



The Integration of Phrasal Verbs in the Critical Analysis of Discourse

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Abstract

Virtually all the frameworks that are used in the critical analysis of discourse, such as, Fairclough's three-dimensional modal, Wodak's discourse historical approach, van Dijk's ideological square theory, van Leeuwen's theory of the representation of social actors, and so on, typically focus on prenominal and predicative adjectives, transitivity structures, presuppositions, pseudo titles, metaphors, etcetera. However, there is no framework or research that have used phrasal verbs or even explored the viability of its function in the critical analysis of discourse. This study demonstrated how critical phrasal verbs analysis can be employed to analyse political, spoken, and media discourse. The results showed that phrasal verbs are used pervasively in Bush's political discourse to emphasize the power of America in eliminating enemies.

Keywords: phrasal verbs, CDA, discourse, George Bush



1. Introduction

The critical analysis of discourse marked a fundamental alteration in the field of applied linguistics as it diverted the comprehension of discourse from grammatically formed chains of words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs, to understanding it as a medium via which control, power, and ideology are manifested. Critical discourse analysis (CDA) is the fundamental theory that paved the way in altering the conventional understanding of discourse. CDA, according to Scollon (2001), is a "program of social analysis that critically analyses discourse - that is to say language in use - as a means of addressing problems of social change" (140). CDA, to van Dijk (2001) is a discourse analytical research that investigates "the way social power abuse, dominance, and inequality are enacted, reproduced, and resisted by text and talk in the social and political context" (352). CDA, Wodak (2001) notes, is a problem oriented research that is grounded on the basis of political or social problems rather than linguistic issues. Consequently, It is a fundamental framework for deciphering the entrenched ideology in political and media discourse as it analyses "opaque as well as transparent structural relationships of dominance, discrimination, power and control as manifested in language" (Wodak and Meyer, 2001: 2). CDA conceives the idea of discourse not only as a matter of carrying out tasks but also as a matter of expressing, constituting and reproducing social identities and social relations, including crucial relations of power and control (Fairclough, 1989).

Virtually all the frameworks that are used in the critical analysis of discourse, such as, Fairclough's three-dimensional modal, Wodak's discourse historical approach, van Dijk's ideological square theory, van Leeuwen's theory of the representation of social actors, and so on, typically focus on prenominal and predicative adjectives, transitivity structures, presuppositions, pseudo titles, metaphors, etcetera. However, there is no



framework or research that have used phrasal verbs or even explored the viability of its function in the critical analysis of discourse.

This study will demonstrate how critical phrasal verbs analysis can be employed to analyse political, spoken, and media discourse. The invasion of Iraq by America will be the issue of investigation in this study. Hence, Georg W. Bush's speeches will be investigated to examine how America is depicted in relation to the enemy, transcripts of spoken discourse by American news channels and the discourse of the American newspapers will also be explored to examine how phrasal verbs are used in relation to Saddam Hussein.

2. Phrasal Verbs

Phrasal verbs are linguistic units that are engendered from the amalgamation of a verb proper and a particle that can be an adverb, a preposition or both. This "verb + particle" can be determined by both semantic and syntactic factors. Sroka (1972: 180) states "in one case, the main factor determining the unity between the verb and the particle is semantic, mainly lexical, in the other, formal syntactic." According to Darwin and Gray (1999), a phrasal verb functions together as a single unit both lexically and syntactically (76-77). These multi word verbs are perceived as "the most productive patterns of the English language" (Cubillo, 2002: 95) because of the perpetual combinations of verb + particle that increase overtime.

Phrasal verbs, to Downing and Lock (2006), can be subdivided into three main categories, non-idiomatic, semi-idiomatic and fully idiomatic. Non-idiomatic phrasal verbs are characterized by their ease of being comprehended as the verb and the particle keep their own meaning. The typical meanings of this type of phrasal verbs are movement + direction whereby "the particle encodes the direction of the movement, while the lexical verb encodes the movement" (Downing and Lock, 2006: 337). Consider the following two examples:



1. The man **took out** the chair.
2. The brothers **carried out** the food.

In semi-idiomatic phrasal verbs, the verb keeps its own literal metaphoric meaning while the particle is utilized as an aspectual marker of several kinds such as completion, beginning-point, end-point, high intensity of an event and continuation, a kind of non-completion (Downing and Lock, 2006). Consider the following examples:

3. The students are **dozing off**.
4. The mother **cried out** for help.

While in sentence (3) the phrasal verb “doze off” denotes a beginning of an activity, “cried out” in sentence (4) implies a momentary activity.

