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## Conclusion

Based on the findings of the analysis, the study presents the following conclusion:

1. Similar to bullying, the language of political bullying is linguistically structured with power and violence. The language carries an immense amount of aggression and viciousness. However, in political bullying, the bully tries not to use curses in his speech, though it is concluded that many slurs were found in addition to aggressive speech acts such as accusations and claims. The repeated oppressive language used by Trump against his opponent put her in a less powerful picture and well proved the study's hypothesis.

2. The study also concludes that a political bully may never commit himself/herself to any future action, nor would he/she express feelings, which is verified in the statistical analysis. Instead, political bullies depend heavily on representative speech acts in demonstrating their beliefs, attitudes, ideas, and claims. They also tend to directive speech acts to affect their bullied figures. Such types show the power of the speaker and have great effects on the addressees as well as the audience. Through such means, a political bully can win allies and supporters while at the same time stigmatizing the opponent.

3. The statistical analysis justifies that political bullying is about how to humiliate the other; the excessive use of the third-person deixis over the first-person deixis is an excellent tool to turn the trigger towards the bullied. In addition to deixis, political bullying can comprise ironic speech acts to further humiliate and demean the bullied.

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Although Trump wants to look like the powerful person in this battle, he never expresses his feelings nor commits himself to any kind of future action, instead, he retreats into judging, stating beliefs, and directing. In other words, Trump uses zero expressive, commissive, and declaration speech acts.

Type of Deixis	Number of occurrences	Percentage of occurrence
Person Deixis	4	57.143%
Temporal Deixis	3	42.857%
Spatial Deixis	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table (2) Frequencies and Percentages of Deixis

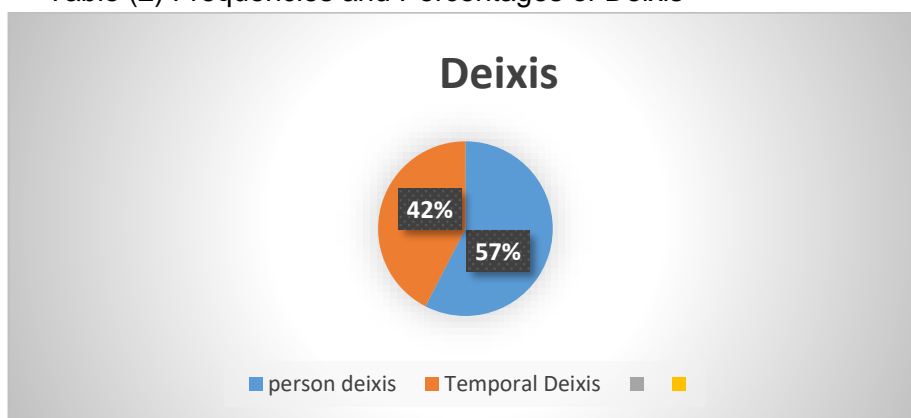


Figure (2) Person and Temporal Deixis

Table (2) and figure (2) reveal that the total number of deixis used in the selected tweets is 7 in number and only two types are detected in the analysis; person deixis with (57%) and temporal deixis with (42%) of occurrence. The most common person deixis used in the selected tweets is "she" referring back to Hillary Clinton "Trump's Political opponent and his bullied figure". The reason behind this is that Trump wants his readers to pay attention to the (third person) 'she' and to spot the person being attacked. In addition to person deixis, temporal deixis also serves as a well-executed tool used by Trump. Far from the semantic meaning of the time referents detected in the study, they have a high authoritative value in the text. For example, "give it another try in three years!" highlights the authoritative effect upon the addressee as well as the readers, in that Trump unleashes his authority and power in advance to weaken his opponent and, thus, he becomes a dominant and powerful figure in the eyes of his audience.

Speech Act Type		Number of occurrences	Percentage of occurrence
<b>Representative</b>	Assert	2	13.6%
	Accusation	1	6.6%
	Claim	3	20%
	Describe	2	13.6%
	Arguing and convincing	1	6.6%
	Complain	1	6.6%
	Criticize	1	6.6%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>73.4%</b>
<b>Directive</b>	Order	1	6.6%
	Advice	1	6.6%
	Challenge	1	6.6%
	Suggestion	1	6.6%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>26.6%</b>
<b>Expressive</b>	None	0	0%
<b>Commissive</b>	None	0	0%
<b>Declaration</b>	None	0	0%
<b>Total</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>100%</b>

