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Donald Trump's Tweets on the Border Wall: A Critical Discourse Analysis

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Dedication

I dedicate this research to my family for nursing me with affection and love and dedicate their partnership for success in my life.

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Abstract

Donald Trump's use of Twitter was primarily to present his political agenda to the public. His project to build a wall on the southern borders was the most prominent twitterized proposal during and even after Trump's presidential campaign in 2016. This research aims at analyzing Trump's Twitter discourse. It critically attempts to reveal the incentives behind Trump's strategic tweeting on the issue of the border wall. A corpus of forty (40) tweets posted by President Trump between Dec 12th ,2018 and Mar 17th ,2019 on his official Twitter account (@realDonaldTrump) has been compiled to be studied with the use critical discourse analysis approach. The textual analysis checks the language used in terms of vocabulary and syntax, and the critical analysis detects elements of framing, ideology and racial discourse. The findings have shown that hostility and persecution towards Mexican people incentivized Trumpism to shape an ideology of a needed factor. Besides, platformed racism was identified through Trump's provocative practices.

Keywords: Donald J. Trump, Critical Discourse Analysis, Twitter, Border Wall, Trumpism.

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General Introduction

Throughout the last few decades in the American history, politicians and presidents have embraced all the new advances and innovations in technology. Presidents have increased their abilities and ways of addressing the public through the radio then television. They, hence, could address their nations directly. However, the rhetoric of their information and language needed to change as an accommodation strategy with the rise of understanding levels of the public. Recently, communications between presidents and American citizens as well as all nations have become direct.

Presidential campaigns in the U.S. since 2008 have witnessed the influential social media revolution in the way politicians communicate with their supporters and opponents. The overuse of social media has been a notable characteristic in the 2016 U.S. presidential campaign and even afterwards. The forty-fifth President of the U.S., Donald J. Trump, has taken the use of social media to a more personal level namely on the platform of Twitter. Trump's pledge to build a wall on the southern borders was his major proposal during the presidential campaign. Trump justifications for wall are centered on stopping once and forever the illegal migration. Since taking office in 2017, Americans and the world's eyes were kept on Trump's campaign promises, Trump's tweets have later concerned more and more politicians, news agencies and the public.

This dissertation aims at critically analyzing the border wall discourse on Twitter. It attempts to reveal the incentives behind Trump's strategic tweeting on the issue of the border. To achieve the study aims, the researcher raises the following questions:

- How does Donald J. Trump maintain and express his political power on Twitter?

- To what extent could Trump's discourse strategies about the necessity of building the border wall represent the power of his political agenda?

The researcher hypothesizes that:

- Trump uses Twitter platform to build an agenda for his plans and to impose his proposal of the Border Wall as a necessity.
- Trump's discursive practices tend to be performed on a racial platform as an implemented ideology of a needed factor, yet they demean his position as an institution of presidency.

In order to test the research hypotheses and analyze Trump's Twitter discourse, a corpus of forty (40) tweets posted by President Trump between Dec 12th, 2018 and Mar 17th, 2019 on his official Twitter account (@realDonaldTrump) has been compiled to be textually and critically analyzed.

This dissertation consists of three chapters. The first chapter is devoted to the theoretical framework that presents the scope of the study. It provides an overview about Critical Discourse Analysis, its background and major approaches. The second chapter is devoted to the methodological description of the participant, the context, the corpus, and the framework of the analysis. The last chapter analyzes Trump's tweets textually and critically. It also discusses the major findings of the study.

CHAPTER ONE

CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

Introduction

Several approaches of language descriptions have been developed in the late twentieth century. The diversity of linguistic discourses, depending on their nature and use, helped to spread some approaches, with different aims accordingly, to shed light on the aspects of each discourse practice. As far as the study is concerned, the political discourse has been the main interest of ‘Critical Discourse Analysis’. This chapter introduces the theoretical framework of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). It opens with defining discourse, Discourse Analysis (DA) and CDA. It, further, presents the aims, principles and major approaches of CDA. The chapter closes with a brief overview about the political discourse.

1. Discourse, DA and CDA

To simplify how CDA operates, it is important to provide some relevant definitions and historical background of the discipline. The necessity of defining particular terms like ‘discourse and ‘discourse analysis’ is but an attempt of simplification.

1.1. Discourse

Wodak(2009) states that 'discourse' is used “in a variety of humanities and social science disciplines, including the applied branches of linguistics" and that led to "considerable semantic fuzziness and terminological flexibility” (p.7). Moreover, it is conceptualized by Widdowson (1995) as “extremely fashionable and at the same time extremely uncertain: widespread but spread very thin” (p. 159); that is to say, it is not simple to define what discourse is. Significantly, Blommaert(2005) defines discourse as “language in action” (p.2) because it forms objects, and produces a particular version of events.

Many scholars and linguists that work in the fields of language and social sciences have been concerned in the study of discourse. The term discourse refers to any form of language use in the society (Van Dijk, 1997; Fairclough, 1993). It may also denote different meanings to different people. Yet, it technically refers to the exchange of linguistic sentences or utterances between the speaker and the hearer, or the writer and the reader. Van Dijk (1997, p. 2) defines discourse as “the use that people make of language to convey ideas, thoughts, or beliefs within a social context.” Broadly, ‘discourse’ has been defined either as an effective and influential element in the society for that it causes changes and constructs events or as a way of interpreting the world and giving it a meaning.

1.2. Discourse Analysis (DA)

The term ‘discourse analysis was first used by Harris (1952) to describe language beyond the sentence. He views discourse as formal regularities across sentences in combination. Despite the relation of discourse to language in use, Harris (1952) was interested only in language, ignoring the context. Furthermore, Stubbs (1983) introduces discourse analysis as studying “the organization of language above the sentence, or above the clause, and therefore to study larger linguistic units, such as conversational exchanges or written texts” (p.2).

The notion of DA has attracted many scholars. It differs from the notion of discourse in what Jorgensen & Phillips (2011) provided. On the one hand, Jorgensen & Phillips said that the commonsense definition of discourse is the verbal interchange of ideas, especially conversations. It is based on different contexts such as medical and political discourses. On the other hand, they defined DA as the analysis of language beyond the sentence or utterance. For sociolinguists, DA is primarily used as tool for studying how norms and rules of talk in a particular community are

used and matched with different conversational and institutional contexts, in order to describe and explain the meanings in a social interaction.

Initially, DA highlighted language use. In this respect, Fitch (2005) argues that discourse analysis in its early stages was interested in the text's internal structure. However, Fairclough and Wodak (1997) view discourse as a social practice and highlight the dialectical relationship between language and society, and so discourse is seen as "socially constitutive as well as socially conditioned" (p. 258).

1.3. Critical Discourse Analysis

An area of language study rapidly started developing, in the late 1970s. This area regards discourse as "a form as social practice" (Fairclough & Wodak, 1997, p.258). It is named Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) as it takes consideration of the context of language use to be crucial to discourse; moreover, it takes an interest in the relation between language and power (Wodak, 2001). Also, Coffin (2001, p.99) defined CDA as "an approach to language analysis which concerns itself with issues of language, power, and ideology". It is also well appropriate here to consider Van Dijk's definition (2001):

Critical discourse analysis (CDA) is a type of discourse analytical research that primarily studies the way social power abuse, dominance, and inequality are enacted, reproduced, and resisted by text and talk in the social and political context. With such dissident research, critical discourse analysts take an explicit position and thus want to understand, expose, and ultimately resist social inequality. (p.352)

CDA was introduced by Roger Fowler, Gunther Kress, Bob Hodge, and Tony Trew in their book 'Language and Control' (1979), and later developed by Norman Fairclough (1989) in the UK, Ruth Wodak (1989) in Austria, and Van Dijk (1993) in the Netherlands. Wodak (2010) talked about CDA stating that:

CDA can be defined as a problem-orientated interdisciplinary research program, subsuming a variety of approaches, each with different theoretical models, research methods, and agendas. What unites all approaches is a shared interest in the semiotic dimensions of power, injustice, and political-economic, social, or cultural change in society.(p.302)

What Wodak stated shows the concern of CDA with social problems, not necessarily with language or language use, but rather with the linguistic character of social and cultural processes, identities, powers, and structures. Similarly, Meyer et al (2000, p.146) considered CDA as interdisciplinary, that is to say, involving different areas and approaches.