The meaning of fully idiomatic phrasal verbs is typically difficult to processes as their meaning cannot be deciphered via examining their constituents because of the inherent idiomaticity. For example, the meaning of the phrasal verb “figure out” is ‘to understand’ and “buy off” is ‘to give money in order to stop a threat or a trouble’, as in the following two sentences:

5. It didn't take a mathematical genius to **figure out** what we had found.
6. Bloomberg's ability to **buy off** potential critics was astounding.

Phrasal verbs are units that are notoriously associated with informal discourse (written/spoken) because of their colloquial distinctiveness which situate them “at the informal end of the formal-informal continuum” (Waibel, 2007: 31). McArthur (1992:774) labeled phrasal verbs as units that "are often informal, emotive, and slangy, and may often contrast with Latinate verbs". However, phrasal verbs do exist in formal discourse, such as academic discourse and newspaper discourse. This notion is depicted in the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) through the following graph:

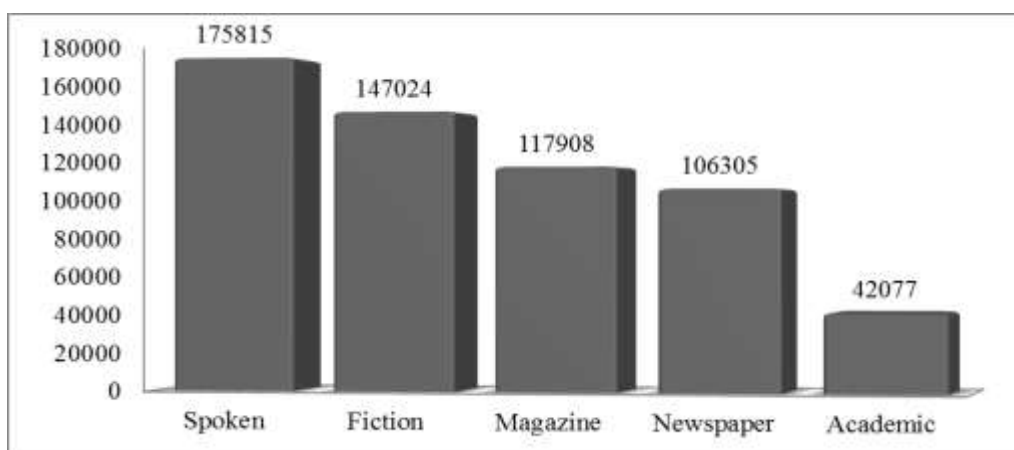


Fig.1. The frequency of phrasal verbs in COCA

Ideology raises supplementary abstract ways of thinking via discourse, therefore, it is more “emphatically driven by a will to power, or a desire to establish a particular frame of thinking as at least the most valid or even, in its more fanatical forms, as ‘the truth’” (Macdonald, 2003: 28). Ideology, according to Fowler et al. (1979: 190), is “linguistically mediated and habitual for an acquiescent, uncritical reader”. Since ideologies are a “person’s beliefs, opinions and value systems intersect with broader social and political structures of society” (Simpson and Mayr, 2009: 4), lexical selections, including phrasal verbs, in discourse are based on ideological semantics following a clear strategic pattern which this study is endeavoring to unearth.

