

**AN ANALYSIS OF RHETORICAL DEVICES IN GEORGE W.  
BUSH'S SPEECH  
THESIS**



**BY:  
FREIDO HANAFI  
REG. NUMBER: A03217021**

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
FACULTY OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES  
UIN SUNAN AMPEL SURABAYA  
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Name : Freido Hanafi  
NIM : A03217021  
Department : English  
Faculty : Arts and Humanities  
University : UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya

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**AN ANALYSIS OF RHETORICAL DEVICES IN GEORGE W. BUSH'S  
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By:

**FREIDO HANAFI**

Reg. Number: A03217021

Approved to be examined by the Board of Examiners, English Department,  
Faculty of Arts and Humanities, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya

Gresik, November 8<sup>th</sup> 2021

Thesis Advisor



**Dr. H. Mohammad Kurjum, M. Ag.**

**NIP. 196909251994031002**

Acknowledged by:

The Head of English Department



**Dr. WahyuKusumajanti, M.Hum.**

**NIP. 197002051999032002**

## EXAMINER SHEET

This thesis of Freido Hanafi (Reg. Number: A03217021) has been approved and accepted by the Board of Examiners, English Department, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya on

The Board of Examiners are:

Examiner 1



**Dr. H. Mohammad Kurjum, M. Ag**

**NIP. 196909251994031002**

Examiner 2



**Prof. Dr. Zuliati Rohmah, M.pd**

**NIP. 197303032000032001**

Examiner 3



**Dr. A. Dzo'ul Milal, M.pd**

**NIP. 196005152000031002**

Examiner 4




**Suhandoko, M.pd**

**NIP. 198905282018011002**

Acknowledged by:

The Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities  
UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya



  
**Agus Aditoni, M.Ag**  
**NIP. 196210021992031001**



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E-Mail: perpus@uinsby.ac.id

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Nama : Freido Hanafi  
NIM : A03217021  
Fakultas/Jurusan : Adab dan Humaniora / Sastra Inggris  
E-mail address : edohanafi01@gmail.com

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affects the listener listening to the concept of speech. Many people use the address for a specific purpose. There are many contexts in speech, for example, politics.

A political speech expresses one's opinion about a problem and comments and criticism of the government. A politician uses speech as a tool to gain support in their career. The speech convinced the audience that politics was getting their attention. Many politicians are experts in giving a speech, but in this current study, the researcher uses speech by George W. Bush. Because he is firm, wise, and a good speaker, it has its attraction and significantly impacts listeners. In addition, through his speech, he has strength in the social environment as President. In this opportunity, rhetoric will support the speaker to guide their speech.

King (2010, p. 41) said that rhetoric is persuasive art in language, which is very helpful in building an understanding of implicit meaning. From that quotation can be simplified, rhetoric is a technique language uses to persuade the hearer to agree with the speaker's argumentation. The language persuasion that influences the listener to believe the concept of the speaker will allow the speaker to explain the way the speaker can do it, either through their speech technique or the vocabulary that the speaker can use while speaking. Therefore, the speaker should consider using contextual words while speaking in front of an audience.

Presently, rhetoric has been a significant concern since it is helpful while delivering argumentation. Griffin (2003, p. 324) said that rhetoric could see the available means of persuasion. It emphasizes the use of words to get more attention from the listener. Another definition stated by Mailloux (1989) is that

rhetoric is the political effectiveness of tropes and arguments in culture. Based on those definitions, rhetoric is helpful for the speaker in giving their argumentation or delivering a message. In ordering the news, the speaker can use rhetoric as well as possible to make it easier for them to provide the purpose of their message, and the listener can believe it.

Rhetoric defines into several categories, including rhetorical devices, rhetorical techniques, and rhetorical figures. In this case, the researcher is interested in rhetorical devices. Speech or debate analysis is where rhetorical devices are usually focused or applied. Corbett (1965, p.430) said rhetorical devices use to achieve a rhetoric goal. It means that rhetorical devices use to effectively convey their thoughts or feelings to the listener to persuade and understand the purpose of the topic. In this study, the researcher explores rhetorical devices illustrated by Jones and Peccei (2004). using CDA approach. The research uses this theory as the major analysis because this theory is briefer, but it can cover all the data.

