Zainab Abd Al-Razaq Mohammad, Raith Zeher Abid

Research Article

China's Image in Trump's Tweets Concerning COVID-19: A Critical Discourse Analysis

Zainab Abd Al-Razaq Mohammad, Raith Zeher Abid

[1] Karbala University, Faculty of Education, Department of English language,
Zainab.a@s.uokerbala.edu.iq
[2] Associate Professor, Karbala University, College of Education for Human Sciences, Department of English, Reith.zuhair@uokerbala.edu.iq

Abstract

Texts can be written or spoken in any language and must be represented linguistically and in terms of their intended context or meaning (Widdowson, 2004). Discourse, on the other hand, is well-defined by its influence as a text in context. Fowler (1991) defines vocabularies as a "major determinant of ideational structure" that invents the concepts we should talk about. The main concept of this study is to highlight how Trump uses words in his written discourses, besides investigating the ideological meaning behind his words. This research is based on Fairclough's three-dimensional model and van Dijk's ideological square. Fairclough's model consists of three various words' values which are experiential, relational, and expressive. Fairclough model is utilized to reveal the linguistic items which are used by Trump to represent China concerning COVID-19. On other hand, van Dijk's ideological square was utilized to observe the representation of the self and the other in Trump tweets. This approach was used because of its dynamic nature, which tends to clarify the ideological dimension, moreover, revealing the discursive structures and strategies utilized in fulfilling the dominant power. This research is based on 37 tweets elected between the periods (from 25/1/2020, until 23/8/2020). The period was restricted by the COVID-19 pandemic since its early appearance was in Wuhan and then spread all over the world. The results showed that before COVID-19 spreading, China has represented positively throughout Trump's tweets. Whereas, after the spreading across America and the World, Trump's positive stance altered into a highly negative one against China. When COVID-19 started to attack America, Trump began to associate China with negative actions and features that holding it responsible for spreading COVID-19. On other hand, America, throughout Trump's discourses, was associated with positive actions and properties. It is represented as a savor for the world from COVID-19.

Keywords: critical discourse analysis, Fairclough's three-dimensional approach, Van Dijk's ideological square, Trump's tweets and press conferences, China, COVID-19.

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Introduction

The formation of the Self and the Other is a fundamental frequent occurrence in this study's political discourse. The strategic construction is used to control the frame of mind of the American people and the rest of the world by creating conceptions that indicate China's responsibility for COVID-19's disaster.

Thus, when a speaker or a writer inserts a frame, it will be difficult to overcome, as Lakoff states "frames once entrenched are hard to dispel" (2004; p. 73). The emergence of COVID-19 in China, precisely Wuhan, led into series of accusations from President Trump against China. It is only via the accomplished ideological workings Trump was trying to draw the attention of the world for holding China the whole responsibility for creating a strange virus, in its labs, to eliminate the rest of the world, besides, to destroy America's economy. Continually, Trump was referring to China as the enemy of the world, and the world needs answers from China for all disasters caused by COVID-19 "*They use US airways to help china. The Enemy of the people!*" (1/5/2020). Furthermore, the negative Other representation is presented highly in Trump discourse, whereas, the Self-represented positively.

The present study aims to investigate China's image in Trump's written discourse. The researcher intends to analyze Trump's tweets. The study is based on 37 tweets elected from January until August / 2020, restricted to the period of COVID-19 appearance and attack. Fairclough's three-dimensional approach will be employed to analyze the semantic level, and to reveal the lexical items that are used via Trump to represent the Self and Other. On other hand, van Dijk's ideological square will be utilized to reveal the hidden ideology in Trump tweets. The researcher will use charts to clarify the results that will be gained from the data analysis. Finally, the researcher will provide suggestions and recommendations for futures studies.

Critical Discourse Analysis

Over the last few years, critical discourse analysis has become influential and prominent. Its goal is to investigate how language, ideology, and power interact. Wodak and Meyer (2009:10) argue that "CDA is primarily interested in studying opaque as well as transparent structural relationships of dominance, discrimination, power, and control when these present themselves in language". Critical discourse analysis, according to Van Dijk (2001), is a "type of discourse analytical research that primarily studies the way social power abuse, dominance, and inequality are enacted, reproduced, and resisted by text and talk in the social and political context" (p.352). Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) appears to be primarily concerned with issues of power and domination, social difficulties, and political matters in written or spoken discourse. Simpson and Mays (2009) explain that Political discourse refers to the discourse practices involved by all actors, who include politicians and organizations in political matters. In other words, political discourse can be recognized as the discourse that is created by professional politicians and political institutions.

