

An Analysis and Comparison of the Differences in the Realization of Interpersonal Functions in Different Political Keynote Speeches

Zijun Shen (Corresponding author)

Department of Foreign Languages

Sichuan University of Media and Communications, China

E-mail: prof.shen_zijun@whu.edu.cn

Mingting Zhao

Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia

Mahidol University, Thailand

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Abstract

This research employs Halliday's theory of the interpersonal function to scrutinize and contrast language patterns and techniques in keynote speeches delivered by notable political figures, specifically former US President Donald Trump, ex-UK Prime Minister Theresa May, and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. In the era of globalization, where increased interconnectedness emphasizes the importance of political speeches, shaping nations and reflecting the interests and identities of stakeholders, it is crucial to examine these speeches. The analysis identifies shared traits, including skillful use of first-person language to establish authority and self-expression, in addition to the use of medium-valued modal verbs and declarative mood for interpersonal connection and viewpoint assertion. The study explores variations in Trump's "America First" inaugural address and disparities in speeches by Trump and May that are related to high-valued modal and second-person verbs, highlighting their different political backgrounds. Furthermore, it evaluates the interpersonal function in Hillary Clinton's speeches, examining language's effectiveness in engaging audiences and accomplishing different speech objectives. By examining these patterns, this research supports a better understanding of cultural differences between the United States and Britain, revealing linguistic tools that help political figures connect with audiences and

accomplish specific speech goals. This cross-cultural study provides detailed insights into language's role in political communication, deepening our understanding of leaders' strategies for effective agenda communication and resonance with constituents.

Keywords: Interpersonal function, Political speeches, Cultural disparities, Leadership strategies

1. Introduction

Political speeches serve as a fundamental means for speakers to express viewpoints, opinions, attitudes, and suggestions, particularly concerning a country's internal affairs and diplomatic relations (Yuanshou, & Kunshan, 2003). Speakers in politics use speeches to achieve goals such as informing, persuading, and entertaining (Verderber, 2008). This communication genre includes campaign speeches, policy speeches, and inaugural speeches, designed to secure voter support and advocacy. The significance of political speeches has grown in an era marked by globalization, playing a pivotal role in shaping countries' trajectories and reflecting the identities and interests of those behind the speakers.

There are three types of grammar: traditional grammar, formal grammar, and functional grammar (Gerot, & Wignell, 1994). Language serves three functions: Ideational function, Interpersonal function, and Textual function (Setyowati et al., 2016). Interpersonal metafunction views language as a tool to interact with others. The model of the Interpersonal metafunction, developed for English, is related to the choice of mood, distinguishing between a Mood (or Mood element) and a Residue, with the Mood made up of the Subject and the Finite (Bank, 2010).

Halliday, a contemporary British linguist, proposed the interpersonal function theory, asserting that language used in interpersonal communication reflects the status and identity of the speaker. Political speeches, including election speeches, political reports, and job presentations, are highly provocative, representing the interests of specific groups behind the speakers. With the continuous development of globalization, countries are increasingly closely connected, impacting the development of nations globally.

Halliday's theory (1994) of interpersonal function considers language as a tool to enact social relationships and positions within a given context. The interpersonal function is defined as "an interactive event involving speaker, or writer, and audience" (p. 106). Interpersonal Metafunction plays a crucial role in setting up and maintaining social relations, indicating the roles of participants in communication (Feng, & Liu, 2010). Interpersonal function can be realized in written and oral communication. In written language, it can be found in newspapers, novels, and magazines, while in spoken language, it is realized through conversation, interviews, and speech. Webster emphasizes that effective communication is always essential, regardless of societal sophistication (Webster, 2012). Halliday views interpersonal function as assuming language as interaction, revealing how Martin Luther King Jr maintained interaction with his audiences in his speech "I Have a Dream" (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004)

This study analyzes and compares the language patterns and strategies in the inaugural

speeches of former UK Prime Minister Theresa May, former Prime Minister David Cameron, and former US President Donald Trump. The focus is on exploring the construction of textual interpersonal meaning from the perspectives of mood type, modal operator, and vocative address to uncover differences and similarities in their speech strategies.