In addition, in order to reveal all about an ideology that a discourse underlies, CDA is the right choice since it is like performing an autopsy to the discourse, be it spoken or written(Rashidi & Souzandehfar, 2010, p.55). As an important branch of DA, CDA focuses on talking ways in relation to thinking ways, and highlights "the traces of cultural and ideological meaning in spoken and written texts" (O'Halloran, 2005, p.1946). Also, for Fairclough (2003, p.24), social events, represented in texts, social practices, represented in discourse orders, and social structures, represented in languages, all realize the dialectic nature of the language-society relation.

However, as far as discourse is embedded within socio-political and socio-cultural contexts, a larger number of such contexts is included in CDA. Hence, the linguistic analysis' fieldwork is broadened by CDA. Further, the macro-analysis stages deal with naturalized discourse, from being common sense and acceptable to the deep process of making the ideological bases of the discourse clearer (Fairclough, 1995). Indeed, politics is the most fitting social field that invites CDA to do its job. Ideological fights are demonstrated in parliaments, political debates, and presidential campaigns. That is expected since, as Van Dijk (2004, p.11) claims, "it is eminently here that different and opposed groups, power, struggle, and interests are at stake. In order to be able to compete, political groups need to be ideologically conscious and organized."

The ability to interpret discourses in context as well as to explain how and why they work in particular ways is what makes CDA different from other fields of DA. Much attention is given to social, cultural, historical and political contexts by critical analysts because powerful texts emerge in those contexts. In this regard, discourse can be critical and non-critical. The former concept differs from the latter in that it intends to explain and interpret events rather than describing them. (Fairclough, 1992)

1.3.1. Why Critical?

Mangueneau (2006) explains that DA simply describes the structures of texts while CDA involves connecting discourse and social structures. Therefore, the first type represents the traditional structural linguistics, whilst the second forms a movement toward critical linguistics. Thus, as a way to show implied and hidden relations of power, the term 'critical' is used. Van Dijk (1995) considers these power relations as racism, inequality.

Van Dijk (2001) states that CDA is critical because it is “discourse analysis with an attitude” (p.96). That is, CDA is concerned with issues like unequal access to power and prejudice as social wrongs that have discursive consequences. Therefore, CDA is critical because it highlights how dominance operates in a specific society, examines how such dominance is made and then criticizes any relevant behaviors and agenda that are implicit in the communicative situations. (Riasati & Rahimi, 2011)

However, Mratin (2004) viewed the CDA's critical aspect differently. The latter opines that being critical means the concentration on negative qualities of a text or a talk as he suggests that positive or transformative uses should be taken into account. As for Kendall (2007), the critical aspect means “not taking things for granted... does not imply the common sense meaning of being negative rather skeptical” (p.3). In this respect, CDA is critical in the way it draws people’s attention to power, inequality, domination in order to raise their awareness of powerful forms and ideologies presented in media. That is, CDA tends to interpret and explain the way that ideology functions through language.

1.3.2. The Emergence of CDA

Critical discourse analysis (CDA) has grown rapidly over the last decade of the 20th century as a continuation of critical linguistics that appeared in the 1970s (Manjarrés, 2007). Therefore, it is a relatively new area developed in language study. However, the main critiques related to language, power, and ideology have already been existing even before the Second World War. In this respect, it is necessary to highlight the contribution of the Frankfurt School to the emergence of the Critical Theory.

1.3.3. The Frankfurt School

Following the tradition of Western Marxism to explain the failure of revolutionary movements in Europe was the interest of 'Frankfurt School'. It is a philosophical and sociological movement spread across many universities around the world. Originally located at the Institute for Social Research at the Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany, it was founded in 1923 aiming at developing Marxist studies in Germany. After 1933, the Nazis forced its closure, and the Institute was moved to the United States where it found hospitality at Columbia University in New York City. (Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy)

Wodak and Meyer (2016) related the perspective and program of CDA to the work of some critical linguists. They said that CDA's aspects can be traced to the influence of the Frankfurt School and Jürgen Habermas, adding that:

“The ‘Critical Theory’ in the sense of the Frankfurt School, mainly based on the famous essay of Max Horkheimer in 1937, means that social theory should be oriented towards critiquing and changing society as a whole, in contrast to traditional theory oriented solely to understanding or explaining it.” (p.6)

Wodak and Meyer's history of CDA shows that a theory of Frankfurt School was directed at the society's totality as it worked to integrate sciences like history and anthropology and politics. That is how the Critical Theory started.

1.3.4. Power and Ideology

The term "ideology" has a direct link with political issue as it represents a set of beliefs or principles, one on which a political system, party or organization is based. Scholars in the field of language, however, often tend to extend the concept of ideology beyond the political area and

define it in a rather politically neutralized sense as "a set of ideas, which organize our lives and help us understand the relation to our environment" (Calzada-Pérez,2003, p.5).

Van Dijk (2002) defined ideology as a system of beliefs, that he named "social representations", shared by members of a certain social group. To him, this group shares the same attitudes or knowledge He claimed: "ideologies are the organizing, basic beliefs of these social representations" (p.17), The traditions, norms, principles, and social values are the common cultural ground that the members of any society have. Those grounds are the basis for all cognition within the same group or between different groups and thus is also presupposed by different ideologies.

Norms like freedom, equality, justice or objectivity are the general norms that represent the basic structure of ideologies. Thus, those norms and values are organized by the society members as their ideology. Fairclough (1992) said that "ideologies built into conventions may be more or less naturalized and automatized"(p.90). Ideologies, to him, are inherited in the unconscious side of our personalities. Therefore, one may response in an automated reaction. For that, it is sometimes proved that one may not identify the influence of their ideology on them.

CDA is the right choice to reveal all about an ideology that a discourse underlies since it is like performing an autopsy to the discourse, be it spoken or written(Rashidi &Souzandehfar,2010, p.55). Moreover, Fairclough (2003) highlights that social events, represented in texts, social practices, represented in discourse orders, and social structures, represented in languages, all realize the dialectic nature of the language-society relation, and there is where power operates (p.24).

CDA is an appropriate method and powerful device for deconstructing texts and speeches to come up with the intended ideologies. CDA, according to Thompson (1988), has become an approach that aims to enhance understanding social structure, power, gender, identity, ideologies that are activated, maintained, confirmed, legitimated and challenged in the discourse(p.71). The critical impetus of CDA regularly aims at checking power structures and unveiling ideologies. (Wodak and Meyer, 2016, p.8)

2. Approaches to CDA

This section presents the three major directions or methods of analyzing communicative events within the framework of CDA. namely, Van Dijk's cognitive-discourse approach (1997), Wodak's discourse historical approach (2001), and Fairclough's social discourse approach (1995).

