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Understatement in Donald Trump's Selected Speeches on COVID-19

A B S T R A C T

This study intends to investigate the ways in which news agencies and writers overstate the risk posed by COVID-19 through the use of a linguistic strategy: understatement. The President of the United States of America, Donald Trump, will be the primary focus of this research project. The scope of this data is limited to a random selection of two speeches downloaded from YouTube by President Donald Trump. In light of this, the primary objective of this research is to provide a response to the following question: (1) Which linguistic strategies does Trump employ in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic?(2) Which linguistic and rhetorical tools does he use the most frequently when employing this linguistic tactic?(3) What functions are performed in addition to using understatement in his speech?

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التقليل في خطابات مختارة لدونالد ترامب بشأن فيروس كورونا (COVID-19)

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الخلاصة:

تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى التحقيق في الطرق التي تتباعد بها وكالات الأنباء والكتاب في تقدير المخاطر التي يمثلها COVID-19 من خلال استخدام استراتيجية لغوية: الإيجاز. وسيكون رئيس الولايات المتحدة ، دونالد ترامب ، هو المحور الأساسي لهذا المشروع البحثي. يقتصر نطاق هذه البيانات على اختيار عشوائي لخطابين تم تنزيلهما من موقع YouTube بواسطة الرئيس دونالد ترامب. في ضوء ذلك ، فإن

الهدف الأساسي لهذا البحث هو تقديم إجابة على السؤال التالي:

- (1) أي الاستراتيجيات اللغوية يستخدمها ترامب فيما يتعلق بوباء COVID-19؟
- (2) ما هي الأدوات اللغوية والخطابية؟ هل يستخدم في أغلب الأحيان عند استخدام هذا التكتيك اللغوي؟
- (3) ما الوظائف التي يتم إجراؤها بالإضافة إلى استخدام الإيجاز في حديثه؟

الكلمات المفتاحية/ ترامب ، تنقيص ، جائحة كوفيد-19 ، تعبير ملطف , لطف التعبير

Introduction

The importance of figurative language in human languages and cultures is noteworthy due to its significant contribution and support in interpreting the intended messages generated. Along with other tropes, over and understatements are figures of speech that characterise figurative language.

The speaker's and listener's mutual comprehension is crucial to the success of communication. This depends on the listener's comprehension of both literal and metaphorical meanings as well as the distinction between them, because if the listener interprets everything literally, much of the speaker's intent may be lost. Literal meaning is clear, doesn't depend on context, and is built or made by language processes automatically (without conscious control).

Nonliteral meaning, in contrast, is derived at the option of the user and requires additional cognitive work. The metaphorical meaning is generated from the literal meaning through the method of semantic substitution. This is particularly noticeable when using figurative language such as metaphor, hyperbole, and simile. Consider the following as an instance of a metaphorical expression:

- (1) Surgeons are slaughterers. (Anolli et al., 2002: 14)

According to Börjesson (2011:19-21), the literal meaning is formed first. Non-literal meaning is activated or arises as a result of literal meaning that does not fit

in the receptive context. This is due to the fact that literal meaning is interpreted without regard to context. As a result, it is formed automatically from the meanings of linguistic forms.

Literal meaning is important because its reinterpretation leads to nonliteral interpretations of the text. Metaphor, hyperbole, irony, simile, and other literary devices are thought to embody various types of non-literal meaning. One of the rhetorical forms of speech that cannot be accepted literally is understatement. It should be interpreted metaphorically. The relationship between semantics and literal meaning, on the one hand, and pragmatics and non-literal meaning, on the other hand, must be clarified. The study of language that deals with the literal meaning (conventional meaning) of words and phrases, as well as the relationship between those meanings, is known as semantics. The relationship between language forms and their denotations, to be specific. While pragmatics looks at how a speaker uses context and shared information to convey information that isn't directly related to the semantic content of their words. It also looks at how people generate inferences based on what they hear (Bianchi, 2004:1).

