

A Critical Pragmatic Analysis of Hate Speech in the Tweets of American Political Leaders against China

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Abstract

The spread of the Internet makes social media such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter the tools for expressing political interests and for communicating positive and negative feelings. Recently, an anti-China-sentiment has spread in American political leader's social media especially with the outbreak of Corona virus plea 2020. Thus, instead of using neutral discourse, hate speech becomes the means by which these leaders attack and express their negative feelings towards China. The present research endeavors to put under deep scrutiny this phenomenon from a critical pragmatic perspective for the sake of understanding how the context of hate speech against China shapes its meaning. It attempts to fill a gap in this field by examining the use of language that constructs negative feelings against China and justifies hatred and violence. This study tries to analyze the pragmatic aspects of hate speech in the tweets of Trump and Pompeo. It focuses on hate speech forms, functions and strategies. Then reproduction mechanisms are suggested to substitute the original ones. The study compromises two types of analysis: a qualitative analysis and a quantitative analysis. The qualitative analysis is achieved by means of an analytical framework developed for this purpose. In order to support the findings of the qualitative analysis, a quantitative (statistical) analysis is conducted by using a frequency table that shows the number of times each value of a variable occurs in a data set. On the basis of these two analyses, some findings are introduced where the most important one is that there is an accretion of hate speech in American political leader's tweets directed towards China which leads to the spread of racial hatred and violence against Chinese people.

Key words: critical pragmatics, hate speech, pragmatic strategies, tweets.

تحليل تداولي نقدي لخطاب الكراهية في تغريدات السياسة الأمريكية ضد الصين

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المستخلص

يجعل انتشار الإنترنت من وسائل التواصل الاجتماعي مثل فيسبوك وإنستغرام وتويتر أدوات للتعبير عن المصالح السياسية وإيصال المشاعر الإيجابية والسلبية. في الآونة الأخيرة، انتشرت مشاعر معادية للصين في وسائل التواصل الاجتماعي للزملاء السياسيين الأمريكيين خاصة مع تفشي فيروس كورونا ٢٠٢٠. ومن ثم، بدلاً من استخدام خطاب محايد، يصبح خطاب الكراهية هو الوسيلة التي يهاجم بها هؤلاء القادة ويعبرون عن مشاعرهم السلبية تجاه الصين. ويسعى البحث الحالي إلى وضع هذه الظاهرة في المجهر من منظور نقدي عملي. ويحاول سد فجوة في هذا المجال. وعليه، تحاول الدراسة الحالية تحليل الجوانب العملية لخطاب الكراهية في تغريدات اثنين من القادة السياسيين الأمريكيين، وهما ترامب وبومبيو.

تركز الدراسة الحالية بشكل كبير على أشكال خطاب الكراهية ووظائفه وإستراتيجياته. ويقترح آليات التكاثر لتحل محل الاستراتيجيات الأصلية. وبناء على ذلك، قدمت الدراسة نوعين من التحليل، هما: التحليل النوعي والتحليل الكمي يكون إجراء التحليل النوعي بإطار تحليلي كان تطويره لهذا الغرض. ولدعم نتائج التحليل النوعي، قمنا بإجراء تحليل كمي (إحصائي) باستخدام بعض الأساليب الإحصائية. وعلى أساس هذين التحليلين، قدمنا بعض النتائج، أهمها أن هناك تراكمًا لخطاب الكراهية في تغريدات القادة السياسيين الأمريكيين الموجهين نحو الصين، مما يؤدي إلى انتشار الكراهية العنصرية والعنف ضد الشعب الصيني.

الكلمات الدالة: البراغمية النقدية، خطاب الكراهية، الإستراتيجيات البراغمية، التغريدات.

