subjective each time we describe and explain an element. Thus, we succeeded to avoid any kind of subjectivity in our research work. The second weakness that hampered us when conducting the study is the lack of time constraint; we did not have enough time to cover all the elements in figures of speech that can be used in political discourse like assonance, apostrophe, and the understatement. Besides, we could not cover all the elements in the lexical semantic relationships which realize cohesion such as meronymy. Since we are two researchers, we did not have the chance to meet and work together on all the above elements because of the long strike that our country knew due to the political conflicts that still exist.

General Conclusion

Conducting a discourse analytical study is an interesting field of research. The speech of Barak Obama was selected as a corpus for this study which helped us to discover his richness, creativity and productivity of his style. It helped us also to discover the game of words which made his speeches well-structured, well-elaborated, admired, and highly praised by the world (Sajjad, 2015; and Dunn, 2018). This analysis attempted to shed light on the techniques and methods behind Obama's great success in the oratory scene. The research design of this study is the descriptive one relying on qualitative method of data analysis since we are concerned with the identification of several linguistic elements, it is important to note that in our analysis, we quantified some qualitative data for better understanding, this is shown through the use of frequencies and tables such as in alliteration and repletion (there are other elements inside our analysis). Our study is based on three main questions which are about figures of speech, semantic relations that realize cohesion in the text, and the linguistic deviations used by Obama in his speech. After finishing this study, we can say that his mastery of language use is the key of his powerful style which played the most prominent role to persuade the audience. Moreover, after the analysis of the figures of speech in his speech, we confirm that his literary style is colorful and attractive. Cohesion is also realized in his speech through the analysis of lexical semantic relations that existed in the text like synonymy, antonymy and metonymy. Furthermore, we confirm that Leech Model (1969) which was applied on poetry is suitable to political discourse analysis. After finishing our study, we confirm that Obama's final speech is rich of figures of speech, lexical semantic relations as it knows the existence of several linguistic deviations such as grammatical, semantic, lexical, historical period deviation, and deviation of register, while, the three other deviations do not exist in the text, they are as follows: phonological , graphological and dialectal deviations. To conclude, Obama's Farewell Address which was delivered in 2017 is a good referential corpus for the researchers willing to work on the linguistic analysis.

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Abstract in French (Résumé)

Obama est considéré comme un personnage célèbre en politique aussi bien sur la scène de l'oratoire. Notre travail de recherche est une étude analytique du discours d'adieu d'Obama prononcé en 2017. L'objectif principal de cette étude est de mettre en évidence les différentes caractéristiques linguistiques utilisées dans ce discours. L'objectif est d'abord de cerner les différentes figures de style afin de montrer à nos lecteurs le style littéraire créatif de Barak Obama. Deuxièmement, mettez en évidence certaines relations sémantiques lexicales présentées dans le texte. Enfin, nous visons à appliquer le modèle de déviations linguistiques de Leech (1969) appliqué à la poésie. De plus, nous avons opté pour la mesure qualitative des données dans notre étude, cette méthode aidant à identifier certains éléments linguistiques dans le texte, il est donc important de noter que nous avons quantifié certaines données qualitatives, cela aide à identifier les fréquences de certains éléments tels que la fréquence de certains mots répétés. On a utilisé cette méthode d'analyse des données comme moyen approprié d'enquêter sur notre travail de recherche afin de tirer des conclusions valables. Après une analyse approfondie du texte, nous pouvons dire que le discours d'adieu d'Obama (2017) est riche des éléments linguistiques susmentionnés (figures de style, relations sémantiques lexicales et les déviations linguistiques). Ces éléments jouent un rôle important pour attirer et persuader le public et, surtout, pour influencer son point de vue et son comportement. Dans quelques cas, nous pouvons dire que le modèle purement poétique de Leech (1969) peut être appliqué à l'analyse du discours politique.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Obama's Farewell Address (2017) Transcript

Farewell Address

By President Barack Hussein Obama

PRESIDENT OBAMA: Hello, Chicago! [APPLAUSE] It's good to be home! [APPLAUSE] Thank you, everybody. Thank you. [APPLAUSE] Thank you so much. Thank you. [APPLAUSE] All right, everybody sit down. [APPLAUSE] We're on live TV here. I've got to move. [APPLAUSE] You can tell that I'm a lame duck because nobody is following instructions. [LAUGHTER] Everybody have a seat. [APPLAUSE]

My fellow Americans — [APPLAUSE] — Michelle and I have been so touched by all the well wishes that we've received over the past few weeks. But tonight, it's my turn to say thanks. [APPLAUSE] Whether we have seen eye-to-eye or rarely agreed at all, my conversations with you, the American people, in living rooms and in schools, at farms, on factory floors, at diners and on distant military outposts — those conversations are what have kept me honest, and kept me inspired, and kept me going. And every day, I have learned from you. You made me a better President, and you made me a better man. [APPLAUSE]

So I first came to Chicago when I was in my early 20s. And I was still trying to figure out who I was, still searching for a purpose in my life. And it was a neighborhood not far from here where I began working with church groups in the shadows of closed steel mills. It was on these streets where I witnessed the power of faith, and the quiet dignity of working people in the face of struggle and loss.

AUDIENCE: Four more years! Four more years! Four more years!

PRESIDENT OBAMA: I can't do that.

AUDIENCE: Four more years! Four more years! Four more years!

PRESIDENT OBAMA: This is where I learned that change only happens when ordinary people get involved and they get engaged, and they come together to demand it.

After eight years as your President, I still believe that. And it's not just my belief. It's the beating heart of our American idea — our bold experiment in self-government. It's the conviction that we are all created equal, endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights, among them life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It's the insistence that these rights, while self-evident, have never been self-executing; that we, the People, through the instrument of our democracy, can form a more perfect union.

What a radical idea. A great gift that our Founders gave to us: The freedom to chase our individual dreams through our sweat and toil and imagination, and the imperative to strive together, as well, to achieve a common good, a greater good.