(2) My tooth is killing me (figurative meaning)

(3) My tooth hurts me (Literal meaning)

After considering all of the above, it is clear that the literal and figurative meanings are mutually beneficial. As a result, ignoring one of them is impossible.

2. Understatement

Understatement is a prevalent sort of figurative language used in everyday conversation, and it frequently plays an important role in providing a funny effect in a variety of written works. It is based on the more general phenomena of semantic weakening or attenuation. Attenuation speaks less, but indicates more than understatement, which says nothing. Interestingly, the speaker may be required to do more with less to say.

As opposed to the term "overstatement," "understatement" is employed. The key premise of understatement is to use fewer words to convey greater meaning. It is a figure of speech in which the speaker shortens his or her sentences to make a fact appear less significant than it actually is. True, a common figure of speech in which the literal meaning of what is stated falls noticeably short of the intended meaning below the scale of what is being addressed, such as saying "pretty fair" when the intended meaning is "excellent" (Harmon 2003: 522).

According to Israel (2004:12), understatement is "the deliberate use of a weak concept to represent a connected, stronger proposition." In this definition, Israel explains that he considers an understatement to be a statement that is less informative than another. It can convey the meaning of a lengthy statement.

In his work titled "English Social Difference," Pear (1955:93) highlighted the significance of English social difference and agreed with Breitenstein's assessment of its significance. understatements' ambiguity:

"When speaking to a foreigner who thinks he knows English, an Englishman who uses subtle sarcasm and understatement runs the risk of being taken seriously." Brogan (1943:33) believes that understatement is an annoying mannerism and a real cause of misunderstanding: "The English habit of understatement, of allusion of apparent moderation in a statement combined with inflexible maintenance of the original point of view, is not only an irritating .The case presented by Fowler (1926:31) is rather more moderate than that of Brogan. According to Fowler, the primary objective of understatement is "not to deceive, but to enhance the impression on the listener," or "to impress by moderation." Sperber and Wilson (1992:53-76) and Harris (2002:5-6) further develop the concept of understatement. They concur that understatement is the deliberate expression of a less significant notion than it truly is .Ball (1970: 201-3)

Bergen et al.'s (1993) and Vander Wouden's (1995) opinion in Harris (2002:6-7) is that "litotes" is occasionally reserved for a certain type of understatement, i.e.,

when the speaker uses a negative term when a positive one would have been more forceful and direct. For example, the statements "It is not really hot" and "She is not precisely happy" are not so much false as noncommittal. In other words, statements can be evaluated based on a scale that indicates the degree to which they attribute a given position on the scale to a person or thing. Moreover, depending on the tone and context of its usage, litotes either maintains the impact of understatement or transforms into an intensifying term. However, occasionally a litotes structure communicates an ironic attitude through its understatements. A distinction can be made between limited and assertive understatement based on the differing attitudes towards understatement. Restricted understatement is a national trait of the English, such as humility or a reluctance to show emotion; for instance, somewhat cold or mildly heated (Spitzbardt 1963: 28-282).

In appearance, emphatic understatement resembles restrictive understatement, but it is emphatic in nature. It's obvious in classical rhetoric, where the rhetorical figure litotes is associated with understatement. As a result, an understatement implies more than it expresses. The ambiguity of the English understatement, which can be assertive in some circumstances yet restricted in others, can be expressed no better than with the well-known expression "not half bad" (ibid: 281).

In contrast to the more generic term "overstatement," the term "understatement" refers specifically to an understatement. An understatement centres on the idea that one should say less but convey more with their words. It is generally acknowledged as a speech statistic in which the speaker downplays the length of his or her discourse and presents the fact as being of less significance than it actually is. It is characterized as a common figure of speech in which the literal significance of what is stated is perceptibly short or below the scale of what is being talked about, such as when someone says "quite fair" when they mean "splendid" (Harmon 2003: 522).

