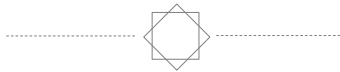


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Hedges used in English Political Discourse

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Abstract:

This paper is entitled *Hedges used in English Political Discourse*. It uses the E.F.Prince, J.Frader & C.Bosk theory (1982) and adopts qualitative and quantitative methods. It investigates the former President George W. Bush's Speech speeches. In addition, this paper makes an attempt to analyze the hedges from the pragmatic perspective and pays attention to their functions rather than forms.

Further, it highlights and studies the frequency of occurrence of hedges in English political speech. The researchers try to show how in English presidential speeches hedges have been utilized to specify a lack of complete commitment to the truth or falsity of the proposition, to convey messages more accurately, to unstiffen the influence and force of an utterance, or to communicate fuzziness purposely to diminish face-saving threats. The results show that politicians used hedges in their speeches when they communicate to the public.

Key Words: Hedge, political discourse, English political discourse, politeness

Hedges used in English Political Discourse

Introduction

It is a known fact that political language is meaningful because it is concerned with the information which is intended to be communicated to the recipient. Further, it tackles individuals' affairs or issues whether they are simple or complex, for example, wars, negotiations, peace issues, etc. In addition, political language is mainly employed to persuade addressees with the addresser's opinion via using specific techniques such as explanation (Mazid, 2007:39).

It is an obvious fact that, in an organized and civilized society, politics is realized as a social practice. Political figures, in order to affect the public opinion at large, they employ a language which has particular features (whether written or spoken). That is, via the use of specific jargon, which is related to the context of the topic, the speaker/writer formulates discourse which causes familiarity to his/her listener(s)/reader(s). Moreover, these particular vocabularies are representations of the political or people's ideologies. In other words, these ideologies are formed through the use of special words which are concerned with the topic, and the listener's/reader's common knowledge along with the intentions of

It is not impossible to guess that there is a close and strategic relation between language and politics. Language is realized as a crucial tool of doing politics since the preparation or realization of a political idea is done and controlled via the use of language. Aristotle (1943), in *the Politics*, focuses and exposes the connection between politics and language: "...man is by nature a political animal [politicon zoon] since "man is the only animal"

his/her nature, which “does nothing in vain”, and “has endowed with the gift of speech” (1-10). Moreover, Farr (1989) comments that “politics, as we know it, would not only be indescribable without language, it would be impossible. Emerging nations could not declare independence, leaders instruct partisans, citizens protest war, or courts sentence criminals. Neither could we criticize, plead, promise, argue, exhort, demand, negotiate, bargain, comprise, counsel, brief, debrief, advice nor consent. To imagine politics without these actions would be to imagine no recognizable politics at all” (8).

Roughly speaking, nowadays, the impacts of political language on behaviors has become an interdisciplinary field of study, which is called Politolinguistics, by Reisigl & Wodak (2001), since it can be dealt with through pragmatics, sociolinguistics, critical discourse analysis, semiotics, political science, etc. Thus, linguists and political scientists are interested in the study of the link between language and politics. They deal with it from different angles; investigating different issues via using different methods and theories (Ibid, 2016:167-8).

Moreover, Beard (2000) defines politics as the activities of political parties, governments, parliaments in the fulfillment of political requirements or obligations (36). Further, Chilton (1998), thinks that the concept of politics is recognized as the “art of governance” (68), while, later, he (2004), limits politics to “a struggle for power, between those who seek to assert and maintain their power and those who seek to resist it” (3).

Politicians, in their speeches, make use of hedges. This phenomenon, nowadays, has received much of the researchers' attention since via the use of hedges language users convey

uncertainty or a lack of commitment to what they are communicating.

In fact, it is one of the tools though which politicians/presidents manipulate in order to save faces, appear polite and thus be able to strategically maneuver in their speeches.

Political Discourse

Political discourse is either spoken or written (or written to be read aloud) by political figures. This type of discourse is supposed to be recognized and comprehended by the public for the aim of conveying the message (explicitly/implicitly) which is intended by the orator or political actor while delivering the speech.

It is significant to point out that Bell(1975). asserts that humans are conveying mean different ways in their everyday life and adds that it is necessary to study who talks/writes to whom and also what they intend to communicate(3). Further, Wilson regards political discourse as language use in political environments by political actors, such as politicians, political institutions, government (2001:398), or opposition members, party leaders, members of parliament, and so forth.

Moreover, political discourse is not considered as a homogeneous genre since there is a wide range of sub-types or forms which are determined by specific communicative situation (Lakoff, 1990:4). These various genres can be policy papers, government press release, press conferences, and Qadeer and Shehzad add, parliamentary debates, political interviews, electoral or presidential speeches, etc. (2018:208).

