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Linguistic Sustainability and Politeness Strategies In Chinese and Russian Reports on Ebrahim Raisi's Death

A B S T R A C T

Language scholars contend that without language, progress cannot occur. In other words, language is essential for achieving sustainable development across all sectors. This study examines how courteous, respectful discourse can foster enduring communication by avoiding negative or unintended expressions, specifically in relation to the death of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi. To pursue this inquiry, articles were carefully chosen from two reputable sources—China Daily and The Moscow Times—following an extensive process of research and screening. In addition, a wide-ranging review of literature in pragmatics, politeness theory, and presuppositional theory was conducted. Employing a qualitative methodology, the research applies Leech's (1983) and Yule's (1996) frameworks to analyse four selected text extracts. The findings reveal that both newspapers adopted language characterized by respect, cooperation, and a non-confrontational tone when reporting on Raisi's death, while also emphasizing the political and economic ties between Iran, China, and Russia—thus contributing to sustainable communication practices. Theoretically, this work enriches our understanding of the linguistic dimensions of sustainability and offers practical insights into the use of types of presupposition and politeness strategies. Based on these insights, the study recommends that political leaders and journalists consistently employ polite and diplomatic language when discussing global events, thereby nurturing ongoing dialogue and promoting peace.

Keywords: Keywords: Linguistic Sustainability, Pragmatics, politeness principles

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استراتيجيات الاستدامة اللغوية والتهذيب في التقارير الصينية والروسية حول وفاة إبراهيم رئيسي

الباحث: سعد نعمه خينياب أ.د. هاشم عليوي محمد الحسيني

جامعة واسط ـ كلية التربية للعلوم الانسانية

الملخص:

يؤكد علماء اللغة أنه بدون اللغة، لا يمكن أن يحدث التقدم. بعبارة أخرى، اللغة ضرورية لتحقيق التنمية المستدامة في جميع القطاعات. تبحث هذه الدراسة في كيفية تعزيز الخطاب المهذب والمحترم للتواصل الدائم من خلال تجنب التعبيرات السلبية أو غير المقصودة، وخاصة فيما يتعلق بوفاة الرئيس الإيراني إبراهيم رئيسي. لتحقيق هذا الهدف، تم اختيار المقالات بعناية من مصدرين موثوقين– China Daily و The Moscow Times – بعد عملية بحث وفحص مكثفة. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، تم إجراء مراجعة واسعة النطاق للأدب في نظرية البراجماتية واللياقة والافتراض. باستخدام منهجية نوعية، يطبق البحث أطر كل من 1983 (Leech) و (1996) Yule لتحليل أربعة مقتطفات نصية مختارة. تكشف النتائج أن كلتا الصحيفتين اعتمدتا لغة تتميز بالاحترام والتعاون ونبرة غير مواجهة عند الإبلاغ عن وفاة رئيسي، مع التأكيد أيضًا على الروابط السياسية والاقتصادية بين إيران والصين وروسيا – وبالتالي المساهمة في ممارسات الاتصال المستدامة. من الناحية النظرية، يثري هذا العمل فهمنا للأبعاد اللغوية للاستدامة ويقدم رؤى عملية حول استخدام استراتيجيات اللباقة وكيفية تطبيق انواع الافتراضات. وبناءً على هذه الرؤى، توصي الدراسة بأن يستخدم الزعماء السياسيون والصحفيون لغة مهذبة ودبلوماسية باستمرار عند مناقشة الأحداث العالمية، وبالتالي تعزيز الحوار المستمر وتعزيز السلام.

