

**VIETNAM NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, HANOI
UNIVERSITY OF LANGUAGES & INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

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**PERSONAL PRONOUNS AND MODAL VERBS USED AS
PRAGMATIC MARKERS IN US PRESIDENTIAL
INAUGURAL SPEECHES:
A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS**

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CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Rationale for the study

Regardless of its form, discourse inherently carries pragmatic effects (Levinson, 1983; Sperber & Wilson, 2012). Even some seemingly simple ones in English, such as personal pronouns and modal verbs, still carry the speaker's attitude (Halliday, 1994, 2014; Quirk et.al., 1985; Palmer, 2001; Palmer, 2001; Gardelle & Sorlin, 2015). The pragmatic role becomes even more pronounced in political discourse, where language not only conveys information but also functions as a strategic tool for constructing leadership personas, shaping ideological orientations, and persuading the public (Wilson, 1990). This attribute is particularly evident in U.S. presidential inaugural speeches, where presidents proclaim who they are, what values they represent, and what policy commitments they make during their term in office.

The novelty of this study lies not only in the separate analysis of each linguistic group but also in the exploration of the strategic combination between personal pronouns and modal verbs and the interplay of personal pronouns themselves as a cluster of pragmatic markers. This dimension has been largely underexplored in previous research. By analyzing the full system of personal pronouns alongside a specific set of modal verbs in U.S. presidential inaugural speeches, the study aims to uncover how speakers strategically use language to negotiate social relations, assert power, and guide ideological orientation. For instance, when welcoming high-ranking officials, Trump stated, “*We are grateful to President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama for **their** gracious aid throughout this transition.*”

Although it is customary for former presidents to attend the inauguration, and the Obamas were present at the event, Trump (2017) referred to them in the third person, “their”, rather than the second person. This case and many other intriguing instances regarding these markers found in the presidential inaugural speeches warrant close and systematic investigation.

Based on the aforementioned reasons, I decided to do my dissertation on “Personal Pronouns and Modal Verbs used as Pragmatic Markers in US Presidential Inaugural Speeches: A Critical Discourse Analysis”.

1.2. Research aim, objectives and questions

This study aims to investigate how U.S. Presidents employed personal pronouns and modal verbs as pragmatic markers in their inaugural speeches, and to examine how these linguistic choices reflected and reconstructed social relations, power dynamics, and ideologies in the discourse.

To achieve this overarching aim, the following objectives are formulated:

1. To identify which personal pronouns and modal verbs were most frequently employed in the selected speeches.
2. To examine how they were employed as pragmatic markers in the selected speeches.
3. To explore how they both reflected and reconstructed social relations, power dynamics, and ideologies in the selected speeches.

To fulfill these objectives, the following three research questions are proposed in this dissertation:

Research question 1. Which personal pronouns and modal verbs were most frequently employed in the selected speeches?

Research question 2. How were they employed as pragmatic markers in the selected speeches?

Research question 3. How did they reflect and reconstruct social relations, power dynamics, and ideologies in the selected speeches?

1.3. Scope of the study

First and foremost, this study consists of six U.S. Presidential inaugural speeches delivered between 1997 and 2025. These include the second-term inaugural addresses of Presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama; both inaugural speeches of President Donald Trump; and the single inaugural speech of President Joe Biden.

Moreover, this study does not aim to explore all the possible pragmatic functions of these markers, i.e., personal pronouns and modal verbs. It limits its analytical scope to their role in reflecting and reproducing power dynamics, social relations, and ideologies in the selected inaugural speeches.

1.4. Significance of the study

This study contributes to theoretical understanding by examining personal pronouns and modal verbs from a pragmatic perspective rather than a simple and traditional grammatical perspective with occasional pragmatic functions. While these linguistic features have been widely studied in terms of structure and usage, their role as deliberate pragmatic choices has not been explicitly recognized in existing literature. By arguing that they are pragmatic markers, the study contributes to a deeper

understanding of how language reflects speakers' intentions in political communication.

Practically, the findings may inform English language teaching, particularly in areas such as functional grammar, critical discourse analysis, public speaking, public relations, and translation. Recognizing the pragmatic impact of these linguistic choices can help lecturers guide students toward more context-sensitive language use. Moreover, the study may offer insights for teachers themselves in classroom communication, where balancing authority and connection with students is essential. Understanding how language can simultaneously express power and build rapport, an aspect often overlooked in pedagogical practice, may enhance teaching effectiveness.