3. Methodology

3.1. The corpora

This study used two diverse corpora. For the analysis of political discourse, George W. Bush’s speeches from 2002-2008 were used as the corpus of this study. The 114 speeches of George W. Bush were retrieved from the cite www.presidentialrhetoric.com/speeches/bushpresidency.html. From his first term, the researcher selected 26 speeches from 2002, 2003 and 2004 because the first remarks about the danger of Iraq to America and the world were emphasized by Bush in 2002. From the second term, the



researcher chose 88 speeches from 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008. The researcher's main criterion of choosing the discourse is that it must be in the form of a speech. Hence, news conferences, reforms and presidential conversations were removed from the corpus to eliminate other voices in the corpus and for the corpus to be fully dedicated to Bush's discourse. The following table represents the overall data of the research's corpus:

Table 1: Statistics of this research's political discourse corpus

The Year	Number of Speeches	Number of words
2002	3	10045
2003	16	40163
2004	7	25601
2005	16	58500
2006	25	81094
2007	27	78639
2008	20	53136
Total	114	347178

For the American news channels' spoken discourse transcripts and the discourse of the American newspapers, the corpus of contemporary American English (COCA) was used to retrieve the data. COCA is a monitor corpus that is continuously expanding and it consists of diverse genres of discourse that include spoken, fiction, magazine, newspaper, and academic discourse.

3.2. Corpus Linguistics Tools

There are diverse techniques that corpus linguistics offers to analyse texts. However, for the purpose of this study, the researcher will use n-grams and concordance methods. Anthony's (2011) AntConc (version 3.2.4w) will be employed to analyse the political discourse corpus of this research.



3.2.1. *N-Grams/ Clusters*

One of the underestimated tools of corpus linguistics, specifically in the analysis of discourse, is the n-gram analysis or clusters. N-grams are defined as “sequences of n elements (usually words) that occur directly one after another in a corpus, where n is two or more” (McEnery and Hardie, 2012: p.247). Unlike collocations, which are perceived as “a co-occurrence relationship between two words. Words are said to collocate with one another if one is more likely to occur in the presence of the other than elsewhere” (McEnery and Hardie, 2012: p.240), n-grams clearly depict word combinations via employing a straightforward interface. Furthermore, phrasal verbs can be easily identified with the n-gram analysis because the number of words in a combination is determined by the researcher. Hence, by entering an adverbial particle in a program while categorizing the direction of the combination, either left or right, phrasal verbs can easily be detected and analysed.

3.2.2. *Concordance*

The predominate computer based method that will be employed in this research will be concordance. A concordance analysis is a computer based methodology that provides the researcher with a “list of all the occurrences of a particular search term in a corpus, presented within the context that they occur in; usually a few words to the left and right of the search term” (Baker. 2006: 71). This computer based method, according to Baker et al. (2008), can supplement all the other methodological tools that corpus linguistics offer. The results of the collocation will also be examined via the use of concordance to acknowledge the precise context in which the search term occurs to eliminate any misperception of data.

3.3. Phrasal verbs designation and extraction

Although phrasal verbs constitute around one third of the verbs in the English language (Li et al., 2003), the number of their adverbial particles is fixed and countable. This notion is most beneficial in analysing a substantial corpus of discourse because via these adverbial particles, virtually all the phrasal verbs in the corpus can be extracted by the use of n-gram analysis, to designate the phrasal verbs, and concordance, to get a view of the context in which the phrasal verb is used. Furthermore, knowing the adverbial particles can eliminate the confusion between phrasal verbs and prepositional verbs whereby phrasal verbs are judged as a one lexical unit while prepositional verbs as two separate linguistic units (Steen et al., 2010). The following figure represents the most common adverbial particles in the English language as presented in COCA:

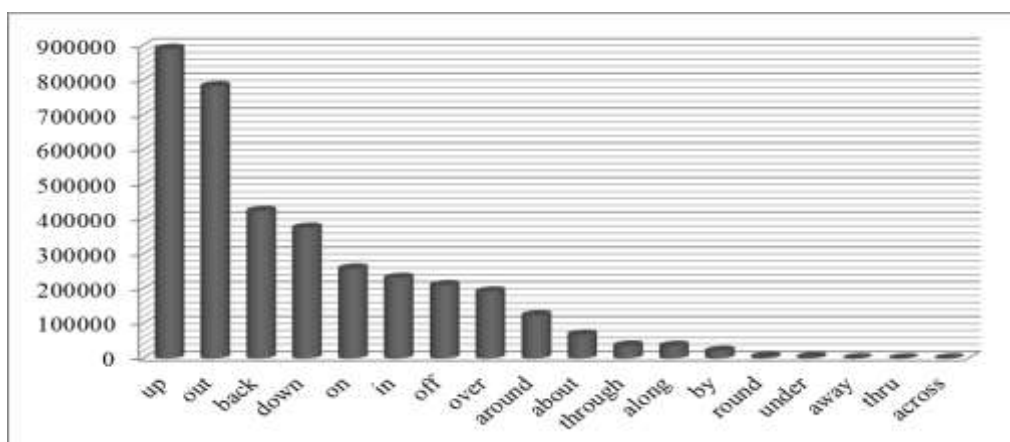


Fig. 2. The most frequently used adverbial particles as depicted in COCA

If the corpus is parsed, the extraction of phrasal verbs will be straightforward because the codes for the verb+ adverbial combination can be entered and the program will automatically present the data. However, parsing is notoriously known for its inadequacies as the linguistic structures of the English language are complex and multi-layered. Hence, the researchers believe that if the parsing is achieved by professionals, as in COCA, the parsing will be consistent. Conversely, if the corpus is



constructed by a researcher, the before mentioned method of searching the adverbial particles is more applicable and accurate than parsing the corpus.

4. Data analysis and discussion

4.1. Political speeches analysis

The political discourse of George W. Bush was an influential tool via which coalitions were made and battles were raged. Through the use of vibrant language, Bush was able to reform the frame of thoughts of the American public, to make them truly perceive the eminent threat that some nations posed to the United States of America. A vivid instance of such phenomenon was the Iraq war. Prior to the war on Iraq which started in 2003, in his statement of the union address in 2002, George W. Bush emphasized to his nation with a grave voice and adamant words the prominent threat that Iraq presented to the United States of America via portraying Iraq as a country that flaunts “its hostility toward America and supports terror”, a country that is reigned by a regime plotting for a decade to develop poisonous gases and “nuclear weapons” and that this regime’s use of these malignant weapons “to murder thousands of its own citizens-- leaving the bodies of mothers huddled over their dead children” is monstrous. This meticulous use of vivid words is ideologically driven to create a gap between Us and Them. While Them represent evil, Us represent the good ones who oppose evil.

Phrasal verbs in the political speeches corpus of this research are ubiquitous. The genres of phrasal verbs that are present in the corpus are mostly idiomatic, with the occasional existence of non-idiomatic phrasal verbs. The following table represents the most frequent phrasal verbs in the political discourse of George W. Bush:

Table 2: Phrasal verbs in Bush’s political discourse

Phrasal verbs	Frequency
Carry out	57
Depend on	57
Stay on	47



المؤتمر العلمي الدولي الحادي عشر

نيسان / ٢٠١٩

جامعة واسط

مجلة كلية التربية

Stand up	30
Called on	28
Focus on	22
Hunt Down	21
Take on	20
Grow up	20
Open up	17
Laid out	16
Blow up	16
Look back	14
Shut down	14
Put on	14
Count on	14
Reach out	13
Break up	13
Give up	12
Stand down	11
Take over	11
Made up	10
Set up	10
Come back	10
Back down	10
Bring down	10
Hand over	10
Build on	10
Set out	9
Spill out	9
Turned out	9
Cut off	9
Go back	8
Step up	8
Carry on	8
Came out	7



Put out	7
Roll back	6
Step back	6
Figure out	6
Set off	6
Tear down	6
Chasing down	6

Phrasal verbs provide a unique layer of vividness to a linguistic structure which, in turn, induces vibrancy to an imagery or expression. This notion is emphasized by Hampe (2002: p.110) who stated that phrasal verbs tend to provide liveliness to discourse because they “seem to be a lot more vivid and emphatic than their simple-verb counterpart”. This feature of phrasal verbs is technically used by Bush to stress the supremacy and the punishing wrath of America, as in the following examples:

7. We will **tear down** the apparatus of terror (Saddam Hussein’ regime).
8. Our forces will help secure the city (Baghdad) by **chasing down** terrorists, insurgents.
9. Our military will continue to **hunt down** the terrorists in Iraq.
10. We will **roll back** this grave threat to our way of life.
11. We will **shut down** terrorist camps.
12. We will **stay on** the offense against the terrorists and Saddamists.
13. 20 or 30 years from now historians will **look back** on the mission to Iraq as America’s golden moment

