



A POLITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF THE PHILIPPINE POLITICIANS' SPEECH ACTS ON PEOPLE'S INITIATIVE: A FORENSIC LINGUISTICS STUDY

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Abstract:

This political discourse analysis aims to unveil the speech acts and FTAs employed by Philippine politicians, their contributions to the persuasive power of political discourse, and their pragmatic implicatures on the People's Initiative. This study utilized a qualitative research design using forensic linguistics through political discourse analysis, with corpus linguistics of 16 political speeches chosen through purposive sampling. The findings revealed that 18% of the discourse falls under FTAs, 42% for speech acts, 20% for persuasive power contribution, and 20% for pragmatic implicatures. This purports the complex relationships that exist between language, power, and persuasion in the political context.

Keywords: political discourse, political speech, people's initiative, forensic linguistics, Philippines

1. Introduction

In the intricate tapestry of political discourse, language serves as a potent tool wielded by politicians to shape public perception, influence decision-making, and advance their agendas. Discourse analyses are concerned with the strategies and characteristics of speech, verbal actions, and communicative events that contribute to discourse production (Van Dijk, 1993). Within the Philippine socio-political landscape, the arena of the People's Initiative stands as a crucial domain for discourse analyses where politicians engage in rhetorical maneuvers to garner support, sway opinions, and assert their positions.

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People's Initiative is the process by which the people are empowered to propose amendments to a constitution upon compliance with constitutional and legal requirements (Thompson, 2008). Understanding the intricacies of language in this context requires a nuanced examination that intersects political science with linguistics, specifically through the lens of discourse analysis and forensic linguistics.

At the core of this interdisciplinary exploration lies the interrogation of speech acts—the intentional communicative actions performed through language—and their role in framing People's Initiative discourse. Political speeches include different types, such as inaugural addresses, press releases and conferences, State of the Nation Addresses, parliamentary speeches, and election campaign speeches (Wodak & Meyer, 2001; Zakariya *et al.*, 2018). Moreover, a political speech is a stream of spoken words prepared and delivered by a speaker for a particular audience and purpose during a political event (Amaireh, 2023). Speech acts encompass a spectrum of linguistic expressions ranging from assertions and requests to promises and directives, each carrying its illocutionary force and pragmatic implications. The employment of speech acts in a social setting comprises both the speaker's words and the comprehension of the interlocutors, which adds a personal dimension (Schwartz & Hom, 2020). Furthermore, the study extends its purview to the examination of Face Threatening Acts (FTAs), which encompass linguistic behaviors that potentially challenge or threaten the face—or social image—of the interlocutors.

Moreover, the findings of this research hold implications not only for academic scholarship but also for broader societal understanding and civic engagement. By shedding light on the linguistic nuances underpinning the People's Initiative discourse, this study empowers citizens to critically evaluate political rhetoric, discern underlying intentions, and engage in informed democratic deliberation. In essence, this research constitutes a scholarly endeavor to decode the language of power, uncover the rhetorical arsenal of Philippine politicians, and illuminate the intricate dynamics shaping political discourse within the context of People's Initiative. Through meticulous analysis and rigorous inquiry, this study aspires to enrich our understanding of language's role in politics and contribute to the broader discourse on democracy, governance, and linguistic pragmatics. Other aspects of pragma linguistics have received little attention (Taguchi, 2022), such as political discourse and forensic linguistics. At the same time, previous research on politicians' speeches is inadequately represented or under-researched (Robinson *et al.*, 2011). This discourse analysis, however, may reveal the hidden strategy a politician may have used to construct views of the world by recognizing the linguistic mechanisms or semantic frameworks used to create an ideology (Orpin, 2005). Therefore, this study was pursued with urgency as its findings are targeted to be used as a basis for the current political issues in the Philippines.

1.1. Research Questions

- 1) What speech acts and FTAs are commonly employed by Philippine politicians in framing People's Initiative discourse?
- 2) How do these speech acts contribute to the persuasive power of political discourse?
- 3) What are the pragmatic implicatures of politicians' speech acts on People's Initiative discourse?