Van Dijk shows that critical-political discourse analysis focuses on the reproduction of "political power, power abuse, or dominance" throughout political discourse (van Dijk, 1997: p.11). According to Crespo-Fernández political discourse analysis attends to investigate "the strategic use of linguistic patterns or keywords for achieving specific political aims" (Crespo-Fernández,2013: p. 316). Thus, politicians use language to fulfill their goals and influence their people. In this case, critical political discourse is utilized by politicians or powerful speakers, to persuade and communicates expressions to influence the audience.

Several studies are conducted to explore the hidden ideology in Trump's discourse, but few studies focused on China's representation concerning COVID-19. Trump's anti-immigrant rhetoric in speeches before and after the US presidential election was examined by E. S. Quinonez (2018). The data

demonstrated that Trump uses demagogic and demeaning language, as well as continual discursive methods, to characterize immigrants. These techniques are utilized to show the positive portrayal of "us" while demonstrating the negative portrayal of "them.", besides, the use of metaphorical frameworks to promote fear and anti-immigrant emotions, additionally, to strip persons of their humanity, rendering them unworthy of the dignity and privileges that Americans enjoy. Apart from the components of the Socio-Cognitive Approach, Rohmah (2018) investigated how Critical Discourse Analysis is arranged in Donald Trump's speeches. Van Dijk's Critical Analysis Theory is the foundation of Rohmah's research. According to the findings, Donald Trump uses irony and repetition to build emotional commitment from his audience. Furthermore, to maintain his positive image, Donald Trump has a propensity of painting others in a negative vision. He also uses pronouns to show unity in his effort to persuade the recipient to agree with his point of view and the administration's decision. Chen W. (2018), on the other hand, studied Donald Trump's inaugural address from the perspectives of "transitivity, modality, personal pronoun, and coherence." According to the research, Trump uses a variety of linguistic types to explain softly, influence, and sustain listeners' opinions. M. H. Khan and colleagues (2019) investigated how Muslims were portrayed in Donald Trump's statements. Their research looked at how the Other was portrayed in Trump's rhetoric regarding Muslims throughout the 2016 presidential election in the United States. According to the findings, Donald Trump portrays Islam and Muslims as negative phenomena, while portraying himself as an Islamophobe by attacking Islamic words like Shariah and Jihad. Most Islamic ideas are portrayed as anti-women and anti-American in his skewed portrayal of Islam, posing a danger to America's safety and way of life.

Throughout 2020, Bustan and Alakrash made a study that is based on analyzing President Donald Trump's tweets. The study focused on Trump's Twitter-based political rhetoric. The researchers looked at Donald Trump's impoliteness methods in Trump's tweets towards Middle Eastern countries. The qualitative research approach was the main focus of the research. Furthermore, the research is based on analyzing 17 tweets collected from 2015 to 2019. The results revealed that Trump applies four procedures of impoliteness approaches toward Middle Eastern countries. The existed impoliteness strategies are: negative impoliteness, positive impoliteness, mock or sarcasm impoliteness, and bald on-record impoliteness, while the data analyses are missing withhold politeness. On the other hand, Sameer Naser Olimat (2020) looked into Trump's COVID-19 speeches for dysphemistic statements. The findings found that Trump used aggressive language and war metaphors to defend himself and his point of view. Besides, the dysphemism declarations were utilized to sway Americans' minds and attitudes and to condemn other countries or organizations. Moreover, Trump refers to COVID-19 using many conceptual metaphors. Zhu and Wei Wang (2020) investigated President Trump's and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's political rhetoric. Using Appraisal Theory, they discovered that both leaders favor Judgment tools over the other two Affect System resources. Also, the research found that both leaders make substantial use of intertextuality technologies, besides, the use of intertextuality tools is extensive in their explanations. Both leaders select the sub-category of "The Speaker's Compatriots as the Original Producers of Discourse, under the heading of "intertextuality". Wang Yi, on the other hand, prefers the lines of ancient Chinese sages, whereas Trump favors intertextuality services, such as legal texts, laws and ordinances, and government documents. Michalina Grzelka (2020) specialized in COVID-19 in the Polish environment. Her research examines how the Polish public views vulnerable populations in light of the global COVID-19 situation. She examined a small number of online articles and comments on the

COVID-19 virus on the influential Polish portal Gazeta. pl. Lei using critical discourse analysis. Is noteworthy to know that Gazeta. pl. Lei is a Warsaw-based daily newspaper published in Poland.