الكلمات المفتاحية : الاستدامة اللغوية ، البراجماتية ، مبادئ الأدب

1. Introduction

Sustainable development is a wide notion with several aspects that cannot be discussed or analyzed in this research study, but it can be reduced to any development that meets current demands and is sustainable enough for future generations to benefit from. As a result, the notion of sustainable development is a global issue or goal that every nation is attempting to attain for the sake of its country and its population in general. The role of language is significant in sustainable development due to its ability to facilitate communication, encourage diversity, and ensure that a variety of cultural viewpoints are incorporated into development plans. It improves comprehension of sustainability goals and encourages involvement and cooperation from different stakeholders in accomplishing these goals (Rada, 2022). However, the importance of language use cannot be overstated; because language is a tool for communicating information, it can be used to prevent, motivate, and stir up tension; it may create or solve disagreements; thus, language should be carefully and thoughtfully selected and implemented appropriately in a given context. This is impossible without the principle of respect (Adi, 2024).

Undoubtedly, knowledge in the sociolinguistic domain becomes crucial in negotiations and interactions across borders which require the language user to be polite and tolerant. Because sustainability is not a local issue, all sustainability-related problems should be tackled on a global scale, which involves a globally recognized means to communicate by

using language that is effective on the negotiators. It appears that most issues that might occur around the world can be easily tackled naturally as a result of human interaction and mutually beneficial relationships. So, considering the concept of sustainability and the need to understand the world as a system that connects both place and time, it is clear that such interactions cannot be made without the right use of a means of interacting and negotiating, which can be illustrated by the application of language. Language is a system that relates to place and time, as well as individuals. Furthermore, language guides its users toward the cultural road, transforming them into cultural consumers. In this sense, those who use languages become participants in culture, having a share in its formation (Hopfinger, 1985). Taking into account both individual and cultural development, and numerous functions of language associated with perception, thinking, memory, and expression, it is apparent that language plays an essential part in human existence. Hence, with the individual's future development in thoughts, it is critical to focus on language education, providing a global village resident with the linguistic tools necessary to function worldwide and collaborate with partners all over the world (Pullen, 2015).

In light of the preceding explanation and the role of tactful language in reducing tensions and conflicts associated with global events, it is clear that the death of the Iranian president has significant implications for how the media adopts polite reporting and avoids negative portrayals that reinforce the partnerships that connect Iran with other countries. Newspapers are one of the most essential forms of media, continuing to report on this incident extensively and for several weeks. The reporting is not limited to the event itself but also includes reporting on various topics related to the president's achievements during his presidency, as well as the extent of cooperative language used by some newspapers, which reduces the coverage of contrastive and conflicted topics that may cause anger, tension, and potentially struggle among opposing sides across Iran. If these newspapers continue to publish hateful information, it would inevitably lead to religious, economic, and political conflict, resulting in the loss of lives and property, especially since there are several opposing groups against the Iranian regime. Indeed, positive reporting, frequent cooperation statements, and the avoidance of disagreed pronouncements may all contribute to the growth process. Thus, the current study attempts to investigate how language is used to maintain social and political harmony in dealing with sensitive global issues(Raisi's death). The selected reports in this study are examined to figure out how they are used in respectful and diplomatic language to ensure sustained international relations. It explores whether these reports use neutral terminology or formal language to maintain linguistic sustainability. The researcher applies polite principles and types of presuppositions to explicate their role in forming international diplomatic relationships, political discourse, and sustainable communication.

Cooperation in every field, particularly international cooperation, demands communication, negotiation, and debate of the outcomes of any kind. All of this may be accomplished using language as a mutually recognized mode of communication. Linguistic education mixed with cultural competency allows for both complete communication and appropriate behavior. Furthermore, when these two forms of knowledge are integrated and

applied in speech, the speaker is less likely to be unintentionally rude and untactful (Zygmunt, 2016). According to Pipere, Veisson, and Salfte (2015), cooperation may be successful when the persons involved understand one another, tolerate differing opinions or points of view, and demonstrate respect. All of these may be accomplished through speech, negotiation, problem-solving discussions, and the sharing of experience and information. Mutual understanding, tolerance, and respect can guide the effective building and conservation of the social environment.

