A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH FAREWELL ADDRESSES BY US PRESIDENTS

PHÂN TÍCH DIỄN NGÔN PHÊ PHÁN DIỄN VĂN GIÃ TỪ CỦA CÁC TỔNG THỐNG HOA KỲ

Nguyen Thi Quynh Hoa1*, Ngo Thi Ngoc Anh2

¹The University of Danang - University of Foreign Language Studies, Vietnam ²College of Commerce, Vietnam

*Corresponding author: ntqhoa@ufl.udn.vn

(Received: April 01, 2024; Revised: July 01, 2024; Accepted: September 24, 2024)

Abstract - US Presidential speeches are considered among the most influential speeches not only in the US but also around the world. This article is aimed at identifying lexical and grammatical features in English Farewell Addresses by U.S. Presidents (EFAUPs) and revealing the messages embedded in these speeches. The framework of critical discourse analysis (CDA) proposed by Fairclough with a three-stage procedure combined with Halliday's Functional Grammar was applied. The research data were four English farewell addresses made by the Presidents of the United States in the first two decades of the 21st century. The results reveal that there are seven typical lexical features and eight grammatical features, which serve to express Presidents' power and ideologies. It is hoped that the research results can illustrate a way of conducting discourse analysis based on a combination of Fairclough's model and Halliday's theory, thereby bringing useful implications to the teaching and learning of CDA.

Key words - Fairclough's three-stage framework; Halliday's Function Grammar; U.S. Presidential Farewell Addresses; Lexical and Grammatical Features; Power and Ideologies.

1. Rationale

An increasing number of researchers has recently shown an interest in studying US. presidential speeches in the light of CDA with an aim to investigate the ways in which the power and ideologies of the Presidents are embedded. As Fairclough and Wodak [1] suggest, through the analysis of critical discourse, individual ideologies can be revealed through critical discourse analysis.

In the view of Trent et al. [2], U.S. Presidents have a great influence not only in the USA but also all over the world. The farewell speech is the President's final chance to formally address the nation. In this instance, Van Dijk [3] points out that political ideologies of the Presidents are fulfilled by these farewell speeches.

Since the beginning of the 21st century, when Americans were thrust into a global digital age, US presidential leadership has been being challenged by global issues such as climate change, economic inequalities, immigration, demographic shifts, terrorism, evolving social norms in the context of the staggering development of social media. Delving into EFAUPs in the first two decades of the 21st century would hopefully provide better insight into the US Presidents' farewell messages, which are by all means the important markers in the nation's history. This study is an attempt to conduct a discourse analysis of EFAUPs based on

Tóm tắt - Các diễn văn của Tổng thống Mỹ nằm trong số những bài phát biểu có tầm ảnh hưởng lớn nhất không chỉ tại Hoa Kỳ mà cả trên toàn thế giới. Mục tiêu của bài viết này là xác định các đặc điểm từ vựng và ngữ pháp trong các Diễn văn giã từ bằng tiếng Anh của các Tổng thống Hoa Kỳ (EFAUPs), đồng thời khám phá các thông điệp ẩn chứa trong các EFAUPs. Khung phân tích diễn ngôn phê phán (CDA) do Fairclough đề xuất với quy trình ba giai đoạn kết hợp với Ngữ pháp chức năng của Halliday được áp dụng. Dữ liệu nghiên cứu là bốn EFAUP trong hai thập kỷ đầu của thế kỷ 21. Kết quả cho thấy có 7 đặc điểm từ vựng và 8 đặc điểm ngữ pháp tiêu biểu thể hiện quyền lực và tư tưởng của các Tổng thống. Hy vọng kết quả nghiên cứu có thể minh họa cách thức phân tích diễn ngôn dựa trên sự kết hợp giữa mô hình của Fairclough và lý thuyết của Halliday, từ đó mang lại các hàm ý thực tiễn hữu ích cho việc day học CDA.

Từ khóa - Phân tích diễn ngôn phê phán; Mô hình ba giai đoạn của Fairclough; Ngữ pháp chức năng của Halliday; Diễn văn giã từ của Tổng thống Hoa Kỳ; Đặc điểm từ vựng và ngữ pháp; Quyền lực và Tư tưởng.