They provide the theory in five types: metaphor, euphemism, the rule of three, parallelism, and pronouns. This theory explores rhetorical devices in critical discourse analysis and sees how rhetorical devices builds into speech. The researcher uses critical discourse analysis to support this research to explain further how rhetorical devices appear in the speech. Instead of using words produced by the speaker, the researcher also needs to know the concept of speech. Because of this, the researcher uses a critical discourse analysis approach in this research.

The researcher found some previous studies related to this topic. First, a survey conducted by Fengjie, Jia & Yingying (2016) used Obama's public speech as the research data. The researcher found several most rhetorical devices in his speeches, according to the data. Similarly, Jie, Jia, and Yingying (2016) conducted about speech, Gouldiana, Juniardi, Utomo (2017) analyzed Hillary Clinton's speech. This investigation focuses on the rhetorical devices used and their perspective function. The researchers discovered thirteen rhetorical devices applied in the speech. Another researcher that conducts speech analysis on the data is Nugraha (2017).

He used George W. Bush's speech about Address to Nation 9/11. The results he found 14 conceptual meaning, 3 connotative meaning, 11 affective meaning, and 2 thematic meaning in the speech. Zahra (2013) analyzed the rhetorical devices of Barack Obama's speeches in the United States Presidential Election 2012. From this research, she found four intentions in understanding the hidden meaning of words. Those are portraying Obama positively, contrasting his character, showing intimacy, power, unity, and respect, and the last is the changing pronoun use. Hanim (2016) used Glenn Beck's speech as the data source. She used the descriptive qualitative method in conducting the research. The results she found 19 rhetorical devices.

Zulkifli, Ariffin (2019) conducted the fifth previous study. The researchers analyzed rhetorical devices and intertextuality in projecting the branding image of promotional discourse. They used advertisements as data. The findings of this research are the functions of rhetorical devices in creating impactful advertorials

as utilized by the three fast-food chains (KFC, McDonald's, and Texas) in promoting their product. Next is Ditaya (2018). She used beauty advertisements as the data, and the research aims at the types of rhetorical devices in advertisement headlines. The researcher used the qualitative method in her study. In her research, she found 57 advertisement headlines that used rhetorical devices.

On the other hand, Permadi (2014) uses tourism advertisement text in Indonesia and America. He found two rhetorical patterns, three perspectives on language tourism, and three persuasive strategies in his research. Baqir (2015) focused on rhetorical figures used in the iPhone 6 launch advertisements and unpacked Samsung Galaxy S6. The researcher compared the two languages of ads in the rhetorical figures field. In this case, he also used Discourse Analysis to analyze the data.

Fatimah (2018) showed rhetorical devices representing power relations from group affiliation through a pronoun started by Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. The research is qualitative and employs two theories. Hatagaol's past research is the most recent (2006). She bases her data on the lyrics of Jewel's song. The researcher investigates this research to find and describe rhetorical devices used in Jewel's song lyrics. She used qualitative methodology in conducting her research. The result of this research is she found 45 expressions that contain rhetorical devices. The previous study about Critical Discourse Analysis is from Rohmah. She uses Donald J Trump's speeches and found 64 expressions that are noticed as language features.

Despite the previous studies dealing with rhetorical devices, none of the previous research used the speech of George W. Bush. This research used Jones and Peccei (2004) as the leading theory to determine the types of rhetorical devices in George's speech. Rhetoric is a technique for using language effectively and persuasively, both in spoken and written form. In other words, rhetoric is described as the art of speaking to influence, impress, and persuade an audience in an elegant yet discreet way. In politics, this skill is important because politicians need to communicate with the audience, and also, politicians try to persuade the audience to believe them. It is difficult for politicians to compose sentences and find a good way of speaking when conveying their ideas that are easy to understand. Therefore, rhetoric facilitates and helps politicians communicate through their speeches. Thus, the researcher investigated the topic of George's speech using the theory of rhetorical devices from Jones and Peccei. The theory helps the researcher to get important information from the speech.

Next, in addition to fulfilling the lack of previous studies, the researcher added the Critical Discourse Analysis by Van Dijk to explain the macrostructure in making the basic concept of speech, namely theme. Thematic is the most important structure to be studied in Van Dijk's macrostructural analysis. The main point that the writer or speaker wants to convey is the theme of textual meaning. The theme itself is often associated with the topic because it describes the most important information transferred by the speaker.