The declarations above align with Leech's (1983) theory and Yule's (1996) theory, which regards politeness and diplomatic communication as strategies to avoid conflict that could be measured by the amount of work done to avoid opposing conditions. It is worth noting that the absence of conflict in reporting facilitates control and sustainable communication, and then the sustainability of development will be focused on.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Sustainable Development

The idea of sustainable development was first widely publicized by the World Conservation Strategy (IUCN, 1980). Since then, it has been a crucial component of conversations about the environment and development, with many powerful world leaders embracing it. Stoddart (2011) defines sustainability as the efficient and equitable distribution of resources intra-generationally and inter-generationally with the operation of socio-economic activities within the confines of a finite ecosystem. Development, on the other hand, is an evolutionary process in which the human capacity increases in terms of initiating new structures, coping with problems, adapting to continuous change, and striving purposefully and creatively to attain new goals (Du Pisani, 2006). Therefore, sustainable development could simply mean development that can be continued either indefinitely or for a given period (Stoddart, 2011). The concept of development, specifically socioeconomic development within ecological boundaries, is central to the concept of sustainable development; the concept of future generations - the ability to continue to use resources in order to sustain the essential standard of living for future generations, the concept of needs, and the equitable distribution of resources to ensure everyone's quality of life. The core concept beyond sustainable development originated from a concept that demonstrates affecting an agreement among the three key elements of sustainability: social sustainability, which seeks to protect equality and the rights of humans, maintain cultural identity, and display solidarity with ethnic, religious, and cultural sustainability; and environmental sustainability, which focuses on saving the quality of the environment to encourage business activity and people. Coordination among all of these elements is required to reach sustainable development, but satisfying this prerequisite is challenging because achieving each sustainability element must adhere to the interests of the others and avoid creating a lack of balance (Adi, 2023).

2.2 Linguistic Sustainability

Maintaining linguistic diversity and unique collective identities while preventing dominant languages from displacing minority languages is known as linguistic sustainability. This promotes sociolinguistic ethics and a harmonious coexistence among diverse language ecosystems. Some people think that in order for members of minority linguistic groups to progress economically and socially, they must give up their heritage languages and switch to national or international codes of communication. The primary objective of linguistic sustainability is to grow as individuals and interact with one another without damaging the cultural and linguistic features that make people unique (Bastardas-Boada, 2014). Moreover, linguistic sustainability alludes to the capacity of linguistic resources to stay discoverable and useable throughout time, regardless of changes in technological standards, metadata systems, or the availability of the people who produced or maintained them(Hinrichs et al., 2011).

According to Jickling and Wals (2008), comprehending and developing the skills necessary to handle environmental concerns on a local and global scale. A strong command of the language can help individuals explain complicated social and environmental concerns in a clear and persuasive manner, increasing their chances of supporting and significantly influencing sustainable practices in their communities. Therefore, linguistic sustainability means the maintenance and promotion of linguistic variety, which ensures that languages are maintained and appreciated in educational settings. It highlights the need to incorporate sustainable practices into language teaching in order to solve global issues and promote cultural understanding (Zaimoğlu, 2024). In light of this definition, the current study attempts to determine how language is employed to maintain social and political harmony in crucial international issues. The study investigates if linguistic sustainability is maintained in reporting to determine whether it is objective, polite, and diplomatic in order to preserve long-term international ties.

2.3 Language and Sustainable Development

language plays an important role in creating, stating, interpreting, and understanding development goals as well as in its execution and evaluation process. Language is the primary means by which humans communicate, conveying ideas, feelings, intentions, and desires to others. Sustainable development requires stakeholders to engage in discourse in their native language. Language difficulties have historically received little attention in development discussions. Access to a language is essential for active participation in social change, both personally and collectively (Mweri, 2020). According to Ezeh and Obiageli (2020), language is key to understanding people's hearts. If we lose the key, we lose people. Protecting the key can lead to prosperity and national growth. Language has a crucial role in socioeconomic development and cannot be neglected where without language, there is no development. Effective communication through language is crucial for growth. Language must be considered as a means of transmitting the intended meaning in order to achieve certain aims. Language, which shapes emotions and ideas, is essential for doing this. Leech (1974) provides an important description of how language can be used to meet the concept of sustainability, as demonstrated in the section below.