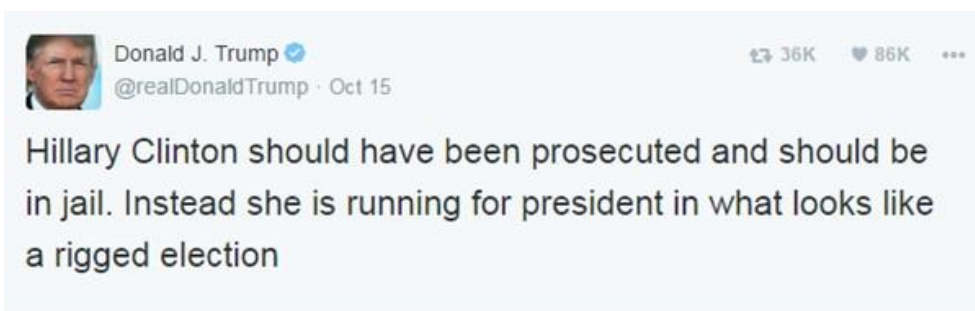
Table (1) Frequencies and Percentages of the Speech Acts

The table unshadows the kind of language Trump used against his political opponent. He heavily on representative speech acts with 73% of the total number of speech acts issued here. Many statements found in the analysis served the main aim of expressing the speaker's beliefs and being diagnosed as being true or false. Claim, being a representative speech act, is the most common in this data analysis with 20% of occurrence. According to the facts presented in this table, Trump demonstrates his power and perfectly expresses his beliefs and ideas. He also uses descriptions and assertions to further deepen his claims and stigmatize his opponent.

Directive speech acts have a strong connection with politeness theory, in that such types are regarded to be impolite which is the main feature of the language of bullying. More than 20% of Trump's tweets include directive speech acts such as order, advice, challenge, and suggestion. The toughest ones issued here are (order and challenge) and these two speech acts are never absent in a bullying situation. Directive speech acts are acts that drive the hearer to do a future action. This leads to a clear conclusion that Trump thinks and believes that he has power over his opponent either for being a female or maybe for being a less powerful opponent.

compares her to another competitor 'Jeb Bush' who suspended his campaign at the very beginning, which is another gesture of her powerlessness in front of him. Pragmatically speaking, the extract consists of two speech acts. The first speech act detected is a representative speech act of claim. Trump claims that his opponent is weak and cannot tolerate being a president. Then he uses a representative speech act of description in which he uses a comparative structure, that is to say, he describes his opponent using describing another one. The speech act is non-ironic and no deixis is spotted in the extract.

The Fifth Tweet:



The language of this tweet is very much less aggressive than the others discussed. Unusually, he dropped the slur 'crooked' for it appears in most of his tweets. Yet, the language shows power and self-control. According to speech act theory, the tweet consists of two utterances. The first utterance 'Hillary should have been prosecuted and should be in jail' expresses what Trump believes to be factual. It is what he wants others to believe to be true. This representative speech act has the illocutionary force of suggestions and directive advice "should be in jail". According to what is presented, the speaker of this utterance believes that the future action that he hopes for may benefit the hearer. The second utterance clearly shows the force of complaining; Trump complains about the rigidity of the elections as well as the freedom his opponent enjoys "Instead she is running for president in what looks like a rigged election". Trump is upset with the situation in that he ironically criticizes the system. Trump violates the quality maxim of the cooperative principle and says the opposite, and earlier proves, what he believes. Concerning deixis, only one type of deixis is used in this tweet which is the person deixis 'she'.

#### 4.3 The Statistical Analysis

In this part of the study, the findings are to be statistically calculated utilizing frequency and the percentage equation to further validate the findings and help support the aim of the study. The study presents the following table to track the speech acts issued in the five selected tweets:

There is an obvious feature of the language of bullying in the selected tweets which is the repetition of some violent words. Here, again, the speaker uses a slur and insults his opponent 'crooked', 'worst and biggest loser'. The language is characterized as being very powerful and undermines the power and ability of the opponent; 'can't stop', 'get on with your life and give it another try'. All these sentences serve one connotation which is "she is weak and can't win".