Fairclough's Three-Dimensional Model and Halliday's Functional Grammar Theory with the aim of clarifying the lexical features and grammatical features, but also uncovering the Presidents' ideologies. The study thus seeks to answer the following questions: (1) What lexical features and grammatical features are demonstrated in the U.S. Presidents' Farewell Addresses? (2) What ideologies are conveyed through the U.S. Presidents' Farewell Addresses?

2. Theoretical Background

2.1. Critical Discourse Analysis

Critical discourse analysis, a recent school of discourse analysis, is an interdisciplinary approach to the study of discourse, which views "language as a form of social practice" [4] and focuses on the ways social and political domination is reproduced by text and talk. In other words, CDA places emphasis on the study of language and its use in relation to the social and political context where it occurs. While Van Dijk [3] shows that "CDA is a type of discourse analytical research that primarily studies the way social power abuse, dominance, and inequality"; Vodak and Meyer [5] highlights the plurality of theory and mythology as a specific strength of CDA. Although there are several perspectives on CDA, the fundamental aim is to investigate issues of culture, ethnicity, gender, ideology, power and how these concepts are constructed and reflected in the text.

2.2. Fairclough's Three-Dimensional Model

Fairclough, one of the prominent scholars contributing to the development of CDA, adopts a social-theoretical approach to doing discourse analysis. This study follows Fairclough's framework of CDA which consists of three stages: description (textual analysis), interpretation (processing analysis) and explanation (See Figure 1).

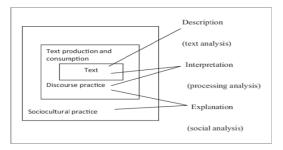


Figure 1. Three Dimensional Framework (Fairclough) [4]

This framework allows the discourse analyst to focus on the linguistics choices that make up the text, how people interpret the text and how it is concerned with issues of power and ideology.

2.3. Halliday's Functional Grammar Theory

Halliday [6] not only explains the complex internal structure of language but also introduces his theory which metafunctions: ideational includes three function. interpersonal function, and textual function. While transitivity is the grammar of the clause in its ideational aspect, mood and modality convey interpersonal meaning at the clause level. The next role of language relates to textual function. Halliday and Matthiessen [7] approve that when we examine language in terms of the textual metafunction, we seek to understand how speakers build their messages so that they flow easily into the unfolding language event.

2.4. Research Methodology

With an aim at clarifying lexical and grammatical features of EFAUPs; thereby identifying the Presidents' ideologies and power embedded in language on the basis of selected data about EFAUPs, the study was designed as a descriptive study with the qualitative approach supported by quantitative information. The farewell speeches were picked out from speeches collected from this official website (https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu) in order to build up the data.

Regarding sample selection, three criteria were put forward. Firstly, the samples were taken from the collected farewell speeches by the four US Presidents (See Table 1).

Table 1. Details of EFAUPs

President	Year	Location	Code
William J. Clinton	2001	Oval Office	FABC
George W. Bush	2009	East Room	FAGB
Barack Obama	2017	Chicago	FABO
Donald Trump	2021	Blue Room	FADT

Secondly, the samples were identified based on the eight lexico-features indicated by Fairclough: Positive figures and words, rewordings, antonyms, hyponyms, formal words, words with an of meaningful evaluation, multi-level repetition, metaphors. Thirdly, the samples

were identified based on the seven grammatical features indicated by Fairclough and Halliday: Personal pronouns, active voice and passive voice, modes of sentences, modality, connective values, transitivity, theme and rheme.

2.5. Data Analysis

Four presidential farewell speeches were examined using Fairclough's Three-Dimensional approach namely description, interpretation, and explanation. In order to fully illustrate the grammatical features, Fairclough's model plus the relevant aspects of Halliday's theory were combined as follows.