For 240 years, our nation's call to citizenship has given work and purpose to each new generation. It's what led patriots to choose republic over tyranny, pioneers to trek west, and slaves to brave that makeshift railroad to freedom. It's what pulled immigrants and refugees across oceans and the Rio Grande. [APPLAUSE] It's what pushed women to reach for the ballot. It's what powered workers to organize. It's why GIs gave their lives at Omaha Beach

and Iwo Jima, Iraq and Afghanistan. And why men and women from Selma to Stonewall were prepared to give theirs, as well. [APPLAU

So that's what we mean when we say America is exceptional — not that our nation has been flawless from the start, but that we have shown the capacity to change and make life better for those who follow. Yes, our progress has been uneven. The work of democracy has always been hard. It's always been contentious. Sometimes it's been bloody. For every two steps forward, it often feels we take one step back. But the long sweep of America has been defined by forward motion, a constant widening of our founding creed to embrace all and not just some. [APPLAUSE] SE]

If I had told you eight years ago that America would reverse a great recession, reboot our auto industry, and unleash the longest stretch of job creation in our history — [APPLAUSE] — if I had told you that we would open up a new chapter with the Cuban people, shut down Iran's nuclear weapons program without firing a shot, take out the mastermind of 9/11 — [APPLAUSE] — if I had told you that we would win marriage equality, and secure the right to health insurance for another 20 million of our fellow citizens — [APPLAUSE] — if I had told you all that, you might have said our sights were set a little too high. But that's what we did. [APPLAUSE] That's what you did.

You were the change. You answered people's hopes, and because of you, by almost every measure, America is a better, stronger place than it was when we started. [APPLAUSE] In 10 days, the world will witness a hallmark of our democracy.

AUDIENCE: Nooo —

PRESIDENT OBAMA: No, no, no, no, no — the peaceful transfer of power from one freely elected President to the next. [APPLAUSE] I committed to President-elect Trump that my administration would ensure the smoothest possible transition, just as President Bush did for me. [APPLAUSE] Because it's up to all of us to make sure our government can help us meet the many challenges we still face.

We have what we need to do so. We have everything we need to meet those challenges. After all, we remain the wealthiest, most powerful, and most respected nation on Earth. Our youth, our drive, our diversity and openness, our boundless capacity for risk and reinvention means that the future should be ours. But that potential will only be realized if our democracy works. Only if our politics better reflects the decency of our people. [APPLAUSE] Only if all of us, regardless of party affiliation or particular interests, help restore the sense of common purpose that we so badly need right now.

That's what I want to focus on tonight: The state of our democracy. Understand, democracy does not require uniformity. Our founders argued. They quarreled. Eventually they compromised. They expected us to do the same. But they knew that democracy does require a basic sense of solidarity — the idea that for all our outward differences, we're all in this together; that we rise or fall as one. [APPLAUSE]

There have been moments throughout our history that threatens that solidarity. And the beginning of this century has been one of those times. A shrinking world, growing inequality; demographic change and the specter of terrorism — these forces haven't just tested our security and our prosperity, but are testing our democracy, as well. And how we meet these challenges to our democracy will determine our ability to educate our kids, and create good jobs, and protect our homeland. In other words, it will determine our future.

To begin with, our democracy won't work without a sense that everyone has economic opportunity. And the good news is that today the economy is growing again. Wages, incomes, home values, and retirement accounts are all rising again. Poverty is falling again. [APPLAUSE]

The wealthy are paying a fairer share of taxes even as the stock market shatters records. The unemployment rate is near a 10-year low. The uninsured rate has never, ever been lower. [APPLAUSE] Health care costs are rising at the slowest rate in 50 years. And I've said and I mean it — if anyone can put together a plan that is demonstrably better than the improvements we've made to our healthcare system and that covers as many people at less cost, I will publicly support it. [APPLAUSE]

Because that, after all, is why we serve. Not to score points or take credit, but to make people's lives better. [APPLAUSE]

But for all the real progress that we've made, we know it's not enough. Our economy doesn't work as well or grow as fast when a few prosper at the expense of a growing middle class and ladders for folks who want to get into the middle class. [APPLAUSE] That's the economic argument. But stark inequality is also corrosive to our democratic ideal. While the top one percent has amassed a bigger share of wealth and income, too many families, in inner cities and in rural counties, have been left behind — the laid-off factory worker; the waitress or health care worker who's just barely getting by and struggling to pay the bills — convinced that the game is fixed against them, that their government only serves the interests of the powerful — that's a recipe for more cynicism and polarization in our politics.

But there are no quick fixes to this long-term trend. I agree, our trade should be fair and not just free. But the next wave of economic dislocations won't come from overseas. It will come from the relentless pace of automation that makes a lot of good, middle-class jobs obsolete.

And so we're going to have to forge a new social compact to guarantee all our kids the education they need — [APPLAUSE] — to give workers the power to unionize for better wages; to update the social safety net to reflect the way we live now, and make more reforms to the taxcode so corporations and individuals who reap the most from this new economy don't avoid their obligations to the country that's made their very success possible. [APPLAUSE]

We can argue about how to best achieve these goals. But we can't be complacent about the goals themselves. For if we don't create opportunity for all people, the disaffection and division that has stalled our progress will only sharpen in years to come.

There's a second threat to our democracy — and this one is as old as our nation itself. After my election, there was talk of a post-racial America. And such a vision, however well-intended, was never realistic. Race remains a potent and often divisive force in our society. Now, I've lived long enough to know that race relations are better than they were 10, or 20, or 30 years ago, no matter what some folks say. [APPLAUSE] You can see it not just in statistics; you see it in the attitudes of young Americans across the political spectrum.

But we're not where we need to be. And all of us have more work to do. [APPLAUSE] If every economic issue is framed as a struggle between a hardworking white middle class and an undeserving minority, then workers of all shades are going to be left fighting for scraps while the wealthy withdraw further into their private enclaves. [APPLAUSE] If we're unwilling to invest in the children of immigrants, just because they don't look like us, we will diminish the prospects of our own children — because those brown kids will represent a

larger and larger share of America's workforce. [APPLAUSE] And we have shown that our economy doesn't have to be a zero-sum game. Last year, incomes rose for all races, all age groups, for men and for women.

So if we're going to be serious about race going forward, we need to uphold laws against discrimination — in hiring, and in housing, and in education, and in the criminal justice system. [APPLAUSE] That is what our Constitution and our highest ideals require. [APPLAUSE]

But laws alone won't be enough. Hearts must change. It won't change overnight. Social attitudes oftentimes take generations to change. But if our democracy is to work in this increasingly diverse nation, then each one of us need to try to heed the advice of a great character in American fiction — Atticus Finch — [APPLAUSE] — who said “You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view...until you climb into his skin and walk around in it.”

