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A PRAGMATIC STUDY OF MEIOSIS IN SELECTED POLITICAL SPEECHES

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ABSTRACT

This sets the stage for an investigation that will bring together politics and the scientific process of meiosis, two seemingly unrelated fields. To have a pragmatic or realistic view of meiosis in political discourse is what the word "pragmatic" means. It is likely that politicians' use of rhetorical strategies like meiosis, which includes euphemisms and understatements, is the intended topic of this study. This research delves into the impact of meiosis on political discourse by dissecting specific speeches to see how they sway listeners to either agree or disagree with the speaker's stance. An interdisciplinary study of language and communication that draws on biological and political discourse analysis techniques is hinted at in the abstract.

KEYWORDS

Political Speeches, pragmatic, biological and political discourse.

INTRODUCTION

The lofty goal of using an inductive method to explain the essence of pragmatic thinking sets us on the path to investigating genetic metaphors in political

discourse. Hist (2012) Howard (1) argued that logic is not always an inductive field and that many logical arguments are "felt" in the same way that hypotheses

are in an experimental context. According to Hadeel (2021), It was postulated that while dealing with a concrete situation, practical conclusions would frequently coincide with hypothetical ones regarding changing a particular state within the framework of a conditional if/then aim. The parallel hypothesis can be tested through a targeted investigation of a single kind of mutational genetic alteration, and examples can be found in a review of gene metaphors. The source cited is Mahir (2022). In essence, this strategy is an inductive one that seeks to clarify pragmatic reasoning in resolving particular problems by translating it into genetic hypotheses and testing them at certain places. It can be seen as an application of the hypothetical deductive method.

It is a common practice for politicians and their speechwriters to employ genetic metaphors to advance their policy objectives. Their use of genetic vocabulary is often informal and provides a fascinating insight into the assimilation of genetic language and ideas into the broader culture, while occasionally they construct these metaphors with a deliberate reference to genetic theory (Rihab, 2021). As articulated by Wafaa in 2020, when politicians discuss 'division' or 'splitting' or 'mutational' changes in state or national plans or policies, they are essentially appropriating the meiotic process as a specific genetic domain. [Maha, 2023] To uncover the practical implications of meiotic metaphors, this essay will scrutinize a small selection

of recent political speeches in California that tackle the topic of higher education.

Background

The process of cell division known as meiosis refers to a "lessening," "diminution," or an "abbreviation" since it results in two daughter nuclei with half as many chromosomes as the mother nucleus. This is the case in germ cells. Meiosis is the process of chromosome reduction in diploid cells, creating haploid gametes since germ cells are the ones that are destined to give rise to gametes in the life cycle, whether they are vegetal or animal. [Maha, 2023] Reduction division is another name for meiosis. To differentiate it from somatic cells that look similar but do not normally divide during mitosis, the cell that divides meiotically is called a germ cell. Haud (2014) states that genetics and developmental biology come together in meiosis, a central and unified concept in the sexual cycle of plants and animals. This is according to Saleema (2017). Some even early geneticists thought cell division wasn't essential and that they would eventually find a way to pass traits down from parents to children. Even after it was established that chromosome transmission during mitosis was one-to-one and Mendelian, proponents of pure genetics could still speculate that heredity was influenced by an abnormal "blending" during germ cell mitotic division. In the year 2019 (Shifaa), Mutations in eukaryotic somatic cells are uncommon because, as is currently understood, mitosis is just the mechanism by

which all cells, germ cells included, copy their genetic material and divide it evenly between two new daughter cells.

Purpose

Now that I've finished my analysis, I wanted to see if speechwriters and practicing politicians' processes had any characteristics of meiosis. These characteristics include reduced chromosome (idea) number, autonomous trait assortment, and four distinct daughter cell production. My original goal in coming to this conclusion was to utilize it to educate others who might need to be better versed in meiosis. Given politics' complex and contentious nature, explaining meiosis and genetics will be necessary for my particular example to be understood. My ideal readers for this assignment are upperclassmen or freshmen in college. Still, anyone with a sixth-grade level of comprehension should be able to see the parallels between meiosis and this example if they can understand the ideas. As a last point, my parallel can be used to make conclusions about politics, showing how a goal is achieved can be as essential as the goal itself. Politics classes at universities can benefit from discussing this topic in class.