In fact, this study deals with one genre of political discourse which is known as presidential speeches. That is, this genre is employed as an object to investigate a deeper comprehension of what is said, what is not said and what is communicated and for what purposes. It focuses on how language is utilized by presidents when they address their audience. Thus, it reveals the covert intentions or aims which are embedded in the speech. Furthermore, Qadeer and Shehzad state that political speech produces beliefs, influences people's opinion as well as political action, trust and support of the audience (2018:209). Moreover, according to Rice, political speech is an oral presentation in which the speaker/writer hopes to affect others opinions or attitudes and provoke the emotions of people and make them comply with her/his viewpoints.

It is worth noting that a political discourse, presidential speech, consists of three main elements: the producer (the speaker/ writer) who addresses the speech, the receiver (reader(s)/hearer(s)) who is the recipient of the speech, and the political speech (text) (Ali, 2009:10-12). Further, political speeches have specific characteristics.

Features of Political discourse/Speech

Political speech is commonly delivered by effective political figures (Dressler, 1981). It is meant for both the addressees present at the time of the speech deliverance, and the assumed masses.

There is no doubt that political discourse (speech) is effective due to its influential power to access the public at large. It affects the public perception since the significant events are appropriately formulated or shaped to be presented before the audience.

Further, it has a hidden power. That is, it has the ability to restraint, for example, the topic of the speech and hence favors specific form of interpretations in order to communicate the event (Qadeer and Shehzad, 2018:207-8). Moreover, the language used in presidential speeches, as a political discourse type, usually, has some common characteristics which differentiate it from the rest of other uses of language in other social domains.

Thus, politicians involved in public speaking may employ various stylistic means when they try to figuratively explain or convey their ideas. It is of significance to shed light on the point that an effective orator's speech relies not only on the collection of statements, but also on the logical and progressive organization of those statements via an effective style. That is, speeches are usually formulated in a unique way; paying extra attention to the content or message of the speech via linguistic manipulation. That is to say, political speech is closely concerned or relies on certain main factors: "the occasion of the speech, how the speaker organizes the material, how the speaker uses persuasive devices and which points of the speech s/he wants to highlight" (Staugaite, 2014:13, 17-18).

Thus, political speech is intentional, not spontaneous, functional, prepared beforehand, directive to people, and hence it carries agenda.

That is, it is not essential how the addressers communicate with people but what is crucial is how they will be able to influence them. As Qadeer and Shehzad state that, political discourse is considered as an instrumental source of shaping or affecting opinion of general public (2018:208).

To do with the practical use of language, speaker(s)/writer(s) design their speech (spoken/written) for a specific audience in a particular context. For example, in politics, they make specific word choices, they do calculations of the style of language they are using and also, they make planning about how to present them.

Functions of Political Discourse

Generally, as de Landtsheer states that, political discourse is recognized as a language which is used in “political spheres of communication” (1998:35). There is no doubt that making political speeches is considered as an instrumental part of the politicians activity in declaring policy and affecting people’s attitudes or persuading them to agree with it. Thus, it reveals the agenda of political parties via transmitting the message aimed at.

In fact, there are some main significant or strategic functions which are obvious in political discourse/speech. Chilton and Schaffner sum up four functions as: Coercion (i.e. actual or threatened force to compel a person to do something. That is, the purpose is of compelling action by another person), i.e. laws, commands, censorship, setting agenda, edicts, and etc.; resistance, opposition and protecting, i.e. slogans, chants, petitions, etc.; dissimulation (i.e. the act of concealing the truth, hypocrisy, or deception); and eventually, legitimating and delegitimating (i.e. the act of establishing something lawful and vice versa (1997:212-3).

Political Discourse Analysis

The term discourse analysis is ambiguous. There is no satisfactory universal definition of the notion discourse analysis. In

other words, there is no unified vivid vision towards what discourses are and how they are to be analyzed.

Further, as Chapman(2011) claims that, discourse analysis, as a discipline, has sometimes been utilized in a very broad way since it incorporates various types of data and analysis; the many different aspects in which language use is analyzed (181).

However, Yule comments that discourse analysis deals with various activities, from “the narrowly focused investigation of how words such as ‘oh’ or ‘well’ are used in casual talk”, to the most formal practices of language use, for example, in education, politics, religion, etc. (1996:84).

In addition, Fasold and connor-Linton(2006) define it as the analysis of language in use in both spoken and written form (244). Moreover, Stubbs (1983)claims that discourse analysis should deal with the techniques which are concerned with the analysis of how information is chosen, formed and communicated between language users as well as how it is assumed to be known and shared by others (30).

Further, Gee and Handford(2013). provide a definition to discourse analysis and state that it is the study of the relationship between language and the context in which it is utilized (1-5).