2. Material and Methods

2.1. Research Design

This study used a qualitative method, particularly discourse analysis, in investigating how politicians' speech acts were used in political discourse (Creswell, 1997, as cited in Lilly, 1998). This research falls under forensic linguistics because it encompasses verbal statement transcription, discourse language, and legal statement analysis (Olsson, 2004). Moreover, corpus linguistics was used since it refers to linguistic study that relies on corpora (Oostdijk, 1991).

2.2. Data Sources

The research corpus encompasses a collection of narratives sourced from interviews, speeches, and statements made by Philippine politicians representing various parties, ideologies, and political stances. This diverse selection ensures a comprehensive exploration of political discourse. Specifically, the speeches analyzed pertain to the current topic of the People's Initiative as a means to amend the Philippine Constitution. These speeches were purposively sourced from official YouTube or social media channels affiliated with the country's prominent media outlets. Adhering to these criteria enabled the researchers to gather authentic and substantial political speeches for rigorous analysis. The gathering of data involved several steps to ensure comprehensive coverage. First, the researchers determined which politicians' speeches were of interest for analysis and were relevant to the People's Initiative. Then, a list of speeches delivered by prominent politicians was compiled. Afterwards, various sources were used to gather the speeches, including official government websites, political party websites, public archives, media outlets, and online platforms, which were accessed by the researchers. If the speeches are available in audio or video format, these were transcribed into written text.

2.3. Data Analysis

To analyze the data, this study applied Colaizzi's (1978) inductive thematic analysis approach, along with a seven-step analysis framework. First, the researchers familiarized themselves with the speech transcript through close reading. Second, they identified the meaningful statements relating to the research questions. Third, they utilized the components of each theoretical framework through bracketing to avoid misinterpretation

of the corpus (meaningful statements were coded and developed to potential themes). Fourth, they clustered the themes by assigning an initial code to the identified statements using MaxQDA, a software for data analysis. Fifth, they described the politicians' speech transcripts based on the research questions. Sixth, they created a basic explanation for each code to contextualize the focus of the study. Lastly, they performed corpus checks for final validation of the preliminary findings and final results. In analyzing politicians' speech acts using Colaizzi's inductive thematic analysis approach, the researchers were able to examine how politicians employ language to construct ingroup and outgroup identities.

2.4. Ethical Consideration

To observe the ethical considerations of this study, the researchers ensured the following: had the legal right to access and use the politicians' speeches through publicly available sources, presented the speeches accurately without selective editing or misinterpretation that could distort their intended meaning or context, and documented the source of the data.

2.5 Trustworthiness

To demonstrate the reliability of this qualitative content analysis, concepts like credibility, confirmability, transferability, and dependability – adopted from Lincoln and Guba's (1985) model, which provides four criteria – were used.

3. Results and Discussion

As presented in Figure 1 (Figure was generated via MaxQDA Software), it could be gleaned that the frequency of Philippine politicians' face-threatening acts: 15% (positive FTA) and 3% (negative FTA); speech acts: 6% (assertives), 3% (directives), 9% (commissives), 9% (expressives), and 15% (declaratives); contribution to persuasive power: 6% (logos), 9% (ethos), and 5% (pathos); and the pragmatic implicatures: 8% (generalized), 12% (particularized), and 0% (scalar). Furthermore, sample transcripts from the politicians' speeches, which fall under each of the components of political discourse, are presented and interpreted hereunder.

3.1 Positive FTAs

FTA on Hearer's Positive Face:

"My proposal is that the secession of Mindanao is a legal process that will be brought to the United Nations like the one of Timor-Leste." (FPRRD_1)

Former President Rodrigo Roa Duterte expressed his desire for a separate Mindanao in a statement, citing the People's Initiative in the Philippines as the reason. He is attempting to gain acceptance and validity for his idea by suggesting that secession

be handled as a legal proceeding taken before the UN. This suggests a need for Mindanao's goals for autonomy or independence to be acknowledged and validated, which is consistent with positive face needs. He supports the validity of his idea by citing the example of Timor-Leste, which was able to gain independence through the United Nations. By providing a successful example, this comparison suggests hope and confidence in the viability of the suggested procedure, appealing to positive face wants.