1.5. Methodology

This dissertation adopted a qualitative discourse analysis approach which is grounded in an interpretivist paradigm. While the core of the study was qualitative, quantitative tools were employed to support and enrich the interpretation. Specifically, the researcher identified the frequency and patterns of pragmatic markers, i.e. personal pronouns and modal verbs, to explore ideologies, social relations, and power dynamics, which were reflected and reconstructed by discourse. These numerical findings were not used for statistical hypothesis testing but rather to illustrate and substantiate the qualitative insights. Techniques such as description, substitution, comparison, and contrast were applied to interpret and explain the data in the broader socio-political context.

1.6. Structure of the dissertation

This dissertation consists of six chapters: Introduction, Literature review, Methodology, The use of personal pronouns and modal

verbs in the U.S. Presidential inaugural speeches, The interplay of personal pronouns and modal verbs in the U.S. Presidential inaugural speeches, and Conclusion.

CHAPTER 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter reviews various perspectives on the core concepts underpinning this dissertation and provides an overview of relevant previous studies to identify the research gap(s).

2.1. Critical discourse analysis (CDA)

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is a multidisciplinary approach that considers language a form of social practice, particularly in contexts where discourse functioned to reproduce, legitimize, or challenge power relations, ideological structures, and social inequalities (Fairclough, 1989). Built on both linguistic and social theory, CDA views language as a device through which social realities are constructed and reconstructed rather than as a purely communicative tool. Over the past decades, CDA has evolved into a diverse field which marked key contributions from Norman Fairclough, Teun A. van Dijk, and Ruth Wodak. Though these three approaches have their own academic value, this study adopted Fairclough's CDA as the main theoretical framework for its efficiency, depth, and suitability for the research aim, i.e., exploring how pragmatic markers in U.S. presidential inaugural speeches were used as linguistic tools to manifest and reproduce power dynamics, social relations, and ideologies.

2.2. Political discourse

2.2.1. Major issues in political discourse

Figure 2.1

Key features of political discourse (adopted and adapted from Van Dijk, 2010, as cited in Dahnilsyah, 2017, p. 63)

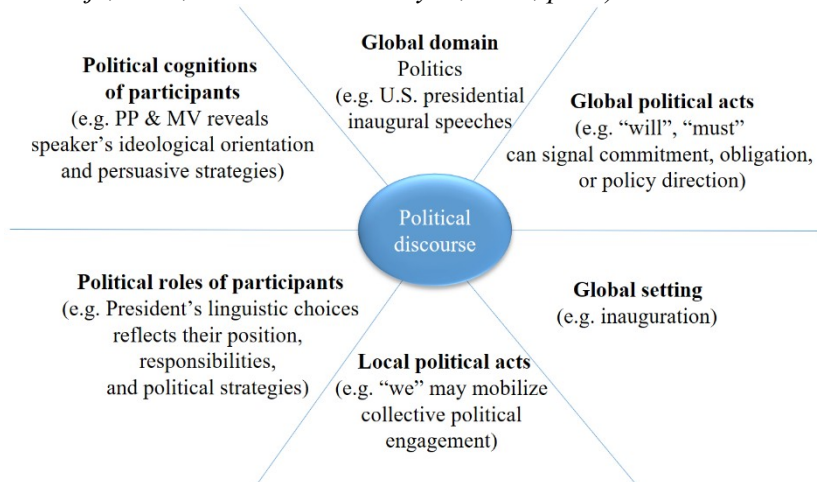
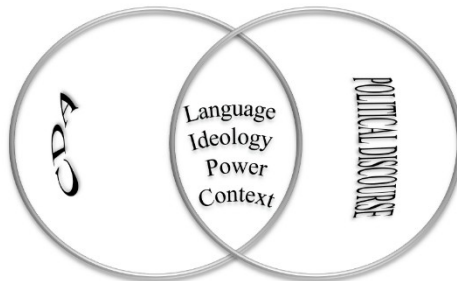


Figure 2.2

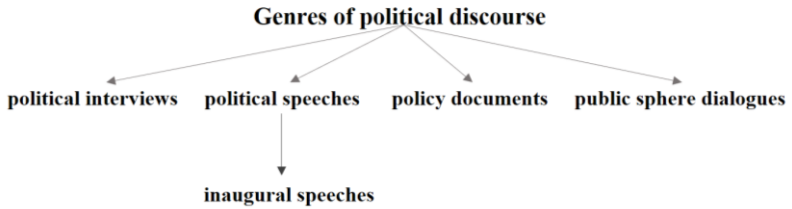
The intersection of CDA and Political Discourse