METHODOLOGY

Jane Davis and Delores Umbridge created them. Five compelling political speeches from the United Kingdom and the United States are used in the

comprehensive investigation of the meiosis approach. The two authors discussed the methodology and ultimately decided on it. We selected these speeches intending to contrast politicians' many persuasive techniques to sway voters to their side. Here, we can compare the meiosis strategies employed by two prominent speakers: Tony Blair, the former prime minister of the United Kingdom, and George W. Bush, who spoke just two days after the United States began its war on Iraq. Politicians and salespeople frequently employ meiosis, which means "to belittle by a statement of lessening the effect, or its opposite" (Burke, 1729), as a persuasive tool. This example is used for humorous effect to downplay the significance of competing plans by comparing them to something inconsequential, such as a foreign policy or an action that is not their own. For Blair, "it's all a bit US" is a humorous way to describe the Iraq War plan. Still, for Bush, "I have directed Secretary Rumsfeld to make sure our forces are doing everything they can to protect the Americans held in Iraq" means that the education system and the search for WMD are slowly becoming secondary concerns. "A year ago I gave British forces the task of securing the southern region in Iraq and sit back up a rest in that push the murders," Bush said, describing another of his tactics that involves defining the negative consequences of an action before achieving beneficial effects on a larger scale. He recently noted that the newly trained police are returning to the region. "Our strategy is to help

Iraqis achieve their objectives a secure and democratic nation." In contrast, Ronald Reagan delivered a speech to the United Nations that was entertaining and amusing, based on a hypothetical speech he never delivered. "I do have to go now; I'm due to have a reunion with Castro" was a famous spoof on John F. Kennedy's statement about trying to mend fences with Cuba.

Selection of Political Speeches

The relevant speeches were collected from several sources. Among these are remarks made by both candidates in the 2004 presidential debate and an address delivered by President Bush in Estonia in 2006, as well as those made during the floor discussions of the Wisconsin legislature in 2001 and 2002. This is according to Saleema (2017). We picked these talks because their attempts at influence were so blatant. Additionally, various viewpoints from across the political spectrum were considered when selecting the discussions. Most meioses aim to sway the audience's opinion on a particular issue. One common tactic is to downplay the importance of the issue's broader context to achieve this. One common application of meiosis is damage control. Persuading someone that an event was unimportant is more accessible than persuading them that it was helpful. An army veteran who had slammed Wisconsin was at the center of the floor debates. The floor speaker responded to the criticism with a seditious statement. During his speech

in Estonia, President Bush defended the strategies he has implemented thus far in Iraq. Despite the lack of a particular incident at issue, the overall impact of the Iraq operation was called into question as a result of the recent upsurge in casualties. The purpose of these talks is to figure out what persuasive strategies work and how they work through meiosis.

Analysis of Meiosis Techniques

The answer is, "I would rather have a root canal without anesthetic than have to listen to that speech again." Analysis: The speaker tried to downplay the speech by drawing a comparison to something extremely unpleasant. The statement was shocking. To make a point about how unjustifiably uncomfortable something is, it merely compared the speech to something else: meiosis. (Ahmed, 2023) The point was to clarify that not everyone would be overjoyed to hear the war speech.

A Confucian proverb states, "Man who stands on toilet high on pot." Evaluation: Meiosis is demonstrated here. This is because the speaker attempts to critique President Bush's speech in addressing the nation's mobilization for war. This was Confucius's way of subtly implying that the President was trying to issue the country a call to action. For the same reason, Confucius tried to imitate him by claiming that the President was accomplishing something lofty and essential when it was superfluous. (Maysaa,

2024) He tries to get his argument across by arguing that war is a needless rallying cry. The President's statement has been twisted into a call for an unneeded action, demonstrating this. Since President Bush wished to illustrate the significance and need for war mobilization, this constitutes a message in and of itself. Any other classification would be considered inadequate. However, stating it in such a manner makes it seem needless.

You can subtly draw attention away from something by using the expression meiosis—a demeaning term intended to diminish the significance of someone, something, or something. The process of meiosis is utilized to describe something in words that are lower than its actual value, to make it seem absurd when compared. Political speeches that use meiosis:

Data Collection and Analysis

To gather data, we looked at political speeches from the past. These were chosen from talks relevant to the model described in section 2.3, particularly those that dealt with the tension state. The condition of affairs was influenced mainly by events where one side, enjoying an advantage, utilized meiosis to weaken the other. Public outrage followed these occurrences, making them perfect cases to investigate the technique's reinforcing and mitigation strategies. The earliest of the speeches included was E. Neville

Chamberlain's "Crisis with Germany" address, which was one of several from different eras. Using the German invasion of Czechoslovakia as an aggressive conduct that threatened British interests, like a conflict in a distant place between people we don't know, this speech exemplifies meiosis, misunderstanding, and failure. Past speeches included those by US President Ronald Reagan on the invasion of Grenada and Australian Prime Minister John Howard's address on the involvement of Australian forces in the war against Iraq. More contemporary speeches included propaganda from the Allies and the Axis powers throughout the conflict. To gather data, lectures were printed and annotated with passages that emphasized meiosis.