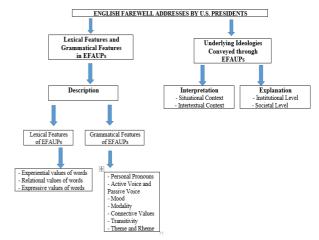


Figure 2. Conceptual Framework of the Study

3. Finding and Discussion

3.1. Lexical Features and Grammatical Features of EFAUPs

3.1.1. Lexical Features of EFAUPs

a. Experiential Values

Fairclough [8] states that the experiential value involves the speakers' views of the natural or social world. It also expresses the speaker's positive or negative attitude toward an issue. Firstly, the speaker's choice of positive words reflects the experiential value. For example, it is supposed that Obama tries to improve the country based on his recapitulation of a number of positive things presented in his speech such as rebooting the auto industry, opening up a new chapter, shutting down Iran's nuclear weapons program, winning marriage equality, etc. He uses his language to convince the audience to keep believing in the government.

Talking about beneficial traits, Trump expresses his attitude about America when he looks back on his four-year presidency at the White House. Although there is still doubt relating to his political skills, he achieves some outstanding successes including the *largest package of tax cuts, fixing the broken trade deals, renegotiating the one-sides South Korea deal, imposing historic and monumental tariffs on China*, etc.

The figures mentioned in the four speeches are surprising. Noticeably, Obama lists thirty-two different achievements of his presidency. It is many times as long as the other three presidents. Here are some instances.

- (1) The unemployment rate is near a **10-year low**. (FABO)
- (2) Health care costs are rising at the slowest rate in 50 years. (FABO)

Clinton's message is highly appreciated for its experiential value. It can be seen that Bill Clinton frequently mentions his accomplishments in economy, health, education and environment through positive figures in the speech, ranking second only to Obama despite the fact that it is the briefest farewell in the data sample. This is understandable since his speech is delivered during the main intervals of success and progress. The overall attitude of the speech appears to reflect optimism and development.

(3) Our economy is breaking records with more than 22 million new jobs, the lowest unemployment in 30 years, the highest homeownership ever, the longest expansion in history. (FABC)

Positive figures are found in Trump's speech. This helps the speaker easily convince and appeal to the audience as in the following sentences.

(4) The stock market set one record after another, with 148 stock market highs during this short period of time, and boosted the retirements and pensions of hardworking citizens all across our nation. 401(k)s are at a level they've never been at before. (FADT)

It is clear that Presidents attempt to highlight their achievements during the presidency. The speaker's words reveals both his attitude and his perception of reality.

Synonymy, antonymy, and hyponymy are also regarded as significant factors that illustrate the experiential value. The speakers again create a positive impression by utilizing synonyms and antonyms. To begin with synonymy, a variety of words and phrases that express Presidents' thoughts about their country and people (Table 2).

Table 2. Synonymy in EFAUPs

Words/ Phrases	FABC	FAGB	FABO	FADT
We	14	24	100	97
Our nation	2	6	5	5
Americans	5	3	5	4
Fellow Americans	0	1	2	1
Our citizens	1	1	1	1
The people	1	0	2	1
Fellow citizens	1	1	1	0

The Presidents draw attention to citizens and citizenship rights by using the words *Our citizens* or *The people*. It is reasonable that the speakers respect human rights, democracy, etc.

More importantly, the speakers emotionally establish and maintain the relationship between themselves and the audience through frequently employing the pronoun *We*.

With a view to strengthening their ideologies, the U.S. Presidents also make use of antonymy in their speeches.

Table 3. The Use of Antonyms in EFAUPs

EFAUPs	Examples
FABC	low > < high; deficits > < surpluses
FAGB	night > < day; freedom > < terror threat > < safe; the future > < the past
FABO	slaves > <freedom; republic=""> < tyranny open up > < shut down; rising > < falling poverty > < the wealthy</freedom;>
FADT	leave behind > < step into peace > < violence; dwindle > < grow

These above antonymous terms are arranged in line with structural parallelism. From the sample speeches, much emphasis has been recognised on the ideologies held by the Presidents to highlight the contrast concerning the solution to the problems confronted by the US.

In addition to using reiteration and antonymy, Presidents also use hyponymy which shows a word whose meaning is included in the meaning of another word. Although this is not commonly used in their speeches, it illustrates the speakers' skillful use of language to convey their messages.

b. Relational Values

The relational values focus on the social relationship between the participants in the discourse through the use of formal words.