For blacks and other minority groups, it means tying our own very real struggles for justice to the challenges that a lot of people in this country face — not only the refugee, or the immigrant, or the rural poor, or the transgender American, but also the middle-aged white guy who, from the outside, may seem like he's got advantages, but has seen his world upended by economic and cultural and technological change. We have to pay attention, and listen. [APPLAUSE]

For white Americans, it means acknowledging that the effects of slavery and Jim Crow didn't suddenly vanish in the '60s — [APPLAUSE] — that when minority groups voice discontent, they're not just engaging in reverse racism or practicing political correctness. When they wage

Peaceful protest, they're not demanding special treatment but the equal treatment that our Founders promised. [APPLAUSE]

For native-born Americans, it means reminding ourselves that the stereotypes about immigrants today were said, almost word for word, about the Irish, and Italians, and Poles — who it was said we're going to destroy the fundamental character of America. And as it turned out, America wasn't weakened by the presence of these newcomers; these newcomers embraced this nation's creed, and this nation was strengthened. [APPLAUSE]

So regardless of the station that we occupy, we all have to try harder. We all have to start with the premise that each of our fellow citizens loves this country just as much as we do; that they value hard work and family just like we do; that their children are just as curious and hopeful and worthy of love as our own. [APPLAUSE]

And that's not easy to do. For too many of us, it's become safer to retreat into our own bubbles, whether in our neighborhoods or on college campuses, or places of worship, or especially our social media feeds, surrounded by people who look like us and share the same political outlook and never challenge our assumptions. The rise of naked partisanship, and increasing economic and regional stratification, the splintering of our media into a channel for every taste — all this makes this great sorting seem natural, even inevitable. And increasingly, we become so secure in our bubbles that we start accepting only information, whether it's true or not, that fits our opinions, instead of basing our opinions on the evidence that is out there. [APPLAUSE]

And this trend represents a third threat to our democracy. But politics is a battle of ideas. That's how our democracy was designed. In the course of a healthy debate, we prioritize different goals, and the different means of reaching them. But without some common baseline of facts, without a willingness to admit new information, and concede that your opponent might be making a fair point, and that science and reason matter — [APPLAUSE] — then we're going to keep talking past each other, and we'll make common ground and compromise impossible. [APPLAUSE]

And isn't that part of what so often makes politics dispiriting? How can elected officials rage about deficits when we propose to spend money on preschool for kids, but not when we're cutting taxes for corporations? [APPLAUSE] How do we excuse ethical lapses in our own party, but pounce when the other party does the same thing? It's not just dishonest, this selective sorting of the facts; it's self-defeating. Because, as my mother used to tell me, reality has a way of catching up with you. [APPLAUSE]

Take the challenge of climate change. In just eight years, we've halved our dependence on foreign oil; we've doubled our renewable energy; we've led the world to an agreement that has the promise to save this planet. [APPLAUSE] But without bolder action, our children won't have time to debate the existence of climate change. They'll be busy dealing with its effects: more environmental disasters, more economic disruptions, waves of climate refugees seeking sanctuary.

Now, we can and should argue about the best approach to solve the problem. But to simply deny the problem not only betrays future generations, it betrays the essential spirit of this country — the essential spirit of innovation and practical problem-solving that guided our Founders. [APPLAUSE]

It is that spirit, born of the Enlightenment, that made us an economic powerhouse — the spirit that took flight at Kitty Hawk and Cape Canaveral; the spirit that cures disease and put a computer in every pocket.

It's that spirit — a faith in reason, and enterprise, and the primacy of right over might — that allowed us to resist the lure of fascism and tyranny during the Great Depression; that allowed us to build a post-World War II order with other democracies, an order based not just on military power or national affiliations but built on principles — the rule of law, human rights, freedom of religion, and speech, and assembly, and an independent press. [APPLAUSE]

That order is now being challenged — first by violent fanatics who claim to speak for Islam; more recently by autocrats in foreign capitals who see free markets and open democracies and civil society itself as a threat to their power. The peril each poses to our democracy is more far-reaching than a car bomb or a missile. It represents the fear of change; the fear of people who look or speak or pray differently; contempt for the rule of law that holds leaders accountable; an intolerance of dissent and free thought; a belief that the sword or the gun or the bomb or the propaganda machine is the ultimate arbiter of what's true and what's right.

Because of the extraordinary courage of our men and women in uniform, because of our intelligence officers, and law enforcement, and diplomats who support our troops — [APPLAUSE] — no foreign terrorist organization has successfully planned and executed an attack on our homeland these past eight years. [APPLAUSE] And although Boston and Orlando and San Bernardino and Fort Hood remind us of how dangerous radicalization can be, our law enforcement agencies are more effective and vigilant than ever. We have taken out tens of thousands of terrorists — including bin Laden. [APPLAUSE] The global coalition

we're leading against ISIL has taken out their leaders, and taken away about half their territory. ISIL will be destroyed, and no one who threatens America will ever be safe. [APPLAUSE]

And to all who serve or have served, it has been the honor of my lifetime to be your Commander-in-Chief. And we all owe you a deep debt of gratitude. [APPLAUSE]

But protecting our way of life, that's not just the job of our military. Democracy can buckle when we give in to fear. So, just as we, as citizens, must remain vigilant against external aggression, we must guard against a weakening of the values that make us who we are. [APPLAUSE]

And that's why, for the past eight years, I've worked to put the fight against terrorism on a firmer legal footing. That's why we've ended torture, worked to close Gitmo, and reformed our lawgoverning surveillance to protect privacy and civil liberties. [APPLAUSE] That's why I reject discrimination against Muslim Americans, who are just as patriotic as we are. [APPLAUSE]

That's why we cannot withdraw from big global fights — to expand democracy, and human rights, and women's rights, and LGBT rights. No matter how imperfect our efforts, no matter how expedient ignoring such values may seem, that's part of defending America. For the fight against extremism and intolerance and sectarianism and chauvinism are of a piece with the fight against authoritarianism and nationalist aggression. If the scope of freedom and respect for the rule of law shrinks around the world, the likelihood of war within and between nations increases, and our own freedoms will eventually be threatened.

So let's be vigilant, but not afraid. [APPLAUSE] ISIL will try to kill innocent people. But they cannot defeat America unless we betray our Constitution and our principles in the fight. [APPLAUSE] Rivals like Russia or China cannot match our influence around the world — unless we give up what we stand for — [APPLAUSE] — and turn ourselves into just another big country that bullies smaller neighbors.

Which brings me to my final point: Our democracy is threatened whenever we take it for granted. [APPLAUSE] All of us, regardless of party, should be throwing ourselves into the task of rebuilding our democratic institutions. [APPLAUSE] When voting rates in America are some of the lowest among advanced democracies, we should be making it easier, not harder, to vote. [APPLAUSE]

When trust in our institutions is low, we should reduce the corrosive influence of money in our politics, and insist on the principles of transparency and ethics in public service. [APPLAUSE] When Congress is dysfunctional, we should draw our congressional districts to encourage politicians to cater to common sense and not rigid extremes. [APPLAUSE]

But remember, none of this happens on its own. All of this depends on our participation; on each of us accepting the responsibility of citizenship, regardless of which way the pendulum of power happens to be swinging.