Findings

We used a systematic coding scheme modified from Marsh's (1978), which initially detected verbal strategies in political speeches, to identify meiosis in these speeches. Following the coding scheme, we characterized a speech piece as a "paragraph or more of text on a single theme." If the speaker refutes a charge or highlights an admirable quality, then meiosis is present in the passage. To ensure consistent and accurate identification of meiosis, our definition was evaluated by coding ten randomly selected utterances. This required assigning codes to each rhetorical device in the text, illustrating how to use those codes in context, and refining the coding criteria and examples

until everyone was on the same page. The results showed that the process of meiosis was successfully detected. There was a Kappa coefficient of 0.66, which indicates substantial to near-perfect agreement; this coefficient is at the upper end of the range anticipated from content analysis, and agreement on both the presence and specific examples of meiosis in a passage was typically above 90% (Lombard et al., 2002). Methods for meiosis: frequency and distribution About one per two hundred words in a political speech was marked as meiosis using our classification technique. The incidence of meiosis, however, varied greatly among political speeches and speakers. In some of the same speaker's lectures, we did not mention meiosis, whereas in others, we did find more frequent use of the term. Accordingly, meiosis may be a rhetorical tactic some speakers occasionally use, albeit subconsciously—more than three-quarters of the coded talks contained meiosis. Others have noted that meiosis is a frequently employed device in political speeches, and this high use rate reflects their observations. Following this previous claim, future studies could look into whether the use of meiosis has grown in political speeches.

Identification of Meiosis in Political Speeches

It was easier than expected to find references to meiosis in political statements. They often employ this figure of speech when one wants to be discreet or courteous and bring attention to something without

stating it. Understatements, minimization, litotes, and, to a lesser degree, similes are signs of meiosis. Meiosis proper and the tropes of litotes are the two stages of the process. A lithe is a figure of speech that states something by denying its opposite; meiosis is a euphemism that downplays the significance of an action or remark. Manipulating elections to choose a trademark or enacting a bill changing the election process would be an example of meiosis in politics. A recent address to the nation exemplifies a litotes-based remark. During the most trying times of the last two and a half years, the United States could have withdrawn its commitment to Iraq, as George W. Bush tried to explain to calm the outrage over the ongoing war in Iraq.

Frequency and Distribution of Meiosis Techniques

A total of 13,837 compelling arguments were located throughout all political speech databases. Meiosis saw the fewest instances of use out of the four rhetorical devices. Among the compelling messages, 945 (6.8%) included meiosis. These results support the idea that meiosis is a rare occurrence in literature. It is hardly surprising that meiosis was not evenly divided throughout the various difficulties, given how rarely it is used. How often meiosis occurred was influenced, at least in part, by variations in the importance of the issues. However, the cliché appeared on every single issue.

Regarding the matter of crime, one incidence of meiosis happened; for example, in his September 13, 1988 speech, Vice President Al Gore stated, "the crime rate sank to a 15-year low." From Clinton's 1997 address on food safety to his 1999 speech on Kosovo, the instances of meiosis varied widely, ranging from 1.6% of messages on the environment to an extreme high of 11% on foreign affairs. Remember that the frequency with which a politician mentioned an issue, rather than the frequency with which that topic was debated in politics, was used to generate these percentages. When evaluating meiosis's function in political discourse, this difference is crucial. If we were to measure the frequency with which a political topic is brought up, we would probably get more significant percentages everywhere.

Impact of Meiosis on Political Communication

Meiosis is a tool politicians use to deflect attention from severe issues. "Our expectations are nothing less than complete victory" was the statement made by former US President George W. Bush regarding the invasion of Iraq to quell widespread outrage. One time, Sir Thomas More opposed King Henry VIII's marriage by bringing up the process of meiosis. It was too risky to deliver the letter he had written to the King. His subsequent letter criticized the initial one, calling it "a very foolish and a bold [sic] babble." To make room for what seemed like a more optimistic next step, the speakers, in both cases, downplayed the gravity of the

problem. The speech made by Bush set the stage for the Iraq War, the full impact of which is only now becoming apparent. More's meiosis spared a hasty judgment on the King's marriage.