1. Introduction

It is fascinating to visualize the phenomenon of hate speech. This is connected to a number of lately occurring events that have sparked instability. Hate speech is a form of expression that incites individuals from specific social groups that value diversity in terms of race, country origin, religion, and gender. However, no attempt has been made to study hate speech in twitter, especially from a critical pragmatic perspective and therefore the current research attempts to fill a gap in this field. It tries to provide insights into the strategies of hate speech in the tweets of American political leaders against China and how it can lead to violence, discrimination, and how it can damage China's reputation. From a critical pragmatic perspective, the research puts under deep scrutiny hate speech towards China and aims at identifying its forms, its pragmatic functions and the pragmatic strategies employed to manifest it. As such, it is hypothesized that hate speech can take many different shapes in order to serve a variety of pragmatic functions. Additionally, a pragmatic manifestation of hate speech can be accomplished through various pragmatic strategies such as reference, impoliteness and speech act. Thus, the study attempts to answer the following questions:

1. What are the different types and functions of hate speech that are exploited in the American political speech against China?
2. What are the pragmatic strategies used to manifest it?

2. Literature Review

Hate Speech as a linguistic phenomenon has been studied by many researchers. Thus, many scholars attempt to study this phenomenon pragmatically. Hence, Some scholars [1:1] try to determine hate speech of Nnamdi Kanu' speech, the leader of Independent People of Biafra; and Sari [2:1] who studies hate speech in the comments by the social media user. Other scholars [3:130] have studied hate speech of supporters of Indonesian presidential candidates on social media. Subyantoro and Apriyanto [4:51] have also researched this phenomenon on the Instagram and Facebook. Also, political hate speeches made by Nigerians between 2013 and 2015 have been investigated by Asiru and Babangida [5:1] have studied it in Nigerian political newspapers.

2.1 Aim of the study

The aim of this research is to scrutinize hate speech in two American political leader's tweets, namely Trump and Pompeo. Adopting critical pragmatic perspective, this study shows that they can use language as a powerful force to dehumanize China. As such, analyzing hate speech in their tweets can deep our understanding of the harmful impact of this phenomenon on Chinese people and how it may incite violence against them. The study examines their use of certain pragmatic concepts such as speech acts, politeness and reference to provoke hatred against China. As such, the research would then replicate these uses in an attempt to modify what has come to be seen as normalized and to counter their negative effects. .

2.2 Hate Speech: Definitions

Hate speech is a particular form of offensive language. This type of language consists of behavior intended to hurt feelings such as wrath, resentment, disgust or indignation in a reasonable person's mind.[6:2].Hate speech is defined as "any communication that designates a person or a group on the basis of some characteristics such as race, color, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, nationality, religion, or other characteristic." [7:56] It makes use of stereotypes to express an ideology of hate. Therefore, hate speech can be defined as " words of incitement and hatred that, based on ethnic identity, advocates, threatens, or encourages violent acts or a climate of prejudice and intolerance [8:4].

Accordingly, hate speech is considered here as the expression of "hatred or degrading attitudes toward a collective" [9:254], with people being devalued not based on individual traits, but on account of their race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or other group-defining characteristics. It is stated that hate speech is any speech that can disparage other individuals. It can be manifested face to face or online. That is why hate speech in cyberspace is the field which the present research focuses on. [10:42]

2.3 Forms and Functions of Hate Speech

Hate speech can have various forms: defamation, denigration, insult, ridicule, provoking hatred and spreading hoax. [11:159]

1. Defamation: is the act of undermining a person's self-respect and dignity by saying something that is harmful to their reputation, either directly or indirectly. "Defamation is an act, action or word that is degrading to someone or group of people." [11:160]

2. Denigration: is the act of undermining a person's self-respect and dignity by saying something that is harmful to their reputation, either directly or indirectly.[11:161]
3. Insult: an insult is directed at a person or group of people based on religion, race, ethnicity, religion, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation
4. Provoking hatred: "is a good action in the form of utterances to heat up a person or community group and cause fear, anxiety in a community".[11:162]
5. Ridicule: is to mock, either jokingly and with good humor or cruelly with the aim of degrading.
6. Spread hoax: Hateful statements are made through disseminating false information, often known as fake news, in an effort to influence other people by making them believe the information is factual.

Hate speech might perform the following functions: mocking, accusing, blaming, insulting and insinuating [12:208]. Mocking is the use of language to ridicule someone or something. Accusing is the use of language to charge someone with wrongdoing and it is done directly or indirectly. Using language to hold someone responsible for something that is wrong is called blaming. Insulting can be direct or indirect. Direct insult are explicit statements that someone is disgusting or worthless, whereas indirect insults are implied to express disrespect. When language is used to suggest something which is implicitly stated to express disapproval or suspicion, this use is considered insinuating.