Our Constitution is a remarkable, beautiful gift. But it's really just a piece of parchment. It has no power on its own. We, the people, give it power. [APPLAUSE] We, the people, give it meaning. With our participation, and with the choices that we make, and the alliances that we forge. [APPLAUSE] Whether or not we stand up for our freedoms. Whether or not we respect and enforce the rule of law. That's up to us. America is no fragile thing. But the gains of our long journey to freedom are not assured.

In his own farewell address, George Washington wrote that self-government is the underpinning of our safety, prosperity, and liberty, but “from different causes and from different quarters much pain will be taken...to weaken in your minds the conviction of this truth.” And so we have to preserve this truth with “jealous anxiety;” that we should reject “the first dawning of every attempt to alienate any portion of our country from the rest or to enfeeble the sacred ties” that make us one. [APPLAUSE]

America, we weaken those ties when we allow our political dialogue to become so corrosive that people of good character aren't even willing to enter into public service; so coarse with rancor that Americans with whom we disagree are seen not just as misguided but as malevolent. We weaken those ties when we define some of us as more American than others; when we write off the whole system as inevitably corrupt, and when we sit back and blame the leaders we elect without examining our own role in electing them. [APPLAUSE]

It falls to each of us to be those anxious, jealous guardians of our democracy; to embrace the joyous task we've been given to continually try to improve this great nation of ours. Because for all our outward differences, we, in fact, all share the same proud title, the most important office in a democracy: Citizen. [APPLAUSE] Citizen.

So, you see, that's what our democracy demands. It needs you. Not just when there's an election, not just when your own narrow interest is at stake, but over the full span of a lifetime. If you're tired of arguing with strangers on the Internet, try talking with one of them in real life. [APPLAUSE] If something needs fixing, then lace up your shoes and do some organizing. [APPLAUSE] If you're disappointed by your elected officials, grab a clipboard, get some signatures, and run for office yourself. [APPLAUSE] Show up. Dive in. Stay at it.

Sometimes you'll win. Sometimes you'll lose. Presuming a reservoir of goodness in other people, that can be a risk, and there will be times when the process will disappoint you. But for those of us fortunate enough to have been a part of this work, and to see it up close, let me tell you, it can energize and inspire. And more often than not, your faith in America — and in Americans — will be confirmed. [APPLAUSE]

Mine sure has been. Over the course of these eight years, I've seen the hopeful faces of young graduates and our newest military officers. I have mourned with grieving families searching for answers, and found grace in a Charleston church. I've seen our scientists help a paralyzed man regain his sense of touch. I've seen wounded warriors who at points were given up for dead walk again. I've seen our doctors and volunteers rebuild after earthquakes and stop pandemics in their tracks. I've seen the youngest of children remind us through their actions and through their generosity of our obligations to care for refugees, or work for peace and, above all, to look out for each other. [APPLAUSE]

So that faith that I placed all those years ago, not far from here, in the power of ordinary Americans to bring about change — that faith has been rewarded in ways I could not have possibly imagined. And I hope your faith has, too. Some of you here tonight or watching at home, you were there with us in 2004, in 2008, 2012 — [APPLAUSE] — maybe you still can't believe we pulled this whole thing off. Let me tell you, you're not the only ones. [LAUGHTER]

Michelle — [APPLAUSE] — Michelle LaVaughn Robinson, girl of the South Side — [APPLAUSE] — for the past 25 years, you have not only been my wife and mother of my children, you have been my best friend. [APPLAUSE] You took on a role you didn't ask for and you made it your own, with grace and with grit and with style and good humor. [APPLAUSE] You made the White House a place that belongs to everybody. [APPLAUSE] And the new generation sets its sights higher because it has you as a role model.

[APPLAUSE] So you have made me proud. And you have made the country proud.
[APPLAUSE]

Malia and Sasha, under the strangest of circumstances, you have become two amazing young women. You are smart and you are beautiful, but more importantly, you are kind and you are thoughtful and you are full of passion. [APPLAUSE] You wore the burden of years in the spotlight so easily. Of all that I've done in my life, I am most proud to be your dad.
[APPLAUSE]

To Joe Biden — [APPLAUSE] — the scrappy kid from Scranton who became Delaware's favorite son — you were the first decision I made as a nominee and it was the best. [APPLAUSE] Not just because you have been a great Vice President, but because in the bargain, I gained a brother. And we love you and Jill like family, and your friendship has been one of the great joys of our lives. [APPLAUSE]

To my remarkable staff: For eight years — and for some of you, a whole lot more — I have drawn from your energy, and every day I tried to reflect back what you displayed — heart, and character, and idealism. I've watched you grow up, get married, have kids, start incredible new journeys of your own. Even when times got tough and frustrating, you never let Washington get the better of you. You guarded against cynicism. And the only thing that makes me prouder than all the good that we've done is the thought of all the amazing things that you're going to achieve from here. [APPLAUSE]

And to all of you out there — every organizer who moved to an unfamiliar town, every kind family who welcomed them in, every volunteer who knocked on doors, every young person who cast a ballot for the first time, every American who lived and breathed the hard work of change — you are the best supporters and organizers anybody could ever hope for, and I will be forever grateful. [APPLAUSE] Because you did change the world. [APPLAUSE] You did.

And that's why I leave this stage tonight even more optimistic about this country than when we started. Because I know our work has not only helped so many Americans, it has inspired so many Americans — especially so many young people out there — to believe that you can make a difference — [APPLAUSE] — to hitch your wagon to something bigger than yourselves.

Let me tell you, this generation coming up — unselfish, altruistic, creative, patriotic — I've seen you in every corner of the country. You believe in a fair, and just, and inclusive America. [APPLAUSE] You know that constant change has been America's hallmark; that it's not something to fear but something to embrace. You are willing to carry this hard work of democracy forward. You'll soon outnumber all of us, and I believe as a result the future is in good hands. [APPLAUSE]

My fellow Americans, it has been the honor of my life to serve you. [APPLAUSE] I won't stop. In fact, I will be right there with you, as a citizen, for all my remaining days. But for now, whether you are young or whether you're young at heart, I do have one final ask of you as your President — the same thing I asked when you took a chance on me eight years ago. I'm asking you to believe. Not in my ability to bring about change — but in yours.