FTA on Speaker's Positive Face:

"I haven't seen a big error, a big mistake. I haven't seen anything. I haven't seen anything. Maybe from other people, but from him, I haven't heard anything. So, I continue to support him." (FPRRD_5)

The ex-president clearly expresses his continued backing of President Bong-Bong Marcos. His affirmation shows a positive FTA by expressing support, solidarity, and loyalty despite possible criticism or doubts from others. Simultaneously, he is fostering positive social unity and solidarity by showing continuous support and avoiding criticism or negative judgment. Positive free trade agreements usually include behaviors or comments that help to uphold positive connections and teamwork within a group.

FTA on Hearer's Positive Face:

"So, we have to adjust so that we can increase the economic activity in the Philippines, we can attract more foreign investors." (PBBM_2)

The President of the Philippines is displaying a favorable and forward-thinking approach by recommending changes to boost economic growth and appeal to international investors. This forward-looking strategy promotes a positive FTA by highlighting chances for progress and enhancement rather than concentrating on constraints or obstacles. He is supporting changes in the constitution to boost economic activity and draw in overseas investors, which will help improve the economic well-being of the Philippines. This emphasis on economic progress supports positive FTAs since it helps improve the overall welfare and well-being of the nation.

3.2 Negative FTAs

FTA on Hearer's Negative Face:

"If they're going to catch me, they'll catch me dead." (FPRRD_1)

According to reports, former president Rodrigo Roa Duterte released a statement in response to speculations that the International Criminal Court (ICC) is seeking to extradite him. He is demonstrating his independence and defiance of outside influence by stating that he is prepared to fight the ICC's capture to the death. This claim is consistent with negative face requirements, which include the urge to be free from

restrictions or demands. It's also possible that he's trying to scare off would-be attackers or minimize the gravity of the threat. By projecting power and defiance in the face of imagined danger, this threat deflection helps him maintain his negative image.

3.3 Assertives

"Don't change the constitution to be in favor of another term that you will sit in the administration and extend the term." (FPRRD_5)

In one of his political speeches, former president Rodrigo Roa Duterte expressed his perspective or point of view authoritatively. In particular, the statement discusses the possible repercussions of amending the constitution to prolong the incumbent administration's tenure. The purpose of this statement is to educate the audience about the alleged drawbacks of this modification.

"We are really studying it because if we separate the election and plebiscite; it's like two elections so it will cost a lot (expensive)." (PBBM_3)

In response to many inquiries from his compatriots, President Bong-Bong Marcos offered an overview of the circumstances surrounding the suggested amendment to the national charter, emphasizing the practical and budgetary effects of holding the referendum and election separately. He is presenting this analysis as fact or judgment by utilizing forceful language. Additionally, the statement provides information regarding the possible expenses related to holding the plebiscite and election separately. He implies that there is a practical aspect that needs to be taken into account when he indicates that considering them as separate occurrences will result in additional expenses.

3.4 Directives

"Mr. President, if you have no love or aspirations in your nation, resign." (DCMBD_1)

At the Davao City prayer gathering, Mayor Baste Duterte gave a speech that functions as a mandate, specifically telling or urging the President to quit if he has no love or ambition for the Philippines. It is an explicit request that the President think about his duty to the country and act appropriately. The mayor of the city is making a clear appeal for the President to step down if specific requirements are met by combining forceful language with a conditional remark ("if you have no love or aspirations in your nation"). This order suggests that the President should act in a way that is consistent with his stated love and goals for the country.

"I strongly appeal to all concerned to stop this call for a separate Mindanao." (PBBM_1)

In an aggressive speech, President Bong-Bong Marcos addressed the concerns around Mindanao's secession ("I strongly appeal"). He is making a clear call to action with this. It is clear from his words that he wants the audience to stop endorsing the demand that Mindanao be separated from the Philippines. By enticing the audience to cooperate and comply, the command seeks to change how they behave.