2. Literature Review

In the 1950s, the famous British linguist Halliday proposed the theory of systemic functional grammar. He believes that systemic functional grammar has both systemic and functional characteristics, and its focus often focuses on aggregate relations. Roohparvar et al. (2015) believed that speakers often have a strong purpose when using speech. Halliday proposed the theory of interpersonal function, believing that the speaker's speech can reflect his or her status and identity behind it (Halliday, 1994). The theory of interpersonal function mainly includes three aspects: person, modality, and voice. Person is mainly determined by the speaker's use of different personal pronouns, modality is mainly determined by the magnitude of modal words in the text, and mood is determined by the speaker's use of sentence types.

Many scholars have introduced Halliday's systemic functional grammar into China and conducted in-depth research on it. They have also gained some new insights into interpersonal functional theory. Zeng and Wang provide a perceptive evaluation in their research paper, founded on the interpersonal purpose of systemic functional syntax (Zeng & Wang, 2019). Their analysis concentrates on the inaugural speeches of Theresa May and David Cameron, examining how the construction of interpersonal meanings is achieved through the use of personal pronouns, mood, and modality. The authors identify both similarities and differences in the way interpersonal meanings are constructed, observing the strategic employment of first-person pronouns to express determinations and assert authority. Both speakers use modal verbs of median and low degree to bridge interpersonal gaps and utilize the indicative mood to convey opinions and gain support. Nonetheless, disparities arise in their approaches to modal verbs of high degree and the selection of second-person verbs, which are influenced by the distinct contexts of their respective inaugural backgrounds. This comparative analysis, founded in systemic functional grammar, produces insights into the organizational and informational aspects of political speeches, enriching our understanding of diverse rhetorical strategies employed in such significant discourse.

In Hulu's (2019) research, the main objective was to uncover interpersonal function types and explore their manifestation in speech. The study used a qualitative research method, where they gathered data from openly available websites and then organized it into clause forms. After compiling the data, they analyzed it based on Halliday's theory, following Cresswell's steps of data analysis. The results showed that Martin Luther King Jr. utilized various linguistic elements like speech function (statement, command, and question), mood (declarative, imperative, and interrogative), modality (high, median, and low), tense shift (present, future, and past), and personal pronouns (First, Second, and Third Person). The most noticeable features were identified, such as the prevalence of declarative statements and the frequent use of the pronoun "we." These findings led to the conclusion that Martin Luther King Jr. delivered an informative speech, imparting significant information. The researcher

suggests using the pronoun “we” for effective speech delivery and recommends that college students learn about interpersonal functions based on the study's outcome.

Bustam's (2019) research proposes a thorough examination of Donald Trump's discourse tactics in his speech recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital. By utilizing the Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) theoretical framework and concentrating on interpersonal metafunction elements, the study investigates the linguistic components that express social and personal relations within speech. Through mood and modality analysis, the research exposes the speaker's intended role in the speech situation and the roles assigned to the listener. Moreover, modality analysis exposes the speaker's perspectives on the speech topic, power dynamics, and formality scale between the speaker and the listener. The findings demonstrate that the structure of Trump's speech reflects his political intentions, which are evident not only in the interpersonal metafunction discourse tactics employed but also in the interpersonal meaning he constructs. The study interprets Trump's attempts to convince the global audience that his decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital is right and does not pose a threat to world peace, providing a comprehensive exploration of the linguistic intricacies in Trump's impactful speech.

In Nur's (2015) research, an all-encompassing examination is carried out to analyze Nelson Mandela's inaugural speech given in Pretoria on May 10, 1994. Rooted in the theoretical construct of Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG), a descriptive system of grammar established by Michael Halliday, the study investigates the interpersonal metafunction to learn language from a social semiotic viewpoint. The study concentrates on variations in the allocation of mood, modality, personal pronouns, and other lexical features. The outcomes clarify that Mandela's speech structure not only realized his political goals but also conveyed interpersonal meanings. This achievement is credited not only to the conformity with lexico-grammar but also to the consideration of contextual factors, such as the critical requirement to reflect the economic and socio-political conditions prevailing in the country at that historical moment. The research contributes to a refined understanding of how language when analyzed using the principles of Systemic Functional Grammar, functions as a social semiotic system in political discourse.