I am asking you to hold fast to that faith written into our founding documents; that idea whispered by slaves and abolitionists; that spirit sung by immigrants and homesteaders and those who marched for justice; that creed reaffirmed by those who planted flags from foreign

battlefields to the surface of the moon; a creed at the core of every American whose story is not yet written: Yes, we can. [APPLAUSE]

Yes, we did. Yes, we can. [APPLAUSE]

Thank you. God bless you. May God continue to bless the United States of America. [APPLAUSE]

Appendix 2: Barack Obama's Biography


Barak Hussein Obama was born on August 4th, 1961 in Honolulu, Hawaii. He is the son of Ann Dunham from Wichita, Kansas and Barack Obama Sr from Kenya. Once Obama Sr received a scholarship from Hawaii University at Manoa to pursue his studies he left Kenya to Hawaii where he met Ann and got married. When Obama was two years his father moved to Massachusetts at Harvard University for his education and during that period the two parents got divorced, but later his mother married Lolo Soetoro and lived in Indonesia but when Obama was ten he came back to Hawaii and lived with his grandparents. He studied in Punahou Academy and during his study at school he recognized that there were only three black students including him at that school, this difference made him more conscious about the real meaning of racism. Despite the fact that he lost his father at the age of twenty one in a car accident he was excellent in studies, sports and more importantly he received his education from different universities including Occidental College in Los Angeles; Columbia University in New York City where he graduated on political science.

He worked in a business sector but later on occupied the organization for low-income residents in the Altgeld Gardens communities and Roseland. In 1988, Obama joined Harvard law school and became a research assistant of Laurence Tribe, a constitutional law professor where he met Michelle and got married to welcome later two daughters Malia and Sasha. Few times later he left Harvard law University to start his official work as a lawyer of civil rights and then a professor. Barack Obama always rejected the idea of racism, so he wrote a story about racism entitled "*Dream from my Father*" which was highly praised by notable figures such as Toni Morrison and even printed in more than 25 languages including Chinese, Hebrew...etc. at the same time he succeeded to have a seat in Illinois as a senator but later became the third US senator, during serving as a senator, Obama recognized that America suffers from real problems that needed to be removed, his main interest at that time was persuading people on the necessity of unity in society and ethics in people relations, making health care services for poor families and providing their children with the appropriate education, he also called people to think on the planet through persuading them to use only alternative energy as wind and solar energies so as to keep the planet as well as America safer, on this case he wrote his second book which draws his dreams for the change of the American situation under the name "*The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dreams*".

Obama served as a president for two terms, the first was in 2008 where he was elected for the first time he won the election to become the first African president of the American country and the second time was in 2012. Once Obama held the office he used his efforts to change and improve the American situation, he tried to help poor families via the abolition from paying taxes for small workers and new businesses, providing poor children with the appropriate education, he created a law to support health care services to give access to all citizens for medical care and even providing insurance for younger to keep them safer.

Moreover, he made relations with other countries such as Cuba, Europe, Russia to support the American economy, the exchange of goods and even information. On January 10, 2017, Barak Obama left the white house and presidency office for Donald Trump hoping from him to follow what he already started for a better future for America.

Appendix 3: Some Elements of the Linguistic Analysis of the Obama’s Farewell Address (2017)

-  Personification
-  Metaphors
-  Deep Structure
-  Alliteration
-  Surface Structure
-  Hyperbole
-  Simile
-  Pleonasm
-  Litotes
-  Anaphora
-  The possessive pronoun “our”

PRESIDENT OBAMA: Hello, Chicago! [APPLAUSE] It's good to be home! [APPLAUSE] Thank you, everybody. Thank you. [APPLAUSE] Thank you so much. Thank you. [APPLAUSE] All right, everybody sit down. [APPLAUSE] We're on live TV here. I've got to move. [APPLAUSE] You can tell that **I'm a lame duck** because nobody is following instructions. [LAUGHTER] Everybody have a seat. [APPLAUSE]

My fellow Americans — [APPLAUSE] — Michelle and I have been so touched by all the well wishes that we've received over the past few weeks. But tonight, it's my turn to say thanks. [APPLAUSE] Whether we have seen eye-to-eye or rarely agreed at all, my conversations with you, the American people, in living rooms and in schools, at farms, on factory floors, at diners and on distant military outposts — those conversations are what have kept me honest, and kept me inspired, and kept me going. And every day, I have learned from you. **You made me a better** President, and **you made me a better** man. [APPLAUSE]

So I first came to Chicago when I was in my early 20s. And I was still trying to figure out who I was, still searching for a purpose in my life. And it was a neighborhood not far from here where I began working with church groups in the shadows of closed steel mills. It was on these streets where I witnessed the power of faith, and the quiet dignity of working people in the face of struggle and loss.

AUDIENCE: Four more years! Four more years! Four more years!

PRESIDENT OBAMA: **I can't do that.**

AUDIENCE: Four more years! Four more years! Four more years!

PRESIDENT OBAMA: This is where I learned that change only happens when ordinary people get involved and they get engaged, and they come together to demand it.

After eight years as your President, I still believe that. And it's not just my belief. It's the **beating heart of our American idea** — **our** bold experiment in self-government. **It's the conviction** that we are all **created equal**, **endowed by our** Creator with certain unalienable rights, among them life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It's the insistence that these rights, while self-evident, have never been self-executing; that we, the People, through the instrument of **our** democracy, can form a more perfect union.

What a radical idea. **A great gift that our Founders gave to us:** The freedom to chase **our** individual dreams through **our** sweat and toil and imagination, and **the imperative to strive together, as well, to achieve a common good, a greater good.**

For 240 years, **our** nation's call to citizenship has given work and purpose to each new generation. It's what led patriots to choose republic over tyranny, pioneers to trek west, slaves

To brave that makeshift railroad to freedom. **It's what** pulled immigrants and refugees across oceans and the Rio Grande. [APPLAUSE] **It's what** pushed women to reach for the ballot. **It's what** powered workers to organize. It's why GIs gave their lives at Omaha Beach and Iwo Jima, Iraq and Afghanistan. And why men and women from Selma to Stonewall were prepared to give theirs, as well. [APPLAU

So that's **what we mean when we** say America is exceptional — not that **our** nation has been flawless from the start, but that we have shown the capacity to change and make life better for those who follow. Yes, **our** progress has been uneven. The work of democracy has always been hard. It's always been contentious. Sometimes it's been bloody. For every two steps forward, it often feels we take one step back. But the long sweep of America has been defined by forward motion, a constant widening of **our** founding creed to embrace all and not just some. [APPLAUSE] SE]

If I had told you eight years ago **that America would reverse a great recession, reboot our autoindustry**, and unleash the longest stretch of job creation in **our** history — [APPLAUSE] — **if I had told you that** we would open up a new chapter with the Cuban people, shut down Iran's nuclear weapons program without firing a shot, take out the mastermind of 9/11 — [APPLAUSE] — **if I had told you that** we would win marriage equality, and secure the right to health insurance for another 20 million of **our** fellow citizens — [APPLAUSE] — **if I had told you** all that, you might have **said our** sights were **set** a little too high. But that's what we did. [APPLAUSE] That's what you did.