3.5 Commissives

"We will not allow even an iota of a suggestion of its breaking apart." (PBBM_1)

In order to underscore his opposition to the demand for a Mindanao that is independent of the Philippines, President Bong-Bong Marcos pledged to thwart any notion that Mindanao would separate from the country. This pledge demonstrates a strong commitment to upholding the country's territorial integrity and unity. By saying, "We will not allow," he is indicating that he intends to take measures to keep Mindanao from disintegrating. This shows initiative and a willingness to step in when needed to preserve national unity.

"I will take care of myself here. I will deal with the ICC myself." (FPRRD_1)

In an attempt to demonstrate his political might against the International Criminal Court (ICC), former President Rodrigo Roa Duterte pledged to look after himself and manage the ICC case on a personal level. By saying "I will," he is committing to taking charge of his affairs and dealing with any ICC-related problems on his own. This shows that he is proactive and eager to deal with the matter.

3.6 Expressives

"Do you know what is the funniest of all? Did you use the 20 pesos tag of rice to lie? (You lied by promising that the country will have 20 pesos of rice). That's where you're wrong. That's called a Scam." (FPRRD_5)

One of the current Philippine President's planks was mentioned by Mayor Baste Duterte during the prayer rally in Davao City. His emotional reaction or attitude regarding the circumstance is expressed in the statement. The speaker expresses shock or astonishment ("Do you know what is the funniest of all?"), which is followed by a denunciation of the purported dishonesty, signifying their disapproval of it. He places accountability or blame on the person he is criticizing. He said that the behavior was unethical or immoral and placed blame for the purported deceit by saying, "That's where you're wrong" and labeling it a "scam."

"Who would say that the Senate has nothing to do with this? There is only one thing I can say. No medicine to the thickness of your face." (SIM_1)

Senator Imee Marcos addressed the notion that the Senate is not involved with the People's Initiative during an emotional outburst in which she voiced her assessment or judgment of a problem. They are expressing shock at this idea, suggesting that she doesn't agree with it or is criticizing it. "Who would say that...?" was her initial statement, which expressed her sense of astonishment or annoyance. "No medicine to the thickness of your face" was her dismissive comment, which expressed her unfavorable thoughts towards the notion and her incredulity at its validity.

3.7 Declaratives

"We are doing it the legal way." (FPRRD_1)

In his remarks, former president Rodrigo Roa Duterte provided details regarding the strategy being employed in relation to Mindanao's secession. He provided the audience with information regarding the procedures being followed by stating that they are adhering to legal procedures. A fact or reality regarding the circumstances was also asserted in the statement. The speaker asserted the legitimacy and legality of their conduct by saying, "We are doing it the legal way," implying that they are operating inside the bounds of the law.

"It's clear that the campaign was misleading and deceptive and even involved bribery." (SIM_2)

In a statement, Senator Imee Marcos clarified the course of the signature drive. She specifically claimed that the campaign involved bribes and was misleading and deceitful. She did this while updating the audience on their evaluation of the campaign's strategies and actions. She further asserted that the campaign's nature and conduct violated legal and ethical norms, particularly because some anonymous citizens testified in court.

3.8 Logos

"This administration's position in introducing reforms to our constitution extends to economic matters alone. Or those strategically aimed at boosting our country's economy." (PBBM_1)

The administration's rational approach to decision-making was suggested by President Bong-Bong Marcos' comments. It implies that the decision to give economic issues top priority in constitutional amendments is backed by data or logic that highlights economic expansion as a crucial objective for the nation's advancement. The

administration's stance on constitutional amendments is presented in the statement in a straightforward and cogent manner as well. This claim is supported by evidence, which makes the argument more logically appealing by making it simpler for the listener to comprehend and follow the reasoning.