3. Methodology:

3.1 The Analytical Model

Analyzing the data of the present study has been performed by following an eclectic model developed by this research that is based on three theoretical approaches namely: Mey [13], Korta and Perry [14] and Chen [15]. The goal of this model is to identify the forms of hate speech exploited found in the data, the functions of doing so and the pragmatic strategies applied to accomplish those forms and functions.

In the present research, hate speech is analyzed by utilizing a combination of pragmatic aspects and critical notions. The critical notions used comprise critique, stance and reproduction. As for the mechanisms of critique and stance in critical pragmatics, they start as soon as each word is analyzed. A collection of choices are offered in the final mechanism of reproduction in order to reduce or eliminate hate speech utterances. These mechanisms include: avoiding, hedging and deleting. The levels of the pragmatic strategies employed to manifest hate speech are subdivided into macro-strategies and micro- strategies. Hence, macro-strategies are those that take place at the highest level, while micro-strategies are those that directly descend from them. Sub-micro-strategies are the sub-types of this latter class of strategies. The macro-strategies include Impoliteness [16], Reference and Speech Acts [17]. The analytical model is described in the following figure:

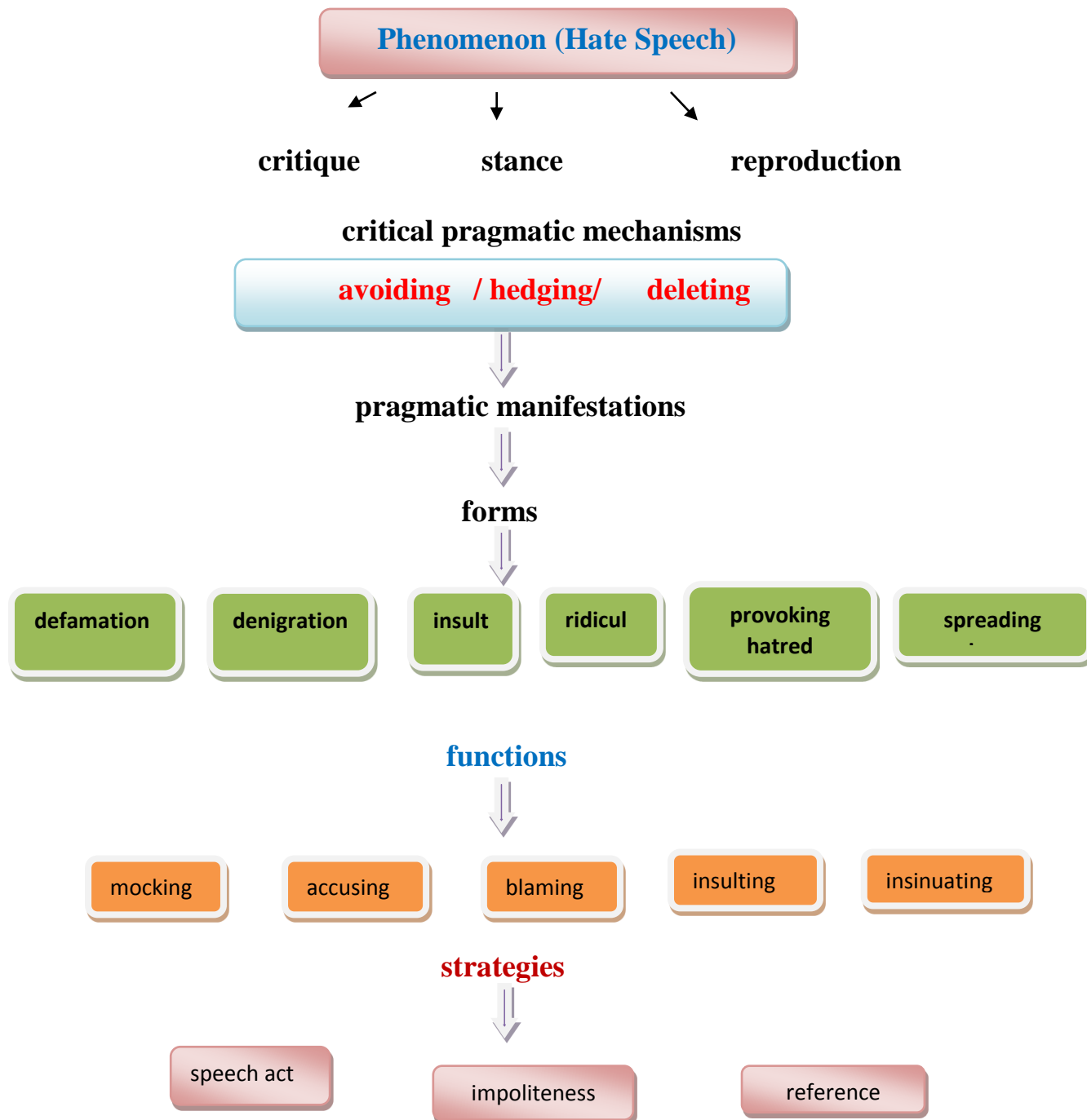


Figure (1): The Analytical Theoretical Model of Analysis

3.2 Data Collection and Analysis

The study's data comes from purposefully chosen source, namely twitter. For accomplishing the purpose of the study, the selected data are 15 tweets of two American political leaders namely Trump and Pompeo. These tweets are purposively selected and considered involving hate speech according to the criteria mentioned above.

The chosen tweets will be examined in data analysis using the developed theoretical framework which involves several stages. Another sort of analysis -namely, a quantitative (statistical) analysis- supports the claims made in this one. Four steps are followed in the quantitative (pragmatic) analysis of these tweets. The first step is finding the form of hate speech, then identifying its pragmatic function, followed by pinpointing the pragmatic strategy utilized in order to manifest this ideology. The last step involves suggesting the appropriate reproduction mechanism for this ideology as the study adopts an anti-hate speech stance.

The quantitative analysis will cover the whole data which is carried out using the percentage formula, but the pragmatic (qualitative) analysis is done using the proposed analytical model schematized in Figure (1) to show the frequency of hate speech forms, functions and strategies. It aims to quantitatively validate the qualitative analysis's conclusions.