Table 4. Formal Words in EFAUPs

EFAUPs	Examples
FABC	prosperous; accountability; ignite
FAGB	cede; gravest
FABO	unalienable; autocrat; rancor; altruistic; creed
FADT	sovereignty; obliterate; prevail; plea; unyielding; punitive

The appearance of appropriate formal words are among the most significant ways to express the speakers' ideology to the public. The choices of formality demonstrate the high position as a US Presidents and show great respect to hearers.

c. Expressive Values

Based on Fairclough's view on what constitutes the expressive value - the producer's evaluation, the one that is to do with subjects and social identity, it can be revealed from the sample data that the Presidents employ various evaluative words to manifest the expressive value. For instance, there are several words containing an evaluation of meaning in Trump's speech e.g., success, record - breaking, flourish, success, outperform, successful, incredible (FADT).

The instances in Clinton and Bush's speech at various levels of multi-level repetitions also illustrate the expressive value of the speeches. The speakers employ the comparative and superlative adjectives repeatedly in order to highlight the accomplishments made possible by his outstanding leadership. It would therefore make statements more emotive and more inspiring.

(5) Our economy is breaking records with more than 22 million new jobs, the lowest unemployment in 30 years, the highest homeownership ever, the longest expansion in history. (FABC)

The expressive value is demonstrated through metaphors. Thanks to metaphors, the speakers' messages are conveyed to their listeners in a delicate way. Obama uses the metaphor "journey" two times to refer to his experience and time during his term as President. In contrast, one instance of metaphor with the word "journey" is found in Bush and Trump's addresses.

Metaphor is also used in President Clinton's address. Below is an example.

(6)The expansion of trade hasn't fully closed the gap between those of us who live **on the cutting edge of the global economy** and the billions around the world who live

on the knife's edge of survival. (FABC)

In a whole, regarding the analysis of vocabulary used in the speeches, it is evident that presidents skillfully convey their ideologies and exert great influence on their listeners.

3.1.2. Grammatical Features of English Farewell Addresses by US Presidents

a. Personal Pronouns

It can be seen from Table 5 that the word *We* is the most frequently personal pronoun used in Presidents' utterances. This personal pronoun shows the shared attitude towards the topic under discussion. Presidents have the same goals when they would like to attract their audience's attention to act together for the purpose of dealing with the challenges faced by the United States.

Table 5. The Frequency of Personal Pronouns

Pronouns	FABC	FAGB	FABO	FADT
We	14	28	100	90
I	13	35	51	42
You	7	6	85	11

Pronouns, as Fairclough [8], are one of the important codes indicating the relational values of grammar and helping speakers convey their power and ideologies through language. The choice of pronouns is one of the most significant factors in establishing the relationship between the speaker and the listeners as well as conveying the speakers' authority and power.

b. Active Voice and Passive Voice

Delivering these speeches, Presidents would like to express their implications and ideologies. This intention can be found in the four speeches through the use of a high percentage of active sentences accounting for 95%.

Table 6. Distribution of Active Voice and Passive Voice

Voice	FABC	FAGB	FABO	FADT	%
Active	51	113	230	162	95%
Passive	3	8	14	5	5%

Thanks to active sentences, the speakers can clearly convey their messages. Accordingly, the active sentences in the speeches mainly focus on Presidents' strategies in listing various achievements and assisting people to struggle with the difficulties existing in America.

A few passive sentences are used to show the Presidents' intentions and ideologies. Such sentences emerge in situations when Presidents would like to come back and state facts, and share historical details. Passive voice sentences in the speeches show the speakers' attitude, and emphasize a firm belief in the American future. The pattern [S + will be + Past participle] is commonly used:

- (7) If America does not lead the cause of freedom, that cause will not be led (FAGB).
- (8) But that potential will only be realized if our democracy works (FABO).

c. Modes of Sentences

A majority of declarative clauses are employed. This proves that the function of EFAUPs is to pass on some particular messages to the audience. By using declarative clauses, the speakers focus on giving information as well

as confirming them. Below is one of the declarative clauses in Obama's speech in 2017.