CDA was employed by Layegh N. et al. (2020) to look for COVID-19 in Iranian and American publications. It is based on van Dijk's approach to critical discourse analysis. The study found significant differences in how these countries and journalists report on COVID-19, as well as a link between how it is discursively reflected and the number of individuals infected or killed in various countries. Throughout the same year 2020, Media bias, supremacy, and philosophies were investigated by Mohammad Awad AlAfnan. The study is based on analyzing articles in daily newspapers in the American Washington Post and the Chinese People's Daily media, concerning COVID-19. The findings revealed that the American newspaper's foregrounded themes were backgrounded by the Chinese newspaper, while the Chinese newspaper's foregrounded topics were backgrounded by the American newspaper. Recently, Huangyan Yu Yu, et al. (2021) investigated the COVID-19 discourse characteristics in the China Daily and The Guardian newspapers. Corpus analysis was the focus of the study. The findings found that China Daily publications employed more objective and impartial language, as well as more active attitudes during the epidemic's fight. They found that, throughout COVID-19 pandemic reporting, the Guardian utilized more negative adjectives and expressions with weak limiting force.

The current study attempts to investigate Other negative representations (embodied by China), and the Self positive representation (embodied by America). The researcher will focus on Trump's tweets, concerning the COVID-19 pandemic. Unlike other studies, this one includes more information about China's depiction in Trump's written political discourses, concerning the COVID-19 pandemic. It also investigates how China is portrayed in Trump's speeches before and after COVID-19. Moreover, none of the studies referenced above looked at the Coronavirus outbreak from the perspective of a politician like Donald Trump's discourse.

Twitter

President Donald Trump is constantly tweeting from this official Twitter account @realDonaldTrump. His tweets are widely regarded as the most divisive and argumentative. He started his account in 2009, and he now has over 19 million followers. He is credited with being the first president to use social media, particularly Twitter. The 1st tweet of Trump reflected the pleasure state for his presidency. After that, he began to attack other notions like (Russia, Chinese, and Mexico), besides other presidents, especially: (Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton). Moreover, he used to threaten the "Toyota Company for cars". Expressions such words as (big loser, boring, and fake), aren't absent from Tramp s' tweets. That's led others to demand him to stop his account, besides asking about what he will tweet in the future! This study involved 37 tweets from Trump's official Twitter account. The researcher selected tweets from (25/1/2020), restricted to the appearance of COVID-19 in China, until (23/8/2020) in which COVID-19 was spread through America and the rest of the world.

Fairclough's Three-Dimensional Framework

Fairclough's model indicates that a communicative event has three dimensions: a text (speech, writing, visual images, or a combination of these), a discursive practice (production and consumption of texts), and social practice (the creation and consumption of texts). Three stages are established by Fairclough in CDA, in addition to the previous three levels. These three stages are description, interpretation, and explanation. The Descriptive stage, as Fairclough states "the formal properties of a

text" (2001: p. 21). On other hand, the relationship between text and interaction is represented by the interpretation stage. Whereas, the representation stage is defined by Fairclough as "a product of a process of production, and as a resource in the process of interpretation" (2001: p. 21). Fairclough's three-dimensional approach is based on the premise that texts are vague and difficult to interpret in isolation since "they can only be interpreted with webs of other texts and with the social context" (Jorgensen and Phillips: 2002: p. 70). The three various dimensions of Fairclough's (2001) framework of lexical analysis, were employed in this research, which are the experiential value of words, the relational value of words, and the expressive value of words. The experiential value of words, as Fairclough (2001), explains "how ideology differences between texts in their representation of the world are coded in their vocabulary" (p. 94). This illustrates how a text is affected by ideology. Throughout this study, Fairclough's lexical and semantic dimensions are used in Trump's tweets to accuse China of creating and spreading COVID-19 across the world.

Van Dijk's Ideological Square

Van Dijk (2007) presents four criteria for analyzing ideology, which he refers to as the "ideological square."