As for the pragmatic perspective, the extract starts with a description "Crooked Hillary is the worst (and biggest) loser of all time" this representative speech act functions as a means to convince the hearer/reader of the truth of the expressed proposition. Trump also claims that "she can't stop" which is good for his Party. Based on his claim, he directs and orders his opponent to drop the race between them "Hillary, get on with your life" though it is an obvious imperative statement, it has the illocutionary force of advice. The speech act here is not regarded as a commissive nor speech act because the speaker does not commit himself to any future action, rather he commits the hearer to one. Hence, it is regarded as a weak directive speech act. Then challenges her to try later "...give it a try in three years!" which is another directive speech act. The speech acts are non-ironic in that no violation of the sincerity condition is detected, even though the speaker mocks his opponent. Concerning person deixis, two are used here "she" and "it". As for temporal deixis, Trump uses "all-time" and "three years". Spatial deixis is not used in this tweet and the emphasis is set on the other two types respectively. The shared assumption of this tweet is that Hillary usually fails in different aspects that why Trump gestures that "she can't stop" which is something good. This verifies the assumption. His second statement "get on with your life and give it another try in three years" presupposes that she is losing and there is no way she can win this time, so she needs to try again.

The Fourth Tweet:



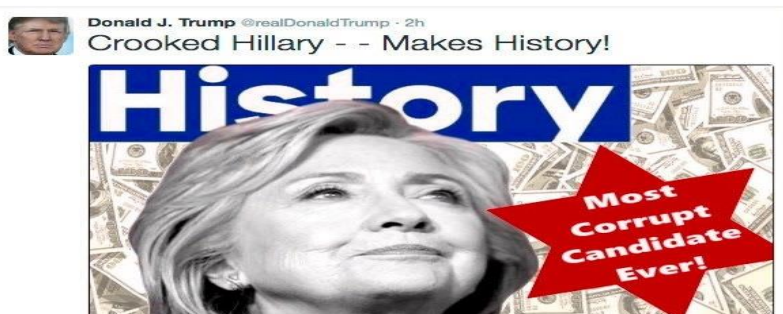
Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · 4h

Hillary Clinton doesn't have the strength or stamina to be president. Jeb Bush is a low energy individual, but Hillary is not much better!

👤 1.5K ❤️ 4.5K ⋮

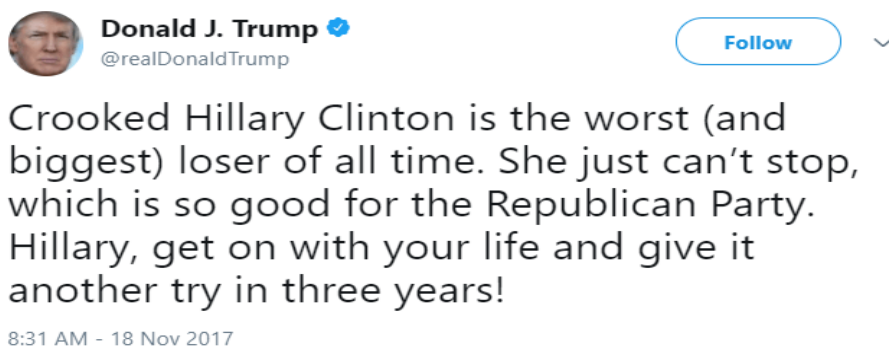
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Trump starts with the most obvious feature of the language of bullying which is belittling the bullied and framing him/her as a weak character. He even



The features of the language of this tweet identify the speaker as a bully. The speaker is repeating the same insult 'slur'. He also uses violent language and seeks to show power and morality against his female opponent. The paralinguistic features of this tweet must not be overlooked in that the background being drawn with money and the word "corrupt" both surely have a connotative usage which may be interpreted as personal benefits, bribes, or any sort of political corruption. From a pragmatic point of view, this tweet starts with a representative speech act for the speaker is presenting the world as he sees it. The speaker is representing a case that he believes to be true "Crooked Hillary... Makes History". Such utterance intends to stress some information to be believed by the hearer/reader. The speech act is strongly ironic for the speaker violates the sincerity condition in an urge intention to show the opposite of what is said. This is verified in the second utterance 'The most corrupt candidate ever!' which is another representative speech act, 'description'. The perlocutionary force of such a description is to provoke the hearer/reader to victimize the person described. It is also worth mentioning that no deixis is to be detected in this tweet. The speaker uses common nouns and names "Hillary, History, and Candidate".

The Third Tweet:



#### 4.2 Data Description and Analysis

The study depicts several tweets by former American president Donald Trump (2016-2020) during his run for the presidency in 2016. Trump's "Make America Great Again" campaign had great attention on social media. His candidacy against Clinton was portrayed as a "Presidential Twitter War". The collected data are to be analyzed in terms of the elected model specified in section (7) and illustrated in figure (1).