(9) We remain the wealthiest, most powerful, and most respected nation on Earth (FABO).

The Presidents frequently employ declarative clauses in their farewell speeches for the sake of various intentions such as sharing their stories, highlighting achievements during their tenures, or expressing their feelings and attitudes toward the nation.

d. Modality

The use of modal verbs can encourage the audience to believe in the government's competencies with regard to the difficulties. Through the use of *will*, the speakers express their hopes, determination, warnings as well as suggestions to further develop the American nation. Besides, the use of *should* not only reminds the American people to act together so as to deal with such difficulties, but it also implies the speakers' responsibility to the nation.

Table 7. Modality in EFAUPs

	FABC	FAGB	FABO	FADT		
	Lov	v Value				
Can	3	5	15	3		
May	0	3	3	0		
Could	1	1	2	8		
Might	0	0	3	0		
	Median Value					
Will	3	11	19	12		
Would	0	3	4	5		
Should	0	1	8	1		
Is to	0	0	1	0		
	High Value					
Must	8	9	3	7		
Ought to	0	0	0	0		
Need	0	0	8	3		
Have/Had to	0	0	6	0		

e. Connective Values

The next part of the analysis of grammatical features is cohesion in the discourse. Fairclough [8] highlights on the connective values of formal features of text.

Repetition

Repetition is employed to convey the Presidents' ideologies (See Table 8).

Table 8. Repetition in EFAUPs

Word/ Phrases	FABC	FAGB	FABO	FADT
America(n)	18	25	35	52
democracy	0	3	22	0
freedom	4	5	7	1
peace	3	3	3	3
equal	0	0	5	4
economy	5	2	4	5
world	10	7	8	15

These words share the common objectives of the US Presidents. A noticeable instance of repetition is the repeated word *peace* in the discourse. The Presidents have obvious intentions to emphasize the value of peace to the American citizens as well as people throughout the world.

It is remarkable that some words occur in one address but not the other. Obama and Trump both use the word *equal* in their speeches, while Clinton or Bush never employs this word. Similarly, the word *democracy* is repeatedly used with a high occurrence of 22 instances in Obama's speech, which is three times more than in that by Bush. It is clear that through the use of repetition, Obama would like to attract his audience to focus on his farewell message on democracy.

Conjunctions

The use of conjunctions in the four farewell speeches shows that conjunctions can cue ideology expression.

Table 9. Frequency of Conjunctions in EFAUPs

Conjunction	FABC	FAGB	FABO	FADT	%
Additive conjunction	49	90	219	131	81
Adversative conjunction	4	12	42	12	11
Casual conjunction	1	4	27	7	6.5
Temporal conjunction	4	0	4	1	1.5

The above results reveal that additive conjunction is the most common type used in farewell speeches, accounting for 81%. Coming second is the adversative conjunction with 11%. The temporal conjunction accounts for 1.5 %, which is the smallest percentage in the speeches.

President Obama employs various types of connectors to ensure cohesion and coherence in his speech. Furthermore, given the length of the speech, it is simple to comprehend why he utilizes so many categories. The choice of connectors makes Presidents' statements clear and unambiguous.

f. Transitivity

It is proved that the material process is frequently used in farewell speeches, taking up 59 %. Relational process is found with 24.6 %, whereas mental process accounts for about 7 %. The verbal process, behavioral process, and existential process are sometimes used. The transitivity distribution in the four speeches is illustrated as follows.

Table 10. Process Types in EFAUPs

	FABC	FAGB	FABO	FADT	%
Material	32	70	152	78	59
Relational	16	33	63	28	24.6
Mental	4	6	15	17	7
Existential	1	8	11	4	4.5
Behavior	0	0	4	2	1.2
Verbal	1	4	12	3	3.7

It is notable that the Presidents' speeches show two main types of transitivity: the material process and the relational process.

Based on Wang [9]'s opinion, it can be said that the material process as a process of doing is a good choice in presidential addresses to demonstrate what the incumbent government has achieved. Hence, this process can be considered as one of the informative aspects of the discourse.