The phenomenon of understatement is a prevalent method employed by speakers to frame the substance of what they are saying. In addition, as an understatement of the figure, it's all about informativeness, or more accurately, its lack. To classify anything as an understatement implies that it lacks a particular degree of specificity. Effectively, an understatement necessitates a means of communicating the content of what is said against the backdrop of any greater informational content that should have been said but was not. (Israel, 2008:3).

Understatement is founded on the more general phenomena of attenuation or semantic weakening. Although understatement conveys no information, attenuation communicates less but implies more. Interestingly, the speaker may need to exert more effort to say less. People frequently go out of their way to express themselves in ways that are not quite forthright, and they may use a variety of rhetorical tactics to effectively minimize the content of what they say.(ibid)

The use of a weakened assertion may result in an understatement. Because attenuators only exist where they lessen what is stated, they frequently lead to the impression that a speaker says more. The usage of the "exactly +NP" attenuating negative polarity object strongly indicates understatement, i.e. the superficially contradictory negation.

An example: patrolling the Ku-dam in the centre of West Berlin is hardly a difficult task. "In the prior scenario, strolling sounds like not only a non-challenge but also a joy." (Israel, 2008: 10).

3. Devices of Understatement

3.1 Meiosis

Meiosis is a figure of speech that minimises the importance of something through euphemism. Meiosis is an attempt to downplay the significance or size of an unpleasant thing, though not all meiotic examples refer to something negative.

Meiosis is distinguished from other understatements by its use of euphemisms. Euphemism permits people to skirt around uncomfortable topics when speaking or

writing, so minimizing the discomfort of discussing them. Meiosis employs this, albeit there are also instances in which a word connoting a small object is replaced by a vast one (like referring to the Atlantic Ocean as "the pond").

In literature, however, meiosis describes the use of understatement to highlight a point, or explain a situation, or to understate a response used to enhance the effect of a dramatic moment. For example , when Mercutio is wounded mortally and says, “ay, ay, a scratch, a scratch...” (Romeo and Juliet, by William Shakespeare) .

Meiosis can be defined as a witty understatement that belittles or dismisses something or somebody; particularly by making use of terms that give an impression that something is less important than it is or should be. It is typically characterized by a semantic diminution or an indetermination of a concept obtained through "detensifiers" or "hedges".

Consider the following example :

(4) “The death rate is actually 0.1 percent – similar to the flu”. In this example ,the writer minimizes the effect of virus COVID 19 by likening it to flu

Meiosis function , in fact, illustrates tone and mannerism, such as quiet and brooding, where protagonists are often understated in tone and action. Meiosis is very common everywhere in our daily lives, old and modern literature, and in the media. We can distinguish understatement in modesty, in humor, in composed and calm personalities, and in personalities, where it gives rhetorical effects to the speech delivered by them.

Examples of Meiosis in Literature: Example 1: King Lear (by William Shakespeare)

(5) "I am a very foolish old man,
Fourscore and upward, not an hour more or less;
And, to deal plainly,
I fear I am not in my perfect mind..."

Shakespeare used meiosis in these lines to create humor. Although it is undoubtedly clear that the king went mad, his reaction that "I fear I am not in my perfect mind" is an example of an understatement.

3.2 Litotes

It is a type of understatement that involves denying the reverse of the intended meaning. Depending on the context and topic, litotes either maintains the effect of understatement or accentuates the expression. Those who analyze themselves will be aware of their shortcomings. (Harris, 2018:30).

In example (6), the author attempts to minimize the risk of the COVID-19 virus by stating that it is not endemic, mutating despite being hazardous.

(6) "The virus is not mutating, but it's still dangerous."