The First Tweet:



Crooked Hillary Clinton deleted 33,000 e-mails AFTER they were subpoenaed by the United States Congress. Guilty - cannot run. Rigged system!

Based on the features of the language. The above extract is regarded as a bullying act as it contains an obvious slur 'crooked Hillary Clinton'. In this tweet, Trump uses violent language to show power and belittle his opponent by accusing her directly 'guilty' as well as indirectly implied. Concerning the type of speech act issued, the extract is dense with different speech acts. Trump uses a representative speech act of assertion as a means to back up his statement in that he uses highlighted words and numbers to be taken as facts which in turn may take down his opponent. The function of this assertion is to protest against action and to exclude his opponent from the "rigged system".

The second speech act is a direct accusation; Trump accuses Hillary Clinton of being 'Guilty' which, in turn, was asserted earlier. Accusations are generally issued to be used as triggers to express acts of challenging and confronting which again are features of bullying. Yet another assertion is made 'cannot run' in addition to his statement 'rigid system!' that expresses a representative speech act of guarantee. As for the ironic function of the extract, the speech acts are non-ironic.

In accordance with deixis, the first type of deixis identified in the extract is time deixis which is written in capital letters to highlight its importance and shed light on the time of the event. In addition to the temporal deixis, person deixis is also used as 'they' to refer back to the deleted emails. It can be regarded as a repetition to reinforce the power of the accusation.

The Second Tweet:



### 3.3 Political Bullying and Deixis

Yule defines deixis as "a technical term 'from Greek' for one of the most basic things we do with an utterance (Yule, 1996, p. 9). It means 'pointing' via language". Hence, any linguistic form that does this job is called a 'deictic expression'. Deixis is classified into person deixis where linguistic forms are used to point at persons, spatial deixis where linguistic forms are used to point at locations, and temporal deixis where linguistic forms are used to point at a time.

## 4. The Procedure

### 4.1 The Analytical model

The study follows a quantitative, qualitative approach to analyzing the selected data. The adapted model is based on the pragmatic notions discussed earlier to arrive at the intended findings. The data will be first recognized as a bullying act in terms of the characteristics of the language of bullying, that is to say, whether it highlights a connotative meaning, whether it contains a slur or curse, or if it denotes power and violence. Then, based on the pragmatic features of most interest to the present study, the procedure of analysis will take a three-dimensional division: first the speech act(s) type according to (Searle, 1969), second the ironic speech acts following (Garmandia, 2018) and finally the deixis used and their implications in terms of Yule (1996) mode