3.3 Analysis

Tweet (1)



In this tweet, hate speech has been used twice. First, in the utterance: "*My early decision to close 'the border' from ChinaMany lives were saved*", it is noticed that hate speech has been used in **spreading hoax form** that explicitly accuses China for the spread of the epidemic. **Reference** is the pragmatic strategy that has been utilized where the possessive pronoun "my" is the sub-micro strategy employed to manifest this form. Since this research adopts an anti-stance against hate speech, this utterance is subjected to a type of reproduction. Thus, the optimal critical pragmatic mechanism would be questioning for the sake of lessening its negative effect. As such, the new utterance would look as the following: "*Don't you think that my decision to close the border has saved many lives?*"

Secondly, the utterance: "**The Fake News now narrative is disgraceful & false!**" involves hate speech which takes the form of **denigration**. It is exploited here for the purpose of blaming. Assertive speech act of concluding is the sub macro-strategy used to manifest this form. As has been argued, the analysis adopts an anti-hate speech stance. Therefore, the optimal reproduction mechanism would be omitting the word fake.

Tweet (2):**6 Nov. 2012**

In this tweet, Trump has used hate speech since its content is made with the intention to incite hatred, according to hate speech criteria. It takes the form of **spread hoax** that are used for the purpose of **accusing** China. Two pragmatic strategies are exploited: **reference** by using the word (*Chinese*) and **performative speech act of believing** in the expression (*I believe*). The reproduction mechanism suggested is mitigation by using the hedging expression (*I think*) at the beginning of the utterance in order to lessen the effect of stating expressed by the speech act .

**Tweet (3):****30 March 2013**

In this tweet, two forms of hate speech have been exploited. The first one is in the utterance: "*China could solve this problem easily if they wanted*", as it doesn't have redeeming intention. It comes in the form of **denigration** for the purpose of **blaming** China for encouraging North Korea and its leader. It is manifested by using the macro-strategy **impoliteness** with its micro-strategy (**negative impoliteness**) as it attacks China's negative face. In line with critical pragmatic perspective, critique and stance have been triggered calling for using questioning as a reproduction mechanism. As such, the new utterance would be as the following: (*Could China solve this problem?*).

