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**Linguistic Deviations in President Joe Biden's Inaugural Speech:
A Descriptive Study Based on Leech's Model (1969) of Linguistic
Deviations**

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Dedication

*I dedicate this modest work to:
My parents Malika and Mohand
Brothers, Family and friends
Rahim, Liza and Hamid*

In loving memory of my grandmother Nouara

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Abstract

This discourse analytical study investigated the presence of linguistic deviations and figures of speech in President Joe Biden's Inaugural Speech delivered on January 20, 2021, in the United States Capitol, Washington D.C. The fundamental objectives of this study are fourfold. The first is to highlight the different linguistic deviations used in the speech. The second objective is to track down other existing figures of speech used by President Biden. Finally, we examine the applicability of the selected theoretical framework, which is mainly intended to poetry, on political discourse. To guide us through the research process, Leech's (1969) Model of Linguistic Deviations is utilised. To analyse the official transcript of the inauguration speech, a qualitative analysis is adopted. The obtained results reveal that President Joe Biden made use of four linguistic deviations that are semantic deviation, grammatical deviation, phonological deviation and deviation of register. The results also demonstrate the absence of four linguistic deviations that are lexical deviation, dialectal deviation, graphological deviation and deviation of historical period. These irregularities seem to be only accepted and recurrent in poetry. Correspondingly, the linguistic analysis established that Leech's (1969) model of Linguistic Deviations is partially applicable to Biden's inaugural address. In addition, five different figures of speech are identified that are alliteration, allusion, anaphora, personification and rhetorical question. These irregularities renders the speech successfully appealing and lavishly understandable and straightforward.

Key terms: Biden, discourse, figure of speech, inaugural address, linguistic deviation, political discourse analysis.

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General Introduction

Statement of the Problem

Language is a structured system of communication used by humans to fulfil a communicative function. Yet, the exchange of meaning on daily basis is not the only function of language; it goes beyond that. Language can be a powerful instrument to promote specific ideologies, gain support and persuade people through the selection of the appropriate linguistic elements. Accordingly, language upholds an imminent role when it comes to politics, especially in the United States of America where some politicians, mainly presidents, show eloquence and mastery of rhetoric through their political speeches.

Political speeches are of great interest. Many scholars and researchers have made significant contributions to the field of discourse analysis. In this sense, many speeches of the current president of the United States of America, Joe Biden, have been the subject of several investigations. In each research study, researchers attempted to analyse different aspects of his addresses. One can mention the study conducted by Ahmed and Amir (2021) who analysed Joe Biden's inaugural speech in terms of Speech Act Theory, aiming to explore the categories of speech acts present in his speech. The second study we may mention is Ghani and Hussain (2021) who carried out a critical discourse analysis on Biden's victory speech by relying on Fairclough's model of Critical Discourse Analysis. The aim of the study was to investigate the lexical choices made by Biden to highlight the United States ideologies, explore the power and social relationship between Joe Biden and his audience, and bring out the influence of the speech from social and political perspectives. As a third study, Abbas (2021) analysed four of Joe Biden's campaign speeches with the aim to bring out his skilful rhetoric relying on Van Dijk (2000) approach to Critical Discourse Analysis. As a stand point for our current study one may refer to Ren and Yu (2013) investigation of linguistic deviations in English advertising aiming to highlight the various linguistic deviations that are used in most up dated English ads.

The aforementioned studies have analysed Joe Biden's speeches mostly using the frameworks of Critical Discourse Analysis proposed by Fairclough and Van Dijk, which seem to be the perfect fit for analysing the linguistic choices in political speeches. Contrastingly, the current research strives to analyse Joe Biden's inauguration speech delivered on January 20, 2021 using Leech's (1969) model of linguistic deviations, which is mainly intended for poetry rather than political discourse analysis.

To our knowledge, no research has analysed Biden's inauguration speech relying on Leech's theory of Linguistic Deviations. Therefore, this study aims to fill in this gap by accentuating the different linguistic deviations and figures of speech used by Biden in his inaugural address.

Aims and Significance of the Study

As a tradition in the American White House, the newly elected president is set to elaborate an opening speech that brings out his new ideologies and goals, and set directives to be followed and principles that should be restored and maintained.

In recent months, some of Joe Biden's speeches were the subject to different but limited investigations. Each work has been an attempt to analyse different aspects of his speeches, and many theories such as Critical Discourse Analysis and Speech Act Theory have been applied to provide guidance throughout the research process.

Thus, our interest fell on analysing Biden's inaugural speech delivered on January 20, 2021 using Leech's linguistic deviations, a theory mainly applied to poetry. The aim is to understand and decorticate how Joe Biden used language to persuade, sensitise his audience, and influence their perspectives and behaviours through his selection of appropriate and distinct linguistic elements.

Hence, our study aims to analyse President Joe Biden's inaugural address from a linguistic standpoint by identifying Leech's eight distinct linguistic deviations in addition to the exploration of the existing figures of speech manifested in his address. The study is also an

attempt to determine the most dominant linguistic deviation in Biden's speech. Furthermore, this research strives to denote the possibility of applying Leech's model to analyse a political speech.

Thereby, this investigation can be beneficial to researchers who are interested in conducting linguistic examinations of political speeches. Moreover, to the best of our knowledge, there is no existing study that analysed Biden's inaugural speech using Leech's (1969) model, which is quite paradoxical in the sense that this theory is mainly applied to poetry. Last but not least, this research topic can also be beneficial for EFL learners. It will provide them a greater insight on the function and importance of language and enables them to make sense of what they read or hear beyond the sentence level.

Research Questions and Hypotheses

The current study is an analytical discourse study of Joe Biden's inaugural address from a linguistic perspective using Leech's model of linguistic deviations (1969). This research attempts to answer the following questions:

1. What are the different linguistic deviations used by Joe Biden in his inaugural address?
2. What are the figures of speech used in Joe Biden's inaugural address?
3. Is Leech's model of linguistic deviations, which is usually used in poetry, applicable to political discourse analysis?

To answer the research questions, we advance the following hypotheses:

1. Joe Biden's inaugural speech contains some of the linguistic deviations proposed by Leech.
2. Biden's inaugural address is marked by the use of certain figures of speech such as allusion, anaphora and personification.
3. Leech's model of Linguistic Deviations can be applied to analyse political discourses.

Research Techniques and Methodology

This research is a corpus-based study relying on a qualitative analysis of President Joe Biden's inaugural speech which was delivered on January 20, 2021. This discourse analytical research relies on Geoffrey N. Leech's (1969) model of Linguistic Deviations. In his book entitled "*A Linguistic Guide to English Poetry*", Leech has placed the foreground of his model and proposed eight linguistic deviations that are as follow: lexical, grammatical, semantic, phonological, dialectal, register, graphological and historical period deviations. In this sense, this study is a linguistic analysis of Joe Biden's inaugural speech from the perspective of linguistic deviations in addition to the identification of some existing figures of speech.

Structure of the Dissertation

The structure of this dissertation adheres to the traditional simple model. It is divided into four main chapters ranging from theoretical to practical. Each chapter comprises an introduction, body and conclusion. Before starting the first chapter, a general introduction is offered. It gives a brief account of what is going to be covered in the body of the dissertation and identifies the scopes of the study and some important information concerning the research process. The theoretical chapter consists of a review of the literature in which all the important concepts related to discourse analysis are explained. Additionally, the previously conducted studies are laid out and an overview of the theoretical framework is provided. The second chapter is intended for the research methods including the research design, the study corpus and data analysis. The third chapter showcases the important results obtained from the analysis of the linguistic deviations present in Joe Biden's inaugural speech. The fourth chapter discusses the findings, gives answers to the pre-asked questions, and tests the validity of the research hypotheses. Finally, a general conclusion sums up the research by highlighting all the main points and findings, pinpoints the limitations of the study, and offers instances for further research.

Chapter One
Review of the Literature

Introduction

This chapter is theoretical. It highlights the main theoretical aspects of the current study. It is divided into three sections. The first section includes definitions of the key concepts in relation to the research study, which is concerned with discourse analysis. In the second section, some pertinent researches about Joe Biden's speeches are traced back. The third section accounts for the theoretical framework in which important elements of Leech's (1969) Linguistic Deviations are introduced.

1. Definition of Key Concepts

1.1. Discourse

The term 'discourse' has become widely used and accepted in many disciplines such as critical theory, sociology, linguistics, philosophy, and social psychology, yet it is often left undefined (Mills, 1997). Discourse is by far a polysemous word, meaning that it has multiple meanings. The term can be defined according to the context of its occurrence, as specified by Mills (ibid: 3):

It is difficult to know where or how to track down the meaning of discourse. Glossaries of theoretical terms are sometimes of help, but very often the disciplinary context in which the term occurs is more important in trying to determine which of these meanings is being brought into play.

Discourse as a whole is a combination of preselected words intended to fulfil a given purpose, realised in a structured way and pronounced to a specific audience. It is also perceived as 'language above the sentence or above the clause' (Stubbs, 1983; cited in Baker and Ellece, 2011:31). Van Dijk (1997:1), on his side, asserted that: 'the term discourse usually refers to a form of language use, public speeches or more generally to spoken language or ways of speaking, for instance when we refer to the discourse of former President Ronald Reagan.'

In this sense, according to the above-mentioned definitions, the term 'discourse' refers to a continuous series of well-structured properties that are generated by a speaker to a given

audience on a particular occasion in order to fulfil a function that should be directly related to the context of its occurrence. Accordingly, discourse is not only about language use. In fact, it goes beyond that in the sense that it requires the speaker to choose the suitable way of speaking at the right time and place (Gee, 1999).

1.2. Discourse Analysis

The term discourse analysis was first introduced by the linguist Zellig Harris in 1952 as an attempt to analyse spoken and written language. Harris first examined the language aside from the level of the sentence, and then he established a relation between linguistic and non-linguistic behaviour. Henceforth, his theories made great contributions to the field of discourse analysis (Paltridge, 2012). According to McCarthy (1991:5), discourse analysis ‘grew out of work in different disciplines in the 1960s and early 1970s, including linguistics, semiotics, psychology, anthropology and sociology’. A detailed definition of discourse analysis was provided by Paltridge (2012:2):

Discourse analysis examines patterns of language across texts and considers the relationship between language and the social and cultural contexts in which it is used. Discourse analysis also considers the ways that the use of language presents different views of the world and different understandings. It examines how the use of language is influenced by relationships between participants as well as the effects the use of language has upon social identities and relations. It also considers how views of the world, and identities, are constructed through the use of discourse.

The above quotation suggests that discourse analysis is a discipline that strives to figure out how language is used in a social context in order to express different ideologies, thoughts and ideas. Moreover, it examines the effect of language on people.

Many scholars have different views on how discourse analysis ought to be. According to Crystal (1994), discourse analysis should focus only on spoken language like interviews and speeches, whereas the written form of language is studied through text analysis. On the flip side, the combination of written and spoken language is beneficial in discourse studies because there is a significant correlation between the two forms (Van Dijk, 1991). Likewise, the focus

on language as a text is no longer in the habit of current discourse analysts who favour a deep examination of the many uses of language (Bhatia *et al.*, 2008).

A qualitative approach is usually used in discourse analysis and requires a deep reading of the selected text in order to reach the desired aim. However, in recent years, the combination of qualitative and quantitative methods with the assistance of computer software is favoured because it makes the analysis easier and precise (Baker and Ellece, 2011). The field of Discourse Analysis goes beyond the scopes of linguistics and language studies. It is present in other disciplines and this is due to the increasing number of discourse analysts whose line of work is not linguistics (Fairclough, 1995). Still, 'it claims to be autonomous domain of study, with its own characteristics, objectives and phenomena, theories, methods and principles' (Van Dijk, 1997:32).