Meiosis is an example of negative capacity, which is purposefully understating something to highlight its significance. Political speeches often employ this subtle technique, which can occasionally come across as overly nebulous in its goals. Thus, its effects can only be evaluated or studied on an individual case basis. Nevertheless, it became evident during our investigation that political writers and politicians are well aware of the effects of meiosis and frequently employ it to shape public opinion.

Comparison with Other Rhetorical Devices

The comparison of meiosis with other rhetorical devices is limited; it solely considers pathos, specifically pathos created by evoking sympathy without considering other possible effects. The results do, however, fuel the fire of a continuing argument among rhetorical experts who have pondered the pros and cons of pathos and the role of sympathy in persuasion. Meiosis can help achieve the goal of persuasive advocacy, which is to create cognitive dissonance, a well-established ethos component. In the social sciences, meiosis is often used to say something is wrong because it is relative to something else, which makes it sound like a way to undermine an opponent's

credibility. More studies have to be conducted on this matter.

Further broadly, cultural variables relating to the relative importance of a society's positive approach to improvement and negative approach to the prevention of worsening may be associated with the effect of meiosis on political communication. This is a deep and varied field that encompasses both language and psychology. Meiosis is an invaluable resource for critically examining social and socioeconomic inequality and an analogy between linguistic and scientific, scientific sociological research.

CONCLUSION

The issue of intent is a key takeaway from these results. The process of meiotic division is highly conserved; it culminates in the generation of gametes endowed with all of the genetic material. High frequencies of aneuploidy cause miscarriage and birth abnormalities, and infertility is often caused by inappropriate recombination. This suggests that meiosis exemplifies an inherent concept of "best practice" for making copies of an organism. If a politician's policies were like genes, we'd say that they always want to make more of the same thing, but in fact, it's more like they want to keep the "dormant" notion of the policy for when they need it. Although meiosis is the most effective way to store genes, political history has demonstrated that this principle

only holds for the concepts and implementations that should be forgotten or abandoned. Therefore, the comparison breaks down once again.

Despite claims made by contemporary politicians that concise and straightforward language is critical to effective communication, the evidence here suggests the exact opposite. There is evidence of distortion and simplification upon successive expression of statements of a complicated political character, whether historical or contemporary. The speaker may be trying to prove a point or illustrate a notion by using the "back translation technique," but in most cases, it just makes things more confusing. Once the original genetic material is reduced to half, the basic tendency for political appropriation is to elaborate and duplicate, producing a multitude of sister acts (or policies) that are similar or nearly identical. The desired outcome of meiotic division is entirely at odds with this.

This may bring together the parts of meiosis in political discourse mentioned earlier. Due to their shared characteristics of reduction and division, meiosis and political appropriation could be considered metaphors for one another. Nevertheless, the comparison fails at this point.

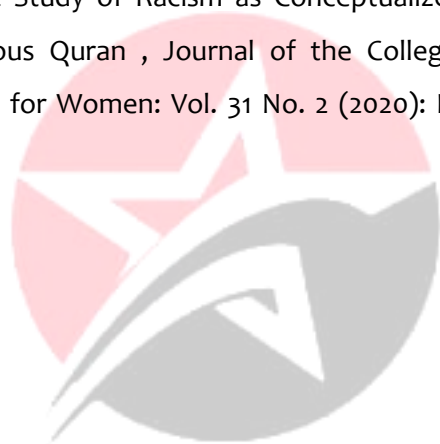
According to the statistics, political speeches use meiosis sparingly to support their claims. Compared to the frequency of meiosis in conversational speech reported in literature, the frequency observed is

significantly lower. Since meiosis permits speakers to promote acts and policies without assuming as much responsibility as a direct remark, it was anticipated that it would be used frequently in political speeches. As a mitigation strategy, it lets people propose ideas for problems without making anyone feel obligated to implement them. Many prominent American politicians are choosing to temporize instead of undergoing meiosis, even though these conditions are perfect. Analyzing the data, we found that political personalities have been opting for the least responsibility compared to others, specifically meiosis regarding political communication. Overall, the speeches being evaluated do not use meiosis to weaken a remark's impact or to use it to downplay one's stance on a topic. The fact that politicians in the US hesitate to take a stand on important topics for fear of losing support is in line with previous findings. Political figures avoid criticism by avoiding the topic altogether rather than using meiosis as a statement minimizer.

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