Ping and Lingling (2017) in their study focus on the importance of speeches made during presidential elections within Western politics, which requires public attention. Using Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar as a framework, the study examines nine chosen political speech texts from the internet, with an emphasis on the dimensions of mood, modality, personal pronouns, and tense systems. The detailed examination leads to several notable findings: Firstly, both candidates primarily use declarative mood for delivering their message, imperative mood for motivating their audience, and interrogative mood for emphasizing speech content. Secondly, the median modal operator is a prevalent feature in both candidates' speeches, contributing to a less confrontational tone, with Trump showing a better performance in this aspect. Thirdly, both candidates use the plural form of the first-person pronoun to create a closer relationship with their audience. Lastly, the simple present tense is predominantly used to establish intimacy between the candidates and their audience. The study also takes into account influential factors such as personal background

and language proficiency, providing valuable insights into the linguistic variations between the two candidates, thereby improving our understanding of their communication styles.

The review of existing literature points out that scholars have conducted extensive theoretical research on the interpersonal function in speech discourse. However, there appears to be a gap in comparing the speeches of different leaders during their inauguration. To bridge this gap, this research focuses on a comparative analysis of speeches by President Trump, Theresa May, and Hillary Clinton (during both her campaign participation and withdrawal), examining their interpersonal function from three perspectives: person, modality, and tone. The aim is to identify similarities and differences in the way leaders communicate with their audience.

3. Methodology

The researcher analyzed the usage of personal pronouns, modal verbs, and sentence types in the inaugural speeches of Donald Trump and Theresa May. The study aimed to explore how these leaders used language to connect with their audience and convey their messages. The analysis provided insights into the linguistic strategies employed by the leaders.

4. Data Analysis

Interpersonal Function in Inaugural Speeches of British and American Leaders

Background of the Speech

In the 2016 US general election, Trump won the US general election with 304 votes, which is much higher than Hillary Clinton's. Since then, Trump has become the 45th President of the United States. In his inaugural address, Trump repeatedly emphasized the priority principle of the United States, strengthened the fight against extremism, and created more jobs for the American people.

On June 24, 2016, the Brexit referendum was announced, and 51.89% of the public supported the UK's exit from the EU. In this context, the then British Prime Minister, Cameron, resigned from his post as Prime Minister by delivering a speech outside No. 10 Downing Street. On July 13, 2016, Theresa Marie May, a veteran of the Conservative Party of the Four Dynasties, was appointed as the new Prime Minister of the UK in the face of crisis. In her inaugural speech, Theresa May affirmed Cameron's contributions, repeatedly emphasized the importance of "unity" and vowed to lead the government of "one country", serving the social justice of every people, and building a better Britain.

This research paper first selects the texts of the inaugural speech of Donald Trump (45th President of the US) and the inaugural speech of Theresa Mary May, the 76th Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. The main purpose is to discuss the realization of interpersonal functions in the speeches of British and American leaders.

Personal System Analysis

Personal pronouns, as a very important pragmatic strategy, are often used to construct the identity of the speaker or author in verbal communication. Halliday pointed out that speakers

can achieve interpersonal meaning by using different personal pronouns (Graham, 2016). In political speeches, personal meaning is often realized in the communication between the speaker and the audience. The audience can understand their attitudes from the speaker's choice of personal pronouns and different personal pronouns often have different effects on the audience.

Table 1. Distribution of Personal Pronouns in Donald Trump and Theresa May's Inaugural Speakers

Personal pronoun		First-person		Second person	Third person	
		I	WE	YOU	IT	THEY
Trump	Quantity	3	52	14	11	5
	Percent	3.5%	61%	16.5%	13%	6%
	Total	64.5%		16.5%	19%	
Theresa May	Quantity	11	21	32	7	0
	Percent	15.5%	30%	45%	9.5%	0%
	Total	45.5%		45%	9.5%	

First Person

The first person includes the singular "I" and the plural "We". According to Table 1, in Trump's inaugural speech, "I" appeared three times, and "We" appeared 52 times. The proportion of the first person in the entire speech was as high as 64.5%. In Teresa May's inaugural speech, "I" appeared 11 times, and "We" appeared 21 times. The first person accounted for 45.5% of the entire speech. It is not difficult to find that Trump and Theresa May have both personalities and similarities in the use of the first person.

