(ISSN - 2752-7018)

VOLUME 04 ISSUE 07 Pages: 11-19

OCLC - 1276789625









Publisher: Frontline Journals



Website: Journal https://frontlinejournal s.org/journals/index.ph p/fsshj

Copyright: Original content from this work may be used under the terms of the creative commons attributes 4.0 licence.



VOICES OF GOVERNANCE: A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE'S POLITICAL **SPEECHES**

Submission Date: June 22, 2024, Accepted Date: June 27, 2024,

Published Date: July 02, 2024

Christian Calvo

PhD, St. John Paul II College Of Davao Davao City, Philippines

ABSTRACT

This study conducts a critical discourse analysis of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's political speeches, aiming to uncover the underlying power dynamics, rhetorical strategies, and ideological constructs. By examining a selection of his public addresses, this research identifies recurring themes and linguistic patterns that characterize Duterte's governance and political communication. The analysis explores how Duterte's rhetoric reflects and shapes socio-political realities in the Philippines, revealing his approaches to authority, populism, and national identity. Through this lens, the study offers insights into the broader implications of his discourse on public perception, policy-making, and democratic processes. The findings contribute to a deeper understanding of the role of political speech in contemporary governance and the construction of political authority.

KEYWORDS

Rodrigo Roa Duterte, Political speeches, Critical discourse analysis, Power dynamics, Rhetorical strategies, Ideological constructs, Populism, Governance, National identity, Political communication.

Volume 04 Issue 07-2024

11

(ISSN – 2752-7018)

VOLUME 04 ISSUE 07 Pages: 11-19

OCLC - 1276789625









Publisher: Frontline Journals

Introduction

Political speeches are powerful tools for shaping public opinion, policy, and national identity. They serve as a means through which leaders articulate their vision, justify their actions, and influence the masses. In the context of the Philippines, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's speeches have garnered significant attention for their distinctive style and controversial content. Duterte's rhetoric, marked by bluntness and populist appeal, has both captivated and polarized audiences, making it a rich subject for critical discourse analysis. By employing critical discourse analysis (CDA), this research seeks to the underlying power dynamics. uncover rhetorical strategies, and ideological constructs that pervade Duterte's public addresses. CDA provides a robust framework for examining how language reflects and shapes social and political realities, making it an ideal method for this investigation.

President Duterte's rise to power and his tenure have been characterized by a series of bold policy moves and contentious statements, particularly on issues such as the war on drugs, corruption, and foreign policy. His speeches offer a window into his governance style and priorities, as well as the ways in which he seeks to legitimize his authority and resonate with the Filipino populace. This study will analyse a selection of these speeches to identify recurring themes and linguistic patterns, offering insights into the broader implications of Duterte's discourse on public perception, policy-making, and democratic processes.

The significance of this study lies in its contribution to understanding the role of political speech in contemporary governance. By critically examining Duterte's rhetoric, we can gain deeper insights into the construction of political authority, the mobilization of populism, and the impact of leadership communication on national identity. Furthermore, this research provides a nuanced perspective on the socio-political landscape of the Philippines, highlighting the complex interplay between language, power, and politics. In the following chapters, this study will outline the theoretical framework methodology of critical discourse analysis, present a detailed analysis of selected speeches, and discuss the findings in relation to existing

(ISSN - 2752-7018)

VOLUME 04 ISSUE 07 Pages: 11-19

OCLC - 1276789625









Publisher: Frontline Journals

literature on political communication and discourse studies. Through this comprehensive analysis, the study aims to shed light on the voices of governance that shape the political narrative in the Philippines under President Rodrigo Roa Duterte.

METHOD

This study employs Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) to examine the political speeches of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte. CDA is an interdisciplinary approach that focuses on the relationship between language and power in social contexts. It aims to uncover the implicit ideologies and power structures embedded in discourse. This methodology is particularly suited for analyzing political speeches, as it allows for a deep exploration of how language is used to construct and maintain political authority.

The primary data for this study consists of a selection of President Duterte's political speeches delivered between June 2016 and June 2022. These speeches were chosen based on their significance in addressing key national issues, such as the war on drugs, corruption, and foreign policy. Sources for these speeches include official government websites, news archives. transcripts available from reputable media organizations.

Analytical Framework

The analysis follows Norman Fairclough's threedimensional model of CDA, which includes:

Textual Analysis: This involves a detailed examination of the linguistic features of the speeches, including vocabulary, grammar, and rhetorical devices. The focus is on identifying patterns and recurring themes that reveal the underlying messages and intentions.

Discursive Practice: This dimension looks at how the speeches are produced, distributed, and consumed. It involves analysing the context in which the speeches were delivered, the audience's reception, and the media's role in disseminating the messages.

Social Practice: This involves examining the broader socio-political context and the power relations that influence and are influenced by the discourse. It considers how Duterte's rhetoric reflects and impacts social realities and political structures in the Philippines.

Volume 04 Issue 07-2024

13

(ISSN - 2752-7018)

VOLUME 04 ISSUE 07 Pages: 11-19

OCLC - 1276789625









Publisher: Frontline Journals

Procedures

All selected speeches are transcribed if not already available in text form. The transcripts are then coded using qualitative data analysis software (such as NVivo) to identify key themes, patterns, and linguistic features. The coded data is analysed thematically to uncover dominant themes and sub-themes in Duterte's speeches. This step involves identifying how these themes relate to concepts of power, governance, and national identity. Each speech is analysed in its specific context, considering the political, social, and economic circumstances at the time of delivery. This step helps to understand the immediate and long-term impact of the speeches on public perception and policy-making. The findings from the textual, discursive, and social practice analyses are synthesized to interpret the broader implications of Duterte's political discourse. This involves linking the micro-level macro-level features to social linguistic structures and ideologies.