Litotes is a method used to express positive thoughts without using affirmative language directly. The phrase "I don't hate it" is an example of the use of litotes. In this instance, the conjunction of the negative phrases "don't" and "hate" indicates the opposite connotation or positivity. By stating "I don't dislike it," the speaker is essentially asserting "I like it." However, because the speaker does not clearly state "I like it," the affirmation is diminished and minimized. In this instance, the usage of litotes demonstrates the speaker's purpose to communicate a positive without immediately affirming it or being overly flattering. Instead of expressing "like" for something, the word "litotes" implies a lack of hatred. (ibid)

Litotes is an ironic understatement. Double negatives are used to affirm a positive remark or attitude. Here are some commonplace litotes:

- (7) The novel is not bad.
- (8) You're not wrong.
- (9) I can't disagree with your logic.
- (10) My feelings are not unhurt.

(11) He is hardly unattractive.

(12) That lesson is not hard.

Litotes require proper usage of double negatives. Litotes is like a double negative since it uses negative terms to indicate a positive. However, double negatives are poor grammar. As a literary device, litotes uses good grammar. So, writers can employ litotes as a type of double negative to emphasize understatement. It must be grammatical. The overuse of litotes can diminish the impact of this figure of speech. Frequent use of anecdotes can be distracting, tedious, and repetitive for a reader. Like any other figure of speech or literary device, writers should not use litotes too often.

3.3 Euphemism

Euphemism is a figure of speech used to replace uncomfortable words or phrases. Euphemisms use metaphorical language to replace harsh, disrespectful, or unpleasant phrases. This device allows someone to communicate what they intend indirectly, without using literal terminology, to lessen the impact. This is for courtesy, caution, and reducing communication. Euphemisms are used for death, sex, aging, being fired, and body functions (Harris, 2018:125).

Euphemisms have traditionally been used to avoid shame, offence, or hurt sentiments. Nowadays, euphemisms can be valuable tools when the goal is to avoid offending someone with bluntness. Euphemisms can also be useful in helping people rethink something. The use of a customer service representative instead of a help desk or technical support professional can result in a more positive client attitude. One issue is that the euphemism loses its softer impact after a while, necessitating the creation of a new euphemism. For example, the fairly brutal term "cracked" was eliminated in favour of "disabled," which sounded too bad at one time and was replaced with "handicapped," which in some fields is giving way to "physically challenged," which is itself being phased out in favour of "differently-abled." The use of euphemism to make something wrong or immoral

sound fair, acceptable, or at least less unpleasant is far more significant than the necessity to generate new euphemisms.(ibid) .

In example (13), the writer uses the word “the vulnerable” to refer to the old people who are the most likely to be infected with the virus

(13) “That additional supplement might be good for the vulnerable in society”.

There are many common examples of euphemisms used in everyday conversation and writing. Here are some well-known uses of this figure of speech:

(14) porcelain throne (toilet)

(15) pre-owned (something used)

(16) bun in the oven (pregnancy)

(17) number one (urination)

4. Functions of Understatement

Understatements may be utilized for various objectives and effects. They are all employed for the same purpose: to make things appear smaller than they are. There are numerous types of understatement, including:

a. Comedic

This type of understatement adds a sense of levity to an otherwise serious circumstance. For example, suppose there is a hurricane near your vacation property, and the house is severely damaged. You say, "At least the plants will get watered."

a. Modest

This kind of understatement is used instead of bragging or praising something. For instance, if you won your first trophy and said it was "no big deal" when it really was.

C. Polite

This type of understatement can be used in tough situations where you disagree with someone but still want to be polite. When you and a friend discuss politics, for example, you might be on different sides, but you could just say, "I think our views are a little different on this." Or, if someone asks you to describe someone who is very short, you might say, "Well, he's not tall."

D. Sarcasm

When writing sarcasm, understatement is useful. Bitter or critical comments are sarcasm. Sarcasm is generally ironic, thus an understatement that uses it is hurtful or dissatisfied. A character might comment, "Not your best" after another's failure.

E- Tactfulness

The ability to act or communicate in a way that does not offend others. According to Harris (2008:6), understatement can be used for politeness, modesty, and tactfulness.