You were the change. You answered people's hopes, and because of you, by almost every measure, America is a better, stronger place than it was when we started. [APPLAUSE]
In 10 days, the world will witness a hallmark of **our** democracy.

AUDIENCE: Nooo —

PRESIDENT OBAMA: No, no, no, no, no — the peaceful transfer of power from one freely elected President to the next. [APPLAUSE] I committed to President-elect Trump that my administration would ensure the smoothest possible transition, just as President Bush did for

me. [APPLAUSE] Because it's up to all of us to make sure **our** government can help us meet the many challenges we still face.

We have what we need to do so. We have everything we need to meet those challenges. After all, we remain the wealthiest, most powerful, and most respected nation on Earth. **Our** youth, **our** drive, **our** diversity and openness, **our** boundless capacity for risk and reinvention means that the future should be ours. But that potential will only be realized if **our** democracy works. Only if **our** politics better reflects the decency of **our** people. [APPLAUSE] Only if all of us, regardless of party affiliation or particular interests, help restore the sense of common purpose that we so badly need right now.

That's what I want to focus on tonight: The state of **our** democracy. Understand, democracy does not require uniformity. **Our** founders argued. They quarreled. Eventually they compromised. They expected us to do the same. But they knew that democracy does require a basic sense of solidarity — the idea that for all our outward differences, we're all in this together; that we rise or fall as one. [APPLAUSE]

There have been moments throughout **our** history that threatens that solidarity. And the beginning of this century has been one of those times. A shrinking world, growing inequality; demographic change and the specter of terrorism — these forces haven't just tested **our** security and **our** prosperity, but are testing **our** democracy, as well. And how we meet these challenges to **our** democracy will determine our ability to educate our kids, and create good jobs, and protect our homeland. In other words, it will determine our future.

To begin with, **our** democracy won't work without a sense that everyone has economic opportunity. And the good news is that today the economy is growing again. Wages, incomes, home values, and retirement accounts are all rising again. Poverty is falling again. [APPLAUSE]

The wealthy are paying a fairer share of taxes even as the stock market shatters records. The unemployment rate is near a 10-year low. The uninsured rate has never, ever been lower. [APPLAUSE] Health care costs are rising at the slowest rate in 50 years. And I've said and I mean it — if anyone can put together a plan that is demonstrably better than the improvements we've made to **our** healthcare system and that covers as many people at less cost, I will publicly support it. [APPLAUSE]

Because that, after all, is why we serve. Not to score points or take credit, but to make people's lives better. [APPLAUSE]

But for all the real progress that we've made, we know it's not enough. **Our** economy doesn't work as well or grow as fast when a few prosper at the expense of a growing middle class and ladders for folks who want to get into the middle class. [APPLAUSE] That's the economic argument. But stark inequality is also corrosive to **our** democratic ideal. While the top one percent has amassed a bigger share of wealth and income, too many families, in inner cities and in rural counties, have been left behind — the laid-off factory worker; the waitress or health care worker who's just barely getting by and struggling to pay the bills — convinced that the game is fixed against them, that their government only serves the interests of the powerful — that's a recipe for more cynicism and polarization in **our** politics.

But there are no quick fixes to this long-term trend. I agree, our trade should be fair and not just free. But the next wave of economic dislocations won't come from overseas. It will come from the relentless pace of automation that makes a lot of good, middle-class jobs obsolete.

And so we're going to have to forge a new social compact to guarantee all **our** kids the education they need — [APPLAUSE] — to give workers the power to unionize for better wages; to update the social safety net to reflect the way we live now, and make more reforms to the taxcode so corporations and individuals who reap the most from this new economy don't avoid their obligations to the country that's made their very success possible. [APPLAUSE]

We can argue about how to best achieve these goals. But we can't be complacent about the goals themselves. For if we don't create opportunity for all people, the disaffection and division that has stalled our progress will only sharpen in years to come.

There's a second threat to **our** democracy — and this one is as old as **our** nation itself. After my election, there was talk of a post-racial America. And such a vision, however well-intended, was never realistic. Race remains a potent and often divisive force in **our** society. Now, I've lived long enough to know that race relations are better than they were 10, or 20, or 30 years ago, no matter what some folks say. [APPLAUSE] You can see it not just in statistics; you see it in the attitudes of young Americans across the political spectrum.

But **we're not where we need to be**. And all of us have more work to do. [APPLAUSE] If every economic issue is framed as a struggle between a hardworking white middle class and an undeserving minority, then workers of all shades are going to be left fighting for scraps while the wealthy withdraw further into their private enclaves. [APPLAUSE] If we're unwilling to invest in the children of immigrants, just because they don't look like us, we will diminish the prospects of **our** own children — because those brown kids will represent a larger and larger share of America's workforce. [APPLAUSE] And we have shown that **our** economy doesn't have to be a zero-sum game. Last year, incomes rose for all races, all age groups, for men and for women.

So if we're going to be serious about race going forward, we need to uphold laws against discrimination — in hiring, and in housing, and in education, and in the criminal justice system. [APPLAUSE] That is what our Constitution and our highest ideals require. [APPLAUSE]

But laws alone won't be enough. Hearts must change. It won't change overnight. Social attitudes oftentimes take generations to change. But if **our** democracy is to work in this increasingly diverse nation, then each one of us need to try to heed the advice of a great character in American fiction — Atticus Finch — [APPLAUSE] — who said “You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view...until you climb into his skin and walk around in it.”