As it has been observed, discourse analysis is a rapidly developing field of study. And Brown and Yule (1983). point out that it is used in linguistics, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, philosophical linguistics, etc. (x). Moreover, Van Dijk (2002). assures this point via stating that a fundamental characteristic of discourse analysis is its multidisciplinary since it exceeds the

boarder of linguistics and involves various other domains. He comments that “discourse analysis for me is essentially multidisciplinary, and involves linguistics, politics, semiotics, psychology, sociology, anthropology, history, and communication research” (10). Thus, discourse analysis has just become an area which is studied by various researchers including conversation analysts, philosophers, sociologists, anthropologists, and political analysts and so on.

In fact, it is not surprising that because different linguists and scholars, working in different academic fields, employ the same concept ‘discourse analysis’, hence it leads to confusion since they do not all define discourse analysis exactly the same way (Biber and Gray, 2013:10). That is, it means different things for them.

Furthermore, discourse analysis, as a concept, was first used by Zelling Harris (1952) as a way of “analyzing connected speech and writing. Harris had two main interests: the examination of language beyond the level of the sentence and the relationship between linguistic and non-linguistic behavior” (Paltridge, 2012:2).

Moreover, researchers may do discourse analysis “to explore many different social domains” (Philips and Jorgenson, 2002:1). Specifically, Jaworski and Coupland focus on discourse as language use which is closely linked to social, political as well as cultural formations which reveal the language user’s interactions with society (2006:3).

Philosophically, in doing discourse analysis, scholars usually are concerned with ideas than with the detailed description of linguistic structures of text and talk (Van Dijk, 2018:229).

Hence, in order to understand the field of discourse analysis, the analysts must be aware of the different approaches, or schools, of which this term is utilized. That is, in order to establish a comprehensive framework, it is essential to be aware of the theoretical and philosophical differences and commonalities among these approaches since they provide different forms, views or knowledge about this phenomenon.

In summary, there are different discourse analytical approaches and they investigate discourse differently and all of them together offer a broader understanding of the concept of discourse analysis. However, it is hard and somehow impossible to achieve an accurate identification of all these different schools or fields which are employed or tackled while doing discourse analysis; therefore, in this study, the data is analyzed according to an aspect of pragmatics ; a pragmatic approach is concentrated on.

Definition of Hedges

The term *hedge* first used by the American linguist George Lakoff in his published paper *Hedges: A Study in Meaning Criteria and the Logic of Fuzzy Concepts*. He treated hedges as the fuzziness of language as he stated "for me, some of the most interesting questions are raised by the study of words whose meaning implicitly involves fuzziness-words whose job is to make things fuzzier or less fuzzy. I will prefer these words as hedge" (1972:27).

Generally speaking, hedges as the tentative utterances or expressions such as 'about', 'probably', 'approximately', 'relatively', 'kind of', 'I think', 'they said', etc., as Yule claims, depict the language producers' concern that their recipients judge

them to be cooperative partners (1996:38-9). Thus, to reduce the risk of negation, hedges are used to imply purposive vagueness since they are taken as a means to show certainty or doubt towards a statement (uttered or written) or regarding findings or claims. They may be consciously or unintentionally be utilized in communication.

However, in line with Markkanen and Schroder, it can be said that “no clear-cut lists of hedging expressions are possible” (2006:4) since linguistic terms via depending on the context of language use can be treated as hedges. That is, hedges are identified by the context; the situation and the speaker’s/writer’s intention, and the background knowledge of the interlocutors. Further, Martin acknowledges “it appears that it is virtually impossible to attribute a function to a hedge without considering both the linguistic and situational context” (2003b:66).

Generally, hedges, or the hedging words, are divided into two major types or classes.

Types of Hedges

In fact, there has been a remarkable interest in exploring the types of hedges. They, as important strategies, have been classified differently by different language scholars and linguists.

Markkanen and Schroder (2006) divided hedges into two main classes: one type has concerned with some common linguistic expressions that can change or alter the meaning or truth condition of the conveyed proposition; the other type highlights the degree of the interlocutors’ accuracy or commitment to the truth of propositional content. Moreover, Vold (2006) distinguished real

hedges (level of certainty) and strategic hedges (different pragmatic functions) (Behnam and Salam, 2012:74).

In addition, Salager-Meyer identified four types of hedges: Shields; verbs expressing possibility 'appear', 'seem'; possibility adverbs 'probably' etc. Approximators 'approximately', 'quite often', Expressions of the authors' personal doubt and direct involvement 'I believe', 'according to our knowledge', Emotionally charged intensifiers 'unexpectedly', 'surprisingly', and Compound hedges 'it could be suggested that', 'it would seem likely that, etc. (1994:151).