1.3. Political Discourse Analysis

The current study is centred upon political discourse, which is a structured text pronounced by politicians such as presidents, members of the government or political parties for the general public on a local or international scale. As specified by Fairclough (2012), a political discourse is typically regarded as an argumentative text through which a politician provides an overview of the important decisions that were agreed on and the actions that should be taken. He further stated that:

Political contexts are institutional contexts, i.e. context which make it possible for actors to exert their agency and empower them to act on the world in a way that has an impact on matters of common concern. (ibid: 18)

Political activity only exists with the use of language (Chilton, 2004). Political discourse analysis is about the examination of language use as a system of rules. It is done on different language levels including semantics, phonology, morphology and semiotics, yet language ought to be analysed as a tool for persuasion (Bhatia *et al.*, 2008). In this perspective, Chilton (2004: ix) stated that 'The analysis of political discourse is scarcely new. The western classical

tradition of rhetoric was in its various guises a means of codifying the way public orators used language for persuasive and other purposes.’

1.4. Rhetoric

Rhetoric is a fine art, a political tool meant to persuade. In order to achieve that argument, distinct forms and figures of style are employed (Van Dijk, 1997). Wodak (1989:95) provided a clear definition of the term rhetoric, which is as follow:

The selection and arrangement of the stylistic resources and devices that may serve to bring a certain perspective to the fore, to ‘talk’ somebody over to one’s own point of view, to make him\her believe in something that the persuader him\herself may, or may not believe in is actually what rhetoric and persuasion is all about.

The aforementioned quotation indicates that rhetoric is mainly a device that is used to persuade and make a positive impression or create a sense of astonishment and surprise by using a variety of linguistic tools. Stylistic devices such as alliteration, rhyme, parallelism, litotes, hyperbole, metonymy, metaphor and simile in addition to neologism can be utilised in a political speech (Van Dijk, 1997). Moreover, the appropriate uses of stylistic devices ‘work best among people who speak the same language. People who share similar communicative biographies can achieve understanding and agreement with a minimum of verbal activity’ (Wodak, 1989:98). This quote suggests that rhetoric is a powerful tool that works best among people who share the same language, ideologies and understandings.

1.5. Ideology

Ideology is a term that is customarily used in politics and media. It refers to a set of beliefs particular to a certain group of people, and these beliefs shape their identity, everyday communication and actions. Correspondingly, Van Dijk defined ideology (1997:86) as follows:

Ideologies are the fundamental beliefs that form the basis of the social representations of a group. They are represented in social memory as some kind of ‘group schema’ that defines the identity of a group [...] these mental models are the representations that control social practices, including the production and comprehension of discourse.

Ideology is a ‘system of ideas which constitute and pilot the large power blocks of our society’ (Lemberg, 1983; cited in Wodak, 1989:140). On this account, ideology implies the

exercise of power and domination among individuals, which is accomplished through language. The latter is considered as one of the most crucial social practices which is influenced by ideology and much of our discourse, especially the spoken one, is expressed through ideologically based opinions (Van Dijk, 1997:9). Likewise, hints of the presence of some ideologies can be found in different linguistic levels including lexicology, syntax, text and discourse levels and even in phonology (Wodak, 1989).

1.6. Language in Politics

Politics is all about the transmission and spread of specific ideologies and interests. The process of concretising thoughts into social acts and making them apparent to the public is accomplished through language (Al- Ameedi and Mukhef, 2017). Indeed, language shapes any political act and without it the intended aims of politicians will not be fulfilled. In this fashion, Charteris-Black (2005:1) stated that ‘the most important type of behaviour by which leaders mobilise their followers is their linguistic performance’. Language in political discourse is essentially characterised by the excessive usage of linguistic and rhetorical features including figures of speech such as repetition, antithesis, rhetorical questions, sarcasm, irony and metaphor (Jones *et al.*, 1999; cited in Neshkovska, 2019). Undoubtedly, figurative language is a key feature in political speeches because it serves as an embellished and attractive medium to communicate the thoughts and ideologies of the speaker and keep the audience captivated and focused.

The study of political discourse in purely linguistic terms was initiated around the twentieth century, primarily with Critical Discourse Analysis (Neshkovska, 2019). Gradually, many theoretical frameworks came into existence aiming to investigate the structural aspect of political addresses and explore the stylistic and rhetorical techniques employed in order to fulfil a specific function.

1.7. Discourse Analysis in an EFL Context

Discourse analysis is beneficial for learner of English as foreign language, it analysis how language is used for according to different contexts and situations. It provides with a meticulous analysis of ‘the communicative roles and identities that people have in interaction, as well as the intention of each participant’ (Van Dijk, 2008, cited in Sepulveda, 2017).

As traditionally conducted in EFL classes, learner are familiarised with the grammar and vocabulary of the language as isolated words or sentences, with void interactions and production in the target language. However, this is a shallow view of language, leading to apparent hardship in understanding ‘a message beyond clause or sentence level which prevents them from developing their communicative skills or a clearer understanding of language’ (Sepulveda, 2017). In this sense, abiding learner not some limited aspects of language would affect their progress in a negative and narrowed way. Therefore, it is accurate to introduce discourse analysis in order to help students learn and analyse language within a given social context allowing them to enhance their linguistic skills such as speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Discourse anal

2. Previous Political Discourse Analytical Studies on Biden’s Speeches

In our study, the focus is on analysing Joe Biden’s inaugural speech in the light of Leech’s (1969) Linguistic Deviations model. Thereby, a review of previous studies conducted on Biden’s political speeches is needed.

In his article entitled “Joe Biden’s Skilful Rhetoric: A Critical Discourse Analysis”, Abbas (2021) conducted a critical discourse analysis on four of Biden’s campaign election speeches relying mainly on Van Leeuwen’s and Van Dijk’s Ideological Square of positive self-

representation versus negative other-representation. The four speeches were analysed on the basis of eleven (11) different ideological strategies. The overall aim of the study was to examine how President Joe Biden employed the discourse of US (the good and the positive) versus the discourse of OTHER (the bad and the negative) and how it is demonstrated through his language use. The main finding of this study revealed that the positive representation of the self (US) versus the negative representation of the other is dominant in Biden's four speeches. To be more specific, all negative things were related to Trump's misleading administration, whereas all positive things were on the side of Biden and his followers. Obviously, Biden has successfully employed the ideological strategies, which are showcased through his use of negative and positive lexicalization, and adjectives that express multiple emotions like empathy, anger and blame. Abbas (2021: 16) concluded his article by indicating that Biden's speeches were successful because they all focused on 'the most influential crises which happened in the United States of America during Trump's administration such as COVID-19, the killing of George Floyd, and climate change.'

Another important research study is Ahmed's and Amir's (2021) "Speech Act Analysis of the Joseph R. Biden, Jr.'s Inaugural Address on 20th of January 2021 as the 46th President of the USA". The research was based on Austin's and Searl's (1975) Speech Act Theory. The aim of the study was to highlight the speech acts used in Biden's inaugural speech. The search was about the localization of the existing locutionary and illocutionary acts including the five classes which are: representative, expressive, directive, commissive and declarative. After analysing Biden's inaugural speech, Ahmed and Amir (2021) identified 156 speech acts, among them 13 locutionary acts and 143 illocutionary ones. It was also found that the descriptive, representative and commissive speech acts were the most dominant aspects in Joe Biden's inaugural speech.

Santika's (2021) study was an analysis of the 2020 presidential debates between the former president Donald Trump and the current President Joe Biden, using Van Dijk's model of Critical Discourse Analysis. The aim of the research paper was to point out the existence of the

following aspects: personal pronouns, three part-list, fillers and interruptions. The main findings were listed in the order of the manifestation of the aspects in the debates, starting with the massive use of personal pronouns moving to the employment of a three-part list (the repetition of a word in order to achieve a sense of completeness). Interruptions and fillers were also highly utilised by both candidates.

As a third study, we may cite Ghani and Hussain's (2021) article entitled "Application of Fairclough's Model on Joe Biden's Victory Speech". As the title suggests, the study was based on Fairclough 3D model (1989). The latter comprises three levels which are discourse as text, discourse as discursive practice and discourse as social practice. The aim of the research paper was to analyse Joe Biden's lexical choices that were employed in his victory speech delivered on November 7, 2020 in order to reveal his future ideologies. By the end of the article, it was concluded that Joe Biden has skilfully used them to clarify his ideology and future strategies for his national and international audience. He practiced them with great mastery and care in order to convince his audience and provide them with a glimpse of his determination for future achievements (Ghani and Hussain, 2021).

Finally, we may cite Ren and Yu's (2013) article entitled "Language Deviation in English Advertising" guided by Leech's Model of Linguistic Deviations. The aim of the study was to provide with a descriptive account of the language deviations in some up to date English ads by focusing on phonological, graphological, lexical, and grammatical deviation. The results showed that linguistic deviations are great tools of persuasion and attention attracting, revealing also that it is those violation of language rules are the ones that attract the customer and reflect precisely the intended meaning.

The above-mentioned studies focused mainly on analysing Biden's speeches relying on Critical Discourse Analysis and Speech Act Theory, in addition to one pertinent study that uses Leech's model. Accordingly these pre-mentioned studies serve as a landmark and contribute effectively in the achievement for our research topic.

3. Theoretical Framework

The present study is concerned with the analysis of Joe Biden's inaugural speech using Leech's (1969) Linguistic Deviations model. Thereon, it is important to present the theoretical framework and describe its scopes.

3.1. Leech's Model of Linguistic Deviations (1969)

Linguistic deviations are mainly concerned with 'the poet's right to ignore rules and conventions generally observed by users of the language' (Leech, 1969:37). Leech (ibid: 56) added that 'It is a very general principle of artistic communication that a work of art in some way deviates from norms which we, as members of society, have learnt to expect in the medium used'.

On this account, linguistic deviations are a set of creative language that are employed by a writer/poet and diverges from the conventional language used on daily basis. In his model, Leech proposed eight deviations that are sorted out in the following order: Lexical Deviation, Grammatical Deviation, Phonological Deviation, Graphological Deviation, Semantic Deviation, Dialectal Deviation, Deviation of Register, and Historical Period Deviation.

These deviations are distinguished at three main language levels, which are: *Realization*, *Form* and *Semantics*. Each level is engaged with a particular aspect of language. Accordingly, the Realization level comprises phonology (Spoken language) and graphology (Written language), Form is constituted by grammar and lexicon, and Semantics includes the denotative or cognitive meaning. For Leech (1969), these three patterns of organization should be acknowledged by any learner willing to learn how to produce and understand a language. This classification of language into three levels is of paramount importance in the sense that knowing a language means knowing its form, realization, and semantics its Realization (Phonology and graphology), Form (grammar and lexicon), and Semantics (meaning) (ibid). These three levels of organization are summarized in Table 1.

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

Table 1. The Three Levels of Language (Leech, 1969: 39)

3.2. Leech’s Classification of Linguistic Deviations

In his book “*A Linguistic Guide to English Poetry*”, Leech (1969) classified linguistic deviations into eight categories, which are as follow:

3.2.1. Lexical Deviation

Consistent with Leech (1969), this first deviation is usually associated with neologism, which is the invention of new words or items of vocabulary, relying on an existing rule of word formation which is applied with greater generality than customary. Therefore, neologism is far from being a violation of lexical rules and it is one of the evident ways to exceed the common usage of language (ibid). According to Leech (1969), the newly invented words are called nonce-formation because they are only made up for a particular occasion but not as an attempt to widen the English vocabulary. The process of word formation includes affixation, compounding and functional conversion. Affixation involves the addition of prefix or suffix to an existing word. Compounding is the joining of two or more words to create one single word. Finally, functional conversion is concerned with altering words from one grammatical class to another (ibid).

3.2.2. Grammatical Deviation

Leech (1969) made a distinction between two types of grammatical deviations: Morphology which is the grammar of the word, and Syntax which is the grammar of how words

are assigned within a sentence. In his model, much attention is paid to syntax, wherein a further distinction was worked between the deep structure that reflects the meaning of a sentence and the surface structure that deals with the way in which a sentence is actually uttered. Leech (1969:45) provided the following example:

In the passive sentence ‘Gladstone was revered by his supporters’, the identification of the ‘logical subject ‘(his supporters ‘) belongs to the deep or underlying structure, whereas the identification of the ‘grammatical subject’ Gladstone belongs to the surface structure.