The imagery invoked in the phrasal verb ‘tear down’ (example 7) represents a powerful entity (America) that has the power and the repertoire need to demolish another weaker entity (terrorists) to pieces. The phrasal verbs ‘chasing down’ and ‘hunt down’, as in example 8 and 9 respectively, also depict the same unbalanced scale of power whereby the imagery of wilderness is used to depict America with all its mighty power chasing and hunting weaker preys (terrorists). The phrasal verb of rolling back (example 10) is used to also to depict a superior entity (America) that is able to reduce



and eradicate a threat (terrorists). The vivid imagery of the phrasal verb 'shut down', in example 11, represents America as an entity with the capacity to demolish another entity's (terrorists) power causing it to collapse. The imagery that is depicted in the phrasal verb 'stay on' (example 12) represents a steadfast entity (America) with the resources and the ability to continue the assault on the enemy (terrorists and Saddamists). The phrasal verb 'look back' (example 13) depicts with vividness how historians will inevitably reminisce with pride about the time where America invaded Iraq. Little did Bush know that it took only few years for people to witness the horrors of war that happened in Iraq and eventually contest Bush's decision to invade a country that has no WMDs or connection to Al Qaeda. The constant theme in all these expressions is the notion that America is supreme and righteous. This strategy functions as a way to emphasize America as the most powerful nation in the world.

Phrasal verbs, such as 'tear down', 'chasing down', 'bring down', 'shut down', and so on, are situated "at the informal end of the formal-informal continuum" (Waibel, 2007: 31). Therefore, these linguistic elements can be perceived as a characteristic of vernacular form of discourse because of their inherent informality. Vernacular discourse has "connotations of masculinity which accrued to it by virtue of the perceived roughness and toughness of the working class" (Downes, 1998: 208). Since ideology dictates and manifests itself in discourse, the utilization of phrasal verbs by Bush in his political discourse is seemed to be used a scheme to authenticate America's machismo and, thus, its supremacy and relentlessness to decimate its enemies.

4.2. American newspaper discourse analysis

Mediated political discourse is a crucial concept that bridged political discourse and the media to influence the public stance because public consent is crucial to be achieved by the ruling class for the purpose of maintaining domination (van Dijk, 1998; Hackett, 1991; Fowler, 1991). Therefore, media plays a cardinal role in manufacturing this consent as the commercial mainstream media "works ideologically and is in the service of the powerful, the elite, and the state" (Sheyholislami, 2001: 10). For the analysis of the



American newspapers' discourse, COCA will be used to examine how phrasal verbs are used in relation to Saddam Hussein from the period of 2002-2008. This analysis is fundamental to this research's endeavour to show how critical phrasal verbs analysis is fundamental to uncover the ideology and power in discourse. Although phrasal verbs are notoriously known for their presence in informal discourse, newspapers discourse, as shown in figure 1 (p.5), includes plenty of phrasal verbs. The following table represents the phrasal verbs that are used in relation to Saddam Hussein in the American newspapers' discourse:

Table 3

Phrasal verbs in the discourse of American newspapers with regards to Saddam Hussein

Phrasal Verbs	Frequency
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المؤتمر العلمي الدولي الحادي عشر
نيسان / ٢٠١٩

جامعة واسط
مجلة كلية التربية

taking out	8
taking down	3
hunt down	3
brought down	2
take on	2
setting back	1
check out	1
pointed out	1
blown up	1
driving out	1
faced down	1
knocking down	1
set up	1
turned back	1
made up	1
fell out	1
pull out	1
shooting up	1
carried out	1
put up	1
fend off	1
speak up	1
got back	1
handing over	1
tearing down	1
bring back	1
finish off	1
pull down	1

Phrasal verbs in the discourse of newspapers are used to vividly express the stand of the reporters toward Saddam Hussein. Such stand is characterized by enthusiasm and eagerness toward invading Iraq and eliminating the existence of Saddam Hussein, such as:



14. We are going to **take out** Saddam Hussein
15. US.-led forces were trying to **finish off** Saddam's leadership
16. US forces **brought down** Saddam Hussein
17. Mobile airborne troops will likely be deployed to **hunt down** Saddam Hussein
18. Iraqi children hugging and kissing U.S. Marines, flowers, **tearing down** Saddam's statue