The second form of hate speech that is exploited in this tweet is **provoking hatred** in saying: (*but they have no respect for our leaders*) which is also manifested by using negative impoliteness and reference. It is obvious that it is used in order to accuse China with the crisis in this region and to prove that China doesn't respect the American leaders. This can create tension. Therefore, it is better to diminish the negative effect of this utterance by using mitigation in the form of hedging by saying: (*Perhaps, they have no respect for our leaders*).

Tweet (4):**17 Dec 2016**

It is clear that this tweet involves a content that attacks China straightforwardly. The pragmatic strategy exploited for manifesting hate speech that takes the form of *insult* is the indirect assertive speech act of confirming (*I accuse*). Undoubtedly, such utterance can invoke hatred against China and create a tension between the two countries. Therefore, it is better to delete it. So the optimal choice of reproduction mechanism would be omitting the whole utterance.

Tweet (5):**25 Jan. 2017**

The content of this tweet attacked china and the Chinese people indirectly since it comprises harm. Here Trump intends to evoke hatred against China and its people by portraying them as selfish who think only of themselves and their country without taking into consideration other people's feelings. Hatred speech here takes the form of ridicule manifested pragmatically by using deixic (referring to the Chinese) and impoliteness sub-micro strategy of sarcasm. As the analysis adopts an anti-hate speech stance, mitigation in the form of hedging is suggested as a reproduction mechanism. Consequently the new utterance would appear as the following: (*It may be thought that.....*)

The exclamatory utterance (*very true!*) which carries an accusing sense is used ironically and is manifested pragmatically by using an indirect assertive speech act of confirming. This utterance which enhances the content of the previous utterance is better to be deleted.

Tweet (6):



Spring Festival represents "Chinese New Year, also known as Spring Festival or Lunar New Year, is the grandest festival in China, with a 7 day long holiday. When all streets and lanes are decorated with vibrant red lanterns and colorful lights, the Lunar New Year is approaching. "Obviously, making fun of the feelings of the Chinese people in this tweet and devaluing this occasion create negative feelings of resentment and hatred. Consequently, in this tweet hate speech is manipulated indirectly in the form of ridicule for the purpose of mocking China and its people. Reference and impoliteness are the pragmatic macro strategies exploited. As such, in order to lessen the effect of the intention of this tweet, reproduction suggests questioning as an optimal mechanism where the new utterance would be as the following: *(Don't you think that All the universities should cancel the homework and exams for Chinese students to enjoy the Spring Festival?)*

Tweet (7):



7 April 2020

In this tweet, two forms of hate speech is presented: **spreading hoax** and **insult**. In the utterance *(For some reason, funded largely by the United States, yet very China centric)*, it is clear that he wants to provoke grudge against China, especially after the 2020 pandemic. He overtly accuses China of being in charge of financing the World Health Organization in order to spread false news. Here, hate speech takes the form of spreading hoax in order to blame China and to show that it is the country responsible for spreading Covid 19.

Insult is the form of hate speech that is used in saying: *(Fortunately I rejected their advice on keeping our borders open to china early on)* which is manifested through the speech act of (reject). The optimal choice of reproduction mechanism is mitigation in the form of hedging where the new utterance would appear as the following: *(Probably it was better that I rejected)*

At the end of the tweet, he tries to provoke hatred against China by using the form of **defamation** as a means of **insult**. Thus he said, "*Why did they give us such a faulty recommendations?*". Here, speech act and reference are exploited to manifest this form of hate speech. Consequently, omission of the word (*faulty*) is the optimal choice of reproduction that the study suggests.

Tweet (8):

10 Dec. 2020



Secretary Pompeo

@SecPompeo

An honor to speak yesterday with students about the Chinese Communist Party's actions to degrade our freedoms and national security. We must defend our schools – and our security – from the central threat of our time – the CCP. <https://go.usa.gov/xA3dx>

In this tweet, Pompeo, the American Secretary of State, has exploited hate speech in its **provoking hatred** form, explicitly **accusing** the Chinese Communist party of threats against US national security. As it is obvious, expressive speech act has been exploited to manifest hate speech. In terms of critical pragmatics, this utterance has to be mitigated in order to lessen its negative effect. As such, the new utterance would involve hedging as the following: "*which perhaps these actions degrade...*" In the second utterance, there is also an explicit accusation of China and its leader party. Therefore, hate speech comes in the form of **provoking hatred** pragmatically manifested through negative impoliteness strategy.