Obviously, the data analysis of this paper is based on the classification of hedges made by the two linguists E.F. Prince, J. Frader & C. Bosk (1982). They, from the pragmatic perspectives, classified hedges in two different types naming Approximators and Shields.

a. Approximators

Approximators are some specific words or utterances which affect and change the meaning or value of the original proposition through relying on diverse contexts.

That is, through making amendments in the communicative context, they make certain degree of effects to the truth condition of the given discourse or proposition. Approximators can be divided into sub-classes: adaptors and rounders.

Adaptors

Adaptors refer to the words that modify the truth, correctness of the proposition. Thus, they indicate the degree of certainty

whether they are absolutely correct or partially correct. They are examples as : ‘ sort of’, ‘ really’, ‘ almost’, ‘ quite, entirely’, ‘a little bit’, ‘to some extent’, ‘ some’, ‘less’, more’, etc. The speakers’ tone of uncertainty can be pointed out via the employment of adaptors.

Rounders

Rounders convey variation, doubt, and range which show the inexact accuracy or preciseness of the situation. In other words, they represent that the context is close to but not exactly clear that how the expression is to be modified (Behnam and Salam, 2012:77).

They are utilized to show limitations or measure things. Interlocutors use rounders when they are trying to put their focus on the size of the range and hence hearers may comprehend the meaning of the discourse in a certain range depending on the number (Tang, 2013:156). They include items or expressions like ‘about’, ‘ approximately’, ‘ around’, at least’, ‘less than’, ‘ more than’, ‘between’ etc. They are used to point out that the speakers are not absolutely sure but rather their expressions are not too far away from the exact fact or number.

b. Shields

Different from approximators, shields do not change the truth condition of the content of what is said or written. They implicate the speakers’/writers’ opinions via reflecting a level of uncertainty. In other words, shields highlight the interlocutor’s commitment to the truth of the entire proposition. Thus, it indicates that speakers are not completely or fully committed to the validity (truth of the

expression) they are conveying. Simply, shields denote the speaker's uncertainty and reservations towards the proposition and hence indirectly moderate the tone of the expression. Shields are of two sub-types: Plausibility shields and Attribution shields.

Plausibility Shields

Plausibility shields usually include first person pronouns (singular and plural) such as 'I think', 'I guess', 'I assume', 'I suggest', 'according to my knowledge' etc. They do not affect or change the truth value of the proposition; however, they reflect the speaker's uncertainty or doubtful attributes and personal instances.

Attribution Shields

Attribution shields include expressions such as 'it is said (reported)', 'according to their estimate', 'according to X's knowledge', 'as it is known', etc. They attribute the level of inexactness toward a proposition to another party. Thus, the interlocutor's opinion is expressed indirectly. Hence, by attribution shields, the responsibility of the message is attributed to someone other than the speaker so such attribution helps the speakers avoid the riskiness of the falsity of the proposition and thus mitigate their responsibility when they try to make statements (Tang, 2013:155-6).

Hedges and politeness

In fact, hedges are seen as key tools or means to hold modesty, and reduce the effect of the statements which appear rude or harmful or impolite to addressees. Thus, hedges are considered as politeness forms or strategies to save faces of languages users since they avoid the risk of face threatening acts (Tran and Tham, 2013:3).

It is worth noting that there are different perceptions or reasons for using hedges. Salager-Meyer listed four functions of hedging: 1-to mitigate the risk of opposition and to minimize the “threat to face”; 2-to be more accurate in reporting results or outcomes; 3-to serve as positive and negative politeness strategies; 4-to conform an established writing style (1997, 106-108).

Methodology

This study illustrates and depicts the aims and frequencies of occurrence of hedges used in English political discourse/ presidential speeches. This paper employed both qualitative and quantitative methods, and its data is analyzed according to E.F.Prince, J.Frader & C. Bosk theory (1982) in relation to politeness. Further, The data of the present analysis is based on two speeches delivered on different occasions (tragic and happy moments), made by the American political figure George Walker Bush , and the speeches are available at www.CNN.com/US., www.bushcenter.org, and also www.CBS.News.com . Moreover, from USA, a Republican Party politician, George W. Bush was selected since he was the 43rd president of the United States of America. Furthermore, definitely, he was one of the most powerful or influential decision maker during his presidency. He had made great decisions and achievements (www.whitehouse.gov).

Notably, the context or the occasion of Bush’s speech (Text2) is a tragic moment or event. He addressed this speech to the nation on tragedies regarding the attacks on September 11, 2001: the attacks on the world Trade Center in New York city, the Pentagon outside Washington D.C., the hijacked airplane that crashed in Pennsylvania.