- *Emphasize positive things about Us.*

- *Emphasize negative things about Them.*

- *De-emphasize negative things about Us.*

- *De-emphasize positive things about Them.*

Van Dijk (2007: p. 44)

Van Dijk (2007) mentions that ideological principles can apply to all levels of discourse analysis "it may be applied to the analysis of all levels of discourse structures, as to their content, they may apply to semantic and lexical analysis" (p. 44). Van Dijk's (ibid.) ideological square leads to the separation between in-groups and out-groups by favoring Us while disparaging Them. Furthermore, he indicates that people tend to leave information implicit which goes against their positive self-image. In contrast, information that informs the receiver about the other-negative things of enemies, competitors, or those they consider outgroup, regularly tends to be explicitly conveyed in written and spoken texts (Van Dijk 2007). Van Dijk suggested ideological analysis categories that are conducive to the portrayal of Us against Them, such as actor description, authority, categorization, lexicalization, polarization, vagueness, and victimization (van Dijk, 2007: p. 65).

The ideological square approach, which is developed by Van Dijk, is a conceptual tool for examining and investigating racism and prejudice against minorities. Racist speech or language, according to Van Dijk, is dominated by ethnic and racial others. Van Dijk's ideological square is utilized to reveal Trump's hidden ideology. Since, it is based on four concepts which are emphasizing Our good actions and Their bad actions, besides de-emphasizing Our bad properties and actions, and Their good properties and actions. This research aims to investigate the representation of Self (embodied by America), and the Other (embodied by China), throughout Trump s' tweets.

Analytical framework

This study is based on two models: van Dijk's ideological model and Fairclough's three-dimensional approach. Van Dijk's ideological square is utilized to observe the Chinese's portray in Trumps' tweets, besides, to investigate the discursive expressions which were used to represent China in Trump's political discourse. This approach was used because of its dynamic nature, which tends to clarify the ideological dimension, moreover, revealing the discursive structures and strategies utilized to fulfill the dominant power. Within this theory, the researcher used Fairclough's lexical to examine, the linguistic features of Donald Trump's political written discourse.

Fairclough's framework was used at the lexical level which consists of three various value words, experiential, relational, and expressive value of words. Fairclough (2001, p 94-95) states that Experiential values "reflects the knowledge and beliefs of the producer in question, which is evident in the choice of wordings", "it is to do with *contents* and knowledge and beliefs" (Fairclough, 2001: p.93). On other hand, Fairclough (2001) describes the relational value of words, as to how "a text's choice of wordings depends on, and help creates, social relationships between participants" (p. 97), "relational value to do with relations and social relationships" (Fairclough, 2001: p.93). The third dimension which is the expressive value, Fairclough explains, is to do with subjects and social identities; it provides an insight into "the producer's evaluation (in the widest sense) of the bit of the reality it relates to" (Fairclough, 2001: p. 93; Fairclough, 1989: p. 112). Fairclough goes further to add another word value which is '*connective'* which works as a link to the text's parts "i.e. in connecting parts of a text" (Fairclough (2001: p. 93). Furthermore, he explains that "any given formal feature may simultaneously have two or three of these values" (1989: p. 112)

Throughout this study, the researcher will focus on specific devices to be analyzed. Via the experiential value of words, the researcher will focus on overwording and categorization. Pierce (2008) defines overwording by stating that "Overwording indicates a preoccupation with certain aspects of reality, which may reveal an ideological struggle" (p.293). According to Jackson, & Amvela (2004) state that overwording includes synonymy, hyponymy, and antonym. Throughout the relational value of words, euphemism is one of the crucial strategies used in this dimension. For the aim of this study, Euphemisms will be investigated to reveal how Trump presents China in the case of COVID-19, besides if it exists on not. For the sake of applying expressive value, the researcher will focus on the predictive and pronominal adjectives to discover the expressive value of words used in Trump's discourse. Biber et al (2007) indicate that predicative adjective "occurs in the subject predicative position, following a copular verb" (p. 459). On the other hand, prenominal adjective functions are described "as pre-modifier before a noun (occurring before the head noun in a noun phrase)" (ibid, p. 455).

Method

Design

Political discourse is the main concern of this research. The researcher, in this study, focused on the qualitative approach to explore the description of China in Donald Trump's discourse for the period of COVID-19 pandemic in America. During the collection of data, the emphasis was based on the qualitative and the explanation, rather than quantitative. Additionally, researchers, in general, are not concern about how representative the sample is, but rather with recognizing the subtle meanings of the

phenomenon. The researcher utilized an exclusively qualitative approach of analysis because it didn't only investigate: when and where, but also how and why the problem appeared. Besides, throughout discourse analysis, the qualitative research approach is preferred; as Creswell (2020) discusses: because it is a descriptive method that explains the outcomes obtained from the collected data (p. 11-15). Moreover, in discourse analysis studies, we have to notice that Discourse analysts do not primarily discuss the sample size of their specified corpus since a huge sample will produce an uncontrollable amount of information without contributing to the study's analytical result. Therefore, analytical, useful interpretations in discourse studies can also be achieved with a small sample size of the corpus (Waikar 2018).