Tweet (9):

Secretary Pompeo

@SecPompeo

• Jan 19, 2021

I have determined that the People's Republic of China is committing genocide and crimes against humanity in Xinjiang, China, targeting Uyghur Muslims and members of other ethnic and religious minority groups.

Using the speech act (*I have determined*) plainly reflects the speaker's insistence on proving the charge against China. This pragmatic strategy is exploited for the sake of accusing the Chinese political leaders of the crimes committed in Uyghur. Here, hate

speech is used in the form of **provoking hatred**. In line with critical pragmatic perspective, the study suggests mitigation as a reproduction mechanism in order to lessen the illocutionary act of the utterance. Consequently, the new utterance would be as the following: "*It is believed that the*"

Tweet (10):

@mikepompeo

By sanctioning me, China is sending a message to the new administration: if you dare to defend Americans and protect their sovereignty & freedom, we'll punish you personally. I hope no one will accept this behavior by the CCP. We must stand strong. The American people expect it.

7:35 PM · Feb 4, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

In this tweet, hate speech is revealed in the form of **denigration** as he claims that anyone who tries to defend the sovereignty and freedom of the United States will be punished by the CCP. This has been done for the sake of accusing. Two pragmatic strategies have been exploited: speech act and impoliteness. It is better to be avoided.

Tweet (11):

@mikepompeo

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Feb 5, 2021

Back to letting China walk all over us? Back to treating terrorists in Iran like friends by sending them pallets of cash? We can't afford to go back to Obama's failed foreign policy. We must continue to put America First and stand strong in the face of evil.

Provoking hatred is the form of hate speech used in this tweet in order to blame China and to show that it is in charge of Middle Eastern events. It is manifested through the pragmatic strategy of speech act of accuse. The anti-hate speech stance of the utterance suggests avoidance as a reproduction mechanism.

Tweet 12

Mike Pompeo

@mike pompeo

You know who loved Joe Biden's speech? The Chinese Communist Party. They were delighted to see the president attack half the country as enemies of the state.

8:14 PM · Sep 5, 2022 · SocialPilot.co

Sometimes, it has been found that Pompeo prefers to show hate speech by sounding humorous. So, in this tweet, the form of hate speech used is **ridicule** for the purpose of mocking. Reference is the pragmatic strategy utilized to present hate speech in saying: "*You know who loved Joe Biden's speech: The Chinese Communist Party?*" According to critical pragmatic perspective, the reproduction mechanism that would be better transform the original utterance is mitigation in the form of hedging. As such, the new utterance would appear as the following: "*It is believed that the Chinese Party would like Joe Biden's speech.*"

Tweet 13

Mike Pompeo

. Biden's energy policies put our national security at risk. And they're a gift to Communist China.

In this tweet, Pompeo directly accuses the Chinese Communist Party of being a threat to US national security. As it is clear, **defamation** is the form of hate speech utilized for the purpose of accusing. Reference is the pragmatic strategy used to manifest it. Critical pragmatics suggests avoidance as a mechanism.

Tweet 14

Mike Pompeo

The United Nations is finally admitting that China is targeting Uyghurs. Too little and too late. As Secretary of State, I labeled China's actions what they are: genocide and crimes against humanity. It's a systematic attempt to destroy Uyghurs by the Chinese Communist Party.

10:47 PM · Sep 1, 2022 · SocialPilot.co

Obviously, Pompeo here straightforwardly accuses China of committing "*genocide and crimes against humanity*". Hate speech comes in the form of **provoking hatred** in order to accuse China of these crimes. Two pragmatic strategies are employed

to manifest hate speech: speech act in the expression (**I labeled China**) and reference in the expression (the Chinese Communist Party).

Tweet 15

Mike Pompeo

Allowing the Chinese Communist Party to buy American farmland is madness. It's a national security threat, and Congress needs to step up and fix this.