2.3.1 Leech's Five Functions Of Language

language has five functions in society: informative, expressive, directive, phatic, and aesthetic. These language functions can help accomplish sustainable development goals(SDGs) in several ways, including:

A. ***Creating the aims***: The SDGs cannot be created without language, as the process requires informing our thinking to select the appropriate words.

B. ***Stating the aims***: The 17 developmental goals can only be stated through language. Representatives from the 193 countries of the United Nations should be able to offer a factual understanding of the 17 SDGs during a conference. Thus, language has an important function.

C. ***Discussing and understanding the aims***: Clear, coherent, and well-organized statements help convey the message effectively. The language employed must allow for audience contact and participation. Language has a crucial role in promoting understanding, active involvement, and unity of ideas among individuals of different cultures.

D. ***Implementing the aims***: Language has a significant role in achieving sustainable development goals. Conferences on Language and the SDGs discussed potential language obstacles to reaching the goals. Language plays a crucial part in achieving desired outcomes.

E. Monitoring the development procedures and making modifications: Language can assess development effectiveness by noticing shortcomings and focusing on achievable goals.
(Leech 1974, as cited from Ezeh & Obiageli, 2020).

2.4 Pragmatics

Pragmatics influences effective communication strategies by promoting an understanding of context, cultural subtleties, and the diverse motivations of SDG participants. This knowledge helps to develop ideas that stick across multiple contexts, facilitate productive debates, and promote social innovation, eventually improving the success of efforts targeted at attaining the SDGs(Chan & Lee, 2023). According to Hussan (2024), using pragmatic principles, unique communication strategies can be created to successfully involve a range of parties involved in advancing the SDGs , improving cooperation and understanding among them.

Pragmatic language studies investigate how speakers use language in social interaction to achieve their goals and how listeners interpret the meaning that speakers are attempting to convey. In contrast to syntax and semantics, pragmatics focuses on human interaction and mutual knowledge rather than language structure and meaning. Pragmatics focuses on the intended meaning dependent on the context, while semantics is concerned with the meaning of the lexical item and lexical structure (Aitchison, 2003). From Leech's point of view (1983), pragmatics is considered to be associated with potential meaning, or how participants negotiate meaning in their interaction since it examines how they use language to reflect contextual and social factors as well as to influence the addressee's thinking. Furthermore, Thomas (1995) points out that pragmatic meaning is something that is created by speakers and listeners. This viewpoint sees language as an action or a process of using words to accomplish tasks.

The study of pragmatics examines the complex relationship between language, meaning, and context. It entails examining how writers and speakers represent social, cultural, and emotional factors that influence communication in addition to literal information. The study of pragmatics looks at how people use language to accomplish a variety of objectives and results, as well as how they interpret and deduce meaning from contextual elements including tone, gesture, and social conventions (Dey, 2023). Another aspect of pragmatics is the study of how language is employed to achieve social objectives like rapport-building and dominance assertion. Politeness strategies, including using indirect language while making requests, are used to accomplish these social objectives (Brown & Levinson, 1987).

2.4.1 Politeness Principles

Politeness is vital for successful global cooperation, particularly in achieving the SDGs.

It promotes a positive approach to negotiating sustainable development goals by creating a cooperative environment in which varied interests can be met. (Dodds, Donoghue, & Leiva Roesch, 2016). According to Thomas (1995), politeness is speaking and acting in a way that considers the listeners' needs and feelings. It includes a cooperative attitude throughout the conversation. Speakers use politeness strategies to maintain harmony among them. In pragmatics, the concept of politeness is essential, Green (1996) maintains that politeness is "whatever means are employed to display consideration for one's addressee's feelings (or face) regardless of the social distance between the speaker and the addressee "(p. 151).