According to Halliday [6], the outer experience and this inner experience may be construed by relational clauses. This process is realized by verbs such as am, is, are, have, have been, has been, was, were, look, become, etc.

The sharing of the Presidents' stories or experiences, as well as the expression of their aims and feelings are

significantly rendered by the process types involved. Thanks to the processes, the speeches become more powerful and more persuasive.

g. Theme

In the analysis of the three types of themes in the collected data, 523 themes were found in total. The percentages of each type of themes are presented in Table 10 below.

Table 11. Distribution of types of themes in EFAUPs

Types of Theme	Number of	%
Topical Theme	324	62
Interpersonal Theme	83	16
Textual Theme	116	22

Table 11 shows that the topical theme accounts for the highest percentage with 62%. The textual theme comes next with 22%. The interpersonal theme accounts for 16%, which is the smallest figure in the statistics.

In accordance with the material process which helps describe the actions, the topical theme helps the speakers share the facts conveyed as stories in the speeches. The topical theme not only helps to draw attention to the primary objectives of the speakers but also place the focus on the speakers' achievements during their office tenures. Here are an instance.

(10) Our economy is breaking records with more than 22 million new jobs (FABC).

Our economy	is breaking records with more than 22 million new jobs.
Topical	
Theme	Rheme

3.2. Ideologies Conveyed through the Presidential Farewell Addresses

3.2.1. Interpretation of the Relationship Between Text and Interaction

a. Situational Context

Fairclough [8] indicates the relation between the involvement of the situational context and discourse, shaping the arrangements of topics in a speech. In the four *EFAUPs* under study, the initial topic is to express gratitude to family and administration before introducing the addressor's main point. Subsequently, the main focus draws attention to major concerns namely highlighting accomplishments, emphasizing opportunities, and challenges during the tenure, as well as giving warnings to the American future.

On a general basis, it is found that the Presidents utilize relevant vocabulary and persuasive strategies to demonstrate their political power over the American people.

b. Intertextual Context

The Presidents are expected to discuss various issues within the audiences' wide-ranging comprehension. Along with that, in a bid to woo more listeners, the Presidents are striving to consider the intertextual knowledge before deciding the way of conveying messages.

In his farewell address, President Bush's believes that the audience is still aware of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. He says: This evening, my thoughts return to the first night I addressed you from this House, September the 11th, 2001

(FAGB). The audience would naturally recall that information to grasp what was mentioned in Address to the Nation on the WTC Attacks dated September 11, 2001. This serves as a reminder to his audience not to misinterpret his coming intentions in the farewell speech. For someone knows little about that intertextual knowledge, he adds: *That morning, terrorists took nearly 3,000 lives in the worst attack on America since Pearl Harbor* (FAGB).

Intertextuality is also an essential means of communication for politicians. It is a compelling method to get the listeners to think about the speaker's words. In this case, Obama mentions the Declaration of Independence in his farewell speech as an instrument to persuade people to accept his point of view. He says: It's the conviction that we are all created equal, endowed by our creator with certain unalienable rights, among them life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness (FABO). He spends a lot of time in his farewell address talking about the state of democracy. He believes that the nation's solidarity is of great importance. Borrowing the above quotation reflects his intention for the sake of highlighting unchangeable values and beliefs.

3.2.2. Underlying Ideologies Conveyed through the Presidential Farewell Speeches

The Presidents make reference to serious international conflicts that Americans must get engaged in to protect the country. This message suggests that advancing democracy and human rights requires heroic American warriors to fight in battles. The speakers also urge the listeners to carry on the work of their forebears, emphasizing that democracy is a useful instrument for achieving that goal. Both Bill Clinton and Barack Obama seldom discuss competition but always emphasize cooperation. They use lexical and grammatical devices to appeal to the American people to unite as a whole. Understandably, Bill Clinton views identities as the vision of social interaction. He attempts to highlight the message that America cannot lead in the world unless here at home we weave the threads of our coat of many colors into the fabric of one America (FABC). In a similar way, Barack Obama aims to express the claim that democracy does require a basic sense of solidarity- the idea that for all our outward differences, we are in this together (FABO).