2.1 Teun Van Dijk's Socio-cognitive Model

Van Dijk's approach (2001) has three parts: social analysis concerned with the examination of context or what is referred to as the "overall societal structures"; discourse analysis concerned with the text itself (its syntax, lexicon, local semantics, topics schematic structures, etc.); and cognitive analysis which actually makes his approach different from others in the field of CDA. Van Dijk (2001) believes that socio-cognition (social cognition and personal cognition) connects between society and discourse i.e. it serves as mediator. Van Dijk defines social cognition as "the system of mental representations and processes of group members" (Sheyholislami, 2001, p.4). It is worthy to know that „mental representations“ are often related to the “US versus THEM” relations where the discourse includes positive self-representation and negative other-representation. (Van Dijk, 2001)

2.2 Ruth Wodak's Sociological and Historical Approach

At the Vienna School of Critical Discourse Analysis, Wodak along with her colleagues made diverse studies in different institutional settings including courtrooms, schools, and hospitals to analyze the institutional relations and discourse barriers. They carried out a research on various social issues of which we mention sexism, and racism. The latter led to the rise of an approach labeled "Discourse Historical Method" in 1990 (Sheyholisami, 2001). This approach showed that historical background information influences the structure, function and context of the utterances. Indeed, Wodak and Ludwig (1999) see that both language and social processes influence each other. Consequently, this led to the distinction of three main characteristics of discourse. The first is that discourse reflects always power and ideologies. The second is that discourse is historically connected to current or previous events. The third is that the interpretation of discourse depends on "positions, respective context and levels of information" of the interpreter or analyst. (Sheyholisami, 2001, pp.12-13)

2.3 Norman Fairclough's Social Theory of Discourse

The third main approach, on which, in fact, this study will focus, is elaborated by Fairclough, another influential figure of CDA. His study was influenced by many former theorists such as Halliday with his Systemic-Functional Grammar (SFG), Foucault, Gramsci, Habermas, and many others. Fairclough claims that the main aim of his work (early called Critical Language Study -CLS-) is to raise awareness to the dominance of one group of people over another group through language use (Sheyholisami, 2001, p.3).

Fairclough (2001) believes that language is a crucial part of the social life, and the relation between language and society is a dialectical one (language is influenced by society, and

society is shaped by language). This dialectical relation, in fact, is realized by the presence of three main factors: social events (texts), social practices (orders of discourse) and social structures (languages). Greatly inspired by Foucault's ideas, Fairclough (2001) defines the relationship between power and language (social power and ideology). For him, the way people produce and interpret language is ultimately affected and controlled by power. As an evidence for that, he claims that the way people produce and interpret language is affected by their experiences of the world, and experiences are affected by social organization, which, in turn, is affected and controlled by power (p.21).

Conclusion

The present chapter has presented the discipline of CDA. Starting by defining the notion of discourse, moving to the discipline of discourse analysis, the chapter introduced smoothly the linguistic and historical development of CDA. It has been necessary to mention how such linguistic tool is used in research and textual studies. For that, presenting the three main models of CDA in the world has been important for the reader to have an idea on how linguists conceptualize CDA. The researcher closes with a review of Fairclough's model of CDA which is used in the present study as an approach to analyze data. Fairclough's three-dimensional model will be explained in the following chapter where methods and tools will be presented in details.

CHAPTER TWO

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Introduction

This chapter is the door to the analysis part. It includes descriptions of the corpus to be analyzed, the orator, Donald Trump, and how the CDA proceeds. As mentioned earlier, the study attempts to critically investigate Trump's discursive practices on Twitter regarding his proposal of the Border Wall with Mexico. The CDA approach is adopted for the textual and critical analyses of Trumps' tweets on the issue. In this respect, it is necessary to introduce the context of the discourse, which is the social network site of Twitter. After introducing the context, a brief biography of Trump is provided. It is followed by a description of the corpus and the process of analysis.

1. Contextual Components

This section is dedicated to briefly introduce the target participant (Donald J. Trump), present the social groups (parties and Mexicans), and describe the social media platform (Twitter).

1.1 Donald J. Trump

Donald John Trump was born on June 14, 1946, and raised in New York. He had a degree in economics from the Wharton School. He became in charge of his family's company in 1971 and named it The Trump Organization. He licensed his name for real estate and products. Also, he wrote and co-wrote some books and hosted a TV show known as "The Apprentice" from 2003 to 2015. Entering the race of the 2016 presidential as a Republican made Trump the defeater of sixteen opponents in the primaries. His views pushed commentators to describe him as populist, protectionist, and nationalist.

Trumps' activities on social media have drawn attention to the public as well as politicians. In this regard, the following part aims at revealing how Trumps makes use of social media in his campaign as a source of free connection with the public. Namely, Twitter has been the used platform, as it is the concern of the present study.

1.2 Parties

Among the social groups that are tackled in Trump's discourse and that are the concern of the present study, we mention the Republican Party, the Democratic Party, and the Mexican nation. The Republican Party is the historic enemy of the Democratic Party in the U.S. history. It is known as the Grand Old Party (GOP) and it started in 1854 against slavery and for economic reforms. The first Republican president was Abraham Lincoln. The Democratic Party is traced back to Thomas Jefferson in 1826. It is characterized by social conservatism and economic liberalism.

1.3 Mexico

Mexico is the biggest southern part of North American. Its position as bordered by the U.S. from the northern side makes it in a very sensitive and important geographical space. The Mexican nation is ethnically diverse for that the land was invaded by various groups. The international borders that separate the U.S. and Mexico from the Pacific Ocean in the west to the Gulf of Mexico in the east. Through terrains, urban areas and deserts, millions of people cross the border frequently per year. The conflict between both countries nowadays is known as the border wall issue.

1.4 Twitter

One of the most common social network sites is Twitter. It was created in 2006 by Noah Glass, Jack Dorsey and Florian Weber. Their initiative aimed at realizing the idea of forwarding texts from one number to another (Business Insider 2011). Nowadays, Twitter has over 330 million users (Statista 2017). Users of Twitter write no more than 140-character texts (posts that are known as tweets). Activities on Twitter can be considered as microblogging. The SMS length (that was 160-character) has been mimicked.

Popularity of Twitter, thus, was due to such limitation in posts. Usually, that made people think well of what to say, and the tweets became microposts that most of the time are funny or smart (Piskar, 2018, p.6). However, the tweet-limit was differently considered a cramming because in languages like Korean or Japanese, one character may convey more details than one character in English or French. As a solution, Twitter announced that the character limit will be doubled to 280 characters (Twitter Blog, 2017). Eventually, people increased their engagement in tweeting though the average tweet length has not changed.

Retweets, indeed, are also ways of expressing on Twitter. That is, reposting someone's tweet represents sharing their ideas, adding to or standing against them as it is a fast way to inform followers with news. The latter have found Twitter as the best and quickest to be reported. By virtue of its ability to react as fast as the events happen, Twitter has become a source of news. Gallup (2017) made a poll that revealed the decrease of Americans' interest and confidence in newspapers and TV. Alternatively, new and many sources of information have been used freely by individuals, and Twitter is one of them.

Twitter's real-time updates and hashtags contribute to the content selection and identification. In addition, the reactions of ordinary people to celebrities and presidents give much impact on the use of Twitter. In the U.S., for instance, Twitter has been actively used by Americans in the presidential campaigns and elections in 2008, and more actively in the last presidential elections of 2016. Candidates, parties' leaders and members, representatives and other political figures have their real-time interactions with one another on Twitter. Subsequently, Americans react to the tweets and retweets and make debates directly through posting and throwing hashtags. (The Verge 2018)

Unlike previous presidents and election candidates, Donald Trump, in order to personally communicate with Americans, started using social media. As a factor of success, using social media would contribute to supporting nominees. Indeed, during his presidential campaign, Trump freely posted to maintain connections with supporters. That was a free publicity to his account, and attention was drawn to him by opponents and all citizens. Publicity went over that to television and newspapers.