For blacks and other minority groups, it means tying our own very real struggles for justice to the challenges that a lot of people in this country face — not only the refugee, or the immigrant, or the rural poor, or the transgender American, but also the middle-aged white guy who, from the outside, may seem like he's got advantages, but has seen his world upended by economic and cultural and technological change. We have to pay attention, and listen. [APPLAUSE]

For white Americans, it means acknowledging that the effects of slavery and Jim Crow didn't suddenly vanish in the '60s — [APPLAUSE] — that when minority groups voice discontent, they're not just engaging in reverse racism or practicing political correctness. When they wage

Peaceful protest, they're not demanding special treatment but the equal treatment that **our** Founders promised. [APPLAUSE]

For native-born Americans, it means reminding ourselves that the stereotypes about immigrants today were said, almost word for word, about the Irish, and Italians, and Poles — who it was said we're going to destroy the fundamental character of America. And as it turned out, **America wasn't weakened** by the presence of these newcomers; these newcomers embraced this nation's creed, and **this nation was strengthened**. [APPLAUSE]

So regardless of the station that we occupy, we all have to try harder. We all have to start with the premise that each of **our** fellow citizens loves this country just as much as we do; that they value hard work and family just like we do; that their children are just as curious and hopeful and worthy of love as **our** own. [APPLAUSE]

And that's not easy to do. For too many of us, it's become safer to retreat into **our** own bubbles, whether in our neighborhoods or on college campuses, or places of worship, or especially **our** social media feeds, surrounded by people who look like us and share the same political outlook and never challenge **our** assumptions. The rise of naked partisanship, and increasing economic and regional stratification, the splintering of our media into a channel for every taste — all this makes this great sorting seem natural, even inevitable. And increasingly, we become so secure in our bubbles that we start accepting only information, whether it's true or not, that fits our opinions, instead of basing **our** opinions on the evidence that is out there. [APPLAUSE]

And this trend represents a third threat to **our** democracy. But **politics is a battle of ideas**. That's how **our** democracy was designed. **In the course of a healthy debate**, we prioritize different goals, and the different means of reaching them. But without some common baseline of facts, without a willingness to admit new information, and concede that your opponent might be making a fair point, and that science and reason matter — [APPLAUSE] — then we're going to keep talking past each other, and we'll make common ground and compromise impossible. [APPLAUSE]

And isn't that part of what so often makes politics dispiriting? How can elected officials rage about deficits when we propose to spend money on preschool for kids, but not when we're cutting taxes for corporations? [APPLAUSE] How do we excuse ethical lapses in **our** own party, but pounce when the other party does the same thing? It's not just dishonest, this selective sorting of the facts; it's self-defeating. Because, as my mother used to tell me, reality has a way of catching up with you. [APPLAUSE]

Take the challenge of climate change. In just eight years, we've halved **our** dependence on foreign oil; we've doubled our renewable energy; we've led the world to an agreement that has the promise to save this planet. [APPLAUSE] But without bolder action, **our** children won't have time to debate the existence of climate change. They'll be busy dealing with its effects: more environmental disasters, more economic disruptions, waves of climate refugees seeking sanctuary.

Now, we can and should argue about the best approach to solve the problem. But to simply deny the problem not only betrays future generations, it betrays the essential spirit of this country — the essential spirit of innovation and practical problem-solving that guided **our** Founders. [APPLAUSE]

It is that spirit, born of the Enlightenment, that made us an economic powerhouse — the spirit that took flight at Kitty Hawk and Cape Canaveral; the spirit that cures disease and put a computer in every pocket.

It's that spirit — a faith in reason, and enterprise, and the primacy of right over might — that allowed us to resist the lure of fascism and tyranny during the Great Depression; that allowed us to build a post-World War II order with other democracies, an order based not just on military power or national affiliations but built on principles — the rule of law, human rights, freedom of religion, and speech, and assembly, and an independent press. [APPLAUSE]

That order is now being challenged — first by **violent fanatics who claim to speak for Islam; more recently by autocrats in foreign capitals who see free markets and open democracies and civil society itself as a threat to their power.** The peril each poses to **our** democracy is more far-reaching than a car bomb or a missile. It represents the fear of change; the fear of people who look or speak or pray differently; contempt for the rule of law that holds leaders accountable; an intolerance of dissent and free thought; a belief that the sword or the gun or the bomb or the propaganda machine is the ultimate arbiter of what's true and what's right.

Because of the extraordinary courage of **our** men and women in uniform, because of **our** intelligence officers, and law enforcement, and diplomats who support **our** troops — [APPLAUSE] — no foreign terrorist organization has successfully planned and executed an attack on **our** homeland these past eight years. [APPLAUSE] And although Boston and Orlando and San Bernardino and Fort Hood remind us of how dangerous radicalization can be, **our** law enforcement agencies are more effective and vigilant than ever. We have taken out tens of thousands of terrorists — including bin Laden. [APPLAUSE] The global coalition we're leading against ISIL has taken out their leaders, and taken away about half their territory. ISIL will be destroyed, and no one who threatens America will ever be safe. [APPLAUSE]

And to all who serve or have served, it has been the honor of my lifetime to be your Commander-in-Chief. And we all owe you a deep debt of gratitude. [APPLAUSE]

But protecting **our** way of life, that's not just the job of our military. **Democracy can buckle when we give in to fear.** So, just as we, as citizens, must remain vigilant against external aggression, we must guard against a weakening of the values that make us who we are. [APPLAUSE]

And that's why, for the past eight years, **I've worked to put the fight against terrorism** on a firmer legal footing. That's why we've ended torture, worked to close Gitmo, and reformed **our** laws governing surveillance to protect privacy and civil liberties. [APPLAUSE] That's why I reject discrimination against Muslim Americans, who are just as patriotic as we are. [APPLAUSE]

That's why we cannot withdraw from big global fights — to expand democracy, and human rights, and women's rights, and LGBT rights. No matter how imperfect **our** efforts, no matter how expedient ignoring such values may seem, that's part of defending America. For the fight against extremism and intolerance and sectarianism and chauvinism are of a piece with the fight against authoritarianism and nationalist aggression. If the scope of freedom and respect for the rule of law shrinks around the world, the likelihood of war within and between nations increases, and **our** own freedoms will eventually be threatened.

So let's be vigilant, but not afraid. [APPLAUSE] ISIL will try to kill innocent people. But they cannot defeat America unless we betray **our** Constitution and our principles in the fight. [APPLAUSE] Rivals like Russia or China cannot match our influence around the world —

unless we give up what we stand for — [APPLAUSE] — and turn ourselves into just another big country that bullies smaller neighbors.

Which brings me to my final point: **Our** democracy is threatened whenever we take it for granted. [APPLAUSE] All of us, regardless of party, should be throwing ourselves into the task of rebuilding our democratic institutions. [APPLAUSE] When voting rates in America are some of the lowest among advanced democracies, we should be making it easier, no harder, to vote. [APPLAUSE]

When trust in **our** institutions is low, we should reduce the corrosive influence of money in **our** politics, and insist on the principles of transparency and ethics in public service. [APPLAUSE] When Congress is dysfunctional, we should draw **our** congressional districts to encourage politicians to cater to common sense and not rigid extremes. [APPLAUSE]

But remember, none of this happens on its own. All of this depends on **our** participation; on each of us accepting the responsibility of citizenship, regardless of which way the pendulum of power happens to be swinging.