In this sense, Deep structure involves the ‘semantic end of syntax’ whilst Surface structure counts for ‘the phonological end’ (ibid).

3.2.3. Phonological Deviation

Leech (1969:46) argued that ‘patterns of phonology are even more on the surface than those of surface syntactic structure, so it is not surprising that phonological deviation in English poetry is of limited importance’. The phonological deviation is first concerned with special irregularities of pronunciation such as elision which is the omission of a letter or syllable between two words, apocope which is the omission of the last vowel in a word, and aphaesis which refers to the loss of the initial unstressed vowel. According to Leech (ibid: 47), we have a ‘special pronunciation for the convenience of rhyming’ like the noun ‘wind’ is pronounced like the verb ‘wind’.

3.2.4. Graphological Deviation

It is noted that ‘spelling represents pronunciation, and any strangeness of pronunciation will be reflected by a strangeness of written form’ (ibid). Graphological deviation is about the overall arrangement of the poem on the printed page in parallel with the punctuation. Thereon, the whole significance of the poem resides in its ambiguity which is emphasised by the unconventional use of capitalization, spacing and punctuation. Combined they become ‘expressive devices, not symbols to be used according to typographic custom’ (ibid).

3.2.5. Semantic Deviation

According to Leech (1969:48), semantic deviation is some kind of ‘nonsense’ or ‘absurdity’, as we understand that sense in a strictly literal way. This means that however odd and ridiculous a piece of art might seem, its true essence and meaning lays in the poetic licences that can be understood in relation to its context, and the meaning can be deduced in a rational and imaginative way that the dictionaries’ definition of it will not be necessary (ibid: 49). Leech (1969) classified semantic deviation into three types: Semantic Oddity, Transference of Meaning and Honest Deception.

a) Semantic Oddity

Leech (1969) argued that it is widely expected that language should be used to communicate in a conventional fashion, evidently to exchange information. However, confusion may occur when we stumble upon some odd sentences such as ‘is your wife married?’ or ‘He climbed up the surface of the lake’ (ibid: 132). These oddities are normal and accepted in poetry. Correspondingly, semantic oddity refers to the peculiarity and bizarreness of expressions and includes five important kinds which are:

- Pleonasm deals with the redundancy of meaning within a linguistic expression, for example, ‘My female grandmother’ and ‘a false lie’ (Ibid).
- Oxymoron brings together two semantically opposing words or sentences such as ‘My male grandmother’ and ‘a true lie’ (ibid).
- Tautology is the needless repetition of empty yet evidently true content like ‘My grandmother is female’ and ‘that lie is false’ (ibid).
- Paradox is a contradictory and absurd statement because it is self-evidently false, for example, ‘My grandmother is male’ and ‘that lie is true’ (ibid).

- Periphrasis is the use of a long expression instead of short one to convey the same meaning. Leech (ibid) provided the following examples of periphrasis: ‘My female grandparent’ (= ‘my grandmother’) and ‘He makes untrue statements’ (=He tells lies’).

b) Transference of Meaning

Leech (1969:148) claimed that ‘one of the reasons why figurative interpretation is not completely random is that language contains rules of transference, or particular mechanisms for deriving one meaning of a word from another’. The figurative meaning can be easily understood if it is directly related to the literal meaning. The latter is absurd without the necessary presence of the figurative meaning. Four types of transference of meaning were distinguished by Leech. They are labelled tropes of figurative language and are as follows:

- Synecdoche is the use of a particular term to represent a corresponding general term. It is a figure of speech in which a part of something is used represent its whole and vice versa. Leech (1969: 150) gave the proverb ‘Two heads are better than one’ as an example of synecdoche. The word ‘heads’ is used to refer to ‘people’.
- Metaphor is the use of a word or expression to refer to something which is not literally applicable. Leech (1969: 151) provided the following example ‘Life’s but a walking shadow, a poor player’.
- Metonymy is the use of a single characteristic or part of an object to refer to the whole. For example, the word ‘crown’ in ‘lands belonging to the *crown*’ (ibid: 152) refers to the king or queen.
- Simile is utilized to compare one thing to another. Simile differs from metaphor in the sense that ‘simile is an overt, and metaphor a covert comparison.’ (ibid: 156).

c) Honest Deception

In the final kind of semantic deviation, Leech (1969) pinpointed three types of honest deception. The first one is Hyperbole which is the over statement or extravagant exaggeration.

The second type is Litotes. It is the figure of understatement in which a negative expression is used to express a positive statement, for example, 'it's not bad' (ibid: 169). Finally, we find Irony which takes the form of saying or implying the opposite of what one feels to be the case. In other words, it entails saying things we do not mean.

It has to be noted that the elements mentioned by Leech in semantic deviation are all figures of speech. To be more specific, pleonasm, oxymoron, tautology, paradox, periphrasis, synecdoche, metaphor, metonymy, simile, hyperbole, litotes, and irony are considered figures of speech. A figure of speech is a deviation from the conventional language usage used for rhetorical purposes.

3.2.6. Dialectal Deviation

Leech (1969) used the term 'dialectism' to refer to dialectal deviation. As attested by Leech (1969:49):

Dialectism, or the borrowing of features of socially or regionally defined dialects, is a minor form of licence not generally available to the average writer of functional prose, who is expected to write in the generally accepted and understood dialect known as 'Standard English' .

Accordingly, most poets or writers are expected to write in a standard way. However, sometimes they deviate from this conventional style and grant themselves the right to utilize some socially or regionally defined dialects. For instance, the use of regional words such as *heydeguyes* (a type of dance) and *rontes* (young bullocks) in Spenser's *The Shepheardes Calendar* (Ibid).

3.2.7. Deviation of Register

It is presumably known that each respective domain or profession has its own particular technical terminology where its adherents are expected to use and share the same register. However, it is not the case for modern poets who have taken advantage of this device with unprecedented audacity. Therefore, 'Register borrowing in poetry is almost always

accompanied by the further incongruity of Register Mixing, or the use in the same text of features characteristic of different register'(Leech,1969:50). On the grounds of this, modern writer supplement their works with a blend of registers and dialects.

3.2.8. Historical Period Deviation

This final deviation deals with the use of archaic language. The resurrection of past languages in present language is known as historical period deviation (deviation of historical period) or archaism. Leech (1969:52) claimed that archaism is the 'survival of the language of the past into the language of the present'.

Writers or poets are not limited to the use of the language of their period. By this medium, 'English language is viewed as a historical whole not just a synchronous system shared by the writer and his contemporaries' (ibid: 51). In most cases, this pining for the past is attributed to the poets/writers appreciation of their linguistic heritage, and even dead languages such as Latin and Greek are included in their works.

Conclusion

This theoretical chapter provided us with detailed and conceivable definitions of the most fundamental concepts in relation to the central focus of this dissertation, which is a discourse analysis of President Joe Biden's inaugural speech delivered on January 20, 2021. This first chapter is divided into three main sections. The first one gave us an elaborated set of definitions and explanations of the key concepts regarding the research study. The second section reviewed previous works which were conducted in the field of discourse analysis and has an appreciable effect on the course of our own research. Finally, the third section comprised a comprehensible description of Leech's (1969) theoretical model of Linguistic Deviations. The following chapter presents the research design of the study.

Chapter Two
Research Design

Introduction

This chapter is about the research design and methodology of the current study, which is a discourse analysis of President Joe Biden's inaugural speech delivered on January 20, 2021. The speech is analysed in the light of Leech's (1969) model of Linguistic Deviations. The present study opted for a qualitative approach in order to identify the required elements and to answer the research questions stated in the general introduction of this dissertation. The present chapter contains two sections. The first section explains the procedures of data collection and describes the corpus of the study. The second section explains the procedures of data analysis.

1. Description of the Study Corpus

Any research study starts with a research question that needs to be answered. In this fashion, the researcher advances some probable hypotheses and establishes a plan of investigation, but most importantly a procedure of data gathering is required. As initially stated in the introduction, the current study investigates the conventionality and presence of Leech's (1969) eight linguistic deviations in President Joe Biden's inaugural speech. In order to identify these elements, the full and official transcript of Joe Biden's address was obtained from the BBC News website and the audio version of the speech was converted from mp4 format on YouTube to mp3 format using Convertio.com. The speech transcript is used as a corpus for the study (See Appendix).

The speech was delivered on January 20, 2021, on the west front of the United States' Capitol building situated in Washington D.C. Biden's inaugural address lasted approximately twenty-one minutes and contained around 2,538 words. In his address, Biden brought into light his future ideologies by stressing the importance of democracy and unity among the American citizens in addition to some directives that contribute to the well-being of the nation. Biden also highlighted the United States' highest challenges like the pandemic of Covid-19 and racial justice.

2. Introducing President Joe Biden

Born in Scranton, Pennsylvania on November 20, 1942, Joseph Robinette Biden Jr is the 46th president of the United States of America and member of the Democratic Party. At 78, he is the oldest president elected to the office, the first to have a female vice president and the second catholic after John F. Kennedy. He earned his law degree from Syracuse University in 1968. Biden had a long political journey in the senate and was influential in during Obama's presidency where he served as vice president. Biden run for two unsuccessful presidential nominations in 1988 and 2008. Biden was elected president in November 2020 and he was inaugurated January 20, 2021 defeating Donald Trump. During his first 100 days as president, Biden signed 17 executive orders among them re-joining Paris climate agreement, ended Mexico border feud, re-join world health organization he also signed the American rescue plan act of 2021 that helped with the economic recession and overall recovery of the United States of America during to the drawback of the global pandemic.

Biden has long struggled with stuttering however he managed to improve his condition in his early twenties by reciting poetry before a mirror. Some experts argued that his stutter affected his performance in 2020 presidential debates. All in all, he showed a great sense of communication by reflecting on influential and important aspects and issues of the present in a simple way.

3. Procedures of data collection

Leech's book, entitled '*A Linguistic Guide to English Poetry*', was first published in 1969 and contains 126 pages in which he considered the various poetic styles and the creative language used by poets and writers of different periods. This book served as the primary source of information and guidance. In his book, Leech proposed various ways and important elements for the study of English poetry. Yet, our interest rests on his Linguistic Deviations, which are a set of eight different irregularities (already discussed in chapter one) that diverge from the

conventional use of language. Various quality documents such as articles and e-book mainly downloaded from Z-Library.com were handy sources of information.

Our selection of this research topic was not random. The first motivate consist in the authenticity of the speech which has been recently delivered by the newly elected president of the United States of America making in it a less frequent topic of investigation. Second, to our knowledge the speech has never been analysed using Leech's (1969) Linguistic Deviations, which is a model mainly intended to study poetry. Finally, as English language learners precisely majored in language and communication, discourse analysis can be a steady way of learning a foreign language by making a connection with it context. Therefore, our selection of the corpus appeared saliently appropriate and appealing.

4. Procedures of Data Analysis

The present study is a discourse analysis of Joe Biden's inaugural speech. The data of the text were analysed in the light of Leech's (1969) model of Linguistic Deviations. The aim of the study is to identify the existing linguistic deviations in Biden's political address. To achieve this purpose, the use of the qualitative approach is required. The qualitative approach instructs the researchers to set the scopes of the study by identifying the research questions and objectives, and then collect the needed data from useful sources such as documents and visual materials (Creswell, 2014). In this regard, qualitative analysis is required to analyse, code and categorise the data collected from the corpus of the study. One of the most widely used qualitative analysis research techniques is Qualitative Content Analysis.

Among many definitions of Qualitative Content Analysis, we may cite the one provided by Hsieh and shannon (2005:1278) who defined it as 'a research method for subjective interpretation of the content of text data through the systemic classification process of coding and identifying themes or patterns'. In our research we have adopted a deductive way of analysis. The latter is based on an earlier theoretical framework, the aim of it is to test the selected theory on different context. In order to apply the theory the research is guide by the

research questions and scopes of the theory. Once the boundaries of the study were set a process of coding and categorising of the collected data takes place with reference to the theory in use (Elo and Kyngas, 2007).