It is impossible to limit the reasons of Trump's victory to the one platform of his online actions. Indeed, Trump's campaign on Twitter does not play the sole role of his success; however, he could dominate such social media platform. Subsequently, Twitter projected Trump's persona as well as his ideological views. Public discussion had been extensively generated because of the controversial tweets that Trump kept on sharing. Meanwhile, such discussion drew much attention to him. After all, his tweets started to change the way people think about political conflicts. (Johnson, 2016, p.79)

Trump's use of Twitter continuously attracts the public. His attacks on individuals or media outraged news agencies and international organizations. Despite all that, Trump's proposal

to build a wall on the southern borders with Mexico has been the living Twitter agenda since the beginning of his campaign. His tweets on the issue are raw data for linguistic and critical investigations. In this respect, the following part of the study tends to provide a description of the tweets under investigation.

2. The Corpus under Investigation

The corpus of the study is called Donald Trump Corpus (DTC). It consists of forty (40) tweets (excluding retweets) taken as they are posted on the official and personal Twitter account of President Trump (@realDonaldTrump). In order to avoid the inclusion of tweets on other American or international issues, the collection of data required the existence of the items: “wall” or “border” in the tweets. The total number of tweets are posted between Dec 12th 2018 and Mar 17th 2019. (see Appendix)

3. Contextual Analysis

The CDA of DTC is conducted through the analysis of text and its social and cultural dimensions. For that, the analysis of DTC is processed on two major steps, the textual analysis and the critical analysis.

3.1 Textual Analysis

The textual analysis starts with presenting lexicalization and vocabulary in DTC. As lexis is the major dimension that creates discourse meaning, it can also be controlled by ideologies through diction, register, and frequency that altogether stress certain features and conceal others. In this respect, it is necessary to mention that the researcher makes use of the online toolkit WordCounter in order to measure the frequency of words and collocations in DTC.

Syntax is a key element in the texts to be analyzed. After checking the vocabulary in DTC, the researcher provides some illustrations on the pronouns, agents, and models that Trump uses in his discourse. The study of pronouns contributes to labeling the speakers as either inclusive, exclusive or neutral because they reflect nouns and humans. (Fairclough, 2003, p.182)

In the textual analysis, it is necessary to analyze how Trump uses agents (and namely human agents) and passive forms. According to Fairclough (2003), agency can be exemplified in a discourse in different ways. For instance, nominalization is a way of agent-elision. That is, when the orator or the author writes an action in a form of noun, there is a kind of action-decreasing. Fairclough (2003) adds that passive verbs and passive adjectives can be a tactic of discursive agency. (p.13)

The need to check agency in DTC is for the purpose of investigating the social effects of Trump's tweets. Fairclough (2003) considers the urge to analyze well how human agents are put or elided discursively. He adds that responsibility for processes is also in question when it comes to agency discourse. (p.13)

Moreover, modality is also stressed by Fairclough (2003) as one major linguistic configuration that the analyzer of a discourse should check. The matters of modality are aspects of text identification when speakers or writers commit themselves to truth, negation, obligation, potentials, and recommendations. Such items can identify the participant in the discursive event and contribute to their identity's constitution. (p17)

Fairclough (2003) states: "the question of modality can be seen as the question of what people commit themselves to when they make Statements, ask questions, make demands or offers" (p.165) Even though modality can associate with styles, it occurs in identifying genres

and discourses. The need to check modality in DTC is justified by its contribution to the styles and discourses that Trump makes on various occasions. Commitments that Trump makes in his tweets can be identified by the modal verbs he uses.

3.2 Critical Analysis

This step of analysis questions the incentives behind the way Trump structures his discourse. There are several elements that can be tackled in relation to Trump's discursive practices; however, only four discourse elements will be the center of the present study: framing, ideological conflict, racism, and media.

The issue of framing, as Fairclough (2003) claims, represents voices that are "incorporated into a text" (p.53). Thus, the choices that contribute to framing an idea, a person, a social group do contextualize themselves in the discourse. Throughout DTC, some illustrations of how Trump frames his party, his opponents and other social groups will be highlighted.

Political views are associated with ideologies be it by individuals or groups. Since ideology comprises the beliefs, ideas, and assumptions that can be regarded as belonging to and representing particular discourse (Fairclough, 2003), it is necessary to check how Trump's discourse is empowered by certain ideologies. Further, the critical analysis sheds light on racist discourse of Trump and platformed racism (Twitter). It also emphasizes the power of media and how Trump uses it, considers it and perceives it. Finally, the critical analysis aims at showing the power in Trump's tweets that concerns his beliefs about the border wall and his ways of committing to build the wall despite the ideological conflicts he encounters.

Conclusion

The chapter at hand has provided overall descriptions of the participant (Donald Trump), the context (Twitter), and the corpus (tweets). As the approach of analysis has been already dealt with in the first chapter (CDA), the second chapter has provided how the analysis will proceed. The following chapter is the field work that opens with analyzing the text (tweets). The critical analysis tends to uncover Trump's discursive strategies and practices.

CHAPTER THREE

DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

Introduction

This chapter is devoted to the analysis of the gathered data related to Donald Trump's talks about Mexico Border Wall. The analysis starts by describing the language of Trump in the selected corpus (DTC). As qualitatively and quantitatively conducted, some instances are provided in terms of vocabulary and grammar. After the textual analysis, other aspects like framing, ideological representations and socio-cultural analysis will be provided. The chapter closes with citing the findings with brief discussions.

1. Data Analysis

1.1. Textual Analysis

In this part, the elements under scrutiny are illustrated in two major textual analysis categories. The first is vocabulary and the second is syntax.

1.1.1 Vocabulary

Depending on WordCounter statistics, DTC has been processed to check some information about the text in general, frequency of keywords and the main collocations. The table below shows the major statistics of DTC.

Words:	1,658	Reading Level:	11-12 th Grade
Characters:	9,523	Average Word Length:	4.8
Sentences:	114	Average Sentence (Words):	15
Average Characters:	238	Average Words per Tweet	41.375

Table 1. Details of DTC on WordCounter

The number of words is expected when it comes to tweets. As no more than 280 characters (words, symbols and spaces) can be written in on tweet, the average number of characters per tweet (9,523/40) is 238. So, the average number of words on one tweet is 41. Sentences are usually long because the average sentence has 15 words. The reading level does not reflect the writing level; however, WordCounter's assumption is that the higher reading level is, the higher rank writing has. This level as shown would give an indicator of the education level a person would need to have in order to understand the text of the corpus. 11th to 12th grade means that Trump's language is at high rank of writing level.