Politeness influences strategies for communication that can improve international collaboration. Communicators may establish comfortable surroundings, reduce misunderstandings, and develop beneficial interactions by utilizing eco-pragmatic methods such as tact, generosity, and sympathy. This harmonic connection is critical for collaborative efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals because it promotes mutual respect and understanding, resulting in more effective and successful collaborations across varied cultural contexts(Pasternak,2019).

Politeness is well recognized as an important indicator of language behavior. According to Yang et al. (2006), politeness in conversation involves more than merely making one's words appear "nicer". It reflects the relationship between the interlocutors. Moreover, people respond differently in online compared to face-to-face interactions. The term "netiquette," a combination of "network" and "etiquette," emphasizes the need to maintain politeness when communicating online (Sjöström, Ågerfalk, & Hevner,2017). Therefore, respectful and polite communication might improve state collaboration, ultimately leading to more successful diplomatic efforts to handle transnational concerns and promote International interaction (Sheikh, n.d.).

2.4.2 Presupposition

According to Beaver (1996), presuppositions are a form of pragmatic inference, assumption, or belief that is implicitly connected to a pronouncement of a certain state of events in the world. To be suitable in the context, presuppositions must be understood by both the speaker and the addressee. A lot of things in interactions are assumed or taken for granted (Hudson, 2000).

According to Yule (1996), presupposition is the relationship between two statements. In the sentences "Marry's dog is cute" and "Marry's dog isn't cute," both words imply that Marry has a dog. This is known as consistency under negation. Presupposition remains valid throughout interrogation, suspension, and denial. The presupposition is distinct from the implication in that it may be negated. When we communicate, we utilize presuppositions for things that both the speaker and the audience are aware of. The question, 'Have you stopped smoking?' implies that the listener smokes. The dynamics of the interpretation process heavily impact the research of presupposition (Birner, 2013). Thus, presuppositions establish narratives and norms in development cooperation, impacting stakeholder engagement. Combining these different assumptions is critical for encouraging successful collaboration among many different parties and, eventually, improving the accomplishment of the SDGs (Chaturvedi et al., 2021).

3. Methodology

Qualitative research is used in this study to investigate the data in a more holistic way in the light of social and political contexts. The data selection technique relies on cooperative and harmonious relationships. In other words, the researchers consider texts that comprise terminology that meet the need for sustainable or diplomatic communication, which has a good impact on achieving the SDGs. News, from May 19 to July 2024, related to the death of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi are gathered from Chinese and Russian online newspapers, namely- China Daily and The Moscow Times. The researchers propose that these newspapers write positively and diplomatically because of their political and economic alliances that link Iran to China and Russia. Four reports are chosen for the sake of analysis and the researchers take into consideration that adding more reports, will not provide further new information considering that the criteria of saturation is achieved and they are sufficient to meet the aim of the study. It is worth mentioning that a lot of such statements on Facebook, Twitter, and WhatsApp are published, but the researchers mostly rely on newspaper websites whose sources can be independently or electronically verified.

3.1 Theoretical Framework

For the purpose of achieving the aims of the current study, Leech's (1983) Theory of Politeness and Yule’s (1996) Theory of presupposition are adopted as the main theories for analysis. Leech's theory can be applied to clarify politeness in any type of communicative engagement in Eastern languages such as Chinese, Japanese, and Korean, as well as Western languages like English. Despite its perceived lack of universality, politeness can still be applied to people of many cultures and languages (Odebunmi, 2005). Thus, the theory is significant for the current study because it focuses on how language plays a pivotal role in

identifying the meanings in social and political contexts in media discourse. As well, it is appropriate with the selected data which include a variety of online communication from different cultures. Whereas, presuppositional theory is fundamental in uncovering the meanings that are not directly stated in these selected data. The examination of this theory is based on the inherent meanings of linguistic words or phrases which are useful to explore linguistic sustainability. Therefore, the two models effectively sum up the main ideas of the study. The sixth politeness maxims and their sub-maxims that Leech (1983) identifies are as follows:

1. Tact maxim: (a) Minimize cost to other (b) Maximize benefit to other.

2. Generosity maxim: (a) minimize benefit to self (b) maximize cost to self.

3. Approbation maxim: (a) minimize dispraise of others(b) maximize praise of others.

4. Modesty maxim: (a) minimize praise of self (b) maximize dispraise of self.

5. Agreement maxim: (a) minimize disagreement between self and others (b) maximize agreement between self and others.

6. Sympathy maxim: (a) minimize antipathy between self and others (b) maximize sympathy between self and others.

Yule (1996) identifies six various types of presuppositions, which are indicators of potential presupposition. Potential presupposition is commonly associated with the use of language patterns (words, phrases, structure). The following types are:

1. Existential Presupposition: This kind of presupposition is assumed to exist in any definite noun phrase as well as in the possessive construction.

2. Factive Presupposition: Several verbs, including realize, know, aware, be, and regret, can be used to identify this kind of presupposition, which is accurate and factual.

3. Lexical Presupposition: It occurs when a term is used and its asserted meaning is typically interpreted assuming that another (non-asserted) meaning is also understood. Using particular lexical presuppositions such as again, start, and stop might help identify this.

4. Structural Presupposition: This kind is linked to the application of specific sentence structures that have been examined and presumed to be true.

5. Non-Factive Presupposition: This kind is associated with English verbs like "dream," "pretend," and "imagine," and it is considered not to be true.

6. Counterfactual Presupposition: This type of presupposition is not only incorrect, but it is also in contradiction to reality.

4. Data Analysis

In order to present an organized investigation of the study, the two Chinese reports will be analysed first, then the two Russian ones will be on the second level.

Extract 1

"Xi also said the Chinese government and Chinese people highly value the country's traditional friendship with Iran, while expressing hope that the China-Iran comprehensive strategic partnership will continue to be consolidated and developed with joint efforts from both sides "

(https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202405/20/WS664b70e1a31082fc043c823b.html)

The excerpt above is extracted from the Chinese newspaper on May 20, 2024, by journalist Mike Gu. Chinese President Xi Jinping's diplomatic response to Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi's demise is the primary theme of this excerpt. The statement emphasizes that China is committed to maintaining long-term dual relations with Iran. The president adheres to the tact maxim, which emphasizes reducing imposition and increasing usefulness to those who are interested in his statement. The language used is intelligent, and respectful, without any insulting or attacking depictions of the deceased or the Iranian government. Xi's language reflects a strong and cooperative strategic alliance that takes Iran's stability into account. Thus, it can be deduced that Xi's speech adheres to the politeness principle when communicating by refraining from using rude language, which gives the impression that the hearers' self-image remains unharmed and fosters ongoing tactical social and economic intimate connections.

In terms of presupposition, the statement contains two existential phrases. The phrase **"the country's traditional friendship with Iran"** presupposes that the two nations have had long-standing diplomatic connections. These relationships are built on mutual collaboration and interests. This reflects the long history of cooperative engagements in many aspects, notably the term "tradition," which underlines the already existing relationship between China and Iran. The phrase "**the China-Iran comprehensive strategic partnership**" assumes the presence of economic, political, and social cooperation. The phrase emphasizes the coordinated and structured alliance, stressing the two nations' collaborative efforts.

Extract 2

"The Iranian government is not linking the crash to hostile forces at home or abroad. Therefore, Raisi's unfortunate and untimely death will not have a major impact on the situation in the Middle East. This is just an internal political issue in Iran because the supreme leader has a predominant role in policy formulation. And given Iran's current domestic politics, the next president will also come from the conservative side. So Iran's government will maintain its national policy in the near future ".