The significant imagery invoked in the phrasal verb 'take out' (example 14) is intended to vividly represent the strong intention to decimate the existence of Saddam Hussein by ripping him off the seat of power. Example 15 represents a boxing match whereby America is endeavouring to defeat Saddam Hussein. The pride of the American press in their forces is vividly depicted in the phrasal verb 'brought down' (example 16) as way to describe with vibrancy how a feared person in the Middle East as Saddam Hussein was crumbled to pieces like a building by America. The imagery of hunting down in example 17 represents the scene of America as the powerful entity that is pursuing its weaker prey depicted by Saddam Hussein. The phrasal verb 'tearing down' (example 18) depicts the imagery of Iraqis ripping the statue of Saddam Hussein to pieces with glee as way to express their happiness of being liberated from Saddam Hussein which is intended to emphasize the righteousness of America decision to invade Iraq and liberate Iraqis from Saddam Hussein. The phrasal verbs that are interrelated to Saddam Hussein in the American newspapers' discourse are intended to describe with vibrancy Saddam's defeat and his fall from power to emphasize the strength and the determination of America.

4.3. Spoken discourse analysis

Spoken discourse constitutes the ideal environment in which a plethora of phrasal verbs are used. This is interrelated to the inherent informality that situates phrasal verbs at the informal side of discourse. The corpus of spoken discourse in COCA includes the transcripts of TV programs, aired news reports, and so on. In the case of investigating Saddam Hussein, the transcripts of programs from diverse news channels, such as



FOX, CNN, NPR, CBS, and so on, are employed. The following table represents the phrasal verbs used in relation to Saddam Hussein in the spoken discourse corpus:

Table 4

Phrasal verbs in the spoken discourse with regard to Saddam Hussein

Phrasal Verbs	Frequency
take out	16
take on	9
wipe out	2
knocked down	1
knock out	1
finish off	1
sweeping out	1
clear up	1
bringing down	1
takes over	1
throwing out	1
lost out	1
picked up	1
cracking down	1
figure out	1
track down	1
take down	1
force out	1
root out	1
seeking out	1

The phrasal verbs used in spoken discourse with regards to Saddam Hussein portray two fundamental themes that best describes the conflict between America and Saddam Hussein, the theme of a boxing competition



and the theme of cleansing. The theme of a boxing competition is depicted in the following examples:

19. We are determined to **knock out** Saddam Hussein
20. We **knocked down** Saddam Hussein and his military
21. President Bush makes the case for **taking out** Saddam
22. The fight over **taking on** Saddam

In example 19, 'knock out' refers to the boxing idiom whereby the stronger fighter delivers the fight ending punch that will take the weaker competitor out of the competition. The phrasal verb in example 20 'knocked down' also is a phrase used in boxing whereby the stronger boxer brings the other competitor down with an obliterating punch that will render the competitor unconscious. In example 21, the phrasal verb 'taking out' is also used in boxing to signify the process of eliminating or defeating the other competitor. The phrasal verb 'taking on' (example 22) is used in competitions and it symbolises the act of opposing another competitor.

The theme of cleansing is used to depict the way America sees the elimination of Saddam Hussein from the Middle Eastern scene. For instance:

23. It (coalition forces) could take 21 days possibly to **wipe out** Saddam and his troops
24. Exile groups dreamt of **sweeping out** the Saddam Hussein regime

The process of wiping out is used to describe the practice of eliminating filth from a surface, in example 23, it symbolizes America's capacity to easily eliminate the existence of Saddam Hussein. Sweeping out depict the act of dusting off something, in the context of example 24 sweeping out exemplifies the notion of America cleansing the world from Saddam Hussein. These processes, all depict the notion of America's capacity and power in eliminating enemies with ease by wiping them and sweeping them from existence.