The common denominator is that, from a macro perspective, Trump and Theresa May use the first person more frequently than both the second and third person in their inaugural speeches. From a micro perspective, the frequency of using "I" as the first person in both speeches is not high. Because "I" represents the speaker himself, and behind the speaker often represents a political party, a government, or a country. Inaugural speeches tend to use "We" rather than "I" more often.

"We, the citizens of America, are now joined in a great national effort to rebuild our country and restore its promise for all of our people." (Trump, 2016).

By using "we", we have narrowed the gap between ourselves and the public, making them feel that rebuilding the United States is inseparable from ourselves, stimulating the American people's efforts and increasing their enthusiasm for participating in public affairs.

"When we take the big calls, we will think not of the powerful, but you. When we pass new laws we will listen not to the right, but to you." (May, 2016).

The "we" here represents the British people, and Teresa May uses "we" to show that she will listen to public opinion at all times and will not succumb to pressure from any powerful person. This has greatly increased public support for Theresa May and greatly increased the trust of the British people in the new government.

Personality: The proportion of the first person in Trump's inaugural speech is much higher than that of the second and third person, reaching 64.5%. This laterally reflects the "US first" strategy he advocates, that is, the US gives priority to everything. For example,

"We will follow two simple rules: Buy American and hire American. We will seek friendship and goodwill with the nations of the world, but we do so with the understanding ... their own interests first" (Trump, 2016).

This is a concrete manifestation of the "America First" strategy. In addition, Trump believes that the starting point for developing friendly relations between the United States and other countries is whether this relationship is beneficial to the United States. This is also a lateral experience of the characteristics of the American Dream, that is, as long as you work hard and diligently, you will achieve success, rather than relying on others. The characteristic of this dream is to overemphasize one's own values and interests (Roohparvar et al., 2015). While the proportion of the first person in Teresa May's speech was the largest, it was only 0.5% higher than the second person. This reflects from a lateral perspective that Teresa May does not overemphasize her own values, but rather hopes to work with partners to complete the work of Brexit.

Second Person

The second person mainly refers to "you". "You" can be either singular or plural. According to Table 1, Trump's second-person usage rate is 16.5%, while Theresa May's second-person usage rate is much higher than Trump's, reaching 45%. In political speeches, "you" often refers to the audience of the speech. "You" has two main functions: arousing readers' attention to this speech, and establishing the authority of the speaker by separating the speaker from the audience. For example,

"I will fight for you with every breath in my body – and I will never, ever let you down" (Trump, 2016).

Here, "you" refers to American citizens. Trump stated that he would do his best to bring happiness to the American people. But the biggest difference from Trump is that Teresa May's second-person usage frequency is almost the same as that of the first person, up to 45%.

"If you're black you are treated more harshly by the criminal justice system than if you're white. If you're a white working-class boy you're less likely than anybody else in Britain to go university." (May, 2016).

Theresa May's "you" here refers to people who live at the bottom of British society. Jeung & Kellogg believe that addressing readers directly activates the oral communication model and greatly enhances the audience's sense of existence (). In addition, the sentence pattern "if you

are" is repeatedly used in this sentence. Han Kaihua believes that the repeated use of personal pronouns is beneficial to enhancing the persuasiveness of a text (Jeung & Kellogg, 2019). Theresa May expressed deep sympathy for the suffering of the bottom people of Britain through this sentence. In addition, through the repeated use of this sentence pattern, Theresa May has greatly improved the appeal of her speech and brought her closer to the public.

Third Person

The third person mainly includes "it" and "they". According to **Table 1**, Trump's third-person usage frequency is 19%, while Theresa May's third-person usage frequency is 9.5%. The usage rate of the person "they" is divided into 6% and 0%. It can be seen that the frequency of using the third-person "they" is relatively low. Because the word "they" in a speech often refers to people who are not present at the scene of the speech.". For example, in Trump's speech.