The theme shows the purpose, dominant concept, and intention of the speaker in the discourse. So, to find the theme of the text, the researcher needs to

understand the whole text. Each discourse/text has its theme to represent what the speaker wants to convey to addresses in public discourse. On the other hand, researchers are also required to know the social context that arises from the speech. The researcher got and analyzed the theme of the speech after he read the whole speech and got the important information about the speech from the theory of rhetorical device. The important information that has been obtained can help the researcher to analyze and explain the theme used by the speaker. The purpose is that the reader can understand the meaning of speech and not lead to misunderstandings. Between rhetorical devices and macrostructure analysis have the relation one another. Furthermore, the researcher decided to use Van Dijk's theory about thematic because the chosen by the speaker can be attracted a huge reaction from the audience.

By doing a rhetorical analysis, the researcher will be able to understand how to explain the topic used by the speaker in his speech. The researcher took this speech as the subject because the researcher wanted to know how the speech was powerful and also caused a reaction the society. Moreover, the researcher used CDA by Van Dijk because it was helpful and facilitated the researcher to analyze this research in finding the ideas and concept of speech by George W. Bush. So, it will make the reader understand the meaning of George's speech and know-how George delivers his speech in front of the audience. This research was different from the previous research because this present research used Jones and Peccei (2004) theory combined with macrostructure of Van Dijk's CDA theory to analyze George W. Bush's speech. The present research gives the reader a new









## 2.2 Rhetoric

According to (Corbett 1971, p. 3), rhetoric is the topic of discourse usage, whether spoken or written, to inspire the listener, whether the listener is a single person or a group of people. For further details, rhetoric is the technique of effectively and persuasively using language in either spoken or written form. In other words, rhetoric is described as the art of talking to influence, impress, and persuade the audience in an elegant but secret way. Rhetoric is an important thing in communication, which is derived from the Greek word *rhetoric* which means the technique of public speaking.

In the political area, this skill is essential because the politician needs to communicate with the audience, and also, the politician tries to persuade the audience to trust them. It is hard for politicians to construct sentences and find a good way of speaking when delivering their easily understood ideas. Hence, rhetoric facilitates and helps politicians communicate through their speeches. According to Mills (2003, p. 55), rhetoric is the study of strategies of compelling oratory; they use language spoken or written to inform or persuade people, and rhetoric, defined as the study of the persuasive effect of language. Choosing the right strategies to convey an idea is essential for a public speaker before persuading people.

## 2.3 Rhetorical Devices

Recently, many people have used persuasive language to persuade others to agree with their argumentation. In the context of a speech, in how a politician uses

vocabulary to represent reality in a specific way by deconstructing a persuasive text, the politician can employ rhetorical devices, as linguists refer to them. The statement was strengthened by Freesmith (2003), who stated that rhetorical devices could be used to deconstruct a persuasive text to identify how it uses language to represent reality in a particular way. As maintained by Aristotle on Barker (1893), rhetorical devices concern how to use them for a more significant persuasive effect and avoid being manipulated.

In this current study, the researcher used the theory by Jones and Peccei. They introduced the rhetorical devices, consisting of fifth devices used to explain a relationship between sense and force in delivering the speech. They divided rhetorical devices into metaphor, euphemism, the rule of three, parallelism, and pronouns.

### **2.3.1 Metaphor**

The definition of metaphor compares two different concepts, Jones and Peccei (2004, p. 45). The speaker, especially a politician who needs to say something beautiful and deliver an exciting topic, is functional and vital when confronting and grasping the audience's attention. Another definition of metaphor is from Charteris-Black (2011) stated that symbolic meaning is determined by the connotations aroused by the word in its regular literal use.







































































"Americans are asking, why do they hate us? They hate what they see right here in this chamber, a democratically elected government. Their leaders are self-appointed. They hate our freedoms, our freedom of religion, our freedom of speech, our freedom to vote and assemble and disagree with each other. They want to overthrow existing governments in many Muslim countries, such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan. They want to drive Israel out of the Middle East. They want to drive Christians and Jews out of vast regions of Asia and Africa. These terrorists kill not merely to end lives but to disrupt and end a way of life. With every atrocity, they hope that America grows fearful, retreating from the world and forsaking our friends. They stand against us because we stand in their way."