In fact, these attacks were a sequence of four coordinated terrorist attacks by the Islamic group 'Al-Qaeda' against the United States. Further, US planes at that time had been hijacked and carried out suicide attacks against US targets inside, killing more than 3,000 people in a matter of hours (www.history.com) and (www.whitehouse.gov.)

It is worth noting that, this speech (Text2) was addressed nine days after the attacks. The tragedy of September 11 had become a turning point in the modern history of America. Hence, the speech was so important and is regarded as "the speech of George Bush's life" and is viewed as a "historic address" (Chilton and Wodak, 2007:352).

Moreover, the second speech by President George. W. Bush (Text4) was delivered on a happy occasion. He addressed this speech when he received Distinguished Leadership Award by the Atlantic Council for his influential role and attempts in combatting the HIV and AIDS crisis in Africa during his presidency. The president was honored for his remarkable administration's creation of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDs Relief, or PEPFAR, which was launched in 2003.

Discussion and Results

In the following Tables, hedges utilized in Bush's speeches (Text 2, Text 4) are classified into their types and sub-types.

Table 1. Descriptive statistics for Approximators Hedges used in Text 2

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Rounders	10	27.0	27.0	27.0
Adaptors	27	73.0	73.0	100.0
Total	37	100.0	100.0	

Table 1. depicts that Adaptors as a sub-type of Approximators Hedges used in Text2 and its total number is 27 , and only 10 rounders are employed.

Table 2. Descriptive statistics for Rounders Hedges used in Text2

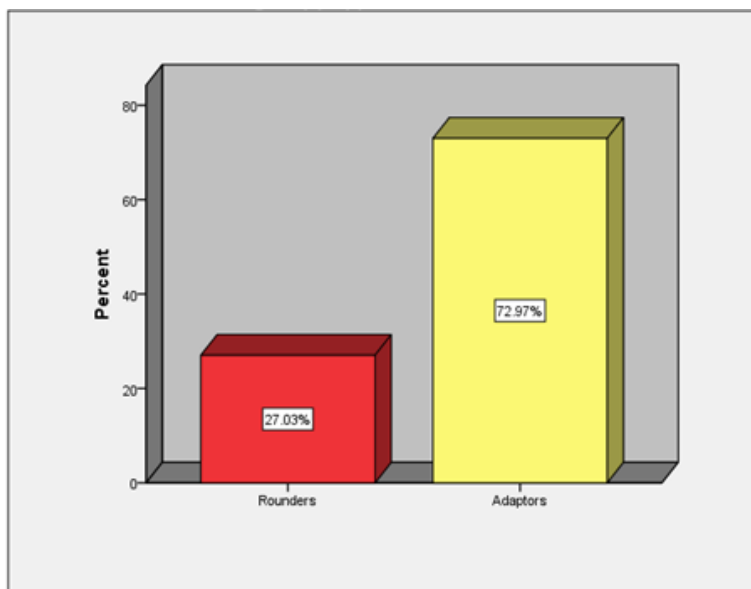
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid dozens of....	2	20.0	20.0	20.0
more than....	3	30.0	30.0	50.0
thousands of..	2	20.0	20.0	70.0
hundreds of...	1	10.0	10.0	80.0
millions more...	1	10.0	10.0	90.0
far more than	1	10.0	10.0	100.0
Total	10	100.0	100.0	

Table 3. Descriptive statistics for Adaptors Hedges used in Text2

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid the entire ...	1	3.7	3.7	3.7
All	9	33.3	33.3	37.0
some	4	14.8	14.8	51.9
majority	1	3.7	3.7	55.6
most of	1	3.7	3.7	59.3
many millions	1	3.7	3.7	63.0
many	2	7.4	7.4	70.4
vast regions of	1	3.7	3.7	74.1
look like	1	3.7	3.7	77.8
many	3	11.1	11.1	88.9
a few	1	3.7	3.7	92.6
so many	1	3.7	3.7	96.3
thousands of	1	3.7	3.7	100.0
Total	27	100.0	100.0	

According to the statistics results presented in Table 2 and 3, it is found that the president Bush used both Rounders and Adaptors Hedges as sub-types of Approximators Hedges in his presidential speech Text 2.,and Roundres total number is 10 and Adaptors number is 27.

Figure 1.The frequency of occurrence of the above mentioned Hedges (Approximators; its sub-types Adaptors and Rounders) used in Text2



As the figure 1 indicates, the frequency of occurrence of the Adaptors Hedges, as a sub-type of Approximators, used in Text 2 is 72.9%, and rounders is 27.03%.