The process of data analysis first required multiple profound readings of the speech transcript and listening to the audio. Second, we identified the desired elements and then categorised them according to the theoretical framework. Finally, the interpretation and description of the important findings were done in relation to Leech's (1969) model of Linguistic Deviations.

Conclusion

This chapter included all the important steps related to data collection and data analysis. It started with a description of the process of data collection and corpus of the study which is the official transcript of President Joe Biden's inaugural speech, and ended with a descriptive account of the data analysis procedures. The findings of the study are presented in the following chapter entitled "Presentation of the Findings".

Chapter Three
Presentation of the Findings

Introduction

This chapter presents the findings of the research. It exhibits the main results obtained after the analysis of President Joe Biden's inaugural address delivered on January 20, 2021, using Leech's (1969) model of Linguistic Deviations. In this sense, the aim of the chapter is to identify the existing linguistic deviations and figures of speech. The findings of the study were analysed using qualitative content analysis.

1. The Present Linguistic Deviations in President Joe Biden's Inaugural Speech

1.1. Grammatical Deviation

The grammatical deviation is mainly concerned with two aspects of language. The first aspect deals with deviation of morphology which is absent in Biden's inaugural address.

The second involves syntax which deals with the errors of grammar and syntactic rearrangement in a sentence called hyperbaton. Divergence from the essential rules of structuring sentences is considered as a deviation. The following table exemplifies that:

Example	Sentence structure
1) Through a crucible for the ages America has been tested a new."	C+S+V+O
2) "With purpose and resolve we turn to those of our time."	O+S+V+O

Table 2. Grammatical Deviation in President Joe Biden's Speech

Table 2 presents us with examples of hyperbaton. In both examples Biden opted for a different sentence rearrangements for a specific purpose.

1.2. Phonological Deviation

Elision, apocope and aphasis constitute the phonological deviation; however, these irregularities are not present in Biden's speech.

Leech (1969) proposed parallelism as a substitution for the previously mentioned phonological deviations. The following examples illustrate this point.

- 1) “We will lead not merely **by the example of our power** but **by the power of our example**”
- 2) “Few people in our nation’s history **have been more challenged or found a time more challenging or difficult than the time we’re in now.**”
- 3) “The people and **the will of the people has been heard** and **the will of the people has been heeded.**”
- 4) “**I believe we must** and I am sure you do as well and **I believe we will**”
- 5) “**Defend the truth** and **defeat the lies.**”

The above examples taken from Biden’s speech illustrate parallelism. The items in bold show the parallel structures creating a phonological effect by repeating the same grammatical structure which can express the same meaning as in examples (1),(2),(3) and (4) or sometimes two opposite meaning like in example (5).

1.3.Semantic Deviation

All three types of semantic deviations were identified with only three sub-types missing

a) Semantic Oddity

Semantic oddity refers to the strangeness of an expression within a piece of writing. It encloses five different types, which are pleonasm, oxymoron, tautology, paradox and periphrasis.

▪ Pleonasm

The following examples demonstrate pleonasm:

- 1) “...brining **America** together, uniting our **people**, uniting our **nation.**”

This first example contains pleonasm wherein Biden repeated the same idea by using different words that basically express the same meaning. As shown above, the phrases ‘our people’ and ‘our nation’ refer to ‘America’.

- 2) “Let us **listen to one another, hear one another.**”

The redundancy of speech is obvious in this second example. Biden employed two similar words “listen” and “hear” which obviously have the same meaning.

▪ **Tautology**

The following example presents tautology as it was utilised by President Joe Biden in his inaugural speech.

- 1) “**Saint** Augustin, a **saint** of my church”

In this extract, Biden repeated the word ‘saint’

▪ **Paradox**

The following example taken from Biden’s speech demonstrates this device.

- 1) “For we have much to do in this **winter of peril and significant possibility.**”

The expression in bold is somehow contradictory in the sense that it joined together two opposing situations wherein the first one ‘winter of peril’ expresses difficulty and danger and the other one ‘significant possibility’ stands for a potentially bright future.

▪ **Periphrasis**

The following examples illustrate this point.

- 1) “...the American story. **A story that might sound something like a song that means a lot to me. It is called American Anthem**”.

In this first example, Biden opted for the use of periphrasis through the following expression “a story that might sound like a song and means a lot to me”.

- 2) “**We come together as one nation, under God, invisible, to carry out the peaceful** transfer of power as we have for more than two centuries.”

In the second example, Biden used more words than necessary to refer to the occasion that brought them together which is the inauguration day. The items in bold represent periphrasis containing mainly adjectives such as ‘invisible’ and ‘peaceful’.

▪ Oxymoron

After deep and extensive readings of President Joe Biden's inaugural speech, it appeared that there was no evidence of the employment of oxymoron.

b) Transference of Meaning

According to Leech (1969), transference of meaning is a device that emphasises the use of tropes, which are synecdoche, metaphor, metonymy and simile.

▪ Synecdoche

. The upcoming examples demonstrate this device.

1) “**The people** and the will of **the people** has been heard and the will of **the people** has been heeded.”

In this sentence, Biden used the word ‘the people’ (human beings in general) three times in order to refer to the Americans, making it the whole for one of its parts.

2) “...the sacred oath of those **patriots** have taken.”

In this second example, Biden employed the term ‘patriots’ in order to refer to the loyalist American predecessors who have taken the sacred oath long ago before him.

3) “...a riotous **mob** thought they could use violence to silence the will of the people.”

In a similar case, Biden used the word ‘mob’ to refer to the supporters of the former president Donald Trump who violently attacked the Capitol of Washington D.C.

4) “Those 400,000 fellow Americans-**moms and dads, husbands and wives, sons and daughters, friends, neighbours, and co-workers.**”

In this fourth representative, the words in bold make up the Americans, meaning it is part of a whole. The word ‘Americans’ encompasses them all.

▪ Metaphor

Metaphor is another existing type of transference of meaning which is used by Biden to fulfil a particular function. Examples of that are demonstrated in the table below:

	<i>Example</i>	<i>Vehicle</i>	<i>Tenor</i>
1)	“ The bottom of my heart ”	Bottom	Heart
2)	“ Dark winter ”	Dark	Winter

Table 3. Metaphors in President Joe Biden’s Inaugural address.

As presented in table 3, Biden used a metaphor to show his gratitude to previous democratic members. As we can see it in the first example, the ‘heart’ serves as the tenor to the thing being described, whereas ‘the bottom’ is the vehicle which is the item the tenor is compared to

In second example, ‘winter’ is the tenor and ‘dark’ is the vehicle.

▪ **Metonymy**

Metonymy is equally used by Biden, these examples demonstrate it

- 1) “...amid the civil war, when **the union** itself was literally hanging in the balance”

In this first extract, Biden used the term ‘The union’ to refer to the states located in the north of the United States of America governed by the United States during the American Civil War, as opposed to “the South” or “Confederate States”.

- 2) “Uniting to fight **the foes** we face: anger, resentment and hatred. Extremism, lawlessness, violence. Diseases, joblessness and hopelessness”

In the second example the word ‘foes’ encompasses all the words that comes after the colon. It serves as a general term that encompasses all the cited words. More specifically, according to Biden, the foes or the enemies of the United States of America are *anger, resentment, hatred, extremism, lawlessness, violence, diseases, joblessness and hopelessness*.

▪ **Simile**

The following extracts represent simile as it used by President Biden in his inaugural address.

- 1) “I understand **like** their dad”
- 2) “The answer is not to turn inward, to turn into competing factions, distrusting those who don’t look **like** you do”
- 3) “A once-in-century virus that silently stalks the country, It’s taken **as** many lives in one year **as** America lost in all of World War 2”

- 4) “America secured liberty at home and stood once again **as** beacon to the world”
- 5) “I know speaking of **unity** can sound to some **like** a **foolish fantasy**.”

Biden expressed his thoughts and ideas in different ways mainly by making direct comparisons and it is seen through these extensive simile examples. Tools like ‘like’ and ‘as’ demonstrate the link between the two ideas.

c) Honest Deception

Honest deception is a stylistic device where the true nature of things are indirectly described. Leech (1969) pinpointed three styles of honest deception that are hyperbole, litotes and irony.

▪ Hyperbole

Deliberate overstatement commonly used for rhetorical purposes are shown in these extracts.

- 1) “...democracy is **precious**, democracy is **fragile**, and at this hour my friends, democracy has **prevailed**”
- 2) “As we look ahead in our **uniquely American way**.”
- 3) This is **a great nation** and we are **good people**”
- 4) “With unity we can do **great things, important things**.”
- 5) “We can make America once again **the leading force for good** in the world”

As provided above, Biden excessively exaggerated in the description of certain concepts and beliefs.

▪ Litotes

An instance of litotes is used by Biden and it is demonstrated in the following extract

- 1) “We celebrate the triumph **not of a candidate but of a cause**”

This example shows an understatement that refers to something positive. In this expression, Biden stated that the inauguration is not only a celebration of the newly elected president of the United States but it is also the celebration of democracy which is so important.

▪ **Irony**

After extensive readings of the text, we noticed that President Joe Biden did not use irony in his inaugural address. Irony is a literary device that expresses a contrast between reality and expectation in a humorous way.

1.4. Deviation of Register

Register mixing is widely used by Biden. Table (4) illustrates this deviation:

Register Types	Examples	Register Types	Examples
<i>Political Register</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice president • Leader • Democracy • Nation • Power • Parties • Constitutions • President • Patriots • Political extremism • National office • Elected • Republic • Conservative • Liberal • Politics • Senate 	<i>Religious Register</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God • Sacred oath • Faith • Saint Augustin • Church • Silent prayer • Amen • Bible • Worship • Prayers • Sustained by fait • God bless America • God bless the troops
<i>Family Register</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children • Dad • Moms • Husbands • Wives • Sons • Daughters • Forbearers • Generation 	<i>Historical Register</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New year's day 1863 • Emancipation proclamation • Civil War • Great depression • World war • History • 108 years ago •

<i>Judicial Register</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Racial justice • White supremacy • Domestic terrorism • Extremism • Lawlessness • Systemic racism • Inequity • Violence • Racism • Riotous mob 	<i>Health Register</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heal • Virus • Diseases • Health care
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Table 4. Deviation of Register in President Joe Biden’s Inaugural Address

Table 2 presents the recurrent registers in Biden’s inaugural speech. Biden used a mixture of registers for each respective domain that he approached. The listed registers above are the most recurrent ones because of their significance to the American people. As a newly elected president, Biden covered all the important issues and worries of his people in order to reassure them, win their confidence and prove his worthiness as a president who will not fail them.

To add a clearer insight into the different registers used by Biden, we exploited the perks provided by voyant tools which provided us with the following line graph.

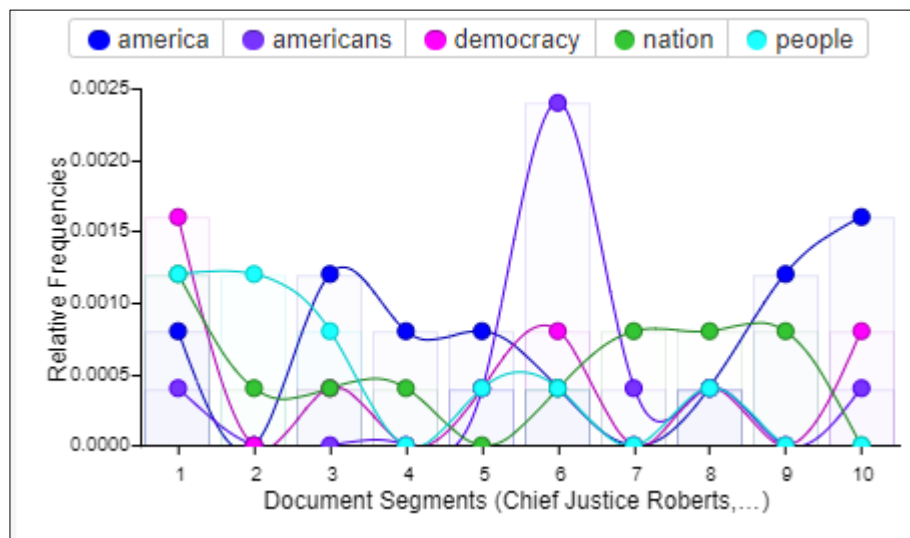


Figure 1. Line Graph Demonstrating the Dominant Words in Biden’s Inaugural Address.