5. Data Analysis

The following procedures are followed in the analysis of the data:

- 1- Selecting and analysing two political speeches about the coronavirus for Trump from YouTube at different periods, and applying the chosen model to this study.
2. This investigation is founded on an eclectic model about understatement, which comprises meiosis, litotes, and euphemism, and for the purpose of data analysis, Israel's model in 2006 is adopted.
- 3 . Showing how the maxims are violated through the use of language strategies in order for the listener to comprehend and verify the true cause of the violation. The method of determining the maxim that was violated collects the study so that the CP model developed by Grice (1975) may be used to detect it with more accuracy.
- 4 . Identifying the functions of figurative language, such as irony, sarcasm, politeness, tact, and modesty, for understatements, according to Harris (2008: 6-34).

Speech1

Trump's Speech1 is found in the following web site:

<https://youtu.be/G5TZ6fTYrsE>

Device of understatement

A. Meiosis

Text 1 Democrats are politicizing the coronavirus you know that coronavirus they are politicizing it .

By repeating the phrase "coronavirus" in the aforementioned sentence, Trump tries to make the virus appear small and unworthy. He also tries to explain the circumstances of the COVID-19 weak and up ramps his team's abilities to avoid the virus pandemic.

Trump associates the coronavirus with the term "politicizing" to describe the behaviour of the Democrats. In addition, he used the sarcastic approach of understatement to emphasise how the opposing party acts against his agenda while ignoring the current worldwide issue of the coronavirus.

In order to communicate his views on "the Corona virus," Trump utilises a **sarcastic** function of understatement to euphemize his intended feelings towards the DP. He ties the real problem to the political problem and downplays any health risks.

Text2 That's been pretty amazing we're 15 people in this massive country.

Through the use of the witty expression "**pretty amazing**," Trump makes use of understatement. When the virus (killer) destroyed many families all across the world, which signifies something negative. To demonstrate to his supporters that the massive propaganda about the effects of viruses around the world is unreal or at least not affective to the American people, this means that a large number of people were dying every day as a result of COVID-19, even though the American people were not harmed by that virus and only few people were harmed.

Text3 So far we have lost nobody to coronavirus in the United States.

Nobody is utilized in the aforementioned utterance to understate the impact of COVID-19 infections on Americans. In an effort to minimize the threat posed by the COVID-19 virus, Trump attempts to understate the global issue and makes it appear insignificant by utilizing a witty expression that indicates understatement.

He expresses his view on the coronavirus with a modest function of understatement, stating that the COVID-19 is ineffective under his administration and that no one is lost so long as he tries to present a major world issue; the coronavirus seems insignificant to him, and he has it under control, so there is no need to be reverent or concerned.

B. Euphemism

Text1 The Democrats are politicizing the coronavirus.

Another example of euphemism is the use of the term "**politicizing**" to describe a severe pandemic like COVID-19. Its purpose is to conceal the agony faced by humankind. Trump's use of the term "**politicizing the coronavirus**" rather than a taboo term such as "**extending the issue of the coronavirus**" in order to euphemize and conceal the virus's impact on individuals, and ties the issue to political rivalry between the two major political parties in the United States.

Trump deploys **sarcasm** as a communication tool to minimise the current issue of the virus and try to euphemize his attitude towards his counterpart. As a result, he employs verbiage that implies the polar opposite of what he truly means.

Text 2 So far we have lost no body to coronavirus in the united states.

Since it is known that many individuals have died as a result of the coronavirus, "loss" is used during an epidemic outbreak rather than "die or victims." Therefore, in the aforementioned utterance, Trump tries to assuage the anxiety of his listeners by assuring them that the atrocities brought on by international tragedies have no direct

effect on Americans, which is why nobody has perished since the coronavirus "appears on the global scene and causes all the damage around the world."

The understated function of **sarcastic** is utilized to portray the actuality of COVID-19. The speaker employs this strategy to diminish the scale of the rumour regarding the severity of the spread of COVID-19 and convince the audience that Trump's medical team is capable of stopping the virus. As a result, he utilizes agentive form to infer its positive meaning.