2.2.2. Genres of political discourse

Figure 2.3

Genres of political discourse (adopted from Fairclough, 2006)

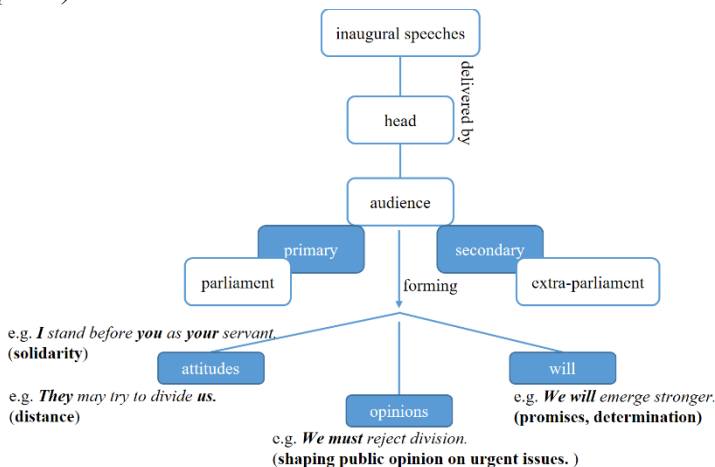


2.2.3. Inaugural speeches

The inaugural speech (or address) is a distinctive genre of political speeches, defined as the address delivered by a president or prime minister “at the commencement of their term in office” (Campbell & Jamieson, 1985, p.14). For U.S. presidents, this speech occurs every four years, marking the transition of power and offering the incoming leader an opportunity to “set the tone for their presidency” (Windt, 1990, p.35).

Figure 2.4

Inaugural speech (adopted and adapted from Reisigl, 2008, p.252)



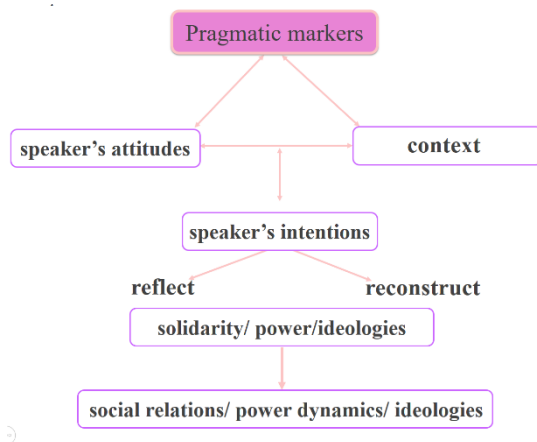
2.3. Pragmatic markers

It can be asserted that there is a persistent lack of consensus regarding the term “pragmatic markers” and its corresponding definitions. In line with the overarching aim of the study, the **working definition of “pragmatic markers”** adopted in this dissertation is consistent with Fraser and Yule’s perspective, which “signal the speaker’s potential communicative intentions” (Fraser, 1996, p. 323). In addition, for the purposes of this study, in order to uncover the underlying pragmatic intentions behind the presidents’ linguistic choices, such as the use of personal pronouns and modal verbs, **the term “pragmatic markers”** is adopted as it appears to encompass the broad range of functions and forms described across the literature.

Despite distinct classifications of pragmatic markers, the scholars agree that they are employed to signal the speaker’s attitudes and communicative intentions. Drawing on the theoretical background regarding pragmatic markers which was established, this study proposed a diagram of the nature of pragmatic markers in political discourse.

Figure 2.8

Proposed nature of pragmatic markers in political discourse



English Personal Pronouns as Pragmatic Markers

Personal pronouns should be regarded as pragmatic markers for their significance in signaling speakers' pragmatic intentions in discourse for several reasons. First, these personal pronouns convey the speaker's attitudes, positions, and communicative goals in the discourse (Brown & Gilman, 1960; Maitland & Wilson, 1987; Wilson, 1990; Fraser, 1990). Furthermore, they play an essential role in establishing and maintaining social relations (Brown & Wilson, 1987; Fairclough, 1989; Wilson, 1990; Pennycook, 1994). Last but not least, these pronouns contribute substantially to discourse cohesion and coherence for their interpretation and efficiency in communication between interlocutors. For these reasons, personal pronouns and their variants are considered valuable pragmatic markers as they effectively articulate the speakers' intentions. As Benveniste points out, personal pronouns are placed "at the heart of pragmatic theory by describing them as empty signs that only become full when used in actual discourse" (Benveniste, 1971, as cited in De Fina, 1995, p380).