Figure (1) demonstrates the dominant words belonging to one specific register which is clearly the political register. Looking to the curved lines, we observe that these dominant words have a different rate of usage a through the speech.

2. The Absent Linguistic Deviations in President Joe Biden's Inaugural Speech

2.1. Lexical Deviation

This first linguistic deviation is concerned with neologism or simply the invention of new words for a particular occasion through the process of affixation, compounding and functional conversion. However, this irregularity is not present in President Joe Biden's Inaugural address. Through our inclusive reading of the text, we only came across already existing words that are used on daily basis.

2.2. Graphological Deviation

After extensive readings of President Joe Biden's inaugural speech, we marked the absence of the graphological deviation. This stylistic irregularity refers to the unusual punctuation and capitalization of the poem. The speech transcript offered by the official website of the White House does not serve poetic purposes instead it marks the pauses made by Biden while delivering his speech to the audience.

2.3. Dialectal Deviation

After profoundly scrutinising the text, we perceived that Biden did not make use of the dialectal deviation in his inaugural speech. No borrowing of social or regional dialects was marked. Instead, he put the good use of Standard English into practice and restricted himself to the one dialect which is accommodated in such situations with the intention to attain the minds and souls of the audience.

2.4. Historical Period Deviation

After intensive readings of the text, we marked the absence of the historical period deviation in the inaugural speech of President Joe Biden. There was no apparent use of any linguistic heritage belonging to the dead languages such as Latin and Greek. These irregularities are most commonly used by poets to showcase the interconnectivity between modern and ancient languages.

3. Other Figures of Speech

In this third section we explore the other existing stylistic figures presented in the speech. Besides the figures of speech mentioned by Leech (1969) in the semantic deviation we came across other figures of speech that are worth mentioning.

▪ Alliteration

Biden used a total of (9) different alliterative phonemes. As presented bellow in table (6), the first example represents a semi-alliteration in between the words ‘fight’, ‘foes’ and ‘face’. In example (2) the words ‘manipulated’ and ‘manufactured’ the two words share the same first three consonant sounds which makes it a complete alliteration. In example (3) a noticeable variation of alliteration is seen in the words are ‘power’, ‘possibility’, ‘personal’ and ‘public’.

Examples	Alliteration
1) “Uniting to fight the foes we face ”	/f/
2) “We reject the culture in which facts themselves are manipulated and even manufactured .”	/m/
3) “...keep everything I do in your service thinking not of p ower, but of p ossibility, not of p ersonal interest but of the p ublic good.”	/p/

Table 5. Alliteration in President Joe Biden’s Inaugural Address.

▪ Anaphora

Repeating the same expression or word at the beginning of a sentence is a rhetorical technique which is highly used by Biden in his inaugural speech. The examples below exemplified anaphora as it is used by Biden.

- 1) “**We can** right wrongs, **We can** put people to work in good jobs, **We can** teach our children in safe schools, **We can** overcome the deadly virus, **We can** reward and rebuild the middle class and make healthcare secure for all... **We can** deliver racial justice, and **we can** make America, once again the leading force for good in the world.”
- 2) “ **I will defend** the constitution. **I will defend** our democracy. **I will defend** America.”
- 3) “...**the story that** guides us, **the story that** inspires us. And **the story that** tells ages yet to come that we answered the call to history.”
- 4) “**We can** see **each other** not as adversaries but as neighbours. **We can** treat **each other** with dignity and respect.”
- 5) “**I understand** that many of my fellow Americans view the future with fear and trepidation. **I understand** they worry about their jobs. **I understand** like their dad lay in bed at night staring at the ceiling wondering...”

▪ Allusion

Biden made some references to well-known figures like such as George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King and saint Augustin in examples (1), (2), (4), (6). In addition to veterans of wars and women’s in examples (4). Apparent recalling of important past events and memorable places are seen in examples (2), (3), (4) alone with biblical referencing in the fifth example.

- 1) “I have just taken the sacred oath of those patriots have taken, the oath first sworn by **George Washington.**”
- 2) “In another **January on New Year’s Day 1863, Abraham Lincoln** signed the emancipation proclamation. When he put pen to paper, the president said: “if my name ever goes down into history it will be for this act and my whole soul is in it.”
- 3) “Through **civil war, the great depression, world war, 9/11**”
- 4) “Here we stand looking out in the great wall where **Dr.King** spoke of his dream. Here we strand where **108 ago at another inaugural**, thousands of protestors tries to **block brave women marching for their right to vote**. Here we stand across the Potomac from **Arlington cemetery, where heroes who gave the last full measure of devotion...**”
- 5) “As **the bible says: “weeping may endure for a night but joy cometh in the morning.”**”
- 6) “**Saint Augustin**, a saint of my church wrote that a people was a multitude defined by the common objects of their love.”

▪ **Personification**

Some human characteristics and behaviours were attribute to abstract concepts, the following examples of personification exemplify this point:

1) “**Violence sought to shake** this capitol’s very foundation”

In this first example, Biden attributed human properties to the act of violence. The personification lays in the verb ‘sought’ from ‘seek’ meaning an attempt to achieve or obtain something. This particular action is purely human and cannot be performed by abstract things.

2) “A once-in-a-century **virus that silently stalks** the country”

As second example, Biden described the fast contagious virus Covid-19 as a person on a quiet and vicious pursuit to infect as many people as possible. The personification lays in the verb ‘stalk’ which is a human characteristic.

3) “**A cry for survival comes from the planet** itself”

In this third example, Crying is a human tendency and attributing it to something non-human creates personification.

4) “**Democracy is fragile**”

In this last passage, Biden referred to democracy as a vulnerable person who requires to be treated with kindness and consideration. Democracy is sacred and worthy to President Biden that is why he attached it to a human feature.

▪ **Rhetorical Question**

These examples illustrate rhetorical questions used by President Biden in his speech. These questions are not asked to get answers but they are elaborated to draw attention and consider important matters.

- 1) Will we rise to the occasion?
- 2) Will we master this rare and difficult hour?
- 3) Will we meet our obligations and pass along a new and better world for our children?
- 4) What are the common objects we as Americans love that define us as Americans? I think we know.

Conclusion

This third chapter has provided the results obtained after the analysis of President Joe Biden's inaugural speech using Leech's (1969) model of Linguistic Deviations. Thereon, Leech's eight linguistic irregularities were investigated together with certain figures of speech. The subsequent chapter presents a lucid and detailed discussion of the findings.

Chapter Four
Discussion of the Findings

Introduction

The present chapter provides a comprehensive discussion of the findings obtained from the analysis of President Joe Biden's inaugural speech. The discussion is based on Leech's (1969) model of Linguistic Deviations. This chapter is divided into three parts which attempt to provide answers to the previously mentioned research questions in the general introduction. The first section deals with the dominant linguistic deviations and the second section is concerned with absent ones. The third section examines the figures of speech used by President Joe Biden in his inaugural address.

1. Discussion of the Existing Linguistic Deviations in President Joe Biden's Inaugural Speech

According to Leech (1969), the choice of implying any kind of linguistic irregularities in written or spoken language depends on the amount and quality of information that the writer or poet wishes to communicate to his/her audience. This means that writer's choice whether to embellish his/her language or simply abide to the conventional rules of the English language rests on the intended meaning that ought to be conveyed and evidently understood by the audience.

As presented in the previous chapter, President Joe Biden elevated his address by upgrading the linguistic boldness of the text under study. Accordingly, four main linguistic deviations were identified during the analysis of the speech. Including few grammatical deviations, in addition to phonological deviation that is essentially exhibited through parallelism. Next, we have semantic deviation with its types particularly two absent features then it is followed by deviation of register highlighting numerous register blends considering many domains of great importance. Finally, a. The presence of these four specific deviations is reasonably acceptable and justifiable in relation to Biden's intentions and ideologies that he wanted to achieve on that specific day.

1.1. Discussion of Grammatical Deviation

Grammatical deviation is concerned with two aspects of language including syntax which is concerned with the structural aspect of sentences, and morphology which deals with the composition of words.

In Biden's speech, few instances of grammatical deviation at the syntactical level were identified, and among them hyperbaton. It involves an irregularity in the word order of some elements in a sentence. In any language, there are structural patterns that need to be followed in order to construct sentences and any deviation from the conventional norms is considered as a flaw. In his address, Biden mostly employed simple, short and declarative sentences marked with persistent repetition of certain words with very few instances of complicity. Some examples included slit rearrangements in the common structural pattern S+V+O+C turned into C+S+V+O like in the example (1), and another from is seen in example (2) exhibiting the following structure O+S+V+O which ought to be S+V+O+O. The aim of using such patterns is to attract the audience by placing important keywords at the beginning or at the end for maximum emphasis.

As for the morphological aspect of the speech, there was no apparent use of peculiar use of affixation in the text. All the words containing prefixes/ suffixes or both are commonly used by English speakers on daily basis. The overall syntactic and morphological aspects of Biden's speech was acceptable and free from excessive ungrammatical forms. Based on the fact that English is the first language of Biden along with his social status ladled as an educated person, we consider that he certainly has enough knowledge about phonological, morphological and syntactical forms granting him considerable mastery the English language, (Fromkin *et al*, 2011 cited in Budiharto, 2018) therefore, making him less likely to make such linguistic irregularities. It is also worth mentioning that the immoderate use of grammatical deviation implicate problems of analogy mainly facing children at the early stages of their learning and foreigners (Abbas, 2017).

1.2. Discussion of Phonological Deviation

Leech (1969) proposed three types of phonological deviation that involve the omission of certain sounds. These phonological deviations include elision, aphaesis and apocope. The reason behind the use of such phonological behaviours is determined by the individual and his/her social needs (Sadoon and Al-aassam, 2011), i.e. the speaker's status influences his/her way of uttering words. For instance, singers do not write their songs in the same way as presidents do to their addresses. Sound omission occurs mostly for rhyming purposes and it is mostly acceptable in poetry or some kinds of prose.

Biden's address was free of these linguistic irregularities, and the same reasons leading to the use of phonological deviations are the same reasons for their absence in the speech under study. Considering his social status as President of the United States of America, Biden is expected to address his people in an elevated yet simple style mainly relying on Standard English, which does not allow any irregularities at the structural and phonological level.

One distinct detail worth mentioning is that Biden has long struggled with stuttering, which is a neurological speech condition disrupting the flow of speech resulting in the repetition and prolongation of some sounds, silent pauses and blocks. However, with practice Biden managed to diminish his stammering. Few instances of stuttering were identified while orally delivering his speech such as stumbling on the /r/ sound while uttering the word '*reword*', and the expression '*rural versus urban*', and mistaking '*persevere*' for '*preserve*'. Such deficiencies may not be considered as phonological deviations because they are involuntary faults.

To substitute the unavailable phonological irregularities, Leech (1969) proposed parallelism, a closeness of identical structures that create a rhetorical effect. Correspondingly, parallelism in politics enhances comprehension by bringing two or more ideas into contrast or comparison and thus creating a harmonious effect attracting the audience. Biden surely opted for parallelism in his speech. Example (5) holds a similar grammatical structure creating an opposition between ideas like in the words '*defeat*' and '*defend*', '*truth*' and '*lies*'. The other

examples (1), (2), (3), and (4) demonstrated very similar structures repeated twice within a sentence aimed to sets a close link between important ideas.

1.3. Discussion of Semantic Deviation

Semantic deviation is among the four existing deviations employed by President Joe Biden in his inauguration address. Leech (1969) introduced this irregularity as some kind of ‘nonsense’ or ‘absurdity’ whereby simple cognitive information of everyday life is not evident at first sight and drives the reader to think about it more in order to understand it. Thereon, three distinguished types of semantic irregularities are proposed by Leech: semantic oddity, transference of meaning and honest deception.