C. Litotes

Text 1 They go home not good not good they have no truth.

Instead of saying "**they are bad or untrue,**" the speaker expresses his opinion on the Democratic opponent through the use of the negative structure and the tautology technique of repeating the same adjective by utilizing the "not good, not good, no truth" construction. In the abovementioned text, Trump tries to be more polite and indirect to express his point of view towards others, hence he utilizes the negative construction instead of the positive and direct one. The latter would be more informative and less polite than the former.

Trump claims that the Democratic party is politicizing the coronavirus epidemic in order to portray his efforts to tackle the pandemic as a failure. As an attribute of understatement, in the preceding statement, Trump uses sarcasm to diminish the infection and describe the actions of the Democratic Party during the current situation.

Text 2 We have lost nobody to coronavirus in the United States and it doesn't mean we won't.

The negation construction '**it doesn't mean we won't**' is utilized in the preceding utterance to imply a suggested affirmative one, as in '**we may lose people.**' In this context, the speaker downplays the importance of their ability to combat the deadly global pandemic, and he employs indirect and more polite expressions to express his attitude towards a specific situation.

By utilizing a negative construction form to imply an affirmative one and to minimize the COVID-19 concern, Trump employs the sarcastic function of understatement by saying that they can handle it and that it is not a significant issue. In the meantime, he announces that they may lose people and are not totally safe.

Speech2 Trump's Speech2 is found in the following web site:

<https://youtu.be/hB8icFsfJe0>

Understatement devices

A. Meiosis

Text 1 It will go away to stay calm.

The phrase "**go away and keep calm**" indicates a reduction in the epidemic's impact on society by urging people to be quiet and it will go away, but the issue is not whether or not to be peaceful. The problem is that the virus in question is a new and dangerous one for which there is no vaccine. As a result, extra care must be taken and global health recommendations must be followed to avoid becoming infected with the fatal infection.

As a function of an understatement, Trump employs **sarcasm** as a function of an understatement to emphasize the gravity of the COVID-19 pandemic by telling the public to calm down and that the virus will go away, as opposed to directing them to take the necessary precautions or instructions to protect themselves from the dangerous epidemic.

Text2 That goes away in April with the heat.

Combining the end of the coronavirus outbreak with the specific noun phrase "**the heat**" renders the previous statement an understatement. The speaker attempts to convey that the virus that has frightened the entire world will lose its potency in April, thus there is no reason for alarm.

He deploys an **ironic** function of an understatement to convey the state of the virus without providing any evidence to support his claim. He combines the end of the coronavirus with the month of "April," therefore there is no need to be concerned as he declares.

Text 3 The 15 within a couple of days is going to be down to close to zero...

This aforementioned utterance is said by Trump to show that the virus's force is no longer active and that the virus' efficacy is no longer worrying because it is under control. In addition, there are no more than 15 injuries, and they will be zero in a matter of days. We can see that the speaker is simply attempting to limit the virus by using the term "zero," to express that despite the fact that the number of infections is increasing every day, as seen by the coolers shipping corpses.

Utilizing the **modest** function of an understatement, Trump utilises the COVID-19 crisis in America to illustrate that it isn't a major deal, that just a few people have been affected by the virus, and that the number of people afflicted will quickly drop to zero. So he attempts to make a problem that the entire universe is suffering from appear insignificant and unimportant, so he employs a modest function of understatement to achieve his objective.

B . Euphemism

Text 1 It will go away just a calm it will go away.

The term "**calm**" is used instead of "**cautious**" to euphemize and soften the charged atmosphere of fear of the virus spreading. The WHO has advised people to avoid crowds, gatherings, visits, handshakes, and other interactions to reduce the spread of the virus, but Trump uses the term "**calm**" instead of "**cautious**" to understate and soften the charged atmosphere of fear of the virus spreading.

When it comes to the tools of understatement, Trump utilises a sarcastic technique to explain the exact opposite of what others recommend during the coronavirus epidemic.