Building on the theoretical background, the researcher proposes the following functional frameworks for the use of these personal pronouns in political discourse.

Figure 2.16
A proposed functional framework of “we” and its variants



Figure 2.17
A proposed functional framework of “I” and its variants

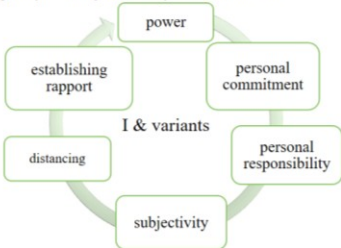


Figure 2.22
A proposed functional framework of “they” and its variants

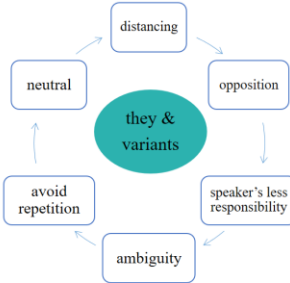


Figure 2.23
A proposed functional framework of “he” & “she” and variants

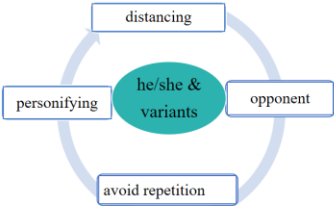
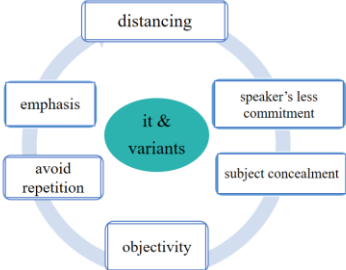


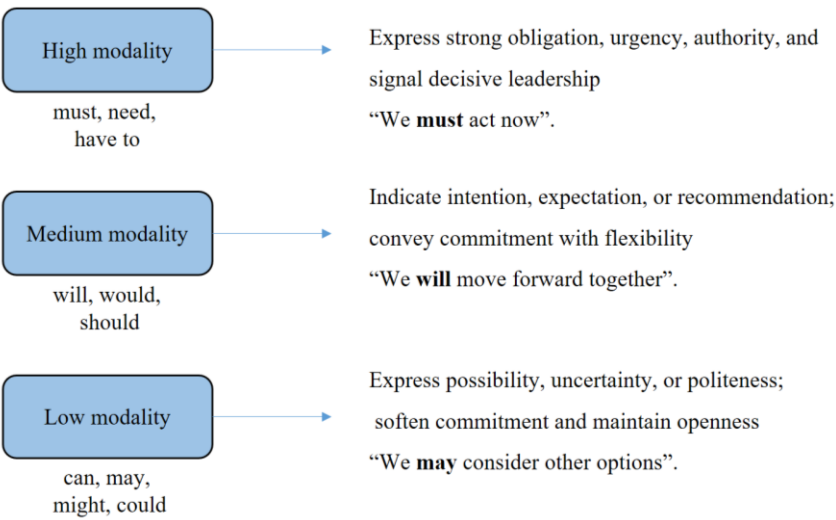
Figure 2.24
A proposed functional framework of “it” and its variants



English Modal verbs as Pragmatic Markers

Modal verbs, traditionally studied in terms of grammatical and semantic meanings, also should be considered as pragmatic markers for their significant pragmatic functions. Firstly, modal verbs express the speaker’s degree of commitment, certainty, and authority, which are central to pragmatic interpretation. Furthermore, their pragmatic implications are strongly dependent on the context; the same modal “will”, for instance, can signify a commitment in one context and a prediction in another, which can be entirely dictated by the communicative situation and the speaker’s intent, two core features of pragmatics (Yule, 2020). They thus should be recognized as pragmatic markers.