"And who a child is born in the urban storm of Detroit of the windswept plains of Nebraska, they look up at the same night sky, they fill their heart with the same dreams, and they are enriched ... almighty" (Trump, 2016).

Here, "they" refer to American children. Trump said that American children, no matter where they are born, deeply love their country.

Modal System Analysis

Modality can reflect the speaker's attitude and is an important way to achieve interpersonal functions (Aryawibawa et al., 2021) Halliday believes that modality is a speaker's understanding of attitudes, emotions, and states, which expresses the speaker's will and reflects the speaker's estimation and uncertainty about things. By analyzing modality in a discourse, one can better understand the speaker's attitude and intention. In grammar, modality is often realized through modal verbs, and the emotions conveyed by modality are between positive and negative meanings. Just as what has been shown in Table 2, Halliday divides the modal verbs in sentences into three different values: high, medium, and low. Modal verbs with different values have different functions.

Table 2. Distribution of Modal Verb Quantities

	Low magnitude	Medium magnitude	High magnitude
Positive	Can, may, could, might	Will, would, should	Must, ought to, need, have/had to
Negative	Needn't, doesn't/didn't need to, have to	Won't, wouldn't, shouldn't	Mustn't, oughtn't, can't, couldn't

The use of modal words with different values by speakers can often reflect different emotional colors. Therefore, this research makes a statistical analysis of modal verbs' usage

in Trump and Theresa May's inaugural speeches.

Trump's inaugural speech totalled 1458 words, of which 48 modal verbs were used. Theresa May's inaugural speech totalled 640 words, including 21 modal verbs. According to **Table 3**, from a macro perspective, in both inaugural speeches, medium value modal verbs are used most frequently, divided into 90% and 81% (Aryawibawa et al., 2021). This is because medium-valued modal verbs are between negative and positive, and the use of such words can greatly enhance the credibility of the content expressed in the inaugural speech, narrow the distance between the speaker and the public, and also contribute to improving public participation in the speech.

From a micro perspective, "can" appears most frequently in the first person. In grammar, "can" has three meanings. First of all, "can" can be used to express a possibility, which is conducive to raising public expectations for the future and gaining public support. Secondly, "can" can be used to describe the speaker's abilities and to outline the future development blueprint for the public. Finally, "can" can be used to make their own promises to the public.

"We will do everything we can to help anybody, whatever your background, to go as far as your talents will take you" (May, 2016).

In her speech, Teresa May expressed that she would do her best to help the British people.

Table 3. Distribution of Modal Verbs in Donald Trump and Theresa May's Inaugural Speech

		Low magnitude			Middle magnitude		High magnitude		
		can	may	could	might	Will	would	Should	Must
Trump	Quantity	2	0	0	0	42	0	1	3
	Percent	4%	0	0	0	88%	0	2%	6%
	Total	4%			90%		6%		
Theresa May	Quantity	4	0	0	0	17	0	0	0
	Percent	19%	0	0	0	81%	0	0	0
	Total	19%			81%		0%		

In addition, Trump and Theresa May have the highest frequency of using "will" in the second person, with a frequency of 88% and 81%, respectively. Lyons believes that "will" has two meanings: first, "will" is used by speakers to provide expected information based on their own judgment, and second, "will" is used by speakers to make commitments to the public

[22]. In political speeches, speakers often use "will" to make some promises to the public to gain public support.

"We will bring back our jobs. We will bring back our borders. We will bring back our wealth, and we will bring back our dreams" (Trump, 2016).

In Teresa May's speech,

"The government I lead will be driven not by the interests of a privileged few, but by you" (May, 2016).

Although there are many similarities in the use of modal verbs between the two, there are also some differences. Teresa May did not use high-valued modal verbs in her inaugural speech, while Trump used high-valued modal verbs. High-valued modal verbs represent an authority and a call to action. The reason why Trump used high-volume modal words in his inaugural speech is that he became the president through the election at various levels, with great authority and appeal. For example,

"We must protect our borders from risks of other countries making our products, stealing our companies, and destroying our jobs" (Trump, 2016).