1.3.1. Semantic oddity

Refers to the bizarreness of some expressions which convey a particular meaning and serve a specific purpose depending on the writer’s aim. There are five kinds of semantic oddity and only four were identified in the speech.

Pleonasm involves a redundancy in speech leaned to create a dazzling effect on the audience. Incidents of pleonasm were seen in the sentences ‘*brining America together, uniting our people, uniting our nation*’ and ‘*let us listen to one another, hear one another*’. These instances of pleonasm were used by Biden to attract attention and set emphasis.

The same goes with tautology, which is a redundancy of true statements adding in some extra information about the preceding item or about the author himself. In the example ‘***Saint Augustin, a saint** of my church*’, Biden purposely repeated the items in bold to unveil his religious attributions for his audience. By doing so, the American people were implicitly informed about some personal traits of their newly elected president, and this detail may be of great importance especially for those who share the same religious interest as Biden. Such recurrence of meaning adds weight to an idea (Gallo, 2021).

Paradox is a variant of semantic oddity manifested in Biden’s address through the following expression ‘*winter of peril and significant possibility*’. At first glance, this passage

makes no sense but with deeper focus, the meaning can be easily extracted. In this example, Biden placed two contradictory expressions wherein the first one '*winter of peril*' calls for despair and struggle, and the second one '*significant possibility*' evokes hope and the success that may be achieved in the current difficult times facing the United States of America. For Leech (1969), the true essence of words can be expressed only in a figurative way and by violating the conventional rules of language.

Periphrasis is another kind of semantic oddity. It is the use of a long and less straightforward expression to refer to a particular idea that could have been conveyed with a short and direct expression. Periphrasis is present in Biden's speech, in examples (1) and (2) served as an exciting and attention attracting introduction to the intended meaning which is the American Anthem and inauguration day. Employing such literary device adds weight to the sentence and shows the speaker's appreciation and admiration of certain things that are of great importance to the audience.

Oxymoron is lacking kind of semantic oddity in the speech. Biden used a fair amount of other figures of speech to express his thoughts in a stylistic way. Therefore, the absence of oxymoron cannot hinder the meaning of the speech since paradox served the purpose. In fact, Leech (1969) argued that paradox is complementary to oxymoron. Therefore, its absence does not interfere with the total success of the communication flow, but it may deprive the reader or the audience from insightful details that may ease understanding. In this sense, Leech (1969) assembled pleonasm and tautology under the name of 'inaneities' because they convey no data in a rational way, whereas oxymoron and paradox are referred to as 'absurdities' since they are used to convey self-contradictory information.

1.3.2. Transference of Meaning

Among other present semantic irregularities, we find the tropes including synecdoche, metaphor, metonymy and simile grouped together as means of. The meaning of tropes can only be understood if the reader/ listener makes sense of the figurative meaning. Biden's

inauguration address contained all four kinds of tropes starting with synecdoche. The latter occurred in the address in two forms.

The first form involved the use of a single word to refer to a part of something like in the examples (1), (2), (3), words '*the people*', '*patriots*', and '*mob*' were used by Biden to refer to particular social groups by using a single representative word as an attempt to provide a shorthand and effective way of approaching events and concepts and create new connections in the way that his audience understands them and relates to them. The other form of synecdoche is illustrated in this example (4): '*moms and dads, husbands and wives, sons and daughters, friends, neighbours, and co-workers*'. This was constructed for the sake of acknowledging and specifying the identity of those 400,000 Americans who died due to the Covid-19 virus. The words in italics represent the American society from the household to the workplace. On the ground of this, the word 'Americans' itself would have been enough to express the intended meaning; however, Biden might have intentionally employed this series of words to show to the American people that he deeply cares about every single person. This is of course a persuasive technique adopted by politicians to influence the audience by showing their affections and attentiveness towards them and those they care about.

Metonymy is another linguistic style used in transference of meaning. It is the use of words that are related in meaning to the original concept. The use of metonymy is seen in the first example when Biden used the word '*union*' which stands for the Northern states led by President Abraham Lincoln during the American Civil War. Calls for unity at inaugurations are nothing new. Like Lincoln, Biden also believes in the power of unity in a nation and acknowledged the difficulty to maintain it. Weeks prior to his inauguration, 'a riotous mob' attacked the Capitol demonstrating that unity is fragile and always confronted to danger. Therefore, like his predecessors, Biden made it clear that he and the American citizens would fight to preserve unity like those before them. Another instance of metonymy demonstrating many negative attitudes that keep disjoining the Americans is seen in example (2) the word

'foes' that involves *'anger, resentment, hatred, extremism, lawlessness, violence, diseases, joblessness and hopelessness'*. In this sense, metonymy changes the meaning of words by providing referents and connections between concepts and events by adding complexity to ordinary words thereby drawing the audience's attention to what otherwise would not be noticed. More than that, metonymy decreases and increases responsibility (Kulo, 2009). By way of explanation, politicians can easily dismiss or confront some responsibilities when directly addressing their public by using metonymy. For instance, using the metonymy 'union' increases both Biden's and the American's responsibility towards their country, because as stated earlier they should act together in order to build a strong nation.

Metaphor and simile are also instruments of transference of meaning. Metaphor is an important linguistic tool that appears in the language of politics and it is used to ease abstract concepts of the world of politics (Stefancik, 2020; cited in Pavlikova, 2020). It entails an implicit comparison or reference to other concepts that share a link. Evidence of metaphor occurred in Biden's address in the examples *'the bottom of my heart'* and *'dark winter'*. Metaphor operates as a means of indirect comparison between seemingly different things joined together without the words 'as' resulting in a metaphoric structure enhancing the audience's understanding. In the first example, Biden indirectly described his heart as a container filled with lots of gratitude. To show the depth of his feelings, Biden used a metaphorical structure because sometimes the true essences of thoughts and feelings can only be represented through figurative language. In the second example, *'dark winter'*, these two words are seemingly related when their meaning is derived from a figurative view. 'Winter' 'is characterised by cold temperatures and 'dark' evokes gloominess and negativity. When joined together, they describe the upcoming difficulties and struggles that the American people are going to face due to the global pandemic of Covid-19 and political tensions. The graveness of the present situation is expressed through the use of a metaphor. Saying simply that the current situation is difficult would not have the same impact on the audience as when it is formulated using a metaphor.

There is also a wide usage of simile throughout the speech. Setting a direct comparison between two dissimilar things using words such as ‘as’ and ‘like’ is what simile is about. Biden has made several uses of simile in his address. A portrayal of simile is seen in the first example: *‘I understand like their dad’*, Biden captured the concerns of his people like a loving and caring father would consider the issues of his own children. Such correspondence would not only alter the linguistic aspect of the speech and made it more persuasive but it would also improve the relationship between a leader and his people. Charteris-Blach (2005: n.p) asserted that ‘the boundaries between leader and nation is removed so that the views of the leader become the voice of the nation’. In Examples (3), (5) demonstrated the critical present situation of the united states of America which is subject to inside threats like the Covid-19 virus and outside threats consisting in enemies seeking to disrupt the countries interior peace. He then evidently called for unity and embracing each other’s differences as an act of solidarity to overcome the troubles. In example (4), Biden used a simile to demonstrate the importance and role of America, considering it as a source of morals and inspiration, and defender of evil. All examples of simile provided in the speech enhance vivid imagery and audience understanding of many values such as caring, hard work, and implied warnings. On account of this, the audience especially those who voted for him will get a sense of relief knowing that their elected president cares about them as their parent does. In fact, even those who did not support him may also change their minds and approve of his ideologies.

1.3.3. Honest Deception

Two out of three kinds of honest deception were identified, consisting in the intentional use of words that seem devious to pass a message in a hidden way. Honest deception with its kinds are used to create a lasting impact on the audience rather than deceive them (El Baroudi, 2019).

Hyperbole is largely used by Biden in his address. In examples (2), (3), and (5) Biden explained that the American people are genially good and managed to preserve that regardless of the many struggles that they faced. He also emphasised the fact that Americans have their special thoughts that distinguish them from the rest of the world, and through his words, one can understand that they possess mostly good qualities. Therefore, such exaggerations are employed for one major reason, which is that Biden wanted to motivate the American people to work even harder so they can maintain that elevated level of theirs. He then stressed the importance of unity and democracy among the American people which is shown in exmples (1) and (4), this manipulative technique served to raise awareness on important values and aspects of reality. According to Leech (1969:170), hyperbole is a stylistic instrument involving ‘personal values and sentiments’ of both speaker and listener and celebrating the interests of both interlocutors such as love, religion, and patriotism. Litotes is another linguistic style used in honest deception.

Litotes are understatements that express something positive using negation. The use of litotes is seen when Biden commented, ‘we *celebrate the triumph not of a candidate but of a cause*’, showing that the inauguration day is not held to celebrate his victory but to celebrate his new visions and hopes for a better future. Leech (1969: 170) affirmed that ‘hyperbole and litotes serve to colour the expression of personal feelings and opinions’. Accordingly, litotes serves many purposes. For instance, Biden used it to demonstrate the lack of commitment of former President Donald Trump who misgoverned the country during his term. Through litotes, Biden implied his desires and intentions to change things for the best. This literary device also served as a clever use of language combined with negative but evocative statements without directly affirming the meaning.

Biden made use of different figures of speech to contain his thoughts and pass them to his audience in a captivating way. However, the overall aspect of the address was plain and direct with a steady serious tone. At some extent, certain perspectives were presented in a

straightforward manner resulting in the absence of irony which is another kind of honest deception. By way of explanation, irony was dismissed because Biden might have favoured to express particular elements directly without deviating and concealing the meaning.

In summation, politicians can deliberately use language implicitly to convey a message wherein sometimes the intended meaning does not cause the intended impact or it may create a conflict if passed directly without the use of figurative language.

1.4. Discussion of Deviation of Register

President Joe Biden's speech was marked by a major use of register mixing corresponding to the main themes that he approached. According to Leech (1969), the drives behind the use of different registers are due to the 'social relations' between the author and his audience, and the role of the piece of writing in that particular occasion.

To begin with, the relation between Biden and his audience determined the tone of the discourse whether it is 'colloquial or formal, familiar or polite, personal or impersonal' (ibid: 9). The overall tone of Biden's address was polite, direct and most importantly formal with some necessary linguistic twists such as semantic deviations which brought about a congenial. Obviously, the speech was expected to be formal considering Biden's social role as President of the United States of America.

As for the second incitement, inauguration addresses are mainly intended to determine future plans and ideologies and approach the social problems facing one's country. On grounds of this, Biden made use of various registers related to the domains and critical issues facing the United States of America including *politics, family, religion, history, justice* and *health*. The selection of these themes was not random. In fact, register mixing is based on a rational selection of appropriate vocabulary which belongs to familiar institutions and human activities that the audience can easily acknowledge and understand. The pre-mentioned themes are all customarily known by the American people because they make up their daily life. The use of

appropriate vocabulary for addressing different influential issues is a smart way to make direct points, avoid long and void sentences, and demonstrate the speakers' master-ship of many fields.

2. The Applicability of Leech's Model in Biden's Inaugural Address

Leech (1969) proposed eight different linguistic deviations that can be entirely applied to poetry, in which poets are granted free will to diverge from the conventional standards of language. Following this lucid discussion of the present linguistic deviations in President Joe Biden's inaugural address, we may conclude that his model can be partially applied to analyse political speeches. As observed in the discussion section and in the presentation of the findings, only four linguistic deviations were identified that are semantic, phonological, grammatical and register deviation. These irregularities are pertinent and applicable in prose and were very essential to communicate will the message and make the speech captivating.

The four remaining deviations were absent due to some ends that are going to be discussed in what follows. The unavailable irregularities include lexical, dialectal, graphological and historical period deviation.

3. Discussion of the Non-existing Linguistic Deviations in President Joe Biden's Inaugural Address

Leech's (1969) model of Linguistic Deviations includes four other deviations which are lexical, graphological, dialectal, and historical period deviation. These irregularities are not present in President Joe Biden's inaugural address. Deviation of lexis, dialect and historical period are linguistic irregularities that generates confusion and non-conformity within the address.

