

(Book Description)



Analyzing Political Discourse

Rhetoric, Power, and Resistance

Emad Abdul-Latif

Original title: تحليل الخطاب السياسي: البلاغة، السلطة، المقاومة

Title transliterated: *Taḥlīl al-Khiṭāb al-Siyāsī: al-Balāghah, al-Sulṭah, al-Muqāwamah*

Language: Arabic

Publisher: Dar Kunūz al-Maʿrifah, Jordan

Year: 2020

Pages: 391

ISBN: 9789957748517

Overview

Analyzing Political Discourse: Rhetoric, Power, and Resistance provides a comprehensive investigating tool for the researchers in the field of Arab political discourse analysis. With 400 pages, this book introduces the key terms, concepts, and methods of Arab political discourse analysis, and reviews the most influential works in the field (which is written by European, American, and Arab scholars). In addition, it offers analytical examples of how to analyze various (ancient and modern) political speeches.

The book consists of two sections: theory and analysis. In the first section, the author dedicates chapter 1 to undertaking a wide-range review of Political Discourse Analysis (PDA) in Western and Arab contexts via describing its approaches and methodologies through the past half-century. The review also explains the interactions between PDA and other fields such as Rhetoric, Communication Studies, Political Science, and Linguistics. Chapter 2 gives a coherent account of one of the most influential trends in studying political discourse, namely Critical Discourse Analysis. Chapter 3 includes an elaborate critical review of the Arabic studies on political speech.

The last two chapters in the theoretical section emphasize the importance of philosophical and literary perspectives in understanding the political discursive phenomena. Chapter 4 takes a fresh look at Herbert Marcuse's philosophical critique of political language, whereas chapter 5 focuses on George Orwell's contribution to the critique of the language of dictatorship through theorizing about the mechanisms of producing tyranny and manipulative discourses, as Orwell portrayed them in his two famous novels *The Animal Farm* and *1984*, and his famous essay "English and The Language of Politics".

In the second section, the author proposes, in chapter 6, an approach to analyzing political discourse aiming at providing a systematic analytical framework that can be adopted and used for students' own research. This approach involves analysis processes, stages, procedures, concepts, and terminology that cover different dimensions of the rhetorical event: its production and formation, its performance and circulation, its distribution and reception, and the responses to it.

Chapter 7 explores how political discourse can guide the behavior of the masses in critical moments. It tests the hypothesis that the rhetorical construction and performance of Nasser's stepping-down statement – which is announced in the aftermath of the Egyptian Army's defeat in the Six-Day War on June 5, 1967 – influenced the mass responses that followed its delivery.

Chapter 8 attempts to give a convincing answer to a question: Why did Mubarak's series of speeches fail in preserving his legitimacy, in a moment of stormy defiance (in January 2011), whereas Nasser's statement succeeded (in June 1967)? The chapter analyzes the mechanisms of Mubarak's presidential discourse in its struggle with the revolution's discourse.

Chapter 9 examines the phenomenon of blending religious and political discourses in contemporary Arab political discourse. It suggests a methodology for analyzing intertextuality in discourse through five stages: text analysis; context analysis; receptivity analysis; response analysis; and the characteristics of concerted speeches.

Through dealing with a distinctly different corpus, chapter 10 analyzes four Arabic novels that discuss civil wars, occupation, military defeats, and racism. The chapter investigates the methods of rhetorical resistance, by which the literary marginalized characters challenge oppression.

Content

| | |
|---|-----|
| Prologue: Stories on Rhetoric, Politics, and this Book | 9 |
| Section 1: Theory | 29 |
| 1. Approaches of Political Discourse Analysis: Past, Present, and Future | 31 |
| 2. Critical Discourse Analysis: An Overview of the Arabic Academic Achievement | 63 |
| 3. Studying Political Speech: The Current and the Desired | 79 |
| 4. Criticizing Political Rhetoric: A Philosophical Perspective | 105 |
| 5. Criticizing Political Rhetoric: A Narrative Perspective | 129 |
| Section 2: Analysis | 145 |
| 6. Discourse of Possessing Political Power: The Instance of the <i>Saqifah</i> Debate between <i>Muhajirun</i> (Emigrants) And <i>Ansar</i> (Helpers) | 147 |
| 7. Discourse of Defeat: Does Rhetoric Compensate What is Lost in War? | 181 |
| 8. The Battle between Speeches and Revolution: The Instance of January 2011 | 229 |
| 9. The Rhetoric of Supporting Power: Exploiting Religion in Arabic Politics | 265 |
| 10. The Rhetoric of Criticizing Power: Narrative Imagination and Refuting the Discourses of War, Sectarianism, Racism, and Colonization | 297 |
| 11. The Rhetoric of Resisting Power: Folk Literature and the Praise of Speech Power | 337 |
| Epilogue: Stories on Political Discourse: Its Analysts, Audience, and Producers | 359 |

Appendix: The *Saqifah* Debate Speeches

377

Bibliography

383

Author information

Professor Emad Abdul-Latif, Qatar University; <https://qu.academia.edu/EmadAbdullatif>

Audience

Analyzing Political Discourse: Rhetoric, Power, and Resistance is essential reading for researchers, upper undergraduate and postgraduate students of political discourse analysis, within Arabic language, linguistics, communication studies, politics and other social sciences.

Topics

Political Discourse Analysis – Rhetoric – Arabic Linguistics

How to cite

Abdul-Latif, Emad. *Taḥlīl al-Khiṭāb al-Siyāsī: al-Balāghah, al-Sulṭah, al-Muqāwamah* (Analyzing Political Discourse: Rhetoric, Power, and Resistance), (1st edition), Jordan: Dar Kunūz al-Ma‘rifah, (2020).

عبد اللطيف، عماد، تحليل الخطاب السياسي: البلاغة، السلطة، المقاومة (ط. 1)، الأردن: دار كنوز المعرفة، (2020).

Download a full copy of the book (in Arabic) from *Emad Abdul-Latif's* official website

<https://bit.ly/3t6Oy9S>