Figure 2.29
Pragmatic functions of English modals in political discourse
(adopted from Halliday & Hasan, 1989; Fairclough, 1995; Chilton 2004)



2.4. Theoretical framework of the current study

As mentioned earlier, this study adopts Fairclough's CDA as its working framework. His model is considered the most appropriate for answering three research questions, as it systematically incorporates three dimensions: (1) textual analysis, which enables the researcher to answer the first research question regarding the most frequently used personal pronoun and modal verb, (2) discursive practice, which allows her to answer the second regarding their uses as pragmatic markers, and (3) social practice, which helps the researcher to address the third regarding how they reflected and reconstructed social relations, power dynamics and ideologies in the selected speeches.

2.5. Previous studies and Research gap(s)

Although previous studies have discussed the role of personal pronouns and modal verbs in political discourse, several notable gaps remain. Many existing research has primarily examined these linguistic features from a grammatical perspective with limited attention to their pragmatic functions.

Furthermore, there is a near absence of research on the interplay among personal pronouns, particularly in relation to how presidents employed them to signal pragmatic intentions in social relations and power dynamics. Thus, these gaps highlight the necessity for a more in-depth investigation into personal pronouns and modal verbs as pragmatic markers in U.S. presidential inaugural addresses, particularly regarding the combinations among these markers. Such research would elucidate how presidents strategically deployed linguistic choices to reflect and reconstruct power, social relations, and ideologies.

CHAPTER 3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

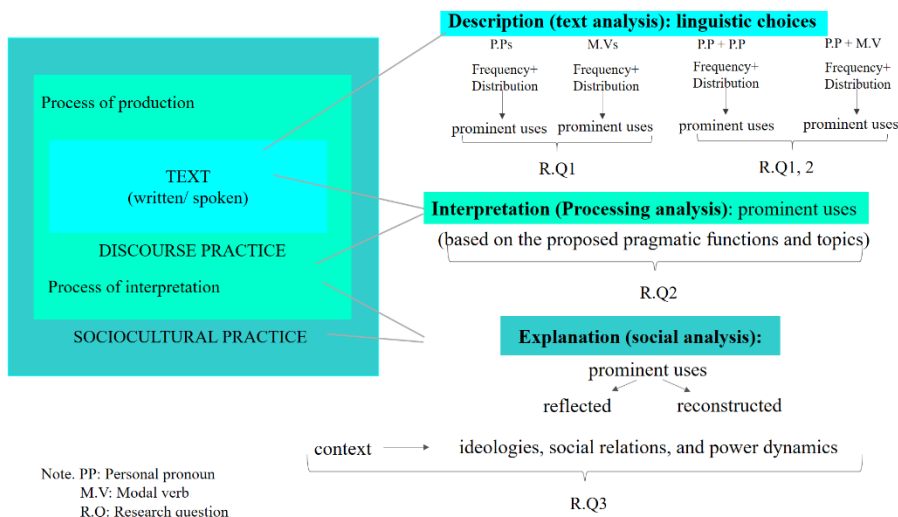
3.2.2. Data analysis

This dissertation adopted Fairclough's (1992) three-dimensional model of CDA. However, to ensure analytical focus and depth in addressing the research questions, the textual analysis at the first dimension was adapted accordingly. Instead of mechanically applying all ten guiding questions proposed by Fairclough, which cover a wide range of linguistic phenomena, the study conducted a targeted descriptive analysis. It focused on (1) the frequency of personal pronouns and modal verbs, and (2) the identification of prominent patterns in their use, whether they are used in isolation or in combination with other pragmatic markers. These quantitative data and emerging patterns functioned as a foundation for subsequent interpretation at Level 2 of Fairclough's framework, which examines the use of these prominent patterns as pragmatic markers, and at Level 3, which explores and explains their ideological implications and potential to challenge existing social and power structures.

3.4. Analytical framework

Figure 3.3

Analytical framework of the current study (adapted from Fairclough (1992))



CHAPTER 4. THE USE OF PERSONAL PRONOUNS AND MODAL VERBS IN THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURAL SPEECHES

This chapter aims to address **the first research question** by identifying which personal pronouns and modal verbs were most frequently employed and **the second research question** by examining how they were employed as pragmatic markers in the selected speeches.

First, the findings indicate that the pronoun “**we**” and its variants (“**us**”, “**our**”, “**ours**”, “**ourselves**”) are the most frequently employed by all the selected presidents across most themes in their selected speeches. However, the statistical figures simply provide an initial overview into linguistic tendencies. The analysis further reveals that the pronouns are not purely cohesive devices; they functioned as strategic tools for signaling ideologies, negotiating social relations, and enhancing power

dynamics, which laid the foundation for addressing Research Question 3.