5. Situating phrasal verbs in the linguistic repertoire of CDA

Phrasal verbs, as explained, are linguistic units that consist of a verb and an adverbial particle. A phrasal verb's meaning is derived when considered



as a single linguistic unit rather than treating the verb and the adverbial particle as two independent lexical units. According Steen et al. (2010), phrasal verbs can be “used metaphorically” (p. 28). Consequently, the researchers of this study believe that phrasal verbs can be analysed as part and parcel of the critical metaphor analysis framework. A metaphor, according to Charteris-Black’s (2007: p.42), is a “linguistic representation that results from the shift in the use of the word or phrase from the context or domain where it is not expected to occur, thereby causing semantic tension”. Such notion is vividly depicted in the analysis of the political speeches, American newspapers’ discourse, and spoken discourse in relation to the Iraq war whereby diverse imageries are used ranging from the imagery of wilderness in which the stronger entity (America) hunts down it weaker prey (terrorist and Saddamists), to using the imagery of a boxing match whereby America is always depicted as the one that delivers the knockout punches.

Furthermore, the other striking similarity between phrasal verbs and metaphors is in their semanticity. Metaphors, according to Kövecses (2010: 4), are the understanding of “one conceptual domain in terms of another conceptual domain”. The conceptual domain is achieved via adhering to a set of systematic correspondence or mapping amongst the two domains (Kövecses, 2010). These two domains are source and target. The former is perceived as the utilization of conceptual domain to derive metaphorical expressions to understand another conceptual domain. The latter is conceived as the conceptual domain that is understood from the process of the source domain. While target domain may include life, arguments, love, theory, ideas, social organizations, and so on, source domain can include journeys, war, buildings, food, plants, etc. Consequently, conceptual metaphors of everyday language which include LOVE IS A JOURNEY, ARGUMENT IS WAR, FAIRYTALE OF A JUST WAR, and so forth, are constituted based on the mingling of the target domain and the source domain. In the context of the analysed phrasal verbs in this research, the target domain is intermingled with the source domain whereby a battle is deemed a boxing match, a building demolition, and wilderness where the stronger chases the weaker. A battle can be perceived as the source domain and the boxing match, the



building demolition, and the wilderness as the target domain. Consequently, the figurative rendering of phrasal verbs in this research include BATTLE IS A BOXING MATCH, BATTLE IS A BUILDING DEMOLITION, BATTLE IS A WILDERNESS.

Metaphors are a crucial source of manipulation (Lakoff, 2004). Hence, diverse studies used critical metaphor analysis as a tool via which ideology and power can be divulged. Such studies include Lule (2004) who investigated the metaphors that were utilized in the news discourse of the war in Iraq (2003). Driven by Lakoff statement that “metaphors can kill” in response to the US justifications of war in the first Gulf war, Lule (2004) studied the metaphors that were employed in the six weeks coverage of the NBC Nightly News which was a top rated US evening news cast. The researcher noted that there were dominant metaphors that seemed pervasive in the discourse of the coverage, including: the Timetable; the Games of Saddam; the Patience of the White House, and Making the Case/Selling the Plan.

Metaphors in political discourse that have been examined by sociolinguists and discourse analysts pertain to the status of idioms which “consequently pass unnoticed while retaining their ability to frame perspectives” (Hobb, 2008, p.1). This notion constructs the basis of Hobb’s research (2008) which emphasized the notion that political discourse did not limit itself to lexicalized metaphors rather it made use of new metaphors. The researcher investigated the utilization of new metaphors in the news descriptions of Bush’s endeavours to extend the number of soldiers in Iraq. The results of this study indicated that even though these novel metaphors were vividly oriented and persuasive in political discourse, metaphors backfire when resistance is encountered.

Steuter & Wills (2009) studied the Canadian newspapers discourse in their coverage of the Iraq and Afghanistan war, particularly the newspapers headlines through which the image of the ‘enemy’ was constituted in the dominant media discourse. The resulted analysis of this research indicated that dehumanizing language was employed in representing enemy leaders as well as Arab and Muslim citizens in general via the “reproduction of



metaphors that linguistically frame the enemy in particular ways” (Steuter & Wills, 2009). The researchers argue that the Canadian media played a crucial role in the construction of Islam and Muslims in utilizing metaphors that established the ‘OTHER’ as dehumanized, de-individualized, and ultimately expendable. This partiality of depiction is represented through the utilization of animal imageries that degrades human actions and reduces them to subhuman behaviour. These representations, which are more than rhetoric, have an ideological importance that is capable of engendering racist backlash, prisoner abuse and even genocide.