In this tweet, Pompeo directly accuses the Chinese Communist Party of being a threat to US national security where hate speech comes in the form of **denigration** for the sake of accusing China. Reference is the pragmatic strategy used to manifest it. CP suggests avoidance as a mechanism.

4. Findings and Discussion

A number of points are revealed by the pragmatic (qualitative) analysis of hate speech against China in Trump's and Pompeo's tweets. Obviously, hate speech exhibits various manifestations for diverse functions. In the present data, hate speech is manifested in six forms, namely: **defamation, denigration, insult, ridicule, provoking hatred and spreading hoax**. Each of these forms has been deployed to accomplish certain pragmatic functions, such as: **accusing, blaming, insinuating, insulting and mocking**. Both of these findings validate the hypothesis of the current research which states that hate speech comes in various forms for the sake of accomplishing diverse pragmatic functions.

The pragmatic analysis discussed above also makes obvious that a variety of pragmatic techniques are exploited in order to depict hate speech in this data. This achieves the study's goal that proceeds to highlight the pragmatic strategies used to convey hate speech in this context. Furthermore, it is made clear that the goal of the current work, which is to explain how the mechanisms of critical pragmatics (critique, stance and reproduction) are applied to the analysis of the ideology that characterizes the inspected data, is achieved by the pragmatic analysis of hate speech in these tweets.

To assess the study's hypotheses in light of the results of the qualitative (pragmatic) analysis, a quantitative (statistical) analysis is carried out. Consequently, a descriptive type of statistics is utilized expressed by the frequencies and percentage equations shown in table No.(1) and figure No.(1) below. This analysis demonstrates that there is a variation in the frequency of hate speech forms where **provoking hatred** occupies the first rank since it occurs **6 times** with percentage frequency **28%** whereas **defamation** occupies the last rank as they occur just **once**, with percentage frequency **4%**. There is also variation in the statistics of hate speech functions. The quantitative analysis has proved that Trump and Pompeo have exploited hate speech for the purpose of **accusing** China as this function records the highest frequency with percentage **55%** whereas **insulting** as pragmatic functions where not highly preferred since it occupies the lowest rank with percentage frequency **10 %**. It is found that hate speech in this data has never been used to insinuate.

Moreover, this analysis also proves that hate speech in the data under scrutiny has undergone variation in its pragmatic manifestations. Consequently, **speech act** as a macro-strategy occupies the highest position with percentage frequency **47%**. However, **impoliteness** as a macro-strategy occurs just **13 times** and occupies the lowest rank with percentage frequency **20%** and this finding refutes the hypothesis that impoliteness is the most common pragmatic technique to manifest hate speech.

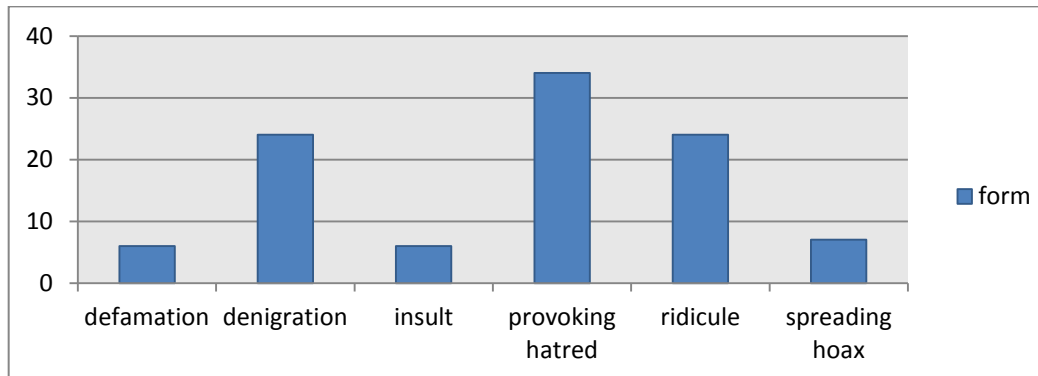
The current research has investigated how hate speech against China has been manifested in the tweets of two American political leaders, namely: Trump and Pompeo. It has put under scrutiny forms of hate speech employed in these tweets along with hate speech functions and the pragmatic strategies utilized to manifest them. In accordance with the results of this study, the following conclusions are arrived at. First, in their tweets, Trump and Pompeo tend intentionally to use hate speech against China. Second, they make use of all forms of hate speech namely *defamation, denigration, insult, ridicule, provoking hatred* and *spreading hoax* but with different rates for the purpose of achieving certain functions through each form. Hence, they purposefully exploit *provoking hatred* form for the purpose of achieving certain pragmatic functions such as *accusing, blaming, insinuating, insulting* and *mocking*. By arriving to this conclusion, the first hypothesis of the research which states that hate speech can take many different shapes in order to serve a variety of pragmatic functions, where the form which is highly used would be *provoking hatred* is verified. However, the findings reveal that hate speech is highly exploited for the purpose of *accusing* and this rejects the second hypothesis which proposes that the main function of hate speech in these tweets is *insulting*. The validation of the third hypothesis which states that in these tweets certain pragmatic strategies are appealed to in order to manifest these forms of hate speech is endorsed by the finding of the research which demonstrates that **Speech Acts, Impoliteness** and **Reference** are the preferred strategies.