One-word Items	Frequency	Two-word Items	Frequency
1. Wall	45(7%)	1. Border security	13 (4%)
2. Border	34 (5%)	2. Security wall	7 (2%)
3. Security	20 (3%)	3. Being built	7 (2%)
4. Crime	12 (2%)	4. Under construction	5 (1%)
5. Built	12 (2%)	5. Powerful wall	4 (1%)
6. Country	12 (2%)	6. humanitarian crisis	4 (1%)
7. Drugs	10 (1%)	7. Fake news	3 (1%)
8. Great	8 (1%)	8. Crime drugs	3 (1%)
9. Mexico	7 (1%)	9. National security	3 (1%)
10. Construction	7 (1%)	10. Desperately needed	3 (1%)

Table 2. Keywords and Collocations Density in DTC

As Table 2 shows, the most frequent ten words and ten two-word collocations are extracted. The frequency of words helps readers and analysts prove the use by an orator or writer

of certain linguistic items. For instance, because DTC includes only tweets related to the Border Wall issue, we find words like ‘wall’, ‘border’ and ‘security’ as the most mentioned words. However, the co-existence of ‘crime’, ‘drugs’ and ‘construction’ represent the urgency of building the wall. In addition, Trump collocates the ‘wall’ or ‘border’ to ‘security’ more often.

1.1.2 Syntax

Pronouns

Trump makes use of the pronouns “we” and “our” more than others as shown in the table below:

Personal Pronouns	Frequency	Possessive Pronouns	Frequency
I	10 (4%)	My	2 (1%)
We	20 (8%)	Our	23 (9%)
They	13 (5%)	Their	5 (2%)

Table 3. Pronouns in DTC

As to refer to himself, he uses “I” and “my” mostly when promoting economic issues and enhancement of the country. The use of “we” and “they” reflects political and social groups (Americans / non-Americans, and Republicans / Democrats) and that will be discussed later in framing. Besides, through the use of such pronouns more often shows how Trump does not want to hold himself as responsible. Rather, he wants others to be engaged or involved (citizens and immigrants).

Modality

The table below show the used modal verbs in DTC.

Modals	Frequency	Modals	Frequency
Will	17 (7%)	Will not / Won't / Will never	1 (1%)
Would	5 (2%)	Cannot / Can't / Can never	4 (2%)
Can	2 (1%)	Must	2(1%)

Table 4. Modality in DTC

As a president, trump seems to involve more responsibilities in his discourses and this is carried out with the help of modals that indicate certainty like 'will'. For that, the latter has been frequently used in DTC. Moreover, 'would' have been used for expectations and supposition. Noticeably, Trump used probability in different negative forms (cannot).

Agency

The table below shows instances of passive forms in DTC.

Passive Forms	Agent	Tweet(s)
"Four people in Nevada viciously <u>robbed</u> and <u>killed</u> "	"by an illegal immigrant"	06
"26 people <u>killed</u> on the Border"	(drug related fight)	06
"people who <u>were getting</u> badly <u>hurt</u> "	"by the Shutdown"	12
"Large sections of WALL <u>have already been built</u> ... The Wall <u>is getting done</u> one way or the other!"	(Not mentioned)	19
"the Wall <u>is being built!</u> "/ "it is being built"	(Not mentioned)	20,22,23,32,35
"Drugs, Gangs and Human Trafficking <u>must be stopped!</u> "	(Not mentioned)	28

Table 5. Passive Forms in DTC

From table 3, we notice that Trump mostly uses pronouns like ‘we’ and ‘our’ and declares the subject (or agent). For that, DTC does not include much passive forms. However, the instances in the table above represents the cases where Trump uses the passive form. Whenever Trump mentions the ‘wall’ or ‘border’, it is associated with inactive forms. As shown in the table above, Trump keeps reminding that the wall is being built. As the wall is more important to him and to Americans. Yet, he mentions agents (non-Americans) who cause crimes and crises (as in tweets 6 and 28). Because the wall construction is still debated and in progress, it is also noticed that Trump makes use of present continuous tense more often as in “is being built” (tweet 22), “are being uniformly praised” (tweet 40), “Our Country is being invaded” (tweet 30) and “illegals are being apprehended” (tweet 33). Hence, Trumps’ syntactic structures appear to be focusing more on the factor (the wall) than on consequences.

1.2. Critical Analysis

1.2.1. Framing

Framing in DTC is apparent in political parties and nationalism.

Tweet 1 *The Democrats and President Obama gave Iran 150 Billion Dollars and got nothing, but they can't give 5 Billion Dollars for National Security and a Wall?*

It is obvious how Trump blames the Democrats for not supporting the Wall construction. In tweet 1, he puts the logic of a logos as to convince Americans that the Wall is not economically costing as Democrats paid billions of dollars to Iran but cannot support what is less costly. He used ‘National Security’ to gain the nation’s interest. Their rejection is described negatively by Trump as in ‘**Democrat Obstruction**’ (tweet 32), ‘**Democrats are kidding themselves**’ (tweet 07) and ‘the **Radical Democrats** are a Party of **open borders** and **crime**’

(tweet 04). Funding, apparently, would run out again and the talks between Democrats and Republicans would be in crisis.

However, Trump puts Republicans in frames, which are of other positive quality. That is, when he mentions Republicans, he uses ‘**so united**’ (tweet 09), he thanks and praises them (tweets 23 and 40), describes them as ‘**Strong Republicans**’ (tweet 38) and ‘**Great Republicans**’ (tweet 29). Despite the minority of Republicans against Trump’s Wall, he keeps putting all Republicans on the same track. Trump tweets:

Tweet 17 *If the committee of **Republicans** and **Democrats** now meeting on **Border Security** is not **discussing** or **contemplating** a **Wall** or **Physical Barrier**, they are **Wasting** their time!*

By concluding that discussions between Democrats and Republicans on that issue are in vain, Trump shows that all Republicans’ votes are for his Wall not against. Moreover, he shows confidence in his party and the courage of its members when saying ‘**Republican** Senators have a **very easy vote** this week’ (tweet 36).

Apart from his internal opposers, Trump frames illegal immigrants, particularly those coming from Mexico, through describing them as ‘gangs’ and ‘criminals’ as well as relating ‘drugs’ and ‘human trafficking’ to them. The theme that Trumps initiated in capitals ‘**BUILD THE WALL AND CRIME WILL FALL**’ (tweets 10,11,13) has become a common hashtag on twitter. For its parallelistic structure, it brings the need for the wall to the fore as an urgent necessity for the nation. Along with reporting numbers of killed or robbed people (as in tweet 06), Trump keeps mirroring the impacts that those immigrants would make on American security.

1.2.2 Ideological Conflict

Indeed, the Border Wall has cons and pros. The only woman to have served as speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives starting from 2019 is Nancy Pelosi. She stood firm against the Government Shutdown and said that Democrats will never vote for the wall (Golshan 2019). For that, Trump replies:

Tweet 5 If Nancy Pelosi thinks that Walls are “immoral,” why isn’t she requesting that we take down all of the existing Walls between the U.S. and Mexico, even the new ones just built in San Diego at their very strong urging. Let millions of unchecked “strangers” just flow into the U.S.

Although she did not say that Democrats will forever oppose funding physical barriers, Pelosi, as Golshan (2019) says, would support it if it “makes sense.”. Her tweet (Figure 1.) pushed Trump to re-coin some of her words as ‘immoral’ and ‘strangers’ who are numbered as ‘millions’ in Trump’s words.

