

Barack Obama's identity-building in the health care debate: A corpus-assisted discourse study

AUTHOR

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Summary, in English

In this study, I demonstrate that identity-building is an important discursive strategy for President Barack Obama in the seven-year long debate surrounding the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The data for the study comes from a 6-million word corpus of speeches that were held by Obama between January 2009 and January 2016, all published by the White House. The speeches are classified according to genre, audience, topic and date of delivery. Throughout the paper, I adopt the notion that identity is intentionally constructed by the speaker and strategically exploited for his communicative goals. With the help of two methodological approaches, I investigate what kind of identities Obama builds. The purely qualitative part of the study deals with three central corpus speeches from a discourse-analytic perspective. In the second, more quantitative part, I use a group of seven verbs with epistemic meaning to trace the usage of two predominant discursive identities in the ACA debate. The results suggest that President Obama repeatedly constructs the identities of father and teacher to persuade his audience. I argue that his use of these identities constitutes an attempt to reach the argumentative goals of effectiveness and reasonableness.

Department/s

Master's Programme: Language and Linguistics

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Language

English

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Topic

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Corpus

Name The Barack Obama Corpus
Title The Barack Obama Corpus

Description

the_barack_obama_corpus_information.txt

Description

The Barack Obama Corpus (BOC) consists of 6,215,948 words (tokens), which are sourced from nearly 3,500 different texts, dating from January 2009 to January 2016. The texts, all taken from the White House Archives, comprise all speeches held by Barack Obama in his official capacity as 44th President of the United States of America. The earliest speech in the BOC is President Obama's inauguration speech and the last is his final State of the Union speech (January 2016). In total, the corpus includes 34,967 word types, which leads to a type/token-ratio of 0.56.

The files, which display the original titles given to them by the White House, have been tagged for genre, audience type, date and location of delivery, and principal topics. The genres include remarks, addresses, statements, press conferences, debates and question-

Description

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Language



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Modality



The Barack Obama Corpus

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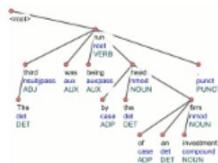
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Authors:

Milan Straka, Jana Straková

Description:

UDPipe is an trainable pipeline for tokenization, tagging, lemmatization and dependency parsing of CoNLL-U files. UDPipe is language-agnostic and can be trained given only annotated data in Conll-U format. Trained models are provided for nearly all UD treebanks. UDPipe is available as a binary, as a library for C++, Python, Perl, Java, C#, and as a web service. UDPipe is a free software under Mozilla Public License 2.0 and the linguistic models are free for non-commercial use and distributed under CC BY-NC-SA license, although for some models the original data used to create the model may impose additional licensing conditions.

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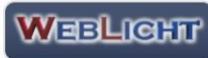
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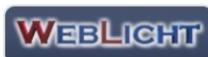
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