Lesz (2011) investigated the metaphors that were utilized by Barack Obama’s political discourse. Through the utilization of Lakoff and Johnson’s cognitive metaphor theory, the researcher examined the notions of terrorism and conflicts in Obama’s discourse. Metaphors were analysed from three diverse perspectives, the conceptual metaphors underlying the metaphorical expressions, the images and the feelings that these metaphors are endeavouring to evoke, and the motivation behind the utilization of these metaphors and their possible influence on cognition. The research results indicated that the metaphors LIFE IS A JOURNEY and PURPOSEFUL ACTIVITY IS A JOURNEY are pervasive in Obama’s political discourse because “JOURNEY metaphors encourage accepting the short term suffering for a greater cause; thus, they are indispensable in discourse dealing with war” (76).

A crucial tangible example of metaphors being used as tools of manipulation is the first gulf war. According to Lakoff (2004), Bush reasoned the war on Iraq as being crucial to save the oil-life line which is indispensable to the economy of America. However, the public was against the war, thus, the metaphor ‘the rape of Kuwait’ was engendered. This metaphor is still a popular account of the war which without a doubt rallied the public. The logic behind the failure of the American public to reach a rational conclusion in relation to the first Gulf war is because people think in terms of frames and metaphors which are crucial aspects of cognitive science. The frames, Lakoff (2004: 73) argues, “are in the synapses of our brains - physically present in the form of neural circuitry”. Consequently, when facts and frames cannot be



assimilated, the frames are kept and the facts are discarded. Furthermore, metaphors and ideologies go hand in hand because both are the products and the tools of the mind that are utilized to influence the public. Since the researchers of this study deemed phrasal verbs as linguistic units that are comparable in their figurativeness and semanticity to metaphors, it is safe to state that phrasal verbs as metaphors can also be considered as tools of manipulation via which the frames of thought of the public are manipulated by the powerful elite.

6. Conclusion

Phrasal verbs are linguistic units that have never been explored or used by any researcher in the critical analysis of discourse. It is based on this fact that the researchers of this study carried out this research to validate that phrasal verbs are as crucial and fundamental to the critical analysis of discourse as prenominal and predicative adjectives, transitivity structures, presuppositions, pseudo titles, and so on. The researcher showed that even though phrasal verbs constitute one third of the verbs in the English language, they can be easily extracted from a substantial corpus because the adverbial particles of phrasal are fixed and countable. Furthermore, to demonstrate how phrasal verbs can be used as tools of ideology and power in discourse, the researchers analysed political speeches George W. Bush, American newspapers reports, and transcripts of American news programs spoken discourse. The results showed that phrasal verbs are used pervasively in Bush's political discourse to emphasize the power of America in eliminating enemies. In newspaper reports regarding Saddam Hussein, the phrasal verbs used depict the processes of demolishing the rule of Saddam Hussein by bringing him down and also via hunting him. In the spoken discourse transcripts, the phrasal verbs are used to depict the a boxing match whereby America is usually delivering the knockout punches to Saddam Hussein, and also phrasal verbs are used to describe the elimination of Saddam Hussein in term of cleansing.

The researchers indicated that because of their inherent figurativeness, phrasal verbs can be perceived as a complement to critical metaphor analysis.



This notion is clearly depicted in the similarity between metaphors and phrasal verbs in terms of their semnticity whereby phrasal verbs can also be explained via using target and source domain which are mainly utilised with metaphors. Examples of source and target domains in metaphors will be LOVE IS A JOURNEY, ARGUMENT IS WAR, FAIRYTALE OF A JUST WAR. Examples of source and target domains of phrasal verbs as showed in the analysis of the diverse genres of discourse in this study include BATTLE IS A BOXING MATCH, BATTLE IS A BUILDING DEMOLITION, BATTLE IS A WILDERNESS. Such striking similarities between phrasal verbs and metaphors mean that as metaphors, phrasal verbs and their inherent figurativeness can also function as a tool of manipulation via which the public frames of thought can be altered and shaped based on the intension of the discourse producer.

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