A further striking finding concerns the use of “**she**” and its variants, signaling a progressive shift toward gender and challenging conventional pronoun norms.

These findings, through the lens of Critical Discourse Analysis, confirm that this chapter has **contributed the answer to the first two research questions** regarding the personal pronouns use in the selected speeches.

The findings also indicate that “**will**” and “**must**” were the most frequently used modals, with “will” consistently favored regardless of context or theme. In other words, it completes the answer to the **first research question**.

CHAPTER 5. THE INTERPLAY OF PERSONAL PRONOUNS AND MODAL VERBS IN THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURAL SPEECHES

This chapter aims to **complete the second research question** concerning the interplay among these pragmatic markers, i.e., personal pronouns and modal verbs and to address the **third research question** by examining how U.S. Presidents combined them as pragmatic markers in their selected inaugural speeches to reflect and reconstruct social relations, power dynamics, and ideologies in the selected speeches.

The combinations analyzed here revealed their crucial role in conveying the presidents’ varying intentions. At times, they functioned to express sincerity, foster trust, and strengthen the

relationship between the president and the people; at other times, they assert presidential authority, e.g., “I will”. Similarly, “we will” sometimes signaled a call for collective commitment, whereas in another context it conveyed empowerment of the people. By contrast, “we must” typically indicated an undeniable obligation, while “we can” evoked hope. Moreover, these combinations may also signal the role redefinition and power dynamics even more explicitly, e.g., “*we need*” and “*you will*”. This analysis demonstrates that, without the interpretive lens provided by discursive practice analysis, the unexpected functions of these pronouns and modal verbs would remain concealed. Accordingly, the analyses in these two sections have **fulfilled the second research question**, which concerns how personal pronouns and modal verbs were employed as pragmatic markers in the selected U.S. Presidential inaugural speeches. It also provides a foundation for the subsequent section, which will contribute to answering the **final research question** by exploring the underlying reasons for these findings.

The study also shows that the presidents’ political ideologies were strongly reflected in their use of modal verbs. This finding supports the conclusions of Nguyễn Thị Thanh Thanh (2023) and Kantorgorje et al. (2021), but contradicts Addae et al. (2023), who argue that the use of modal verbs, along with pronouns and rhetorical questions, tends to obscure political ideology. Moreover, in contrast to the findings of Ekawati (2019) and Lu (2022), this study shows that “will” was the most preferred modal verb among all presidents, especially when combined with the

pronoun “we.” This combination constructed a unified image in which the president’s will is aligned with the people’s aspirations, resonating with Ekawati’s (2019) perspective.

Furthermore, the analysis revealed that the interplay of these linguistic choices, such as “I-you,” “I-we,” “we-they”, “I will,” “we will”, and “we must”, served diverse pragmatic functions, from fostering solidarity and trust to asserting authority and mobilizing collective actions.

Although individual presidents and political parties exhibited differences in rhetorical style and emphasis, the overarching trend was clear: personal pronouns and modal verbs were not simply grammatical units but strategic devices for negotiating social relations, reproducing power, and strengthening ideologies. Ultimately, these linguistic choices actively reflected and reconstructed the social relations, power dynamics and ideologies in the selected speeches, thereby providing comprehensive answers to all three research questions.

CHAPTER 6. CONCLUSION

This chapter provides an overview of the study and summarizes the key findings by answering the three stated research questions. It also discusses the implications, limitations, and makes some suggestions for future research.

6.1. Major findings

The study explored the use of personal pronouns and modal verbs as pragmatic markers in the U.S. Presidential inaugural speeches, focusing on how these linguistic choices reflected and

reproduced ideologies, social relations, and power dynamics. The findings confirm that these linguistic elements are not simply grammatical features but strategic devices employed by the Presidents to achieve their diverse political purposes. These key findings are presented as below.

First, the study reveals that the pronouns “*we/us/our/ours/ourselves*” were consistently the most frequently used by all presidents, even surpassing “*I/me/my/mine/myself*”, despite the fact that the inaugural address is a genre traditionally associated with the president’s personal voice. This finding **partially address the first research question** regarding the most preferred personal pronouns.

Subsequently, the findings indicate that “*will*” and “*must*” were the most frequently used modal verbs across all presidents, with “*will*” consistently dominating regardless of context or theme.