Table 4. Descriptive statistics for Approximators Hedges used in Text 4

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Rounders	6	35.3	35.3	35.3
	Adaptors	11	64.7	64.7	100.0
	Total	17	100.0	100.0	

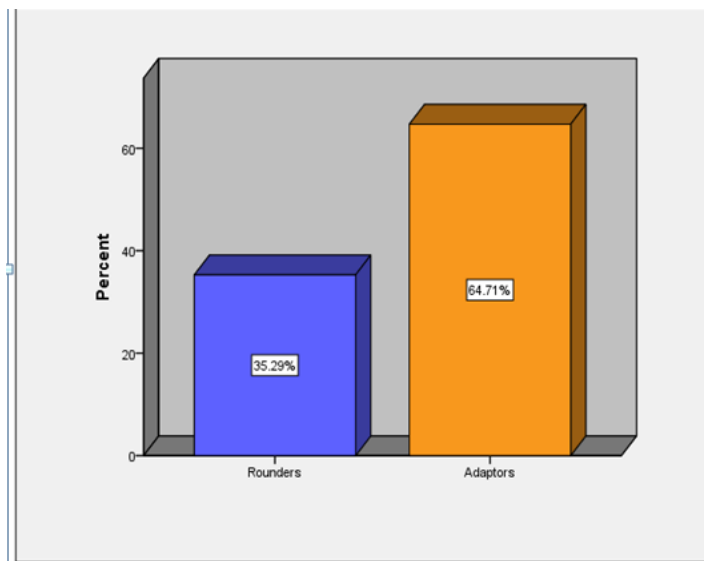
According to the statistics results given in Table 4, it is shown that Adaptors Hedges a sub-type of Approximators Hedge, are used in Text 4 .And also Rounders hedges are employed .

Table 5. Descriptive statistics for Adaptors Hedges used in Text 4

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid best kind of diplomacy	1	9.1	9.1	9.1
really	1	9.1	9.1	18.2
some Americans may ask	1	9.1	9.1	27.3
most Americans	1	9.1	9.1	36.4
sort of perplexed	1	9.1	9.1	45.5
a little problem	1	9.1	9.1	54.5
much is given	1	9.1	9.1	63.6
much is required	1	9.1	9.1	72.7
entire villages	1	9.1	9.1	81.8
quite a shock	1	9.1	9.1	90.9
whole family	1	9.1	9.1	100.0
Total	11	100.0	100.0	

As Table 6 shows, the total number of Rounders Hedges, used by the president in his speech , Text 4, is 6.

Figure 2. The frequency of occurrence of the above mentioned Hedges (i.e. Approximators and Rounders Hedges; sub-types of Adaptors Hedges) used in Text4.



As it can be seen in figure 2, the frequency of occurrence of the above mentioned Hedges used (Adaptors Hedges; a sub -type of Approximators Hedges) in Bush's speech Text4 is 64.71%, and Rounders is 35.29%.

Table 7. Descriptive statistics for Shields Hedges used in Text 4

Shields Text 4

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Plausibility shields	7	53.8	53.8	53.8
Attribution shields	6	46.2	46.2	100.0
Total	13	100.0	100.0	

Looking at the descriptive statistics presented in Table 7, for Shields Hedges used in Text 4, it is found that Plausibility Shields are used and the number of the employed plausibility Shields is 7, while the attribution shields used are 6.

Table 8. Descriptive statistics for Plausibility shields Hedges used in Text 4

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid I hope	1	14.3	14.3	14.3
I guess	1	14.3	14.3	28.6
my administration believed that	1	14.3	14.3	42.9
we believed that	1	14.3	14.3	57.1
we breath hope	1	14.3	14.3	71.4
I believe	1	14.3	14.3	85.7
I wish	1	14.3	14.3	100.0
Total	7	100.0	100.0	

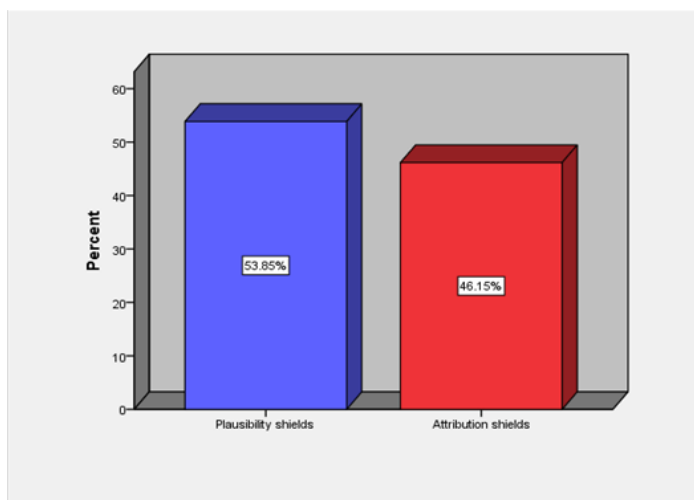
As the Table 8 clarifies, the Plausibility Shields Hedges used in Text4 is 7 in number.