Trump used the high-value modal word "must" to seriously convey the situation facing the United States to the people, and thus issued a call for "America first," thereby promoting the implementation of its "America first" strategy. The situation faced by Theresa May as the new British Prime Minister is more complex. He was appointed at the critical moment when Cameron announced his resignation after the Brexit referendum. Although he served in many important positions during his political career as a senior member of the British Conservative Party during the four dynasties, the public did not understand him well. Therefore, the first thing before Theresa May is to quickly improve relations with the public and gain their trust and support. From this perspective, it is not difficult to understand why she strives to avoid using high-valued modal verbs that highlight power relationships but instead moves towards medium and low-valued modal verbs that are conducive to shortening interpersonal relationships and building good interpersonal relationships.

Mood System Analysis

Mood plays a very important role in achieving interpersonal functions, and the tone used by the speaker in speech can directly reflect different attitudes towards the listener (Aryawibawa, 2021). Thompson stated that mood is mainly composed of a subject and a finite element (Thompson, 2012). According to Halliday's, (1994) interpersonal function theory, sentence types are divided into declarative sentences, interrogative sentences, and special sentences. Different sentence types can reflect the different tones of the speaker. Among them, declarative sentences are mainly used to describe objective facts, interrogative sentences are mainly used to raise questions and stimulate the audience's thinking, and special sentences are used to enhance the authority of the speaker.

Trump's inaugural speech lasted 17 minutes and used 109 sentences. Theresa May's inaugural speech took four minutes and used 33 sentences. Both used a large number of declarative

sentences in their inaugural speeches. This indicates that Trump and Theresa May both want to provide listeners with a wealth of information to better understand their development strategies and goals. In addition, they also hope to attract public support and let people take immediate action to make their country better. For example, in Trump's speech,

"We, the citizens of America, are now joined in a great national effort to rebuild our country and to restore its promise for all of our people. Together, we will determine the course of America, ..., many years to come" (Trump, 2016).

Call on every American citizen to participate in the construction of the United States, to make the United States great again. The repetition of the tone enhances the reliability of the information conveyed by the declarative tone, highlighting his confidence in making the United States strong again (Aryawibawa, 2021). This is conducive to bringing closer relations with the public and maintaining good interpersonal relationships. In her speech,

"If you are one of those families, if you're just managing, I want to address you directly. I know you are working around the clock; I know you're doing your best and I know ... lives can be a struggle" (May, 2016).

Let them feel the warmth of the Prime Minister. This makes it clear to ordinary British people that the Prime Minister is not a person who cares only for the interests of the powerful, but rather an ordinary Briton who cares for and cares for the people (Aryawibawa, 2021). Therefore, this will enable British citizens to actively respond to the Prime Minister's call to work together to build a better Britain.

It can be seen that although the United Kingdom and the United States are geographically separated and have slightly different political systems, they have adopted roughly the same strategy in terms of the tone of their inaugural speeches, which is also consistent with the textual characteristics of political texts that provide information and promote ideas.

In addition, Trump and Theresa May have the highest frequency of using "will" in the second person, with a frequency of 88% and 81%, respectively. Lyons believes that "will" has two meanings: first, "will" is used by speakers to provide expected information based on their own judgment, and second, "will" is used by speakers to make commitments to the public (Lyons, 1977). In political speeches, speakers often use "will" to make some promises to the public to gain public support.

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Analysis of Hillary Clinton's Democratic National Convention (DNC)

Background of the Speech:

During the 2016 Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, Hillary Clinton delivered a speech accepting the party's nomination for President. In her address, the former Secretary of State expressed her appreciation to several political figures, including Bill Clinton, Barack Obama, and Bernie Sanders. Clinton acknowledged the difficulties facing the country and drew parallels with the historical context of Philadelphia, emphasizing the necessity of solidarity in the face of divisive forces. The former First Lady criticized Donald Trump, contrasting his vision with that of Franklin D. Roosevelt, and outlined her platform, promising to construct an all-inclusive economy, provide a pathway to citizenship for immigrants, and address issues such as income inequality and social mobility. She emphasized the nation's strengths and called for a collective effort to overcome challenges, underlining American values of freedom, equality, justice, and opportunity. Clinton attempted to inspire confidence in the country's resilience and ability to face the future together.