"How can you invite him when it's not your home? Isn't it clear that the meeting is in Speaker's house, and it was him who called for a meeting? So, of course, Speaker Romualdez would interfere in People's Initiative." (SIM_1)

The logical argument defending Speaker Romualdez's reasonableness in interfering with the People's Initiative was made by Senator Imee Marcos. It starts by raising doubts about the validity of the invitation from someone who isn't the venue's owner, suggesting that the speaker doesn't have the right to send out these kinds of invites. The argument's basis is established by this line of reasoning. The point in the statement is also supported by evidence-based reasoning. It makes clear that the Speaker called the meeting and that it is taking place at his residence. Senator Marcos' claim that Speaker Romualdez has the power to impede the People's Initiative is supported by these facts.

3.9 Ethos

"It's not clear that the People's Initiative (P.I.) is gone because the president said in the interview in Vietnam, that the P.I. is not yet clear to be dismissed and it is still being studied, so the investigation will continue." (SIM_2)

In another political address, Senator Imee Marcos made a claim that is supported by the President's legitimacy and authority. She alludes to the President's implicit authority, knowledge, and skill on the subject by quoting from an interview he conducted in Vietnam. She suggests that it is trustworthy and dependable with that. When the President speaks in public about matters of national importance, he or she is frequently regarded as a reliable source of information. Because of the President's authority, the audience might be more likely to accept the veracity of the remark.

"As long as what is important is very clear, the president wants the plebiscite to be included in the Senate so that we can be safe." (SPMZ_2)

According to Senate President Migz Zubiri's statement, the President's top priority is to make sure the plebiscite process is safe and transparent. The speaker aims to portray the President as a leader who places the welfare and security of the people first by highlighting the President's goals and ideals about the referendum. The statement suggested that the President was the source of the intention, which suggests that it is

dependable and trustworthy. The purpose of this appeal to credibility is to convince the listeners that the statement is true.

3.10 Pathos

"I don't want to say that because we are friends, if not friends, acquaintances."
(FPRRD_4)

In response to the President's name appearing on the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency's (PDEA) list of drug addicts, the former president made a statement emphasizing his friendship with the President, calling him "friends, if not friends, acquaintances." By appealing to personal relationships and connections, the speaker hopes to arouse empathy and understanding in the audience, as many can relate to the difficulties of interpersonal relationships. This piques the audience's interest and encourages emotional participation, pulling them into the speaker's story.

"So, there will be instances that we will remove them [residents]. I don't think I agree with that." (PBBM_2)

Economic expansion was discussed in an exclusive conversation with President Bong-Bong Marcos. By doing this, he conveyed his disapproval of the residents' departure. He makes an appeal for sympathy and understanding among the audience for those impacted. The statement highlights the possible difficulties that the residents may experience as a result of being forced from their homes, implying concern for their rights and general well-being. By addressing them as "them," the speaker highlights his uniqueness and humanity, which may cause the listener to feel sympathetic and worried.

3.11 Generalized

"They always say economic provisions, but the economic provisions they say are minor. It's not important." (SCV_1)

During an interview with Senator Cynthia Villar, the speaker implied a wider principle or maxim when she described the economic provisions as "minor" and "not important." This implication could be taken to imply that the economic provisions under discussion are either insignificant or not substantial enough to merit notice or thought. In this instance, she might be suggesting that conversations regarding financial clauses within the framework of the Charter Change fall short of the requirements for communication's relevance or significance.

"Mindanao is rich." (FPRRD_2)

In his address, former president Rodrigo Roa Duterte used the adjective "rich" to describe Mindanao, which he used to promote his desire for an independent Mindanao. By using this term, he implied a wider idea or maxim. This implicature could be interpreted broadly to suggest that Mindanao has a robust and successful economy or an abundance of natural resources. In this instance, he might be suggesting that the wealth of Mindanao is a well-known or generally accepted feature of the area, which would be consistent with the communication concept of being relevant and instructive.