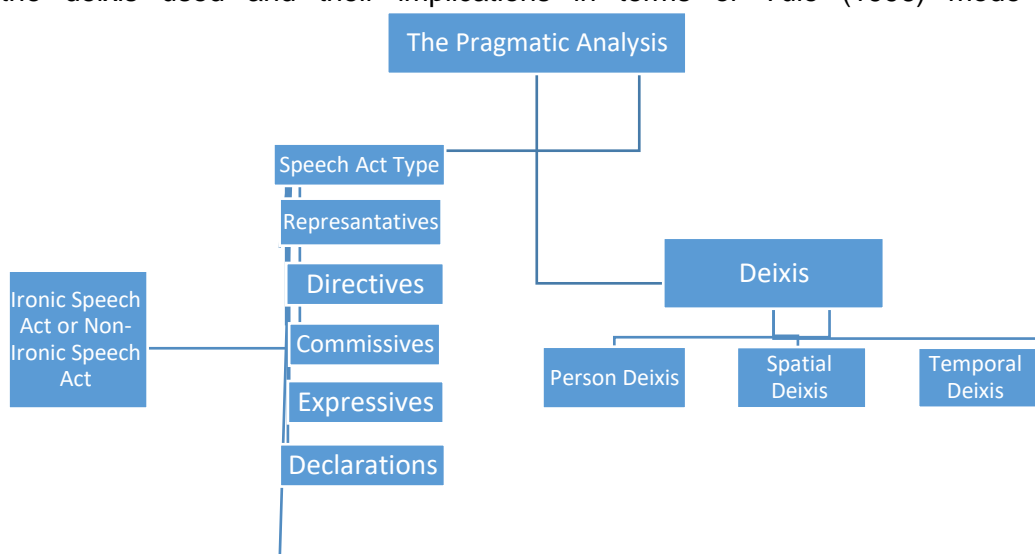


Figure (1) The Analytical Model

surrounding him. Regarding this fact, the bully would depend on issuing several speech acts to arrive at the intended effect on the victim as well as on the people in the same 'community'. Langton et. al. (2012, p. 759) assert what is introduced in the above lines; they (ibid.) state that hate speech or racist, hate speech constitutes racially oppressive illocutions. Depending on that, the study searches the bully's illocutionary including insults, complaints, accusations and so much more. What is interesting in the study of speech acts is that the "speaker says one thing, means what he says, but he also means something more" (Searle, Kiefer, & Bierwisc, 1980, p. 10)

To fulfil the aims of the study there is a need to have a closer look at ironic speech acts. Haverkate states that verbal irony can be perfectly discussed using speech acts, that is to say, he stresses that "speakers make use of irony to produce certain perlocutionary effects on their hearers" (Haverkate, 1990). The reason behind such a bridge between irony and speech acts is the indirectness; both serve indirect meanings uttered by the speakers and this is the reason behind the use of ironic speech acts by scholars such as Amante, 1981; Kaufer, 1981; Haverkate, 1990; and others. On that basis, 'irony' is seen as a pragmatic tool to soften the threats of aggressive speech acts such as accusations and disagreements.

A more recent study of the relation between irony and speech act theory is introduced by Garmendia, Joana in 2018. According to her, ironic utterances tend to violate the sincerity condition which the speaker is presumed to be following which is different in each speech act type; for the speech act of questioning, the sincerity condition is to seek information. However, "ironic utterances are always insincere" (Garmendia, 2018, p. 31).

Searle gives another lead to speech acts' types, in that he categorizes them into five distinctive classes: the first is the representative speech act where the speaker describes states or events in the world such as assertions, reports, and claims. This class of speech acts forces the speaker to the truth of the expressed proposition. The second class is the directive speech act where the speaker tries to get the hearer to do something. This means that the speaker wants to make a change in the world so that it fits his words. Requesting, ordering, asking, begging, and advising are directive speech acts. The third class is the commissive speech act where the speaker is committed to doing an action in the future. The fourth class is the expressive speech act where the speaker expresses his feelings and attitudes and here the speaker's words match what he feels in certain contexts. The final class is the declarative speech act type where utterances change the state of affairs in the world (Levinson, 1983, p. 240).

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Pragmatically speaking, bullying is language use. In other words, a political bully needs to dig deep into pragmatics to have the greatest effect he/she wishes to have upon his/her opponent. Furthermore, Huang highlights that the pragmatic theory includes "how to influence people through verbal messages" (Huang, 2017, p. 225). This takes political bullying into the first step toward the pragmatic approach.

Wilson (2015) focuses on the different contexts of presidential communication as part of the pragmatic theory. He argues that the application of pragmatics in presidential language might be used as a helpful linguistic means to arrive at the political end. According to him, different presidents are famed for different uses of language, some are manipulative, others are famed for rhetorical discourse, and the list goes on. On that basis, it can be hypothesized that there are presidents that are bullies in their language i.e., some politicians use aggressive language to demean and portray their opponents as less powerful and socially undesirable. Hence, the political bully tries his/her best to impress the public at the expense of the political 'opponent' even if so harming the other (Wilson, 2015, p. 246).

On another extreme, the language of bullying is very similar to oppressive-racist language. Altman (1993) supports this allegation by giving the racist/ hate language several characteristics which, in turn, are mirrored in the language of bullying. He examines hate language as being intended to insult and humiliate the target/opponent directly in terms of his/her race, gender, or ethnicity which is intended by the bully in a bullying situation. He further argues that this type of language causes harm and psychological damage to the victim (Altman, 1993, p. 5).

### 3.2 Political Bullying as Speech Actions

In terms of Austin's theory (1962) language performs actions with words and then relates such ideas to the notion of "performatives". These performatives must be uttered by the right person, in the right circumstances, and understood by the other person. Thus, having different situations means having different 'performatives'. In light of this, the French linguist Bourdieu (1991) introduces the concept of "political performatives" which he (ibid.) defines as "statements which seek to bring about what they state." Bourdieu denotes that there is a dimension of authorized language, which is a language that uses rhetoric, syntax, vocabulary and even pronunciation to highlight the authority of its author and this is the reason why he refers to political discourse as being "more like a game with its own rules and conditions" (Bourdieu, 1991, p. 302)

Under the realm of political bullying, Speech act theory is seen to be crucial; the bully is in desperate need to have effects on the bullied as well as the people

voters to be loyal to a party and to turn up to vote, shifting the party loyalty of the voters, and having people adopt general political or social attitudes to support the current policy.