The topic of Al Qaeda supported the theme as a terror actor in America. Those lines can be recognized as the speaker's second sentence. The speaker begins the discussion by presenting evidence relating to the attack. According to the evidence gathered with strong points leading to terrorist organizations, it has been determined that Al Qaeda is the primary perpetrator of terrorist assaults. Then, after knowing the terrorists, President Bush explained the reason and goals of the attack. In conclusion, a sense of freedom, the difference in ideology in the state, and the attitude of tolerance in the United States is the main reason the attack was carried out, which aims to make the country follow the legal basis and ideology they believe. Attacking the United States is the first step in realizing this and eliminating other nations and religions not following their faith.

This data shows the use of macrostructure and rhetorical devices seen in Bush's speech. On this occasion, macrostructure helps the speaker convey important things in his discussion, namely the perpetrators of terror and parallelism as simultaneous devices in this part of speech. George W. Bush describes the social circumstances that followed the tragedy in a clear and detailed. The use of rhetorical devices by using parallelism to emphasize









speaker's intended message. *An image of fire, a rock in a raging sea, a seed upon the wind, taking root in many nations*, and any other illustrative statements made in the previous section indicate that the speaker is attempting to communicate an important message to the audience in an indirect message. It also occurs when the rule of three and parallelism are applied in the speech. There are 6 data included metaphors. Then, the other is 5 data in the rule of three and 5 data of parallelism device. The use of two rhetorical devices shows how repetition controls the emphasized message from the speaker.

In general, all devices are mainly used to entice and motivate people to improve their lives following a terrorist attack. As a result, this aids the speaker in persuading and establishing closer communication with audiences and manipulating people's thoughts to agree with what he says. Using Jones and Peccei's (2004) theory, the researcher found that this speech had the power to influence the audience's minds to agree with Bush's statement. Van Dijk's macrostructure also aids the researcher in comprehending how rhetorical devices are beneficial in clear and simplifying audience comprehension.

In this study, the researcher has answered the first question dealing with what types of rhetorical devices in George W. Bush's speech. The researcher found 20 types of rhetorical devices. The most dominant in this research is a parallelism with 8 datum. It is dominant because the speaker uses this device to make the speech memorable and interact with the audience without changing the contents of the speech, which is one method to influence the mass. According to Jones and Peccei (2004), when politicians speak about the concept of important

things, they should use parallelism to make them more easily understood and avoid boring their audience.

The study's finding appears to be stranger is Hanim. She used Glenn Beck's speech as the data source. She found 3 euphemisms, 5 metaphors, 5 parallelisms, 3 the rule of three, and 3 pronouns. The dominant types of rhetorical devices from 19 data in her research are metaphor and parallelism. Those devices are used to attract people in improving the people's motivation to get better rights in their nation.

In the macrostructure analysis, the researcher found the topic of the speech. According to Van Dijk (1980, p. 10), the term macrostructure accounts for the various nations of global meaning, such as topic, theme, or gist. In this stage, the result showed that the speech's topic has the function of persuading. In the George W. Bush's speech, the researcher found the topics are Al Qaeda as a terror actor in the United States, the response of the government of the United States after the tragedy, and tolerance. These topic became the main discussion in George W. Bush's speech and was mostly talked. Topic is the understanding of macrostructure, make it easier for the researcher to find macrostructure in George W. Bush's speech.

The previous research from Rohmah and Nugraha is contradictive with the present research. Rohmah utilized the structure of Critical Discourse Analysis by Van Dijk theory. The structure of analysing are microstructure, macrostructure, and superstructure. She found 64 expressions noticed as language features from 3 speeches Donald J. Trump. Meanwhile this research only focused on the

macrostructure of Critical Discourse Analysis because the researcher required to know the social context that arises from the speech and analyzed the theme of the speech after got the important information about the speech from the theory of rhetorical devices.

Other previous research has the same theme is from Nugraha. He used George W. Bush's speech about Address to Nation 9/11, analyzed used Geoffrey leech theory. The results he found 14 conceptual meaning, 3 connotative meaning, 11 affective meaning, and 2 thematic meaning in the speech. The function used this theory is to know the meaning contained in the George W. Bush's speech to persuade and changing public opinion about terrorist.

For the above discussion, these rhetorical devices and the macrostructure of Van Dijk are employed in George W. Bush's speech. Reflecting on what happened in the United States, the speaker gave his support, argumentation, statement, and the idea of building and showing a sense of confidence and motivation in dealing with problems and becoming a better country after a terror attack. From the variety of ways that President Bush produced in his speech, he successfully used those devices and macrostructure in constructing the speech to control the audience's mind with his address.









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