Data Collection Tools

In this research, the data was selected not randomly, but purposefully. Furthermore, the data correspond to events that occurred during the selected period. The data is assigned according to the content and the date of publication. The data of this study consists of 37 tweets. The selected tweets carry out Trump declarations about China concerning COVID-19. The tweets are gained from the official personal account of President Trump. The researcher selected tweets from (25/1/2020, at 12:18 PM.), restricted to the appearance of COVID-19 in China, until (23/8/2020, at 7:37 PM.) in which COVID-19 was spread through America and the rest of the world.

Data analysis

The current study is based on Fairclough's three-dimensional approach, in addition, to van Dijk's ideological square. Within Fairclough's three-dimensional approach, certain devices are used by the researcher, to highlight how Trump uses words in his tweets. Thus, overwording and categorization are elected, by the researcher, within the experiential value of words. Overwording and categorization are designated to reveal the rooted ideology in Trump's political discourse toward China, concerning COVID-19. Within, the relational value of words, the researcher investigated euphemism devices, concerning whether Trump uses euphemism or dysphemism statements about China concerning COVID-19. Throughout the third dimension which is the expressive value of words, the researcher was focused on examining adjectives types that are used in Trump's tweets. Predictive and prenominal adjectives are the main focus of this study. The use of adjectives reflects Trump's stance toward China, whether positive or negative. The second model, in this study, is van Dijk's ideological square. Van Dijk's approach is employed to investigate the representation of Us VS. Them. Throughout this study, van Dijk's approach is used to reveal the image of China in Trump tweets i.e. whether China has passivized or activated through Trump's discourse about COVID-19.

Findings

Van Dijk's actor description indicates speakers or writers tend to describe in-group as a positive entity and out-group as negative entity "Descriptions of Others may be blatantly racist, or they may more subtly convey negative opinions" (Van Dijk, 2000: p. 63). We can notice in Trump's tweets that reveal his positive stance toward America, while negative attitude toward China, in which the Self is described as "*the great men & women of U.S. fighting the China Plague!*" (11/8/2020), "*incredible job*" (11/8/2020), "*great marks for the handling of coronavirus pandemic*" (10/5/2020), "*our experts are extraordinary*" (27/1/2020), "*we've done MUCH better than most other Countries in dealing with the*

China Virus" (3/8/2020), while the Other is associated with negative characteristics as: "*china has caused great damage*" (6/7/2020), "*Tremendous damage*" (1/7/2020), *"very bad gift from China" (*28/5/2020), "*heavily infected China"* (23/8/2020), besides that, Trump accuses China of spreading COVID-19 intentionally, and they didn't stop it "*they could have easily stopped the plague, but they didn't*" (21/5/2020).

Arjunan (2009), overwording is not necessarily to be found in individual lexemes, but rather it can occur in broad grammatical structures. Throughout, the data analysis, overwording revealed that Trump created a distinction between the representation of the Other and the Self. The "other" is represented by China's responsibility of spreading COVID-19 across the world. the data analysis reveals that before COVID-19 spreading, Trump used positive overwording expressions to represent China, such expressions are: "*China has been working very hard to contain the COVID-19*" (25/1/2020), "*He is strong, sharp and powerfully focused on leading the counterattack on the COVID-19*" (He = President Xi) (7/2/2020), "*China … has developed a strong understanding of COVID-19..*" (27/3/2020). Whereas, after COVID-19 spreading, negative chrematistics are associated with China for holding it responsible for creating and spreading COVID-19, such negative overwording expressions are: *"What Chins has done to our Country, and the World"* (12/5/2020), "*They could have easily stopped the plague, but they didn't"* (21/5/2020), "*China has caused great damage to the United States and the rest of the World!"* (6/7/2020), "*it was not the workers fault that they are unemployed, it's the fault of China*! (31/7/2020), "*Big China Virus Breakouts all over the World"* (2/8/2020). Figure (1) below shows Trump's stance toward China throughout his overwording in Tweets:
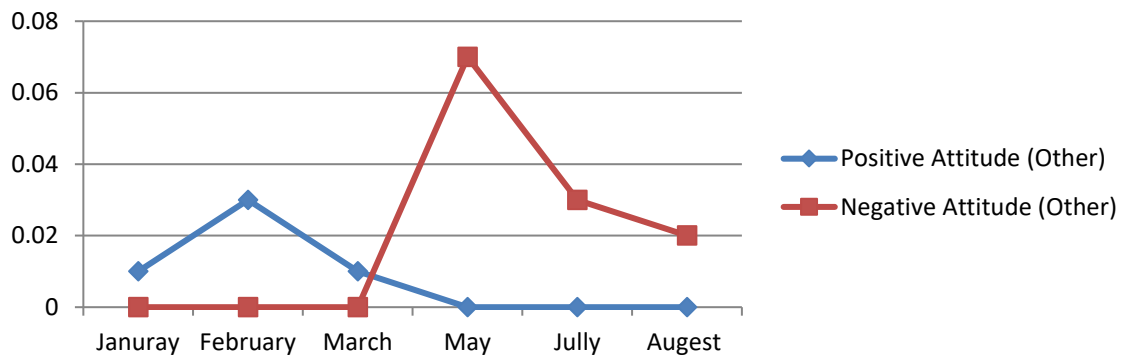
Figure (1): shows Trump's stance alters toward China on Twitter.