Politicians can manipulate such power and goals and frame them in bullying content, especially if the political opponents are in a speech fight as seen between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton on Twitter in 2016 while running for the presidency.

#### 2.3.4 Violence

Violence is any attack that a person or members of a group can suffer from. It is practised by a dominant social group against a less dominant minority. The language of bullying is highly characterized by such violence; it may include physical or verbal violence (Young, 2004, p. 61)

Langton et. al. (2012, p. 76) state that "speech which assaults is like a move in the physical fight" and this asserts that violence is not only physical but words can harm more than any other weapon. This discussion of violence in language use denotes the concept of power. The political scene shows how crucial this concept is in language use. Henceforth, the use of power in the language of politics is the study's major concern to strengthen its case of political bullying.

#### 2.3.5 Cursing

Cursing, in most dictionaries, is related to harming others and as Jay (1992, p. 8) highlights, cursing is intended to invoke harm in another person with the use of some words and phrases. He (ibid.: 2) adds that today's cursing is different from that in ancient literature; Americans now don't believe that cursing may do physical or psychological harm to the other person, it is now simpler, shorter, and more direct phrases. Both the speaker and the target understand the act of cursing; the speaker knows that an act of cursing is expressed and the target understands that he is being targeted.

### 3. Pragmatics and Bullying

Having discussed what is meant by bullying and distinguished political bullying from other types of bullying, it is seen as urgent to relate it to the intended field of investigation "pragmatics". This means that bullying must be dealt with as a type of language and behaviour, not as behaviour only.

#### 3.1 Language Use and Bullying

Pragmatics is mainly concerned with how people use language. Wilson (2015, p. 2) states that pragmatics is concerned with the speaker, listener, intention, beliefs, and "how what is said is affected by the social circumstances". Hence, pragmatics is also concerned with the purpose of language; that is to say why someone is being ironic, sarcastic, or a bully.

## 2.3 The Characteristics of the Language of Bullying

The language of bullying is characterized by hatred and racism as it feeds itself by harming others by employing linguistic actions, physical actions, or even paralinguistic actions 'the use of caricatures'. The first characteristic to be diagnosed here is that the language of bullying carries connotative meanings. The language of bullying carries a unique set of lexical forms such as slurs, and taboo words; for it can be a very low language.

### 2.3.1 Connotative Usage

Connotation is always defined and explained in terms of denotation. The reason for such a step is simply because these two mean the opposite; while denotation describes signs at a general societal level, the connotation is at a more specific level. Beck et. al. argue that connotation deals with how a sign is related to the specific individual level. It deals with "how groups of people share meaning at an associative level" (Beck, Bennett, & Wall, 2015, p. 121).

The bully usually tends to use aggressive language to demean others in different situations using some linguistic expressions that can be described as dirty. Henceforth, the words used in a bullying situation are expected to be interpretive connotatively by the listener/s for their relation with the emotional impact, that is to say, the words will be interpreted at an individual level; an associative level. A sentence uttered by a bully such as "her job is *fucked up*" is to be interpreted as "her job is bad". Bullies tend to use such sentences to issue insults, curses, and taboo words.

### 2.3.2 Slurs and Insults

Language can also be harmful using slurs and insults for both are used as verbal attacks on other people. Both slurs and insults don't rely on religious grounds to do any harm, rather they gain their power by representing actual or made-up characteristics of the target. Slurs denote racial, ethnic, or social characteristics, whereas insults denote the physical, mental or psychological qualities of the target. However, both slurs and insults do the same function in language use, which is to harm others. A political bully may carefully use slurs and insults to harm his/her opponent, in that s/he may use slurs such as dog 'animal-related', whore 'social-related', nigger 'ethnic-related' (Jay, 1992, p. 2).