Our Constitution is a remarkable, beautiful gift. But it's really just a piece of parchment. It has no power on its own. We, the people, give it power. [APPLAUSE] We, the people, give it meaning. With **our** participation, and with the choices that we make, and the alliances that we forge. [APPLAUSE] Whether or not we stand up for **our** freedoms. Whether or not we respect and enforce the rule of law. That's up to us. America is no fragile thing. But the gains of **our** long journey to freedom are not assured.

In his own farewell address, George Washington wrote that self-government is the underpinning of **our** safety, prosperity, and liberty, but “from different causes and from different quarters much pain will be taken...to weaken in your minds the conviction of this truth.” And so we have to preserve this truth with “jealous anxiety;” that we should reject “the first dawning of every attempt to alienate any portion of **our** country from the rest or to enfeeble the sacred ties” that make us one. [APPLAUSE]

America, we weaken those ties when we allow **our** political dialogue to become so corrosive that people of good character aren't even willing to enter into public service; so coarse with rancor that Americans with whom we disagree are seen not just as misguided but as malevolent. We weaken those ties when we define some of us as more American than others; when we write off the whole system as inevitably corrupt, and when we sit back and blame the leaders we elect without examining **our** own role in electing them. [APPLAUSE]

It falls to each of us to be those anxious, jealous guardians of **our** democracy; to embrace the joyous task we've been given to continually try to improve this great nation of ours. Because for all **our** outward differences, we, in fact, all share the same proud title, the most important office in a democracy: Citizen. [APPLAUSE] Citizen.

So, you see, that's what **our** democracy demands. It needs you. Not just when there's an election, not just when your own narrow interest is at stake, but over the full span of a lifetime. If you're tired of arguing with strangers on the Internet, try talking with one of them in real life. [APPLAUSE] If something needs fixing, then lace up your shoes and do some organizing. [APPLAUSE] If you're disappointed by your elected officials, grab a clipboard, get some signatures, and run for office yourself. [APPLAUSE] Show up. Dive in. Stay at it.

Sometimes you'll win. Sometimes you'll lose. Presuming a reservoir of goodness in other people, that can be a risk, and there will be times when the process will disappoint you. But

for those of us fortunate enough to have been a part of this work, and to see it up close, let me tell you, it can energize and inspire. And more often than not, your faith in America — and in Americans — will be confirmed. [APPLAUSE]

Mine sure has been. Over the course of these eight years, I've seen the hopeful faces of young graduates and our newest military officers. I have mourned with grieving families searching for answers, and found grace in a Charleston church. I've seen our scientists help a paralyzed man regain his sense of touch. I've seen wounded warriors who at points were given up for dead walk again. I've seen our doctors and volunteers rebuild after earthquakes and stop pandemics in their tracks. I've seen the youngest of children remind us through their actions and through their generosity of our obligations to care for refugees, or work for peace and, above all, to look out for each other. [APPLAUSE]

So that faith that I placed all those years ago, not far from here, in the power of ordinary Americans to bring about change — that faith has been rewarded in ways I could not have possibly imagined. And I hope your faith has, too. Some of you here tonight or watching at home, you were there with us in 2004, in 2008, 2012 — [APPLAUSE] — maybe you still can't believe we pulled this whole thing off. Let me tell you, you're not the only ones. [LAUGHTER]

Michelle — [APPLAUSE] — Michelle LaVaughn Robinson, girl of the South Side — [APPLAUSE] — for the past 25 years, you have not only been my wife and mother of my children, you have been my best friend. [APPLAUSE] You took on a role you didn't ask for and you made it your own, with grace and with grit and with style and good humor. [APPLAUSE] You made the White House a place that belongs to everybody. [APPLAUSE] And the new generation sets its sights higher because it has you as a role model. [APPLAUSE] So you have made me proud. And you have made the country proud. [APPLAUSE]

Malia and Sasha, under the strangest of circumstances, you have become two amazing young women. You are smart and you are beautiful, but more importantly, you are kind and you are thoughtful and you are full of passion. [APPLAUSE] You wore the burden of years in the spotlight so easily. Of all that I've done in my life, I am most proud to be your dad. [APPLAUSE]

To Joe Biden — [APPLAUSE] — the scrappy kid from Scranton who became Delaware's favorite son — you were the first decision I made as a nominee and it was the best. [APPLAUSE] Not just because you have been a great Vice President, but because in the bargain, I gained a brother. And we love you and Jill like family, and your friendship has been one of the great joys of our lives. [APPLAUSE]

To my remarkable staff: For eight years — and for some of you, a whole lot more — I have drawn from your energy, and every day I tried to reflect back what you displayed — heart, and character, and idealism. I've watched you grow up, get married, have kids, start incredible new journeys of your own. Even when times got tough and frustrating, you never let Washington get the better of you. You guarded against cynicism. And the only thing that makes me prouder than all the good that we've done is the thought of all the amazing things that you're going to achieve from here. [APPLAUSE]

And to all of you out there — every organizer who moved to an unfamiliar town, every kind family who welcomed them in, every volunteer who knocked on doors, every young person who cast a ballot for the first time, every American who lived and breathed the hard work of

change — you are the best supporters and organizers anybody could ever hope for, and I will be forever grateful. [APPLAUSE] Because you did change the world. [APPLAUSE] You did.

And that's why I leave this stage tonight even more optimistic about this country than when we started. Because I know **our** work has not only helped so many Americans, it has inspired so many Americans — especially so many young people out there — to believe that you can make a difference — [APPLAUSE] — to hitch your wagon to something bigger than yourselves.

Let me tell you, this generation coming up — unselfish, altruistic, creative, patriotic — I've seen you in every corner of the country. You believe in a fair, and just, and inclusive America. [APPLAUSE] You know that constant change has been America's hallmark; that it's not something to fear but something to embrace. You are willing to carry this hard work of democracy forward. You'll soon outnumber all of us, and I believe as a result the future is in good hands. [APPLAUSE]

My fellow Americans, it has been the honor of my life to serve you. [APPLAUSE] I won't stop. In fact, I will be right there with you, as a citizen, for all my remaining days. But for now, whether you are young or whether you're young at heart, I do have one final ask of you as your President — the same thing I asked when you took a chance on me eight years ago. I'm asking you to believe. Not in my ability to bring about change — but in yours.

I am asking you to hold fast to that faith written into **our** founding documents; that idea whispered by slaves and abolitionists; that spirit sung by immigrants and homesteaders and those who marched for justice; [that creed reaffirmed by those who planted flags from foreign battlefields to the surface of the moon](#); a creed at the core of every American whose story is not yet written: Yes, we can. [APPLAUSE]

Yes, we did. Yes, we can. [APPLAUSE]

Thank you. God bless you. May God continue to bless the United States of America. [APPLAUSE]