Non-formation, as proposed by Leech (1969) in his model, consists of the invention of relatively new words for a particular occasion by means of affixation, compounding and functional conversion. However, this irregularity is absent in Biden's inaugural address.

Throughout our analysis of the speech transcript, no evidence of neologism was identified. The words used by Biden were attached to conventional bound morphemes encompassing a prefix/suffix or both featuring derivational and inflectional morphemes. Neither compounding nor functional conversion was used. As traditionally known, inaugural addresses are meant to set a celebration atmosphere, establish future plans, motivate the people and most importantly persuade the audience. To do so, the language in use should be clear and direct without any complicated ambiguities, and using novel words on such occasions would hinder the meaning of the address and make the audience wonder about the meaning of those words. A slight precision worth mentioning is that Biden's speech was loaded with positive adjectives and repetition of keywords such as 'democracy' and 'unity' giving a bright and hopeful tone to the speech.

As stated by Leech (1969), graphological deviation is an external aspect of style consisting of issues of capitalization, punctuation, italicization and paragraphing. These aspects were not identified in Biden's speech because it is a discourse and not a written text. A text is physically marked on paper allowing for graphological elements to be easily identified whereas a discourse is considered as 'a linear pattern of sound waves' (Leech and Short, 1981:168) making it impossible to notice its graphic system, which is the case in Biden's inaugural speech. The address was delivered orally allowing no apparent recognition of its graphological forms, and the presented punctuation in the speech transcript extracted from the BBC News website, served as pause markers.

Dialectal deviation is another missing irregularity in Biden's address. It refers to the process of borrowing social or regional aspects of a given dialect. Incorporating features of a given regional dialect would bias the address and make it as if it was intended for a certain category where in fact it should be addressed to all people. Therefore, Biden made a rational linguistic choice and delivered the speech in the standard form of English, which is internationally recognised and stands for the social status of the addresser. Biden's inaugural

address was not aimed at a certain group of people, but at all the American people and the rest of the world.

In addition to the freedom of register and dialect mixing, modern writers grant themselves the right to use of linguistic units belonging to dead languages such as Latin and Greek. Deep and considerable reading confirmed the absence of historical period deviation in Biden's inaugural speech. This kind of irregularity is most accurate in poetry to show appreciation and pride in one's linguistic heritage. In political speeches, such irregularities and drives are not sought because the purpose of political addresses is to persuade in the simplest and clearest way possible, and adding elements of dead languages will undermine the meaning and comprehension of the audience.

To conclude, politicians have several ways of diverging from the norms of English. To demonstrate their personal touch and express their thoughts and ideas, politicians seek to persuade their audience by making the appropriate linguistic choices and relate them to the important facts and events of everyday life.

4. Discussion of Additional Existing Figures of Speech in President Joe Biden's Inaugural Address

Language is the main and powerful medium to concretise thoughts, especially for politicians. To embellish and highlight those written thoughts, literary devices serve the purpose. Aside from the present figures of speech identified as semantic deviations, five others were detected in President Joe Biden's inaugural speech that are alliteration, anaphora, allusion, personification and rhetorical question.

Alliteration is a literary device that is present in the discourse. It involves the repetition of initial consonant sounds. Instances of alliteration were seen many times in the speech such as in the words '*manipulated and manufactured*'. This example demonstrates a complete alliteration as explained by Leech (1969). A complete alliteration results in the similarity of two or more sounds when uttered orally by the speaker. Another example taken from the speech

demonstrates a semi-alliteration, meaning that certain words share only the same first consonant like in the passage *'fight the foes we face'*. Alliteration creates a very pleasant phonological sound and attracts the audience to consider the alliterative words. Considering the examples provided in the speech, we notice that Biden carefully joined alliterative sounds when he expressed paramount ideas.

Anaphora is highly present in the speech. A redundant sequence of words at the beginning of successive sentences is a rhetorical device used by public speakers to achieve several effects on the audience. Among various incidences of anaphora, Biden repeated a variety of expression *'we can'*, *'I will defend'*, *'will we'*, *'I understand'* and *'I will defend'* in a sequence of sentences. This rhetorical device served to draw attention on the repeated words because of their significance. It is also used to create links of comparison or contrast between ideas with a rhyming effect making them easily understandable and memorable. Anaphora is considered a part of the phonological deviation as it is a form of parallelism.

Brief references to a person, place, thing, event or Bible are what allusion is all about. This rhetorical device is used by Biden convey important ideas by referring to famous American figures who called for unity and democracy such as Martin Luther King, Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. Women's struggle to gain their rights, world war, American Civil War, and 9/11 attacks were all brought to memory along with the veterans who gave up their lives and were buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Wisdom and guidance were sought in the holy Bible as pronounced by saint Augustin. These are incidences of allusion as employed by Biden. The central idea behind allusion is that people like to be reminded of who they are, and of their history and values. As previously mentioned, Biden's speech was mostly direct and with allusion, it is realistic. With this literary device, Biden showed many hidden traits of his personality and his society as a whole that of course will influence the audience. Through allusion, he showed empathy, confidence, pain and fear, and demonstrated that he understands the world in which the American citizens live in. By demonstrating such ideas, people will

know that their newly elected president cares about them, cherishes their history and shares the same values. Allusion is also used as a means of comparison and contrast between some positive and negative aspects of modern American society. However, Biden kept a balance when referencing the past. He brought on positive aspects of past life and negative ones about modern life and the other way around but with moderation. Stating too much positive things about past life would make the audience anxious about the present, and praising the present life would send false hopes about the modern situation. From this point, we assume that allusion is a powerful tool that ought to be used properly otherwise it will be misinterpreted.

Personification is another useful tool used by Biden to create a vivid image of his thoughts and ideas in the mind of the audience. Human qualities and attitudes were attributed to abstract things as illustrated in example (1) and (2) The words ‘virus’ and ‘violence’ were addressed by Biden as if they were humans having traits, as a person tracking something or someone in the first example, and in the second example Biden attributed human properties to the act of violence by assigning the act of seeking from sought, which is a human particularity that cannot be performed by abstract concepts. In example (3) and (4) Biden described democracy as having the property of vulnerably, and attributed the act of crying to the planet as an attempt to alert about the climate issues. To present the weightiness of matters, Biden opted for personification. The examples above would not have same effect and significance if they were simply spoken without the use of figurative language. Personification also sets a realistic atmosphere by creating motion with inanimate ideas assigning them human behaviours that are recognized and familiar to all.

Rhetorical question does not alter or affect the meaning of words. It is used to achieve particular emphasis and trigger curiosity. Biden employed this device in his speech, and the audience is not asked to answer the question in fact they are manipulated to reconsider what they know or believe in. Rhetorical questions raise a spirit of enquiry and keep the audience focused and interested to continue listening and enjoy the technical and astatic aspect of this

rhetorical device. Incidences of rhetorical questions are shown '*will we rise to the occasion?*' and '*what are the common objects we as Americans love that define us as Americans?*'. This first question is composed to target the American conscious and make them question their inner voice. As for the second example, Biden answered the question by stating the common objects that define the Americans that are '*opportunity, security, liberty, dignity, respect, honour and yes the truth.*' This rhetorical question served as a reminder of the qualities that American citizens have because people like to be reminded of who they are or get compliments about the things they appreciate.

In summation, there are various styles in which politicians can deliberately and implicitly use language to convey a message and persuade their audience. The appropriate selection and use of figures of speech are important in politics, and misusing them would inhibit communication. Therefore, language is dynamic and can be conveniently adapted to fit various occasions and contexts (El Baroudi, 2019).

5. Biden's Inaugural Address in Reference to Previous Political Studies

The current study has investigated the use of Leech's linguistic deviations in Biden's Inaugural address, the results showed that only four irregularities were used including grammatical, phonological, semantic and register deviation. In reference to Ren and Yu's (2013) study about the identification of linguistic deviation in up to date English advertising, we noticed that both grammatical and phonological deviations were identified, and proved that this linguistic irregularities which are commonly found in poetry can be also used in pros.

In comparison to Ghani and Hussain's (2021) study, we noticed that mostly all of Biden's speeches demonstrate a good mastery in showcasing his ideologies, future plans, and synthesize with the audience by using an appropriate selection of vocabulary, yet Biden did not use any lexical deviation but the speech was loaded with purposeful vocabulary that showed his positions and attitude towards many issues.

Another brief reference to Abbas's (2021), which bring a close link to our study by acknowledging the fact that Biden's most of Biden's speeches had this apparent usage of the discourse of the 'us' versus 'other', in his inaugural address we noticed an implicit reference to the former president Donald Trump, and that is by using positive/negative adjectives to refer to previous government misleading, and mostly positive ones were employed to cheer up the audience and set an optimistic yet realistic atmosphere. Words such as: 'rebuild' 'renewal', 'resolve' and so on. These words attached to prefix 're' that stands for doing something again, meaning that Biden is here to fix what has been destroyed or mislead. Another feature that is common with Abbas's (2021) study is the fact that Biden tackled the most influential issues of the present times, like in His inaugural speech his spoke about the pandemic, riots, climate issues.

In this sense, our study met some similarities with the previously mentioned studies concerning Biden's speeches and Leech's model. However, it added some new and deeper insights on semantic feature that occurred in the speech along with lucid description of the register blends. Not only that, it demonstrated that a theoretical framework which was intended for poetry can be applied to political discourse.

Conclusion

This chapter has discussed the findings of the current research that investigated the linguistic deviations in President Joe Biden's inaugural speech in the light of Leech's (1969) model of Linguistic Deviations along with the present figures of speech. It has provided answers to the study questions and tested the validity of the research hypotheses stated in the general introduction.

General Conclusion

The present study has investigated of the use of the linguistic deviations proposed by Leech (1969) and the recurrent figures of speech present in Joe Biden's inauguration speech delivered on January 20, 2021. As previously mentioned in the general introduction three main objectives were set to be investigated. The study first aimed at identifying the different linguistic deviations used by Biden in his inaugural address. Another research objective consisted in highlighting the other existing figures of speech employed by the newly elected President of the United States of America. Last but not least, the current research sought to determine whether Leech's (1969) model of Linguistic Deviations can be applied to political discourse or not. Therefore, the study adopted Leech's (1969) linguistic deviations as a theoretical framework that guided the investigation process.

In order to answer the research questions addressed in the general introduction, we have meticulously examined Joe Biden's inauguration speech through several and intensive readings. Guided by Leech's (1969) model of Linguistic Deviations, we analysed the speech in two steps by means of qualitative analysis. We started by investigating the presence and absence of the linguistic deviations proposed by Leech. The second step consisted in the identification of the recurrent figures of speech employed in the address.

Based on the outcomes of the two previous chapters entitled 'Presentation of the Findings' and 'Discussion of the Findings', we identified four linguistic deviations in President Joe Biden's inaugural address that are: semantic deviation, grammatical deviation, phonological deviation, and deviation of register. These cited irregularities are most likely to be also found in prose essentially used to achieve a communicative function. Deviations of lexis, dialect, graphology and historical period were not present in the speech because they are most likely found in poetry. Five additional figures of speech were identified that are as follow: allusion, alliteration, anaphora, personification and rhetorical question. These literary devices served the purpose and shaded all the important points of the speech. The overall atmosphere of the address was also characterised by a direct and serious tone.

The first step in the analysis involved the identification of linguistic deviations in Biden's speech and aimed to answer the first, second and fourth research questions. The inaugural address has surely demonstrated a significant amount of semantic irregularities as an attempt to persuade, influence, praise and sympathise with the American people. Tools like pleonasm, tautology, paradox, synecdoche, metaphor, metonymy, simile, hyperbole and litotes were all identified in the address except for oxymoron and irony. Moreover, deviations of phonology were present in Biden's speech for their significance in political speeches. These irregularities consist in stressing emphasis on important ideas in the speech and attracting the audience attention. Little deviation in the convention pattern of sentence arrangement was identified. Biden relied mostly on simple declarative sentences for the sake of making the speech smartly straightforward and comprehensible, and very few instances of complex structures aimed to emphasise important points in the address were identified. Deviation of register was located in the speech since Biden tackled many influential topics such as politics, religion, family, health, history and justice. This tactic was used to influence and gain the trust of the audience by talking about the things they value the most. These linguistic irregularities were highly anticipated because of their convenience in mostly any type of writing and spoken language.