### 2.3.3 Power

Wodak uses politics and power as two alternative concepts (Wodak, 1989). She (Ibid.: 15) uses them as synonymous; "the relationship between 'language and power' or 'language and politics...' [*Italics mine*]. In this excerpt, Wodak treats "power" and politics as allies. Rozina & karapetjana (2009, p. 19) add that the characteristics of political discourse are different from other discourses as well as their goals. The goals of a political discourse include convincing the

## 2.2 Types of Bullying

Rigby (2002, p. 37), as well as many other researchers and psychologists, see that a list of aggressive actions can be regarded as bullying. However, to provide a suitable list of bullying types, it is seen preferable to first provide the categories of how aggressiveness or bullying may occur: physically (kicking, hitting), verbally (calling names), or gesturally (staring). Rigby (ibid.) adds a fourth type which is "social manipulation". Within this type, bullying is not physical, rather it depends on social exclusion such as excluding people, spreading rumours about a person, or turning people against someone.

Another way for identifying the type of bullying is to look at the target, i.e. the victim. Here, the bully may attack a victim from another race, in such case the type of bullying issued is "racial bullying". This type may also include name-calling, for instance, racial name-calling (Troyna & Hatcher, 1992, p. 76).

Furthermore, gender also plays a central role in this context; a regular type of bullying is "sexual bullying". Of course, many researchers highlighted the fact that boys/men use this type more than girls/women.

Back to the categories introduced by Rigby (2002) that the type of bullying depends on the manner or the context in which a bullying action is issued, as well as reviewing the different views of researchers regarding the types of bullying, it can be said that a bully can attack the victim's race, colour, education, intelligence, ethnicity, or gender. Hence the context decides the type according to the bully, the bullied, and other circumstances surrounding them.

### 2.2.1 Political Bullying

Murphy uses the term "intimidation" regularly to identify a style of language in politics (Murphy, 2009, p. 71). According to her (Ibid.), political bullying may include some "pressure" or "threaten" to elect someone in particular or not. She highlights that a candidate may spread rumours about their opponents or negative pictures. He clarifies that "a political action may be considered bullying when it involves intimidating others to ensure a certain outcome." Murphy (Ibid.) goes further in her discussion of bullying in politics by introducing an example; "It would be considered political bullying if a politician tries to intimidate another politician to drop out of the race".

"Negative campaigning" is another strategy used by a politician/candidate to take down an opponent. A candidate may spread rumours or personal problems to affect the people's vote for his benefit (Ibid., p. 72).

From this discussion, one can bring about a possible definition of political bullying as being an action of abusing power to lead another candidate to drop the race for the presidency by employing psychological pressure or threat.

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might be best telescoped by the Pragmatic analysis. In light of this, the present study investigates the language of bullying on a purely pragmatic ground. To reach the intended findings, an eclectic model is used to analyze the data selected and answer the study's questions:

1. What are the types of speech acts regularly used in Political Bullying?
2. To what extent can these speech acts be ironic?
3. Which type of deixis is regularly preferred by a political bully?

## 2. Theoretical Overview

### 2.1 Identifying the Concept of Bullying

Although countless researchers have tried to develop a comprehensive and clear definition for bullying, there remains disagreement on how bullying should be defined. Bullying is first defined in terms of physical and verbal behaviours. It is also defined in terms of different waves through time. Smith and Sharp, for instance, define bullying as "the systematic abuse of power" (Smith & Sharp, 1994, p. 2). However, most researchers approve that bullying is a physical, verbal, or psychological attack or an intention to cause fear, distress, or harm to the victim and that it involves repeated acts over time (Farrington, 1993; Olweus, 1993).

Rigby (2002, p. 35) highly argues that the "keyword" in bullying must be "oppression" and to support his argument, he adopts Farrington's (1993) definition which states that "bullying is a repeated oppression of a less powerful person, physical or psychological, by a more powerful person" (Rigby, 2002, p. 35). Rigby further argues that such a definition is an extended definition of the concept of bullying. Moreover, Rigby introduces several stages for summarizing what is meant by bullying: (a) An initial desire to hurt, (b) the desire is expressed in action, (c) someone is hurt, (d) it is directed by a more powerful person or group against someone less powerful, (e) it is without justification, (f) typically repeated, and finally (g) with evident enjoyment (Rigby, 2007, p. 16).

However, most researchers have agreed upon three main criteria for an act to be recognized as a bullying act: 'repetition', 'power imbalance', and 'the intention to harm'. This means that the bullied is exposed to a repetitive harmful linguistic action that is aimed to damage the bullied ability to be seen as desirable or powerful.