Based on the verification of the hypothesis which states that a stance can be taken towards the way hate speech is manifested in the tweets under study and alternative reproduction means may be suggested to the ones thought to be inappropriate, it can be concluded that the researcher's ability to critique hate speech as an ideology in the data under investigation is facilitated by the present research's analysis of hate speech as an ideology from a critical pragmatic perspective. Hence, it can be stated that there is an upsurge in anti-Chinese rhetoric in the tweets of these American political leaders, which fuels racial hatred and acts of violence against Chinese citizens.

The results of the pragmatic and statistical analyses of the current research would be presented in the following table No. (1) and figure No. (2):

Table No. (1): Frequencies of the forms of Rudeness with their Pragmatic Functions and Macro-Strategies

Form of Hate Speech	Fr.	%	Total Number		Function of Hate Speech	Fr.	%	Total Number		Macro-Strategy of Hate Speech	Fr.	%	Total Number		
														Fr.	%
Defamation	1	4%	21	100%	Accusing	11	55%	20	100%	Reference	20	31%	63	100%	
Denigration	4	19%	21	100%	Blaming	4	20%	20	100%	Impoliteness	13	20%	63	100%	
Insult	3	14%	21	100%	Insinuating	Zero	zero%	20	100%	speech act	30	47%	63	100%	
Provoking hatred	6	28%	21	100%	Insulting	2	10%	20	100%						
Ridicule	3	14%	21	100%	Mocking	3	15%	20	100%						
Spreading hoax	4	19%	21	100%											

**Figure (2): Manifestation of forms of hate speech in the tweets of some American political leaders**

5. Conclusion

The present research has analyzed hate speech against China in the tweets of two American political leaders, Trump and Pompeo, from a critical pragmatic perspective. The findings reveal that Trump and Pompeo employ all forms of hate speech, namely defamation, denigration, insult, ridicule, provoking hatred, and spreading hoax, with different rates to achieve certain functions. They purposefully exploit provoking hatred to accuse, blame, insinuate, insult, and mock. This validates the first hypothesis that hate speech can take many different shapes to serve a variety of pragmatic functions, with provoking hatred being the most used form. However, the findings reveal that hate speech is highly exploited for accusing, which rejects the second hypothesis that the main function of hate speech in these tweets is insulting.

The third hypothesis is endorsed by the finding that Speech Acts, Impoliteness, and Reference are the preferred strategies used to manifest hate speech. This suggests that certain pragmatic strategies are appealed to in order to manifest these forms of hate speech.

The present research has facilitated the researcher's ability to critique hate speech in the data under investigation. It has revealed an upsurge in anti-Chinese rhetoric in the tweets of these American political leaders, which fuels racial discrimination and hatred.

In conclusion, the present research has made important contributions to the understanding of hate speech against China in the tweets of American political leaders. It has also provided valuable insights into the pragmatic functions and strategies used to

manifest hate speech. The findings of this research can be used to develop effective counter-narratives and strategies to combat hate speech.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

There are no conflicts of interest

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