Table 9. Descriptive statistics for Attribution shields Hedges used in Text 4.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	As Hadley will testify.....	1	16.7	16.7	16.7
	As Condi and Steve mentioned.....	1	16.7	16.7	33.3
	He also noted.....	1	16.7	16.7	50.0
	They call it.....	1	16.7	16.7	66.7
	people say	1	16.7	16.7	83.3
	a lot of our citizens could realize	1	16.7	16.7	100.0
	Total	6	100.0	100.0	

Table 9 depicts that the attribution Shields Hedges used in Text4 which is 6 in number.

Figure 3. The frequency of occurrence of the above mentioned Hedges (i.e. Shields Hedges; its sub-types Plausibility and attribution shields) used in Text4.



As it can be seen in figure 3, the frequency of occurrence of the Plausibility shields; a sub-type of Shields Hedges, employed in Text4, is 53.85%, and the attribution shields is 46.5%.

In fact, via the analysis of the two speeches of President George. W.Bush, it is comprehended that Bush used Adaptors (72.97% in Text 2, 64.71% in Text4) , such as ‘best kind of diplomacy’, ‘really’, ‘some Americans may ask’, ‘most Americans’, ‘sort of perplexed’, ‘a little problem’, ‘much is given’, ‘entire villages’, ‘quite a shock’, ‘whole family’, ‘All’, ‘majority’, ‘many millions’, ‘many’, ‘vast regions of’, ‘look like’, ‘so many’, ‘thousands of’ in the speeches .

He employed these terms (adaptors) in order to make his sentences neither completely exact nor false and hence decreases the degree of inevitability or certainty and this involves reservation. However, in Text 2(27.03%) and Text 4(36.29%) , Bush used Rounders such as ‘dozens of’, ‘more than....’, ‘thousands of..’, ‘hundreds of...’, ‘millions more...’, ‘far more than’, ‘less than two tenths’, ‘shortly’, ‘five times more likely’, ‘more than half a million’, ‘sometimes’, ‘over the past years’, and this conveys variation , doubt and range which depicts inexact accuracy or preciseness of the situation. That is, the context is close to but not exactly clear.

Further, Bush used Shields: Plausibility shields(53.85%) such as ‘I hope’, ‘I guess’, ‘my administration believed that’, ‘we believed that’, ‘we breath hope’, ‘I believe’, ‘I wish’, and Attribution shields(46.15%) such as ‘As Hadley will testify.....’, ‘As Condi and Steve mentioned.....’, ‘He also noted..’, ‘They call it....’, ‘people say’, ‘a lot of our citizens could realize’ in Text 4.

Thus, the president employed some shields since they do not alter or affect the sense of the proposition. However, they mirror individual examples and the addresser's doubt toward a proposition to another party. Hence, the president's lookouts are communicated indirectly through employing these shields and thus the addresser sidestepped the riskiness of the falseness of the proposition and mitigated the affect and the responsibility when he made his statements.

However, Bush did not use any Shields (both types) in Text 2, and this depicts that he had intended not to reflect any uncertainty towards the proposition of his statement, and he expressed his viewpoint directly via not using any shields and thus the president did not avoid his responsibility when he addressed his speech.

In fact, the total number of the attribution shields in Text 2 is zero, and is amounted to 6 in Text 4, while the total number of plausibility shields is zero in Text 2, and 7 in Text 4. Further, the adaptors used in Text 2 are 27 and 11 in Text 4. And the total amount of Rounders in Bush's speech (Text 2) is 10 and it is 6 in (Text 4).

According to the frequency of occurrence, they can roughly be divided into different frequency bands: those which occurred few times and those which were not used at all, and those which were frequently occurred. In the English speeches (Text 2, Text4), the most frequently used hedges are adaptors (38 items) and those which occurred few times are attribution shields (6 items).

However, it is noticed that there is no significant difference concerning the employment or usage of hedges (Approximators

and Shields) in Text 4, but this difference is considerable in Text 2 since Bush only used Approximators and didn't use shields.

The president Bush employed adaptors and shields in three speeches (Text4) because he had no interest to add any personal doubt and direct involvement.

The result showed that there is a slight difference between the occurrence of hedges in the two compared English political speeches by Bush (Text 2, Text 4), Bush used both types of hedges and their sub-types; Rounders 6 items, Adaptors 11 items as sub-types of Approximators, plausibility shields 7 items and attribution shields 6 items as sub-types of shields.