From these definitions, one can conclude that although bullying requires physical actions, psychological effects, and/or superiority over the bullied person, it is an aggressive type of language with which others are harmed.

investigating the use of language and highlighting the results of such use. Among the different pragmatic notions, the study's main objectives are identifying the types of speech acts issued by a bully, and the types of deixis used in such an exchange. Though children and schools are the first to come to our minds when mentioning the term 'bullying', it can occur in a more mature environment. From here, the study sees the possibility in investigating "bullying" as a linguistic phenomenon by which people serve certain purposes and not only a life style or a behaviour.

To fulfil the aims of the study, the researcher devises an eclectic model. The data for this study include five selected tweets by Donald Trump targeting his opponent, Hillary Clinton, during their running for Presidency in 2016. The study hypothesizes that (a) a political bully depends on directive and representative speech acts in a bullying exchange, (b) the speech acts are regarded as ironic in most cases, and (c) a political bully tends to use person deixis more often. The selected data is analyzed in terms of an analytical pragmatic framework and the results are statistically calculated by the percentage equation.

Key Words: Bullying, Political Bullying, Pragmatics, Speech Act Theory, Deixis.

## 1. Introduction

People use language to express their ideas, beliefs, and emotions. Moreover, language is a mirror of self-identity and social power (Ibrahim, 2021, p. 1224). However, some use language to harm and bully others directly or indirectly. Such harm can be easily done through the selection of aggressive linguistic tools which might be represented by stigmatizing others, humiliating them, or even attacking them verbally or in any other possible way. This is known to most of us as "bullying". The need for this investigation arises from the fact that bullying is a growing global concern and a swollen phenomenon. Bullying is a very dangerous phenomenon that is unfortunately uncontrollable and highly depicted among school children. What is interesting is the fact that this undesirable phenomenon has gained massive growth with the growing expansion and addiction to social media to the extent that it invaded the political scene as well.

As far as observed by the study, little if any attention has been given to bullying within linguistics; most research about 'bullying' is based on a psychological perspective.

In political discourse, speakers helplessly depend on hidden messages, promises, threats, vows, and different implicatures. Dealing with intentions and motives behind a particular, repeated use of aggressive language by a politician



## دراسة تداولية في التنمر السياسي

### *A Pragmatic Analysis of Political Bullying*

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#### المستخلص

اللغة هي انعكاس ليس فقط لهوية الفرد، ولكن أيضاً لروحه وذاته. ولذا يمكن ان تؤدي دراسة الاستخدام الخاص للغة الى الحصول على حقائق مثيرة للاهتمام حول المتحدثين بها. و يعد المشهد السياسي مصدراً غنياً للتحقيق في استخدامات اللغة والاشارة الى نتائج استخدامها. ومن بين النظريات العديدة في علم التداولية، تهدف الدراسة بشكل رئيسي الى تحديد انواع الافعال الكلامية التي تصدر من الشخص المتنمر بالاضافة الى انواع اسماء الاشارة المستخدمة في مثل هكذا سياق. فبالرغم من ان الاطفال والمدارس هم اول من يتدارك الى اذهاننا عند ورود كلمة "تنمر" إلا أن من المرجح حدوث التنمر في بيئة أكثر نضجاً بكثير. ومن هنا ترى الدراسة امكانية التحقيق في ظاهرة التنمر على انها ظاهر لغوية مستخدمة لنيل مآرب معينة وليست مجرد اسلوب حياتي او سلوك شخصي.

ومن اجل تحقيق اهداف الدراسة، بنى الباحث نموذجاً لتحليل البيانات والتي تضم خمس تغريدات مختارات من دونالد ترامب على موقع تويتر ضد منافسته هيلاري كلينتون اثناء الانتخابات الرئاسية عام ٢٠١٦. تفترض الدراسة الحالية ان (أ) يعتمد المتنمر السياسي على الافعال الكلامية المباشرة "Directive" و البيانية "representative"، (ب) تعد الافعال الكلامية على انها ساخرة معظم الاحيان، (ج) غالباً ما يستخدم المتنمر السياسي اسم الاشارة "person deixis". تم تحليل البيانات المختارة في ظل اطار تداولي تحليلي وتم احصاء النتائج عن طريق المعادلة المثوية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: التنمر، التنمر السياسي، علم التداولية، نظرية افعال الكلام، اسماء الاشارة.

#### Abstract□

Language is a reflection of not only one's identity, but also his or her soul and self. This is how the particular use of language can lead to interesting facts about its speakers. The political scene is regarded to be a rich source for

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