On the other hand, the "self" representation indicated America's sacrifices to overcome COVID-19, besides highlighting its efforts concerning the COVID-19 catastrophe. Trump's stance toward America is constant, which denotes his positive representation of America. Such positive overwording statements exemplified in: *"….. Our experts are extraordinary!"* (27/1/2020), "*The very good job we are doing on combatting the China Virus, including Vaccines & Therapeutics*" (3/8/2020), *"the great men & women of the U.S. fighting the China Plague!"* (11/8/2020). Figure (2) below reflects Trump's stance toward America.
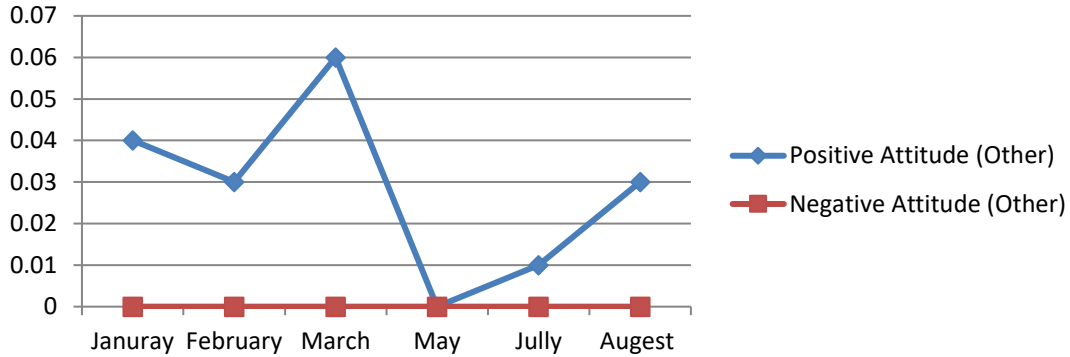
Figure (2): shows Trump's stance toward America on Twitter.

Van Dijk defies categorization as "people tend to categorize people, and so do speakers in parliament … Once groups have thus be distinguished and categorized, they can be attributed positive or negative characteristics". Thus, by categorization, speakers or writers tend to classify people and assigning positive or negative attributes to them. We notice that throughout Trump's tweets. He tends to categorize America as a sacrifice, cooperative, and great country which tries to save people from COVID-19. Additionally, He organizes America as helpful with the world, even with China its competitor country *"We have offered China and President Xi any help that is necessary"* (27/1/2020), *"we are working closely with China to help"* (7/2/2020). Furthermore, repeatedly he refers to America sacrifices concerning COVID-19 *"our experts are extraordinary"* (27/1/2020),*"I was very fast, even doing the Ban on China long before anybody thought necessary!"* (27/5/2020), *"The very good job we are doing on combatting the China Virus, including Vaccines & Therapeutics"* (3/8/2020), *"There is nobody more Patriotic than me, your favorite President!"* (20/7/2020). On other hand, Trump categorized China, throughout his tweets, as an enemy for America *"They use USA airwaves to help China. The Enemy of the People"* (1/5/2020), and the most blaming country for the spreading of COVID-19 *"What Chins has done to our Country, and the World…."* (12/5/2020), *"Some wacko i.n China just released a statement blaming everybody other than China for COVID-19 which has now killed hundreds of thousands of people."* (20/5/2020), *"China has caused great damage to the United States and the rest of the World!"* (6/7/2020), *"Big China Virus Breakouts all over the World…"* (2/8/2020).