3.12 Particularized

"There's a process in that for the UN where you would gather signatures of all sorts in Mindanao." (FPRRD_2)

To convey his intention for Mindanao to secede, former president Rodrigo Roa Duterte referred to a particular procedure that entailed obtaining signatures inside the province. He is alluding to a particular facet or component of the larger subject of Mindanao's secession when he refers to this process. The specific implication can be that obtaining signatures is crucial to the campaign to support Mindanao's secession or to win over other countries to the cause. In this instance, the reference to collecting signatures alludes to a specific approach or plan that is pertinent to the conversation around Mindanao's secession and its possible effects on UN involvement.

"I think she's also testing the waters to see what the reaction will be." (PBBM_2)

The term "testing the waters" was used by President Bong-Bong Marcos to characterize Vice-President Sara Duterte's remarks regarding her bid for the presidency in the upcoming elections. By doing this, he suggests that Vice President Sara's announcement had a particular goal in mind. The specific implications vary depending on the conversation's context and the unique circumstances, and the topic may be weighing public opinion before deciding to run for president rather than being devoted to the cause.

4. Discussion

4.1 Politeness Theory (FTAs)

In the statements from political discourse regarding the People's Initiative, Brown and Levinson's Politeness Theory (1987) aligns with the categorized positive and negative face-threatening acts (FTAs), providing valuable insights into the communicative strategies employed by politicians. The positive FTAs, exemplified by statements advocating for the secession of Mindanao as a legal process and condemning perceived violations of the Constitution, demonstrate a strategic balance between assertiveness and politeness. By framing their proposals or criticisms in a manner that asserts their

positions while respecting the face of their audience, politicians effectively navigate the discourse while advancing their agendas.

Conversely, the negative FTAs, characterized by expressions of defiance and threats of violence in response to perceived threats or challenges, illustrate a more confrontational approach. This is supported by the claims of several researchers that FTAs could be in the form of criticisms, insults, disapprovals, rejections, threats, dares, and suggestions (Aporbo, 2022; Brown & Levinson, 1987, Rachmat & Otsuka, 2021; Sukmawan & Hestiana, 2015). Despite their potentially abrasive nature, these statements serve to assert the autonomy and authority of the speakers, signaling their unwillingness to yield to external pressures. Overall, the findings support the applicability of Obenza and Baradillo's (2023) claim in analyzing the complex interplay of positive (desire to be approved) and negative (desire to avoid being intervened by others) FTAs within political discourse, highlighting the role of forensic linguistics in uncovering the underlying communicative intentions and strategies embedded within political communication.

4.2 Speech Act Taxonomy

In the statements from political discourse concerning the People's Initiative, Searle's Speech Act Taxonomy (1969) offers a comprehensive framework for analyzing the communicative intentions embedded within each utterance. This is in consonance with the idea of several researchers that the direction of each political speech is either assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, or declarative (Cummings, 2015; Rustandi & Rizki, 2018; Sakti, 2022; Sintamutiani *et al.*, 2019). The assertive statements directly assert opinions or beliefs, as evidenced by warnings against changing the constitution for personal gain and concerns about the financial implications of separate elections and plebiscites. Directives are employed to issue commands or requests, such as calls for resignation or appeals to cease advocacy for the secession of Mindanao.

Commissives are utilized to express commitments or promises, with assurances against the suggestion of territorial division and assertions of personal responsibility in dealing with legal matters. Expressive statements convey emotions or evaluations, exemplified by expressions of incredulity towards alleged deceitfulness and disdain towards perceived audacity. Lastly, declaratives state facts or propositions, as demonstrated by affirmations of adherence to legal processes and allegations of deceptive campaigning tactics. These findings align with the affirmations of researchers like Lestari and Hartati (2017) and Taguchi and Roever (2018) that naturalistic observations can be used to gather an individual's speech acts, showcasing the diverse range of communicative functions employed within political discourse.