The results showed that four out of eight linguistic deviations were present in Biden's speech. This confirms the first research hypothesis that states that Joe Biden's inaugural speech contains some of the linguistic deviations proposed by Leech. As for deviations of lexis, dialect, graphology and historical period, they were absent due to their non-functionality in such linguistic performance. Since only four linguistic deviations were identified in the speech, we can say that our third research hypothesis, Leech's model of Linguistic Deviations can be applied to analyse political discourses, is partially confirmed.

The second step in the analysis consisted in the identification of figures of speech and aimed to answer the third study question. After extensive reading of the address, five additional figures of speech were identified alliteration, anaphora, allusion, personification and rhetorical

question. These stylistic elements were used to create memorable expressions that would impress the audience, and make it easy for the orator to unleash his ideologies and future plans in a very eloquent and embellished language that effectively influenced the thoughts and feelings of the audience. The result confirm the second hypothesis that Biden's inaugural address is marked by the use of certain figures of speech such as allusion, anaphora and personification.

With all things considered, the study has strived to highlight the linguistic deviations and figures of speech used by the newly elected President of the United States, Joe Biden. Undoubtedly, we were confronted to some limitations that made the research process a bit challenging. The complication laid in the similitude of some elements which created a certain confusion while analysing the speech and forcing to reread the full transcript multiple times for the sake of identifying one element.

I hope that this research topic has contributed insightful knowledge to previous and future researches centred upon the analysis of political discourse. It is also hoped that EFL students and researchers will consider this study as a landmark for further studies on previous/future or comparative political addresses using contradictory theoretical frameworks and methodologies.

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Appendix

Appendix: President Joe Biden's Inaugural Speech Transcript.

Chief Justice Roberts, Vice-President Harris, Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Vice-President Pence. My distinguished guests, my fellow Americans.

This is America's day. This is democracy's day. A day of history and hope, of renewal and resolve. Through a crucible for the ages, America has been tested anew and America has risen to the challenge. Today we celebrate the triumph not of a candidate but of a cause, a cause of democracy. The people - the will of the people - has been heard, and the will of the people has been heeded.

We've learned again that democracy is precious, democracy is fragile, and at this hour my friends, democracy has prevailed. So now on this hallowed ground where just a few days ago violence sought to shake the Capitol's very foundations, we come together as one nation under God - indivisible - to carry out the peaceful transfer of power as we have for more than two centuries.

As we look ahead in our uniquely American way, restless, bold, optimistic, and set our sights on a nation we know we can be and must be. I thank my predecessors of both parties for their presence here. I thank them from the bottom of my heart. And I know the resilience of our Constitution and the strength, the strength of our nation, as does President Carter, who I spoke with last night who cannot be with us today, but who we salute for his lifetime of service.

I've just taken a sacred oath each of those patriots have taken. The oath first sworn by George Washington. But the American story depends not on any one of us, not on some of us, but on all of us. On we the people who seek a more perfect union. This is a great nation, we are good people. And over the centuries through storm and strife in peace and in war we've come so far. But we still have far to go.

We'll press forward with speed and urgency for we have much to do in this winter of peril and significant possibilities. Much to do, much to heal, much to restore, much to build and much to gain. Few people in our nation's history have been more challenged or found a time more

challenging or difficult than the time we're in now. A once in a century virus that silently stalks the country has taken as many lives in one year as in all of World War Two.

Millions of jobs have been lost. Hundreds of thousands of businesses closed. A cry for racial justice, some 400 years in the making, moves us. The dream of justice for all will be deferred no longer. A cry for survival comes from the planet itself, a cry that can't be any more desperate or any clearer now. The rise of political extremism, white supremacy, domestic terrorism, that we must confront and we will defeat.

To overcome these challenges, to restore the soul and secure the future of America, requires so much more than words. It requires the most elusive of all things in a democracy - unity. Unity. In another January on New Year's Day in 1863 Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. When he put pen to paper the president said, and I quote, 'if my name ever goes down in history, it'll be for this act, and my whole soul is in it'.

My whole soul is in it today, on this January day. My whole soul is in this. Bringing America together, uniting our people, uniting our nation. And I ask every American to join me in this cause. Uniting to fight the foes we face - anger, resentment and hatred. Extremism, lawlessness, violence, disease, joblessness, and hopelessness.

With unity we can do great things, important things. We can right wrongs, we can put people to work in good jobs, we can teach our children in safe schools. We can overcome the deadly virus, we can reward work, we can rebuild the middle class and make work secure, we can secure racial justice and we can make America once again the leading force for good in the world.

I know speaking of unity can sound to some like a foolish fantasy these days. I know the forces that divide us are deep and they are real. But I also know they are not new. Our history has been a constant struggle between the American ideal, that we are all created equal, and the harsh ugly reality that racism, nativism, fear, demonization have torn us apart. The battle is perennial and victory is never secure.

Through civil war, the Great Depression, World War, 9/11, through struggle, sacrifice, and setback, our better angels have always prevailed. In each of our moments enough of us have come together to carry all of us forward and we can do that now. History, faith and reason show the way. The way of unity.

We can see each other not as adversaries but as neighbours. We can treat each other with dignity and respect. We can join forces, stop the shouting and lower the temperature. For without unity there is no peace, only bitterness and fury, no progress, only exhausting outrage. No nation, only a state of chaos. This is our historic moment of crisis and challenge. And unity is the path forward. And we must meet this moment as the United States of America.

If we do that, I guarantee we will not failed. We have never, ever, ever, ever failed in America when we've acted together. And so today at this time in this place, let's start afresh, all of us. Let's begin to listen to one another again, hear one another, see one another. Show respect to one another. Politics doesn't have to be a raging fire destroying everything in its path. Every disagreement doesn't have to be a cause for total war and we must reject the culture in which facts themselves are manipulated and even manufactured.

My fellow Americans, we have to be different than this. America has to be better than this and I believe America is so much better than this. Just look around. Here we stand in the shadow of the Capitol dome. As mentioned earlier, completed in the mid of the Civil War. When the union itself was literally hanging in the balance. Yet, we endure, we prevail. Here we stand, looking out on the great Mall, where Dr King spoke of his dream.

Here we stand, where 108 years ago at another inaugural, thousands of protesters tried to block brave women marching for the right to vote. And today we mark the swearing in of the first woman in American history elected to national office, Vice President Kamala Harris. Don't tell me things can't change. Here we stand across the Potomac of Arlington Cemetery where heroes who gave the last full measure of devotion rest in eternal peace.

And here we stand just days after a riotous mob thought they could use violence to silence the will of the people, to stop the work of our democracy, to drive us from this sacred ground. It did not happen, it will never happen, not today, not tomorrow, not ever. Not ever. To all those who supported our campaign, I'm humbled by the faith you placed in us. To all those who did not support us, let me say this. Hear me out as we move forward. Take a measure of me and my heart.

If you still disagree, so be it. That's democracy. That's America. The right to dissent peacefully. And the guardrail of our democracy is perhaps our nation's greatest strength. Yet hear me clearly, disagreement must not lead to disunion. And I pledge this to you. I will be a President for all Americans, all Americans. And I promise you I will fight for those who did not support me as for those who did.

Many centuries ago, St Augustine - the saint of my church - wrote that a people was a multitude defined by the common objects of their love. Defined by the common objects of their love. What are the common objects we as Americans love, that define us as Americans? I think we know. Opportunity, security, liberty, dignity, respect, honour, and yes, the truth.

Recent weeks and months have taught us a painful lesson. There is truth and there are lies. Lies told for power and for profit. And each of us has a duty and a responsibility as citizens as Americans and especially as leaders. Leaders who are pledged to honour our Constitution to protect our nation. To defend the truth and defeat the lies.

Look, I understand that many of my fellow Americans view the future with fear and trepidation. I understand they worry about their jobs. I understand like their dad they lay in bed at night staring at the ceiling thinking: 'Can I keep my healthcare? Can I pay my mortgage?' Thinking about their families, about what comes next. I promise you, I get it. But the answer's not to turn inward. To retreat into competing factions. Distrusting those who don't look like you, or worship the way you do, or don't get their news from the same source as you do.

We must end this uncivil war that pits red against blue, rural versus urban, conservative versus liberal. We can do this if we open our souls instead of hardening our hearts, if we show a little tolerance and humility, and if we're willing to stand in the other person's shoes, as my mom would say. Just for a moment, stand in their shoes.

Because here's the thing about life. There's no accounting for what fate will deal you. Some days when you need a hand. There are other days when we're called to lend a hand. That's how it has to be, that's what we do for one another. And if we are that way our country will be stronger, more prosperous, more ready for the future. And we can still disagree.

My fellow Americans, in the work ahead of us we're going to need each other. We need all our strength to persevere through this dark winter. We're entering what may be the toughest and deadliest period of the virus. We must set aside politics and finally face this pandemic as one nation, one nation. And I promise you this, as the Bible says, 'Weeping may endure for a night, joy cometh in the morning'. We will get through this together. Together.

Look folks, all my colleagues I serve with in the House and the Senate up here, we all understand the world is watching. Watching all of us today. So here's my message to those beyond our borders. America has been tested and we've come out stronger for it. We will repair our alliances, and engage with the world once again. Not to meet yesterday's challenges but today's and tomorrow's challenges. And we'll lead not merely by the example of our power but the power of our example. We'll be a strong and trusted partner in peace, progress and security.

Look you all know, we've been so much in this nation, and my first act as president. I'd I ask you to join me in a moment of silent prayer to remember those we have lost in this past year to the pandemic. Those 400.000 hundred thousand fellow Americans, moms, dads, husbands, sons, daughters, friends, neighbours and co-workers. We will honour them by becoming the people and the nation we know we can and should be. So I ask you let's say a silent prayer for those who lost their lives, those left behind and for our country. Amen.

Folks, it's a time of testing. We face an attack on our democracy, and on truth, a raging virus, growing inequity, a sting of systemic racism, a climate in crisis, America's role in the world. Any one of these would be enough to challenge us in profound ways. But the fact is we face them all at once, presenting this nation with one of the greatest responsibilities we've had. Now we're going to be tested. Are we going to step up, all of us?

It's time for boldness for there is so much to do. And this is certain, I promise you. We will be judged, you and I, by how we resolve these cascading crises of our era. We will rise to the occasion?. Will we master this rare and difficult hour? Will we meet our obligations and pass along a new and better world to our children? I believe we must and I'm sure you do as well. I believe we will, and when we do, we'll write the next great chapter in the history of the United States of America. The American story.

A story that might sound something like a song that means a lot to me, it's called American Anthem. And there's one verse that stands out at least for me and it goes like this:

'The work and prayers of centuries have brought us to this day, which shall be our legacy, what will our children say? Let me know in my heart when my days are through, America, America, I gave my best to you.'

Let us add, let us add our own work and prayers to the unfolding story of our great nation. If we do this, then when our days are through, our children and our children's children will say of us: 'They gave their best, they did their duty, they healed a broken land.'

My fellow Americans I close the day where I began, with a sacred oath. Before God and all of you, I give you my word. I will always level with you. I will defend the Constitution, I'll defend our democracy.

I'll defend America and I will give all - all of you - keep everything I do in your service. Thinking not of power but of possibilities. Not of personal interest but of public good.

And together we shall write an American story of hope, not fear. Of unity not division, of light not darkness. A story of decency and dignity, love and healing, greatness and goodness. May

this be the story that guides us. The story that inspires us. And the story that tells ages yet to come that we answered the call of history, we met the moment. Democracy and hope, truth and justice, did not die on our watch but thrive.

That America secured liberty at home and stood once again as a beacon to the world. That is what we owe our forbearers, one another, and generations to follow.

So with purpose and resolve, we turn to those tasks of our time. Sustained by faith, driven by conviction and devoted to one another and the country we love with all our hearts. May God bless America and may God protect our troops. Thank you America.