(https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202405/20/WS664b0724a31082fc043c8195.html)

The text is written by Wang Lei on May 20, 2024, for the China Daily Newspaper. It provides an analysis of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi's death. It offers an explanation of the Iranian announcements on the accident and the extent of this event on the future of Iran. The writer in this utterance keeps away the external interference and any speculation of the cause of the event in order not to hype up information that might increase the crisis and leave bad

sequences on the region. The statement meets with the agreement maxim which confesses that Iran is unlikely to alter the previous task of establishing a safe and stable regional security environment that supports its economic development through both gentle and firm measures, regardless of whether or whatever political class takes power. Therefore, the assertion that the "**Iranian government will maintain its national policy**" is supported by China's affirmation that Iran has significant strategic ties with other countries and is not a weak state. As a result, the writer rejects any assertion that portrays Iran as a helpless nation incapable of managing its issues.

Regarding presupposition, the verb in the statement "**Iran's government will maintain its national policy in the near future**" presupposes that the Iranian government is in the process of continuing its international policies, it is a lexical type. This shows that the current crisis will not jeopardize stability and consistency, underlining the importance of good leadership in the future to ensure ongoing growth.

Extract 3

"President Vladimir Putin on Monday expressed his condolences over the death of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, who was killed in a helicopter crash over the weekend.

"Sayyid Ibrahim Raisi was an outstanding politician whose whole life was devoted to serving [his] country," read a statement published on the Kremlin's website."As a true friend of Russia, he made an invaluable personal contribution to the development of good-neighborly relations between our countries, and made great efforts to bring them to the level of strategic partnership".(https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2024/05/20/putin-calls-irans-raisi-true-friend-of-russia-offers-condolensces-over-death-a85169)

The Moscow Times newspaper released this assertion on May 20, 2024. It represents Russian President Vladimir Putin's formal reaction to the Iranian president's death in a helicopter accident. It reveals Raisi's important contributions to the development and reinforcement of his nation on many fronts. Putin's words are consistent with the approbation maxim, which emphasizes limiting criticism and maximizing praise for the president. Putin's declaration that "**Raisi was an outstanding politician**" ensures the late president's major impact on the achievements, which include advancing Iran's standing in the global community, fostering positive relationships in the international system, increasing integration and solidifying ties of friendship and affection within the region, and supporting the establishment of justice at the regional and global levels. Furthermore, the description of Raisi's efforts toward creating a "**strategic partnership**" shows that Russia and Iran will continue their mutually beneficial collaboration. Therefore, by expressing respect, gratitude, and continued cooperation to strengthen a peaceful and constructive way while minimizing unwelcome statements about the deceased, the statement integrates the approbation maxim.

The factive presupposition is triggered by the use of the word "**made**" twice. The verb presumes the real contributions that are outlined and accepted. It is assumed that the Iranian president was experienced during his administration, and focused on keeping his nation moving forward by establishing diplomatic connections with adjacent countries. This

suggests that Raisi's contribution to diplomacy was significant and crucial in achieving his country's long-term goals.

Extract 4

"No matter how unexpected the death of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash on May 19, it's unlikely to change the direction of Iranian politics in coming years, including the Russia-Iran relationship. The president is, after all, only the second most powerful person in the Iranian system (after the country's supreme leader), and Iran is not a personal dictatorship. Both domestic and foreign policy are developed by a range of institutions and individuals. The nature of the Russia-Iran relationship is such that it is very difficult for even top officials to alter its direction ".

(https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2024/06/03/president-raisis-death-shows-the-russia-iran-partnership-is-inescapable-a85306)

The text in question is extracted from The Moscow Times newspaper on June 3, 2024, and was written by Nikita Smagin. The remarks underline the point that the Iranian regime and Iran's foreign policy toward other nations are unaffected by the sudden demise of the Iranian president. The statement adheres to the agreement and tact maxims. The tact maxim is used by portraying Raisi's death as a surprise occurrence and avoiding or minimizing any disturbance. By using populist rhetoric to minimize criticism and increase positive mention of Iran's resilience to this crisis, the hearers' self-image is not harmed in this instance. The journalist disregards direct criticism, while maintaining the stability of institutions, by declaring that "**Iran is not a personal dictatorship**." The agreement maxim is used by acknowledging that the Iranian-Russian cooperation will endure in accordance with international viewpoints and the upkeep of cooperative relationships. Additionally, the statement that "**it is very difficult for even top officials to alter its direction**" subtly acknowledges that Iran is powerful enough to maintain relationships without any influential hands attempting to bring down them. Thus, the language creates an agreeable and tactful examination of status by reflecting alliance, politeness, and stability with gorgeous narratives.