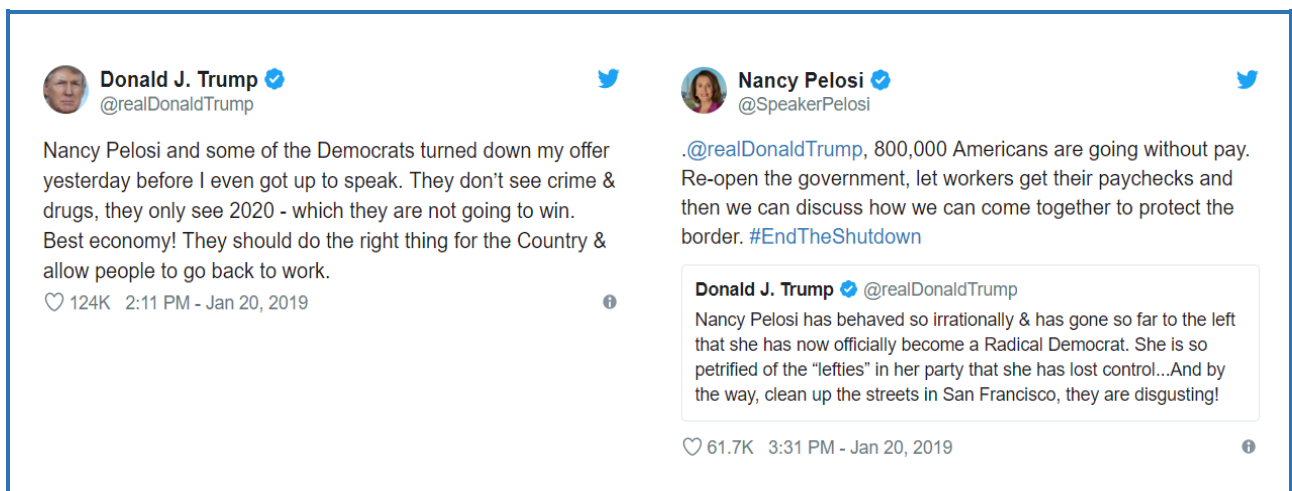


Figure 1. Trump and Pelosi’s Tweetstorm on Jan 20, 2019

Trump and Pelosi were in a ‘Sunday tweetstorm’ (Smith 2019). Trump’s tweet shows his threat to increase deportations of undocumented immigrants defending his proposal to end the

partial government shutdown (which is the longest in U.S history).As Trump made the State of the Union speech on Feb 6th 2019, Pelosi reacted with claps that politicians describe as ‘ironic’, and made noisy comments on social media. What is noteworthy in this conflict is the way Donald Trump depends on the discourse of ‘security’ versus ‘crime’, reminding politicians, parties’ members and all Americans that the wall issue was in his campaign and it has become a national security issue.

1.2.3. Racism and Trumpism

Throughout the words that Trump uses to describe Mexicans, Mexico is a pathetic, dark and inept land. The recurrences of terms like ‘drugs’, ‘human trafficking’, ‘crimes’, and ‘gangs’ indicate how trump is over judging Mexicans as menacing people who broke into the U.S in order to take the Americans’ jobs. Remarkably, Trump also uses ‘humanitarian’ to merely describe the crisis without making any action to decrease the sufferings. However, by focusing on the discursive practices through DTC, it is noticeable that Trump uses such terms and descriptions just for the sake of building the wall regardless of anything that can say or do as bargaining chips.

Trumpism is covered by a human-rights agenda. The U.S-Mexico relations are primarily economic, yet the way Trump is treating or framing Mexicans could outrage not only Mexican politicians but also international institutions and organizations. Prior to the climax of Trump’s tweets on the wall, Mexican senator Emilio Álvarez Icaza says -of the new Mexican president- that Trump is racist, adding that “instead of having the United States be a world leader in human rights, Trump wants to be world leader of racism.” (interview with *The Progressive*, Conniff, 2018)

The flow of drugs, criminals and illegal immigrants is experienced in many areas in the world. However, when it comes from Mexico, Trump thinks that it constitutes a profound threat to national security which justifies his claims and actions. Since his presidential campaign, Latinos have perceived Trump as anti-migrant and racist. Now, it has become a part of his administration to create the xenophobic narrative of ‘other’, ‘bad’ and ‘evil’ that describes Latinos. Trumpism, hence, works as political strategy through such tweets on making any narrative in order to hide his fear of Latin America.

Trump’s provocative attempts are clear in the way he addresses the wall opponents. Sometimes, he mentions that Mexico must pay (as in tweet 3); other times, he talks about ‘finishing’ the wall rather than ‘building’; and he names it a ‘wall’ and ‘physical or steel barrier’ because he always keeps on highlighting what the skeptics or opponents consider as weak plans until he mentions ‘whatever you call it’ (tweet 14). Provocative language can be illustrated in the imperatives that Trump uses. Assertive like “the wall is being built” in several tweets can also demonstrate how provocative and dangerous Trump’s language is.

1.2.4. Fake Media

News and media consumption habits among the Americans has an influence on the quality of political discourse. Particularly, the influence of media from controversial outlets and democratized social platforms like YouTube and Twitter is increasingly disseminating news. As the 2016 US presidential election witnessed an explosion of political discourse on social media platforms, particularly YouTube, Twitter, and Facebook. However, Twitter kept rising to prominence as a conveyer and a source of discussion and information about the President’s statements, actions and news.

Trump describes news often as “fake” in his Tweets. In DTC, ‘fake news’ is mentioned thrice. Each time Trump uses that description, he narrates what he considers as a fact.

Tweet 26 *There is far more ENERGY on the Right than there is on the Left. That’s why we just won the Senate and why we will win big in 2020. The Fake News just doesn’t want to report the facts. Border Security is a big factor. The under construction Wall will stop Gangs, Drugs and Crime!*

For instance, in the Tweet above, Trump keeps on reporting the supposedly-true news, and the use of ‘fake news’ was to convince Americans that facts are not shown on TV or in newspapers. In another Tweet, Trump attacks FOX News by describing them as having “*less understanding of the Wall negotiations than the folks at FAKE NEWS CNN & NBC!*” (Tweet 15)

Earlier in his campaign, Trump used “fake news” more often in order to manage his reputation tactically (Lockhart, 2019, p.6). Later, he started throwing it in order to report the inaccuracy of channels and newspapers by telling his own news and denying what is reported by the mainstream media. As known by almost all Americans, news coverage has been unfavored since the 2008 US elections due to the expansion of social media use. Thus, Trump’s use of Twitter to discredit media and news would be rhetorically affecting the audience and getting familiar with and close to their views about the major TV channels and Newspapers.

2. Findings and Discussions

Not as any previous American president, Trump has the language of non-refined and low-educated person. Many social media users comment on the simplicity of his vocabulary and the lower register of his language as well as the simpler grammar of his sentences or syntax. Besides, as his speeches have been described by jumping from topic to topic, his tweets are rather abruptly

making him sound more incoherent. That could be done in everyday communication, yet it is unusual to expect it from a president speaking or posting in public and formal contexts.

The overall analysis of Trump's tweets on the Border Wall show that Trump has used a prominent social media site to build an agenda for his plans as he did for his presidency. In addition, the critical points in Trump's discourse reflect how Trump feels hostility and persecution towards Mexican people. Despite his insistence on mentioning words like 'criminals' and 'drug dealers', Trump do not directly attack the whole Mexican population. However, the recurrence of intents and the wall-building facts shape Trump's plans, and that was since his nomination in 2016 for the presidential elections.

The major finding regarding the border wall is that Trump's language discursively implemented the ideology of a needed factor. To clarify, in several tweets, Trump uses phrases and sentences that describe the wall as a necessity, yet he places them as verbal brackets surrounding points that he wants his followers to pay attention to. Such useful device serves the ideology that Trump feeds his audience with. Hyperbole, in addition, is apparent in Trump's discourse. One significant instance is the use of 'great' (see table 2), and it is always used in a positive sense (and once the adverb 'greatly'). The linguistic aspects of DTC characterize Trump's discourse and shows how Trump could use such language to create his own brand of president.