The findings further identified seven prominent combinations, namely “*I will*”, “*we will*”, “*we must*”, “*we can*”, “*we cannot*”, “*we need*”, and “*you will*”. These patterns clearly reveal their importance in conveying diverse presidential intentions.

The absence of “*I must*” across all speeches is particularly noteworthy, thereby signaling deliberate linguistic choices rather than random. These unexpected pragmatic functions of the combinations would likely remain obscure without interpretation through the lens of discursive practice within CDA. This perspective allows the analysis to reveal their deeper implications.

Consequently, these findings provide **comprehensive answers to the first and second research questions** regarding the most frequently employed modal verbs and how they were employed by U.S. presidents in the selected inaugural speeches. Moreover, they contribute significantly to addressing the **third research question** by demonstrating how these linguistic choices interacted to reflect and reconstruct social relationships, power dynamics, and ideologies in the discourse.

Finally, the social analysis explored how the interplay of personal pronouns and modal verbs functioned as strategic devices for reflecting and reconstructing social relations, power dynamics, and ideologies in the selected speeches.

In terms of social relations, these pronoun choices shaped and reshaped boundaries of inclusion and exclusion, transforming potential divisions into rhetorical tools for solidarity and vice versa. For example, the strategic ambiguity of “*we*” allowed presidents to alternately expand or narrow the circle of responsibility, thereby reshaping patterns of collective identity. In this regard, five prominent patterns were identified, including “**I-you**”, “**I-we-you**”, “**I-we**”, “**we-you**”, and “**we-they**”. Intriguingly, combinations that might appear to create distance between the speaker, i.e., the president and/or the administration, and the audience, i.e., the people, such as “*I-you*”, “*I-we-you*”, “*we-you*”, and “*we-they*”, were frequently employed to foster connection and unity, particularly “*we-they*”.

Regarding power dynamics, the seemingly harmonious combination “*I-we*” functioned to construct and strengthen immense presidential authority. The findings also reveal deliberate sequencing of modal verbs and pronouns, exemplified by “*I will*” preceding “*we will*”. This strategy blurred the line between democratic ideals and centralized authority, converting individual will into the collective will of the nation. Such a linguistic strategy illustrates how authority was consolidated while appearing participatory.

From an ideological perspective, pronouns such as “*she*” carried symbolic weight beyond grammatical function. Positioning gender equality as a marker of national advancement signaled progressive values, challenging patriarchal norms. Similarly, the flexible use of “*we*” contributed to constructing a vision of unity while enhancing ideological boundaries between “us” and “them.”

Through these deliberate linguistic choices, the discourse not only reflected but also actively reconstructed social relationships, redistributed power, and strengthened ideologies; thus, the study achieves its overarching aim and offers a comprehensive response to all three research questions.

6.2. Implications

Building on the study’s aim of revealing how linguistic choices reflected and reconstructed social relations, power dynamics, and ideologies, the findings carry several significant implications, which will be presented in terms of contributions, theoretical insights, and practical applications.

Research Contributions

This study has addressed several notable research gaps identified in the literature. First, while many previous studies have thoroughly examined personal pronouns and modal verbs from grammatical perspectives, this research emphasized their pragmatic functions regarding how these linguistic choices functioned as pragmatic markers in political discourse. Hopefully, this study provides a more comprehensive explanation about how various personal pronouns and modal verbs functioned pragmatically in U.S. presidential inaugural speeches.

Second, the study explored the interplay among personal pronouns, e.g., “I-you”, “I-we-you”, “I-we”, “we-you”, and “we-they”. As a result, the findings show how their combinations were strategically employed to construct social relations and negotiate power. This aspect has not been fully examined in prior research, which tends to analyze pronouns in isolation rather than in combination.

In general, the presidents’ linguistic choices not only reflected their individual rhetorical strategies but also clearly presented their political stances. These findings further highlight the pragmatic significance of personal pronouns and modal verbs, both when they were used in isolation and in combination.

Theoretical Implications

Theoretically, the study positioned personal pronouns and modal verbs not purely as grammatical units but as pragmatic markers that actively construct intentions in political discourse. More significantly, it highlights how the strategic combination of these markers, such as the interplay between personal pronouns and modality, negotiated power, established rapport, distanced the speaker from audiences, and constructed ideologies. This dynamic interaction between linguistic choices reveals how

power was not statically asserted but discursively enacted and negotiated. Such findings contribute to critical discourse analysis by offering a more complex understanding of how such linguistic features participate in social practice.