Modal System Analysis

Halliday defines three types of modal verbs. The first category is high-valued modal words, such as *must*, *need*, and *have to*. The second category is medium-valued modal words, such as *should*, *would*, and *will*. The third category is low-valued modal words, such as *may*, *might*, and *could* (Halliday, 2004). An example sentence is as follows:

"Instead, we will build an economy where everyone who wants a good paying job can get one. And we'll build a path to citizenship for millions of immigrants who are already contributing to our economy!" (CNN, 2016).

In the whole speech of almost 5024 words, "need" emerges 6 times, "have to" emerges 10 times, "will" emerges 28 times, "can" emerges 30 times, "may" emerges 3 times, and "right"

for 11 times. Hillary's frequent use of the modal word shows her confidence in the US' future development. The frequent occurrence of the word not only reflects Hillary Clinton's sincerity and determination but also her relative modesty and lack of arrogance. The emergence of high-value modal words indicates her frustrated attitude and inner confidence. She criticizes Trump, for example.

But Trump, he's a businessman. He must know something about the economy (CNN, 2016).

In this statement, Hillary Clinton acknowledges Donald Trump's history as a businessman, implying a supposed proficiency in the economy. However, her utilization of "must" introduces a suggestion of doubt, indicating uncertainty about the direct relevance of Trump's business experience to managing a national economy. The statement balances acknowledgement with modest inquiry into the extent of Trump's economic expertise.

Mood System Analysis

At the beginning of her speech, Hillary Clinton expresses appreciation for prominent figures in the Democratic Party, highlighting the importance of solidarity. She highlights the influential speeches delivered by Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, commending President Obama's guidance and close friendship. She also acknowledges Joe Biden's dedication, Michelle Obama's thoughts on the presidency's influence, and the introduction of Tim Kaine as a testament to the party's cohesion. The recognition of Bernie Sanders indicates an attempt to unite after a competitive primary. Clinton's opening statements strategically build a narrative of collective power and purpose within the Democratic Party.

In her speech, for example, Hillary Clinton said:

“And the man of Hope, Barack Obama. America is stronger because of President Obama's leadership, and I'm better because of his friendship...the one-and-only Joe Biden, who spoke from his big heart about our party's commitment to working people” (CNN, 2016).

In the following example, she further supports for group action and harmony in the declaration, stressing the necessity for all to collaborate for mutual advancement. The repeated usage of "we" highlights inclusiveness and mutual accountability. Invoking the nation's slogan, "e pluribus unum," emphasizes the significance of unity amidst diversity. The rhetorical inquiry about staying committed to the slogan prompts contemplation on the country's fundamental principles, encouraging a pledge to the public welfare. On the whole, the usage of "we" reinforces the appeal for a united endeavour towards a collective elevation.

“We have to decide whether we all will work together so we all can rise together. Our country's motto is e pluribus unum: out of many, we are one. Will we stay true to that motto?” (CNN, 2016).

In the following excerpt of Clinton's speech, she visualizes a victorious and optimistic country where the ambitions of children are achievable, households are sturdy, people are safe, and the power of affection overcomes hate. The expressive language embodies an image of a harmonious tomorrow that Clinton and their audience are actively endeavouring to realize. The repetition of affirmative ideals, such as aspirations, resilient families, secure

communities, and the conquest of love, reinforces the inspirational and sanguine tone of the message. The passage embodies a vision of a superior future and serves as a call to action for collective efforts in pursuit of that vision.

“A country where all our children can dream, and those dreams are within reach. Where families are strong... communities are safe...And yes, love trumps hate. That’s the country we’re fighting for. That’s the future we’re working toward” (CNN, 2016).