The lexical presupposition is demonstrated by the usage of "**alter**" in the phrase "**it is very difficult for even top officials to change its direction**". The word assumes that Russia and Iran have formed links, which might involve political and economic cooperation. This underscores the idea that Iran's policies and ties with Russia are longstanding and difficult to modify in the future.

5. Findings of the Study

Based on the results of the analysis, the four reports from the two newspapers are consistently polite in their language use. They have adhered to the rules of tolerance and promoted helpful interaction. In keeping with the tact maxim, the first extract has neatly and respectfully underlined China's support for the Iranian leadership. According to the second Chinese excerpt, the strong Iranian nation by the organized authority remains unaffected by

the death of its president and stands in line with the maxim of agreement. The compliment that Putin follows in the third Russian report shows the need for continued cooperation and recognises Raisi's efforts during his time as president. The last excerpt states that Iran's security and stability is not influenced by external or internal factors.

Regarding the findings of presupposition according to Yule's theory in 1996, the four reports have chosen a professional and diplomatic tone, reinforcing the image of strong collaboration that exists between these nations. The study found that Iran and China have mutual and historical interests through the employment of existential presuppositions as well as lexical ones by defending Iran's stability, which will not be compromised during this critical period. Russian reports have also used a diplomatic approach, using linguistic and factual presuppositions. The data examination has focused on the valuable contributions made by the president while he was alive, as well as the fact that the Iranian government is not fragile or readily altered, but rather quite consistent and rigorous in its treatment of foreign governments. Overall, the Chinese and Russian reports have maintained a long-standing diplomatic relationship, avoiding a frontal confrontation. The researchers have illustrated the social and historical impacts that journalists' or global leaders' kind remarks toward their supporters or readers, not just for the individuals involved but also for society as a whole. This is because when official newspapers report polite expressions and presupposed messages, they have the capacity to reflect diplomatic relations, sympathy, and peace among those who endorse them, which in turn minimizes anger or conflict. It has been observed that the reports have employed official terminology through indications such as "**traditional friendship**," which shows an acceptable perspective rather than a critical posture towards the event. Euphemistic terms like "**invaluable contribution** and the word maintain" highlight the softening of political reality in order to sustain good narratives. Thus, all reports have stressed how the president's contributions to the nation's political and foreign policy history were significant, impactful, and long-lasting.

6. Conclusion

Based on the results of the analysis, it is concluded that the Chinese and Russian reports on the death of the Iranian president consistently use respectful and diplomatic language and adhere to the tactics of tolerance and mutual contact. It is also noted that these reports emphasise stability and cooperation and reinforce the Iranian leadership while avoiding a critical or confrontational tone. In addition, the researchers have found that presuppositional and euphemistic language is used to emphasise international relations and positively portray the late president's efforts.

Polite language was found to be crucial in developing and maintaining strategic diplomatic communication to promote long-term communicative agreement necessary for regional development, growth and stability. By using professional language, the study contributes to a comprehensive strategy for minimising dissent and political engagement and demonstrates that language can be used as a powerful tool of persuasion and peacemaking in global affairs. The journalists adhered to the official etiquette, which shows a safe and cautious representation of the Iranian government. The results of this study are a helpful

reference and a complementary source of information for the application of pragmatic theory, especially in relation to politeness rules and types of presuppositions.

7. Recommendation

The study recommends that in order to accomplish diplomatic and cooperative communication which fosters sustainable development, journalists should use polite and respectful language when speaking at Raisi's death or at any events that bring people together and address the future of a country.

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