Practical Implications

Practically, the study contributes valuable implications to English language teaching, particularly in related courses such as Functional grammar, Critical discourse analysis, Public speaking, Public relations, and Translation and interpretation. By applying the pragmatic effects of pronouns and modal verbs both in isolation and in combination, the findings can assist educators to guide learners appropriately and efficiently employ these linguistic choices. Recognizing how combinations of linguistic choices can simultaneously assert control and strengthen rapport may enhance pedagogical effectiveness and critical language awareness in teacher training programs.

In sum, these implications enhance the study's central argument that language in political discourse is not a neutral medium but a strategic device for enacting ideologies, social and power relations, thereby fulfilling the overarching aim of this research.

6.3. Limitations

First, the current analysis focuses on the most prominent patterns that were identified in textual and discursive practice, without covering all of the patterns. It means that potentially significant linguistic phenomena remain unexplored.

Subsequently, the study exclusively focuses on verbal language. Other nonverbal communication, such as body language, facial expressions, or prosodic features, may also play a significant role in constructing the presidents' identities and conveying their ideologies, and their absence represents a limitation in capturing the full spectrum of communicative strategies.

Last but not least, while six inaugural speeches ensure a diverse dataset for a dissertation, it also means that the analytical depth for each individual speech may be compromised.

6.4. Suggestions for further studies

Building on the limitations acknowledged above, future research could adopt several directions to deepen and broaden the understanding of pragmatic markers in political discourse.

First, while this study focused on the prominent patterns which were identified at the textual and discursive practice dimensions, future research could aim to analyze all identified patterns more comprehensively. A full-scale examination of the entire dataset, including less prominent may reveal other potential ideologies and suggest how power dynamics and social relations are more flexibly constructed and reconstructed.

Second, non-verbal markers, such as gestures, facial expressions, and prosodic features, could be included in order to enrich the analysis. These elements may play a crucial role in signaling further intentions, especially in political speeches, and their inclusion would help capture the full spectrum of communicative strategies.

Finally, future studies may consider narrowing the scope to focus intensively on one or two inaugural addresses which allows for deeper micro-level analysis. In addition, researchers could explore other political speech genres, such as campaign speeches, press conferences, or debates, to investigate whether similar pragmatic strategies persist or change in different communicative settings.

6.5. Concluding remarks

This study stems from enduring concerns and serious reflections on how deliberate linguistic choices, especially personal pronouns and modal verbs, are not purely a means of conveying information but also a tool of power in constructing ideology, shaping social relationships, and asserting political authority. After conducting research, the researcher found that although these linguistic features have been widely discussed in political discourse, their pragmatic aspects, particularly their interactions, have not been fully explored.

Therefore, this study is not simply a discourse analysis but a response to a gap the researcher has identified in the existing research, the gap concerning the establishment of theoretical and empirical concepts for pragmatic markers in political discourse. By focusing on how U.S. presidents from 1997 to 2025 employed personal pronouns and modal verbs as pragmatic markers to reflect shifts in the Presidents' ideologies, social and power relations, she hopes to have contributed a new perspective to the field of political discourse analysis.

Thesis-related publications

- Ngô Hữu Hoàng & Phạm Hồng Trang (2022). Interpersonal discourse markers and some issues on their translation (Evidence from Vietnamese and English). *Language Journal*, 8(382), pp. 18-27.
- Phạm Hồng Trang & Ngô Hữu Hoàng (2023). I, we, you in 2 political speeches by President Ho Chi Minh and President George Washington. In *2023 International Graduate Research Symposium* (pp. 342-356). Vietnam National University Press. ISBN 978-604-384-167-1.
- Phạm Hồng Trang (2024). Personal pronouns as pragmatic markers in political speeches: A literature review. In *2024 International Graduate Research Symposium* (pp. 107-117). Vietnam National University Press, Hanoi. ISBN 978-604-434-293-1.
- Phạm Hồng Trang & Ngô Hữu Hoàng (2025). The address forms "I," "We," and "You" as pragmatic markers in Joe Biden's presidential inaugural speech: A political discourse analysis. *International Journal of Scientific and Research Publications*, 15(1), pp. 137-143.
<https://doi.org/10.29322/IJSRP.15.01.2025.p15719>
- Phạm Hồng Trang (2025). Pragmatic markers in political discourse. *Journal of Language and Life*, 6B(369), pp. 78-89.