Text 2 This is their new hoax but you know we did something that's been pretty amazing we're 15 people in this massive country .

In this aforementioned utterance, Trump deploys euphemism to downplay how the opposing side that is represented by the DP is framing the virus outbreak. He calls the whole COVID-19 situation a "hoax" instead of a "trick" to link it to a Democrat party plan to make his government look bad or slow to act in order to stop the epidemic from spreading outside the United States.

In the aforementioned speech, a **polite** function of understatement is deployed to describe the behaviour of the counterpart party. If Trump disagrees with DP's behaviour but still wants to be respectful, the polite function of understatement may be utilized in such a case.

Text 3 Small number of people in this country are infected.

President Trump utilizes the term "**small**" to denote the number of people infected by a virus, but on the ground, the number of people infected is more than what he refers to. When Trump wants to soften the case and to reduce the size of the worry, he uses such phrases to achieve his objective of understatement. A euphemism term, "small," is used instead of "big or large." In this case,

A **modesty** method of understatement to frame the number of coronavirus-infected people and to portray the facts in miniature compared to what is stated in the world media about the scale of the numerous numbers of people infected with the contemporary coronavirus.

C. Litotes

Text 1 We haven't lost anybody yet if we could hold that down as we're saying to a hundred thousand.

To reduce the number of coronavirus victims, the negative construction "haven't lost" is utilized instead of "everyone is fine or okay." Trump minimizes the significance of viruses and diseases that have received extensive coverage in the media due to the aggressiveness of the deadly virus. While claiming that the US is in a better position than other countries during the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, Trump employs a **modest** function to reduce the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and make it appear ineffective.

Text 2 I don't think it's inevitable.

In the above utterance, the negative construction is employed to express its positive orientation as "it is **evitable**." The speaker suggests making claims that a new disease will kill everyone in the universe seem unimportant. Therefore, this style of phrase provides readers with calm and comfort. In other words, Trump's linguistic strategy to describe the worldwide crisis caused by the coronavirus is indirect and more diplomatic than others. The United States employs a **modest** feature to minimise the impact of COVID-19 and highlight the superiority of the United States' response to the epidemic in comparison to that of other countries.

Text 3 I don't want to panic in the country. I could cause panic much better than even you.

In this instance, Trump utilizes the negative phrase "**don't want panic**" in the aforementioned utterance in order to indicate a positive goal, such as "**I want to make optimal**." He tries to reassure the audience that he can make a fear so great if he wants to, but it's not like the press wants to cause panic among people in reference to the coronavirus. He accomplishes this by quietly expressing his opinion on the rumour that has terrified people all around the world.

Utilizing this method, Trump deploys the **sarcastic** function of an understatement when he uses a negative utterance to infer its positive meaning. making a difficult task appear tiny and insignificant, increasing the reader's psychological and moral components and lowering the level of dread induced by the coronavirus.

5. Conclusions

The following are the main conclusions that the recent research has uncovered:

- 1- The data analysis demonstrates that Trump understates facts, viewpoints, issues, solutions, and/or treatment of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2- Trump is more likely to overstate than to understate. This may be due to the fact that a huge number of persons disregard the necessary safety steps to avoid the transmission of the new virus when tackling the aforementioned pandemic.
- 3- Meiosis is employed in all speeches more frequently than the other understatement devices. This may be one of the most fundamental tactics and common ways to portray the real threat if it occurs by utilizing expressions to understate certain phenomena, or it may be one of the most effective means of conveying the truth about the current issue.
- 4- According to the analysis of the study, Trump utilizes litotes and euphemisms in order to understate the severity of the coronavirus.
- 5- Trump employs the modest function of understatement to relieve the people of the weight of a major issue. It may be because the modest function of understatement is used to make a significant matter appear more trivial or useless than it actually is.
- 6- Due to his attitude and lack of commitment to battling the virus, Trump uses irony and sarcasm more to downplay the COVID-19 issue.

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