It is also found that Twitter is a free space for Trump to share his racial views not caring for the Democrats nor for the journalists and media. Platformed racism has been evolving in the culture of social media connections, yet the case of Trumpism demonstrated in tweets shows how Trump feels free to say what pleases him. In such a way of freedom of speech and on such

platform, it seems like Trump is imposing some of his opinions on the public and manufacturing a racial discourse.

Critically, the most noteworthy discursive construction that Trump popularized is “the fake news”. Its recurrence throughout various discourses, namely the Border Wall debate, was to devalue news organizations with whom Trump disagreed. The way Trump reporting their news as ‘false’ was also a tactic that may lead Americans to react. However, journalists had already made a solidarity against his attacks on media in August 2018 because they considered the continuous labeling of media as ‘fake’ would erode the public’s trust in it.

Further, whenever Trump throw ‘the fake news’ term, he adds something about his heroic person presenting himself as a model media-deceiver. Such role could, not only share predications with Republicans, but also attract the public to the factor of building a wall is a necessity. Despite all his assaults on media, fallacies seem to cover Trump’s arguments. That is, considering himself as a victim of what he labeled as ‘fake news’ was not received by the public as the fact or event that would, in Trump’s words, make America great again (the MAGA hashtag).

Donald Trump did not care about Democrats and congressmen’s opinions. In spite of being opposed by Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer, the longest government shutdown in the U.S. history was the aftermath of Trump’s proposed wall on the southern border. Hence, Trump could have succeeded in convincing Americans about the need for a wall, yet he could not resist the debate with politicians and Democrats on the issue of funding the wall. For that, some of the tweets in the period of government shutdown has been out of rage and anger.

Besides, Trumpism, or the policy of Trump, seems to be including a fabricated problem as Democrats consider the ‘national security issue’ related to constructing the wall. For that, tantrums are found in some of Trump’s tweets as a way of insistence on the required wall and resistance to the opponent’s claims and actions. Trump’s attacks towards other individuals - Americans and non-Americans- or countries and their leaders have been described by politicians as childish. Even the border wall tweets present the process of demeaning his position as an institution of presidency. Several researchers have conducted studies on Trumpism and the discursive aspects of Trump’s tweets. Some of them critically highlighted racism as an existing incentive of Trump’s Agenda in the issue of building the wall and other international issues.

Finally, Twitter has been a dominating factor in Trump’s agenda since it was his medium of choice. His tirades have appeared to be distinctive as no previous American president used such language before. Twitter as a rhetorical tool could bring Trumpism to the surface as many Americans and non-Americans perceived, interacted with and reacted to his tweets. One more important rhetorical style that Trump depended on was the MAGA hashtag (#MAGA) that stands for his famous campaign slogan ‘Make American Great Again’. Despite being used earlier by other presidents similarly, trump’s use of the phrase was resonant with the majority of Americans believing their country was in decline. Perhaps, that was a plus for Trump to win the elections but not to keep on asking for a wall in the southern borders with positive responsiveness.

Conclusion

The language used in any discourse can make it powerful enough to be the issue of debate among people. Trump’s language has been reviewed in this chapter, yet only a sum of his tweets that include ideological elements related to the southern borders’ wall. Analyzing the language contributed to the understanding of how power is conveying meanings in the discursive elements

of Trump's tweets. Throughout the analysis, the ways Trump frames himself, his party, the Democrats and the illegal immigrants have been reviewed. Besides, the use of Twitter as a tool against mainstream media has been discussed. The chapter has finally provided the findings with brief discussions.

General Conclusion

The study's discourse choice was a communication through tweeting rather than carefully written political speeches. Such platform holds the emotional outbursts of Trump due to his active use of Twitter as a channel for governing plans and constructing opinions. Trump's controversial tweets created a public discussion which garnered him coverage on traditional media. His domination on social media definitely played a part in his success and one part of it was his rhetoric which changed the way we think of political discourse.

The present study has found that hostility and persecution towards Mexican people incentivized Donald Trump to shape an ideology of a needed factor. Constructing a bad image about Mexicans through the platformed racism was identified through Trump's provocative practices. Further, the way Trump uses Twitter has affected on millions of followers, and the 'Trump Effect' has been marked in real and virtual worlds.

The interest of linguists, sociolinguists and analysts is in the language Trump uses and that differs from other political figures' languages. His actions, utterances, thrown nicknames, calls, and denials could be raw data for any researcher, namely those who are concerned with CDA and political studies. The polarized Trumpism has emerged in politics having serious opinions and beliefs, and that makes Trump's ideologies differently shaped and marked among other and previous politicians or presidents' ideologies.

Trumps' victory in the election followed by the twitterized political views and agendas have proved that the 'Trump Effect' have already being prepared throughout the presidential campaign and the well-practiced and represented rhetoric. It was in such a way that language of Trump contributed to leaving a mark in the political discourse as well as social and cultural

concerns. Besides, what made Trump having an effect was his domination and manipulation of social media, particularly Twitter.

Social media played a huge part in the 2016 U.S. Elections, as it supported Trump share his political agenda after being a president. It was used to deliver all needed-to-be-shared messages with the public. Indeed, there are some social networks that are far more influential than others. Twitter has represented a leading platform for reaching voters in the 2016 Presidential Elections, and has succeeded in showing Trumpism and the reactions towards the 'Trump Effect'.

Thus, the role of Twitter and social media is primarily significant. For that, it would be important if researchers focus on the role of Twitter or any social media website in shaping political plans, ideologies and, agenda. Nonetheless, the cable newscasts and traditional ways of controlling the public through media have decreased the interest of politicians and oriented them to new and up-to-date tools. Hence, social media can be a prominent resource for carrying on empirical studies through sentiment analysis, textual analysis, and online participation and observation.

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Appendix: DTC (Donald Trump Corpus)

Tweets of Donald J. Trumps on the Border Wall (Dec 2018 to March 2019)

Number	Tweets	Posting Date
01	The Democrats and President Obama gave Iran 150 Billion Dollars and got nothing, but they can't give 5 Billion Dollars for National Security and a Wall?	12 Dec 2018
02	President and Mrs. Obama built/has a ten foot Wall around their D.C. mansion/compound. I agree, totally necessary for their safety and security. The U.S. needs the same thing, slightly larger version!	30 Dec 2018
03	MEXICO IS PAYING FOR THE WALL through the many billions of dollars a year that the U.S.A. is saving through the new Trade Deal, the USMCA, that will replace the horrendous NAFTA Trade Deal, which has so badly hurt our Country. Mexico & Canada will also thrive - good for all!	1 Jan 2019
04	It is becoming more and more obvious that the Radical Democrats are a Party of open borders and crime. They want nothing to do with the major Humanitarian Crisis on our Southern Border. #2020!	16 Jan 2019
05	If Nancy Pelosi thinks that Walls are "immoral," why isn't she requesting that we take down all of the existing Walls between the U.S. and Mexico, even the new ones just built in San Diego at their very strong urging. Let millions of unchecked "strangers" just flow into the U.S.	21 Jan 2019
06	Four people in Nevada viciously robbed and killed by an illegal immigrant who should not have been in our Country. 26 people killed on the Border in a drug and gang related fight. Two large Caravans from Honduras broke into Mexico and are headed our way. We need a powerful Wall!	21 Jan 2019
07	Democrats are kidding themselves (they don't really believe it!) if they say you can stop Crime, Drugs, Human Trafficking and Caravans without a Wall or Steel Barrier. Stop playing games and give America the Security it deserves. A Humanitarian Crisis!	21 Jan 2019
08	Without a Wall our Country can never have Border or National Security. With a powerful Wall or Steel Barrier, Crime Rates (and Drugs) will go substantially down all over the U.S. The Dems know this but want to play political games. Must finally be done correctly. No Cave!	22 Jan 2019
09	Never seen @senatemajldr and Republicans so united on an issue as they are on the Humanitarian Crisis & Security on our Southern Border. If we create a Wall or Barrier which prevents Criminals and Drugs from flowing into our Country, Crime will go down by record numbers!	22 Jan 2019
10	BUILD A WALL & CRIME WILL FALL! This is the new theme, for two years until the Wall is finished (under construction now), of the Republican Party. Use it and pray!	23 Jan 2019