4.3 Rhetorical Triangle

In the statements from political discourse regarding the People's Initiative, Aristotle's Rhetorical Triangle offers a lens through which to analyze the persuasive strategies employed by politicians (De Wet, 2010; Olson *et al.*, 2008). Logos, the appeal to logic and

reason, is evident in statements that provide explanations or justify actions, such as outlining the administration's focus on economic reforms or clarifying the logistics of a meeting. Ethos, the appeal to credibility and authority, is utilized to establish trustworthiness and credibility, as seen in references to the president's statements and intentions. Lastly, pathos, the appeal to emotions, is employed to evoke empathy or elicit emotional responses, exemplified by expressions of reluctance or concern regarding potential consequences. These findings align with the statement of some researchers that rhetorical appeals are used to engage and develop trust with the audience, demonstrating how politicians strategically utilize logic, credibility, and emotion to persuade and shape public opinion (Alo, 2012; Nurkhamidah *et al.*, 2021).

4.4 Conversational Implicatures

In the statements from political discourse regarding the People's Initiative, Grice's Conversational Implicatures (1975) shed light on the implicit meanings conveyed within the communication. This is supported by the affirmation of Archer *et al.* (2012) that an implicature is a notion that refers to the functional aspect of language. Generalized implicatures are evident in statements that make broad generalizations or assumptions, such as downplaying the importance of economic provisions or asserting the wealth of Mindanao. These implicatures rely on shared knowledge or assumptions within the discourse context to convey meaning indirectly.

Conversely, particularized implicatures emerge in statements that hint at specific circumstances or intentions, such as referencing a process for gathering signatures in Mindanao or suggesting that someone is testing reactions. These implicatures rely on contextual clues or background knowledge to infer the intended meaning. Overall, the findings align with the claim of several researchers that politicians' speeches have implicit interpretations in any context (Elmahady Musa *et al.*, 2022; Gianto & Verschuere, 2000), illustrating how politicians strategically convey meanings within political discourse, thus underscoring the relevance of forensic linguistics in uncovering nuanced layers of meaning embedded within communication (Song, 2010; Suryadi & Muslim, 2019).

5. Implications for Educational Practice

The results of this study have important implications for educational practices, especially in the areas of communication research and linguistics. By including the study of political speech and forensic linguistics in school programs, students can gain a better grasp of the intricacies of language in politics. This method improves students' critical thinking and analytical abilities while also providing them with the resources to participate effectively in political conversations and analyze the persuasive strategies used by politicians. Also, instructors can utilize real-life instances from political speeches and campaigns to explain theoretical ideas and encourage a more practical comprehension of communication theories. Incorporating political discourse analysis and forensic linguistics in education

helps students develop critical thinking skills necessary for understanding modern political communication, enabling them to make informed decisions as citizens.

6. Conclusion

As college professors teaching English language and literature courses, using forensic linguistics to investigate political discourse analysis provides a fascinating and enlightening experience. This research reveals the complex relationships that exist between language, power, and persuasion in political contexts and offers insightful lessons in textual analysis and critical thinking. We may better grasp the language techniques used in political communication by interacting with real-world samples of speeches made by politicians in the Philippines regarding People's Initiatives. This also gives students the tools they need to participate with and critically assess the socio-political environment. Let us encourage our students to become knowledgeable and engaged citizens as we continue to negotiate the complexity of language and politics. They will then possess the linguistic and analytical skills necessary to understand and influence the discourse of our democracy.

7. Implications for Further Research

The results of this study propose various paths for additional research in the fields of political discourse analysis and forensic linguistics. Future studies may investigate using different theoretical frameworks or methodologies to analyze political communication in various cultural or socio-political contexts, which would improve our comprehension of language nuances in diverse environments. Moreover, longitudinal research could monitor the development of political communication over a while, observing how language tactics and persuasive methods change following shifting political environments and technological advances. Additionally, comparative research could analyze variations in political communication among various political structures or between traditional and social media outlets, providing insight into how these factors influence the shaping of public opinion and involvement in politics. In general, more studies in this field could enhance our understanding of the intricacies of political communication and help develop tactics for successful civic involvement and democratic leadership.

Conflict of Interest Statement

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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