The results in this analysis have shown that there is a point of similarity and difference among these two presidential speeches. The point of similarity is that the president, in his political speeches, used adaptors hedges and this sub-type is recognized as the most frequently used ones. And the considerable difference is that, in the English presidential speeches, Bush, in both speeches (Text2, Text 4), used Rounders (16 items), but the other type of hedges, which is shields, is used differently, except in Text 2 the total number is zero.

Generally, the employment of hedges, in these analyzed speeches, shows that the president did not want to reveal his personal doubts and get involved directly. Thus, hedges are used as a means to save faces and hence he employed them as a politeness phenomenon in order to strategically maneuver while addressing his audience.

Conclusion

Hedges occur quite commonly in language and play crucial roles in exchanging ideas and making communications go flexible, moderate, effective and polite. Throughout this paper, the researchers concluded the following findings:

-Hedges play considerable roles as politeness strategies in performing various pragmatic functions in discourse. They denote lack of complete commitment to the truth value of the utterances, pointing out the degree of the interlocutors' accuracy of the proposition, conveying vagueness for the purpose of saving faces and avoiding threats, mitigating the force of utterances, communicating messages more precisely and modifying the meaning of certain statements.

- This study has illustrated how the usage of hedges as a moderated maneuver is motivated and utilized by the president George. W. Bush in his political speeches.

- Though Hedges, as a negative politeness strategy and as a way of resulting in fuzziness, used to create ambiguity to decrease the addresser's accountability, Bush, in Text2, directly addresses his people and shows no personal doubt and it is viewed that via not using any shields; including both types.

- The English political figure/ president employs hedges in his presidential speeches to appear polite since he usually does it as representative of political partie(s), government, nations, etc. rather than as an individual. Thus, he takes the accountability to save his own and other's faces. That is, his allowance to state what and how

is very limited. Hence, he tries to appear polite, and politeness can also be developed via being indirect.

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پوخته:

ئەم لىيىكۆلئىنەۋەيە بە ناۋنىشانى (سنورداركەرە بەكارھاتوۋەكان لە گوتارى سىياسى ئىنگلىزى) دا، پشت بە تىۋرى پرىنس و فرەيدەرو بۆسك (۱۹۸۲) دەبەستىت، و رېيىزى چۆنىەتى و چەندىيەتى بەكاردىنىت بۆ شىكرەنەۋەي گوتارەكانى جۆرج بۆش. لەگەل ئەمەشدا، ئەم لەكۆلئىنەۋەيە ھەوللى شىكرەنەۋەي سنورداركەرەۋەكان دەدات لە پوانگەي پراگماتىكەۋە و جەخت دەكاتە سەرئەركەكانىان نەك شىۋەكانىان.

ھەرۋەھا سەرنج خراۋەتە سەر لىيىكۆلئىنەۋەي دىيارى كەردنى پىژەي بەكارھىتانى سنورداركەرەۋەكان لە گوتارى سىياسى ئىنگلىزى دا.

تويژەران ھەوللى دەرخستنى ئەۋە دەدەن كوا چۆن لە گوتارى سىياسى سەرۆك دا ، سنورداركەرەۋەكان

بەكارھاتوون بۆ دىيارىكەردنى راستى و دروستى دەربرىن بۆ گەياندىنى پەيامەكان بە شىۋەيەكى زۆر وورد بۆ كەمكەردنەۋە يان نەرمكەردنەۋەي كاريگەرى گوتنىك ،يان بۆ دەربرىنى لىلى بە شىۋەيەكى مەبەستدار بۆ كەمكەردنەۋەي ئەگەرەكانى مەترسى لەدەستدانى پوومەندى.

ووشە كىلىيەكان: سنورداركەرەۋەكان، گوتارى سىياسى، گوتارى سىياسى ئىنگلىزى، پىز.

ملخص:

هذا البحث بعنوان (تحولات في الخطاب السياسي الإنجليزي)، تشرع في إطار نظرية برينس و فريدر و بوسك (١٩٨٢)، و يوظف هذا البحث المنهج النوعي والكمي لتحليل الخطابات الرئيس جورج بوش. إضافة إلى ذلك، تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تحليل تحوط من المنظور البراكمتيكي و تركز على وظائفها بدلا من الأشكالها.

ويسلط الضوء على البحث و تحديد نسبة إستعمال تحوطات في الخطاب السياسي الإنجليزي، و يحاول الباحثون إظهار كيف أستخدمت التحوطات في خطابات الرئاسة الإنجليزية، لتحديد نسبة الصح والخطأ في التعبير لإيصال رسائل أكثر دقة، وتخفيف أثر الكلام أو استعمال الغموض عمدا لتقليل مخاطر التهديد وجه الآخر.

الكلمات المفتاحية: التحوط، الخطاب السياسي، الخطاب السياسي الانجليزي، التأدب