11	Without a Wall there cannot be safety and security at the Border or for the U.S.A. BUILD THE WALL AND CRIME WILL FALL!	24 Jan 2019
12	I wish people would read or listen to my words on the Border Wall. This was in no way a concession. It was taking care of millions of people who were getting badly hurt by the Shutdown with the understanding that in 21 days, if no deal is done, it's off to the races!	26 Jan 2019
13	We have turned away, at great expense, two major Caravans, but a big one has now formed and is coming. At least 8000 people! If we had a powerful Wall, they wouldn't even try to make the long and dangerous journey. Build the Wall and Crime will Fall!	26 Jan 2019
14	"We absolutely need a physical barrier or Wall, whatever you want to call it. The President yesterday laid all that out. We need to do it all, including the Wall. I provided the same information to the previous administration, & it was ignored." Mark Morgan, Border Chief for "O"!	26 Jan 2019
15	Never thought I'd say this but I think @johnrobertsFox and @GillianHTurner@FoxNews have even less understanding of the Wall negotiations than the folks at FAKE NEWS CNN & NBC! Look to final results! Don't know how my poll numbers are so good, especially up 19% with Hispanics?	27 Jan 2019
16	We are not even into February and the cost of illegal immigration so far this year is \$18,959,495,168. Cost Friday was \$603,331,392. There are at least 25,772,342 illegal aliens, not the 11,000,000 that have been reported for years, in our Country. So ridiculous! DHS	27 Jan 2019
17	If the committee of Republicans and Democrats now meeting on Border Security is not discussing or contemplating a Wall or Physical Barrier, they are Wasting their time!	30 Jan 2019
18	More troops being sent to the Southern Border to stop the attempted Invasion of Illegals, through large Caravans, into our Country. We have stopped the previous Caravans, and we will stop these also. With a Wall it would be soooo much easier and less expensive. Being Built!	31 Jan 2019
19	Large sections of WALL have already been built with much more either under construction or ready to go. Renovation of existing WALLS is also a very big part of the plan to finally, after many decades, properly Secure Our Border. The Wall is getting done one way or the other!	31 Jan 2019
20	Very sadly, Murder cases in Mexico in 2018 rose 33% from 2017, to 33,341. This is a big contributor to the Humanitarian Crisis taking place on our Southern Border and then spreading throughout our Country. Worse even than Afghanistan. Much caused by DRUGS. Wall is being built!	31 Jan 2019
21	Tremendous numbers of people are coming up through Mexico in the hopes of flooding our Southern Border. We have sent additional military. We will build a Human Wall if necessary. If we had a real Wall, this would be a non-event!	5 Feb 2019

22	Will be getting almost \$23 BILLION for Border Security. Regardless of Wall money, it is being built as we speak!	12 Feb 2019
23	I want to thank all Republicans for the work you have done in dealing with the Radical Left on Border Security. Not an easy task, but the Wall is being built and will be a great achievement and contributor toward life and safety within our Country!	12 Feb 2019
24	The failed Fast Train project in California, where the cost overruns are becoming world record setting, is hundreds of times more expensive than the desperately needed Wall!	19 Feb 2019
25	We have just built this powerful Wall in New Mexico. Completed on January 30, 2019 – 47 days ahead of schedule! Many miles more now under construction! #FinishTheWall	20 Feb 2018
26	There is far more ENERGY on the Right than there is on the Left. That’s why we just won the Senate and why we will win big in 2020. The Fake News just doesn’t want to report the facts. Border Security is a big factor. The under construction Wall will stop Gangs, Drugs and Crime!	23 Feb 2019
27	Poll: Suburban women are coming back into the Republican Party in droves “because of the Wall and Border Security. 70% support Border Security and the Wall.” Not believing the Walls are immoral line. Beverly Hallberg, Independent Women’s Forum @KatiePavlich A great USA issue!	24 Feb 2019
28	We have a State of Emergency at our Southern Border. Border Patrol, our Military and local Law Enforcement are doing a great job, but without the Wall, which is now under major construction, you cannot have Border Security. Drugs, Gangs and Human Trafficking must be stopped!	25 Feb 2019
29	Wall Street Journal: “More migrant families crossing into the U.S. illegally have been arrested in the first five months of the federal fiscal year than in any prior full year.” We are doing a great job at the border, but this is a National Emergency!	6 Mar 2019
30	Senate Republicans are not voting on constitutionality or precedent, they are voting on desperately needed Border Security & the Wall. Our Country is being invaded with Drugs, Human Traffickers, & Criminals of all shapes and sizes. That’s what this vote is all about. STAY UNITED!	6 Mar 2019
31	We are apprehending record numbers of illegal immigrants - but we need the Wall to help our great Border Patrol Agents!	8 Mar 2019
32	The Wall is being built and is well under construction. Big impact will be made. Many additional contracts are close to being signed. Far ahead of schedule despite all of the Democrat Obstruction and Fake News!	8 Mar 2019
33and renovated, with MUCH MORE to follow shortly. Tens of thousands of illegals are being apprehended (captured) at the Border and NOT allowed into our Country. With another President, millions would be pouring in. I am stopping an	9 Mar 2019

	invasion as the Wall gets built. <u>#MAGA</u>	
34	Wacky Nut Job @AnnCoulter, who still hasn't figured out that, despite all odds and an entire Democrat Party of Far Left Radicals against me (not to mention certain Republicans who are sadly unwilling to fight), I am winning on the Border. Major sections of Wall are being built...	9 Mar 2019
35	Border Patrol and Law Enforcement has apprehended (captured) large numbers of illegal immigrants at the Border. They won't be coming into the U.S. The Wall is being built and will greatly help us in the future, and now!	9 Mar 2019
36	Republican Senators have a very easy vote this week. It is about Border Security and the Wall (stopping Crime, Drugs etc.), not Constitutionality and Precedent. It is an 80% positive issue. The Dems are 100% United, as usual, on a 20% issue, Open Borders and Crime. Get tough R's!	13 Mar 2019
37	A big National Emergency vote today by The United States Senate on Border Security & the Wall (which is already under major construction). I am prepared to veto, if necessary. The Southern Border is a National Security and Humanitarian Nightmare, but it can be easily fixed!	14 Mar 2019
38	I look forward to VETOING the just passed Democrat inspired Resolution which would OPEN BORDERS while increasing Crime, Drugs, and Trafficking in our Country. I thank all of the Strong Republicans who voted to support Border Security and our desperately needed WALL!	14 Mar 2019
39	I'd like to thank all of the Great Republican Senators who bravely voted for Strong Border Security and the WALL. This will help stop Crime, Human Trafficking, and Drugs entering our Country. Watch, when you get back to your State, they will LOVE you more than ever before!	15 Mar 2019
40	Those Republican Senators who voted in favor of Strong Border Security (and the Wall) are being uniformly praised as they return to their States. They know there is a National Emergency at the Southern Border, and they had the courage to ACT. Great job!	17 Mar 2019