Hillary Clinton's speech urging people to love their homeland strives to evoke a sense of patriotism and national pride. By highlighting the collective pronoun "We" 117 times, Clinton fosters a strong sense of togetherness, encouraging the audience to see themselves as an integral part of a shared national identity. The frequent use of "you" (70 times) personalizes the message, creating a direct connection between the speaker and the listeners. This can be an effective rhetorical strategy to engage the audience on a personal level and make them feel individually invested in the vision she is presenting. The limited use of the third-person pronoun "they" (21 times) suggests a focus on inclusivity and unity rather than emphasizing differences or divisions. The repetition of these pronouns serves to shape the emotional tone of the speech, reinforcing unity, collective responsibility, and love for one's country.

5. Conclusion

In inference, in political speech discourse, speakers have various means to achieve interpersonal functions. Based on the interpersonal function theory of the linguist Mr. Halliday, this research compares and analyzes the inaugural speeches of President Trump of the United States and former Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom from three perspectives: person, modality, and mood. It expounds on the ways they adopt to achieve the purpose of political speeches and reveals the profound connotation of the inaugural speeches of the leaders of the two countries. By comparing and analyzing the relevant data of the two inaugural speeches, it is found that the two leaders have both similarities and differences in the realization of interpersonal meaning.

The common point is reflected in the following two aspects. In terms of person, there is less use of the third person because speeches require emotional words to infect the public, and the third person is too rational and not conducive to emotional communication. Secondly, both have the highest first-person usage rates, which is because inaugural speeches are mainly used to present their views. In terms of modality, a large number of medium-value modal words are used, because such modal words are conducive to narrowing the distance between people, and building interpersonal relationships, thereby increasing people's trust in politics, and improving people's enthusiasm to respond to the calls. In terms of tone, both leaders used a large number of declarative sentences because the declarative tone is conducive to providing information and promoting political opinions.

The differences can be found in the following two aspects. In terms of person, Trump uses the first person extensively because of his strong self-awareness and overemphasis on himself, which is conducive to the implementation of the "America First" strategy proposed

by him. Theresa May chose more second-person expressions because of the special background in which she appeared on stage and the urgent need to close the gap with her audience. In terms of modality, Trump boldly used some high-value modal words to establish leadership authority, while Teresa May avoided using such modal words and instead chose medium - and low-value modal words to narrow the gap with her audience. It is worth noting that the construction of interpersonal functions is not independent of personal pronouns, modal words, and modal particles, but rather complements and cooperates. Therefore, how to use the three together to better achieve the construction of interpersonal functions is worth further exploration.

Besides, the interpersonal skills of political discourse are embodied in tone and modality. In terms of tone, Hillary Clinton used a large number of declarative sentences in her speech, her main purpose being to explain things and give a positive attitude. During the Democratic National Convention, Hillary Clinton's speech sincerely expressed her gratitude to the voters who supported him and her confidence in her own heart that she could succeed, which deeply impressed the audience. She heavily used the first-person pronoun "We", which made voters feel his sincerity. It has to be said that Hillary Clinton used a large number of modal verbs in her speech, which effectively moved the audience. Her words contained no sadness or negative emotions, and she expressed her political views and inner aspirations in her unique way, which brought a lot of hope to those who supported him. The interpersonal function is widely embodied in political speeches, which helps people deeply understand and grasp the connection between language and meaning, and further helps the speaker convince the audience through the use of effective language, thereby achieving the ultimate goal of the speech.

However, the present paper has its limitations. To begin with, it is based on the speeches of two political figures, and thus, it may fail to reflect the full scope of political discourse in different times and cultures. The approach mainly focuses on person, modality, and mood, while ignoring other linguistic features that might contribute to the achievement of the interpersonal functions of political speech.

This has to open up future studies to expand on such work and probably consider much more diverse and numerous political figures in cultural and political backgrounds for more generalizability. It may further look into some other linguistic components in metaphorical language, inter-textuality, and discourse strategies to be holistic about how the functions of interpersonal meaning are construed in political speech. For a better understanding of the many different aspects of interpersonal communication in political discourse, the research could focus on non-verbal features, such as gestures, facial expressions, and tone of voice, among others.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest

Author Contributions

Please state each author's contribution to this work, it can be up to several sentences long and

should briefly describe the tasks of individual authors. e.g., AB conducted the research; CD analyzed the data; AB wrote the paper; ...; all authors approved the final version.

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