Van Dijk defines lexicalization as speakers or writers "need to express underlying concepts and beliefs in specific lexical items. Similar meanings may thus be variably expressed in different words, depending on the position, role, goals, point of view or opinion of the speaker, that is, as a function of context features" (2000: p. 77). Thus, the use of lexical items creates an overall ideological tactic for Other-negative presentations. Van Dijk states that "True, racist discourse may feature many euphemisms when it refers to ethnic inequality, racism or discrimination, but may not do so when talking about the Others alleged misdeeds. It depends on which opinions are formulated about whom" (2000; p. 58). Trump discourse tends to be dysphemistic rather than euphemistic. Throughout data analysis, we notice that Trump uses a harsh style to represent the Other, exemplified by China and other competitors as democratic party's members. Speakers of different groups tend to present "rhetorical emphasis on our good things and their bad ones". Besides, they use special metaphors to refer to their opponents (Van Dijk, 2000). Trump utilizes dysphemistic expression to imply China's responsibility for spreading CIVID-19 across America and the world "*it was the "incompetence of China", and nothing else, that did*

this mass Worldwide killing!" (20/5/2020), "COVID-19, a very bad "gift" from China, marches on" (28/5/2020), "As I watch the Pandemic spread its ugly face all across the world, I become more and more angry at China…" (1/7/2020), ""Major China Virus flare ups in many of the countries" (30/7/2020), "It was not the workers fault that they are unemployed, it's the fault of China!" (31/7/2020), ""fighting the China Plague" (11/8/2020), "I put an extremely early BAN on people coming into our Country from heavily infected China" (32/8/2020). Figure (3) below reflects the percentage of Euphemism Vs. dysphemism in Trump's tweets:
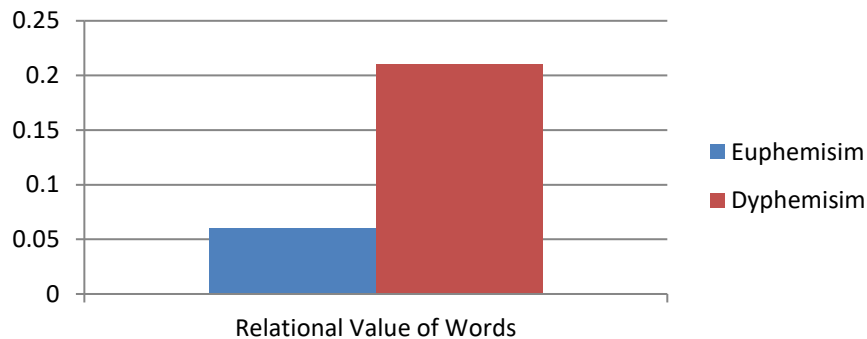
***Figure (3) Show Euphemism & Dysphemism in Trumps' press conferences.***

The expressive value of words indicates that the ideological contrast between "self" and "other" determines the expressive meaning of language. This study focused on adjectives that are utilized by Trump. Van Leween mentions that moral evaluation legitimization relies heavily on evaluative adjectives (2007, p. 98). This study will focus on two types of adjectives Prenominal and Predictive. Tweets analysis reflected his attitude towards China. Throughout the first period of COVID-19 spreading across China, we notice Trump's positive stance about China. Trump's positive stance altered after the spreading of COVID-19 across Europe and especially America. Thus, the period which is before the spreading of COVID-19 is restricted by using predictive adjectives, while after the spreading of COVID-19 is restricted by using prenominal adjectives. Figure (4) below reflects the change of Trump's attitude toward China throughout Adjectives.
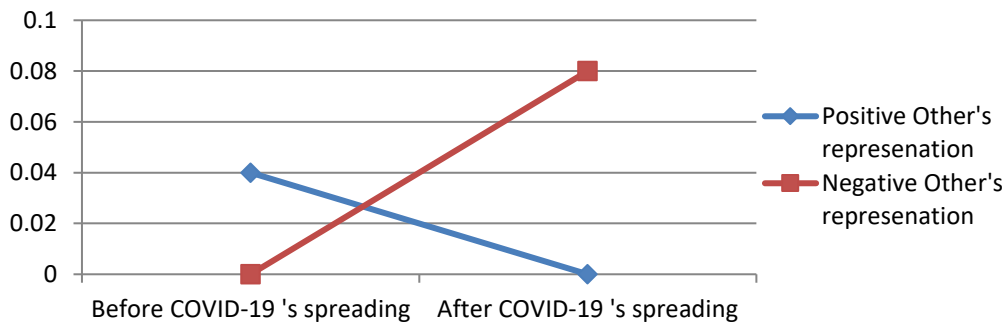
Figure (4): the Alter of Trump's Attitude toward China through Adjectives.

