



De La Salle University – Dasmariñas

GRADUATE PROGRAM

Metaphor Analysis of American Presidents' State of the Union Address

(SOUA, 2015-2019)

A Doctoral Dissertation Presented to
the Faculty of the College of Liberal Arts and Communication Graduate Studies

De La Salle University - Dasmariñas

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for
the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Language Studies
with Specialization in English

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November 2019



ABSTRACT

At present, scholars have mainly studied the political discourse from perspectives of linguistics such as critical, functional, and cognitive linguistics. Although a certain cognitive turn takes place in the study of the political discourse from a linguistic perspective, few scholars analyzed the political discourse, especially the SOUAs, from the perspective of the conceptual metaphor in discourse level. Therefore, this study aims to investigate and describe the conceptual metaphors in the SOUAs by integrating its semantic, cognitive and pragmatic perspective.

The procedure of the research includes metaphor identification, interpretation and explanation in the corpus of President Obama and Trump’s SOUAs (2015-2019) respectively. The findings indicate that the mapping in conceptual metaphors is a set of systematic correspondences, and the intentions in using the conceptual metaphors include providing evaluation and framework for understanding the target domain. The conclusion is the mapping analysis of different conceptual metaphors led to the recognition of the fixed patterns in source domains. This study contributes additional knowledge on metaphor and discourse analysis. Further studies can be carried out on the classification of metaphorical expressions, the influence of the mappings on meaning construction, and the effect of metaphor on audience.

Keywords: metaphor; source domain; target domain; the State of the Union Address