The Presidents convey their messages in favor of common values, common humanity, and equality. They also believe in the values of freedom and the unrestricted rights such as human rights, happiness, justice, freedom.

The other ideology is found in Bush's speech. Nearly the entire speech is devoted to the message of progress and resilience. The points of progress after 9/11 are the body of Bush's farewell address. By employing various lexical and grammatical features, it is regarded as a resilient major subject.

In President Trump's farewell speech, he selects proper positive words which arouse people's attraction to his achievements in pursuing the "American First" ideology. Trump argues that Americans need to be satisfied with their accomplishments. Interestingly, the mental process shown in Trump's speech helps to communicate his feelings more openly, which makes his speech more appealing and inspiring to the audience while also clearly outlining his political stance

like the following instance "America had given me so much and I wanted to give something back" (FADT). Moreover, the fact that Trump uses the word "America" or "American" 52 times to demonstrate connective values in his speech reflect the ideology of "American First". It is understandable that the slogan "Make American Great Again" (FADT) reflects his personal identity.

4. Conclusion

Base on Fairclough' three-stage framework combined with Halliday' Functional Grammar, the study of the four US presidential farewell addresses in the first decades of the 21st century revealed that there were seven typical lexical features employed in the speeches: positive words, synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, formal words, evaluative words and metaphors. Simultaneously, eight grammatical features were found in the speeches, namely personal pronouns, active voice, passive voice, modes of sentences, modality, connective values, transitivity, topical theme.

Although each US President has his own unique set of ideologies, the similarity between the four presidents could be reflected though the use of the lexical features and grammatical features each chooses to use to communicate their ideas. Democracy, "American First" ideology, liberal ideology, and the message of progress and resilience were the major ideologies found in four speeches.

It is hoped that the results of the study can be of useful reference to the teaching of discourse analysis in general and CDA in particular to English-majored students.

REFERENCES

- [1] N. L. Fairclough and R. Wodak, *Critical Discourse Analysis*. London: Sage, 1997.
- [2] J. S. Trent, R. E. Denton, and R. V. Friedenberg, *Political Campaign Communication* (7th ed.). Washington, DC: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2011.
- [3] T. A. Van Dijk, Critical Discourse Analysis. Chapter. In D. Schiffrin, D., Tannen, D., & Hhamilton (Eds.). The Handbook of Discourse Analysis. Oxford: Blackwell, 2001.
- [4] N. Fairclough, Discourse and Social Change. Cambridge: Polity Press, 1992.
- [5] R. Vodak and M. Meyer, Methods of Critical Analysis. London: Sage Publications, 2001.
- [6] M. A. K. Halliday and C. M. I. M. Matthiessen, An Introduction to Function Grammar (3rd ed.). Great Britain: Hodder Arnold, 2004.
- [7] M. A. K. Halliday and C. M. I. M. Matthiessen. Halliday's Introduction to Functional Grammar (4th ed.). Oxon: Routledge, 2014.
- [8] N. Fairclough, Language and Power. England: Pearson Education Limited, 2001.
- [9] J. Wang. "A Critical Discourse Analysis of Barack Obama's Speeches", *Journal of Language Teaching and Research*, vol. 1, no. 3, pp. 254-261, 2010.

Data Sources

- [10] G. Peters and J. T. Woolley, "William. J. Clinton, Farewell Address to the Nation Online", presidency.ucsb.edu, 2023. [Online]. Available: https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/node/227701 [Accessed March 3, 2024]
- [11] G. Peters and J. T. Woolley, "George W. Bush, Farewell Address to the Nation Online", presidency.ucsb.edu, 2023. [Online]. Available: https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/node/285776 [Accessed March 3, 2024]
- [12] G. Peters and J. T. Woolley, "Barack Obama, Farewell Address to the Nation from Chicago, Illinois Online", presidency.ucsb.edu, 2023.
 [Online]. Available: https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/node/321069
 [Accessed March 3, 2024].
- [13] G. Peters and J. T. Woolley, "Farewell Address to the Nation Online", presidency.ucsb.edu, 2023. [Online]. Available: https://www. presidency.ucsb.edu/node/347753 [Accessed March 3, 2024]