The data analysis revealed that Trump used to associate the Self with positive adjectives, to emphasize the good characteristics and strategies made by America to overcome COVID-19. Such

positive adjectives which are associated with America are: (Patriotic, Extraordinary, Incredible, Great, Improving ... etc.). On other hand, the adjectives which are used to describe China are divided into two types depending on the period of COVID-19's spreading. Before the spreading of COVID-19, positive Predictive adjectives are used to represent China, such as: (strong, sharp, powerful, successful). Whereas Negative prenominal adjectives are associated with China after COVID-19 attacking America and the rest of the world, such adjectives are: (ugly, infectious, inaccurate, infected, and bad). Figure (5) below reflects the adjectives with are used to represent China.
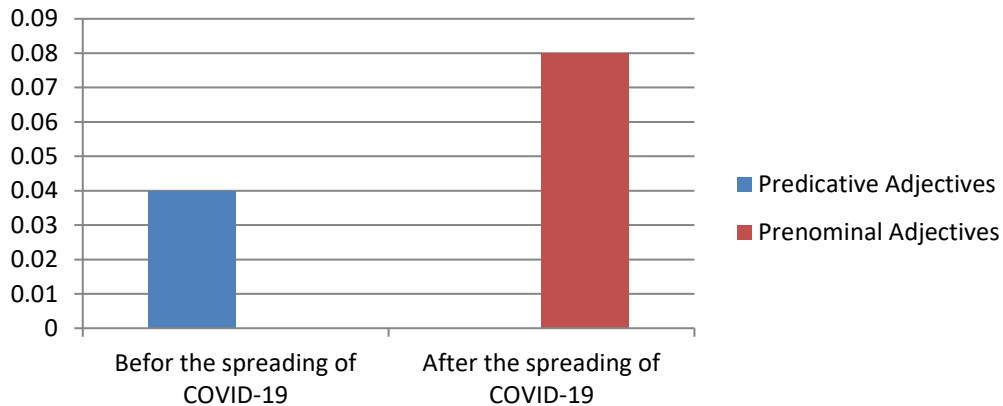
Figure (5): shows Predictive and prenominal adjectives in Trump's tweets. (Other representation)

Results, Discussion, and Recommendations

The main goal of this study is to reveal the representation of China in Trump's written political texts. the data analysis showed that Trump ideology is reflected in discourse built on the formulation of Self and Other, whereby the Self (represented by America) is noble and righteous, while the Other (represented by China) is unscrupulous and wicked. Thirty-seven tweets are analyzed elected between the periods (5/1/2020) until (23/8/2020). It involved two approaches, Fairclough's three-dimensional approach, and van Dijk's ideological square. The results showed that America is represented as the most powerful nation on the face of the earth. Besides, it is represented as the most cooperative country even with its main competitor (China) to overcome COVID-19. On other hand, Trump holding China responsible for the decline of America's economy throughout the COVID-19 period since he holding it responsible for creating and spreading the COVID-19. Thus, China was represented as an enemy for America and the world, whereas, America has presented as a savior for the world, the country that did its own to overcome COVID-19.

Political discourse analysts must be aware of the many techniques employed by politicians to justify their actions as well as delegitimize the actions of the "other," according to the findings of this study. This is corresponding with Trump's written discourse, through which he associated China evil properties and holds it entirely responsible for the damage inflicted by COVID-19 "They could have easily stopped the plague, but they didn't" 21/5/2020, *"All over the World the Coronavirus, a very bad "gift" from China, marches on. Not good!"* 28/5/2020, *"China has caused great damage to the United States and the rest of*

the World!" 6/7/2020. In contrast, associate America with noble actions and strategies to overcome COVID-19: *"We are getting great marks for handling of COVID-19 pandemic, especially the very early BAN of people from China"* 10/5/2020, " *I was very fast, even doing the Ban on China*" 27/5/2020, "*Our experts are extraordinary!"* 27/1/2020.

This research could be a starting point for future researches: can apply the current critical discourse framework to other samples of different political discourses based on other presidents, or can apply to press, precisely American's press, such as The Washington Post, New York Times, etc… furthermore, can make a comparative critical discourse analysis between President Trump and President Xi political discourses. Moreover, the researchers can restrict only tweets or only press conferences.

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