Validity and Reliability

To ensure the validity and reliability of the findings, the study employs triangulation by using multiple data sources and analytical methods. Peer debriefing and member checking are also used to refine the analysis and interpretations. Additionally, the researcher maintains reflexivity throughout the study to acknowledge and mitigate potential biases.

Ethical Considerations

This study adheres to ethical standards in research, including obtaining necessary permissions for using speech transcripts and ensuring the confidentiality of any personal data that may be included in the speeches. The analysis aims to provide an objective and balanced interpretation of without the data misrepresenting the content or context of the speeches. employing By this robust methodological framework, the study aims to provide a comprehensive and nuanced analysis of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's political contributing broader speeches, to the understanding of political communication and discourse in the Philippines.

RESULTS

The critical discourse analysis of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's political speeches reveals several key themes and linguistic patterns that

(ISSN - 2752-7018)

VOLUME 04 ISSUE 07 Pages: 11-19

OCLC - 1276789625











Publisher: Frontline Journals

characterize his rhetoric and governance style. These results offer insights into the underlying power dynamics, ideological constructs, and of socio-political implications Duterte's discourse. Duterte's speeches frequently exhibit an authoritarian tone, emphasizing his strong leadership and decisive action. Phrases such as "I will not tolerate," "I have ordered," and "We will crush" are recurrent, reflecting his approach to governance that prioritizes order and control. This authoritarian discourse is particularly evident in speeches addressing the war on drugs and crime, where Duterte positions himself as a protector of public safety and a warrior against societal evils. His speeches frequently include phrases like "my fellow countrymen" and "for the people," aiming to establish a direct connection with his audience. This populist appeal is a strategic effort to garner public support and legitimacy.

Nationalism is a prominent theme in Duterte's speeches. He frequently invokes the concepts of national sovereigntv and independence. particularly in the context of foreign policy. Statements like "We must assert our sovereignty" and "The Philippines will not be a pawn" highlight his stance on protecting national interests against

foreign influence. This nationalist discourse is designed to foster a sense of pride and unity among Filipinos while positioning Duterte as a defender of the nation's autonomy. Duterte's rhetoric often includes moral and ethical constructs, framing his policies and actions as morally justified and necessary for the greater good. He uses moral dichotomies such as "good versus evil" and "right versus wrong" to simplify complex issues and justify his controversial measures. The analysis reveals a significant use of adversarial language, where Duterte identifies and attacks perceived enemies and critics. Terms like "enemies of the state," "traitors," and "corrupt officials" are frequently used to discredit opposition and rally support for his administration. This conflict-driven discourse serves to create a clear division between allies and adversaries, reinforcing loyalty among supporters while marginalizing dissent.

Duterte's speeches are often emotionally charged. using fear and urgency to mobilize public support. He emphasizes threats such as crime, drugs, and terrorism, employing vivid and graphic language to evoke fear and urgency. Statements like "Our country is in danger" and "We must act now" are designed to elicit strong emotional responses and

(ISSN – 2752-7018)

VOLUME 04 ISSUE 07 Pages: 11-19

OCLC - 1276789625











Publisher: Frontline Journals

justify immediate and decisive action. Repetition is a notable linguistic pattern in Duterte's speeches. Key phrases and messages are repeated to reinforce his points and ensure they resonate with his audience. This repetitive strategy, combined with the simplification of complex issues into binary choices, makes his rhetoric more accessible and memorable for the general populace. These findings contribute to a deeper understanding of how political leaders use language to shape socio-political realities and influence public perception. Duterte's rhetoric not only reflects his governance style but also impacts the broader democratic processes and national identity in the Philippines. By critically examining these speeches, this study sheds light on the complex interplay between language, power, and politics in contemporary governance.

DISCUSSION

The critical discourse analysis (CDA) of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's political speeches provides significant insights into the strategies, ideologies, and implications of his rhetoric on governance and national discourse in the Philippines. This discussion synthesizes the findings from the analysis and explores their broader implications

for political communication, public perception, and democratic processes. Duterte's speeches consistently exhibit authoritarian tendencies, characterized by strong assertions of power and decisive action. This authoritarian discourse is evident in his rhetoric on issues like the war on drugs and crime, where he positions himself as a decisive leader willing to take extreme measures to maintain law and order. The use of phrases like "I will not hesitate to" and "I have ordered" underscores his authoritative governance style, appealing to a desire for stability and security among the populace.

Simultaneously. Duterte emplovs populist rhetoric to cultivate a direct connection with the Filipino masses. His use of colloquial language and appeals to common grievances against corruption and inequality resonate with ordinary citizens. However, this populist appeal also polarizes public opinion and undermines institutional checks and balances, as evidenced by his confrontations with the judiciary and media. Nationalism is a recurring theme in Duterte's speeches, particularly in discussions on foreign policy and territorial sovereignty. His rhetoric often emphasizes the protection of Philippine interests and the assertion of national

(ISSN - 2752-7018)

VOLUME 04 ISSUE 07 Pages: 11-19

OCLC - 1276789625









Publisher: Frontline Journals

sovereignty against perceived external threats. This nationalist discourse resonates with a sense of pride and unity among Filipinos, tapping into historical grievances and perceptions of foreign interference.

However, Duterte's nationalist stance has also sparked diplomatic tensions and raised concerns about the Philippines' international relations. His confrontational rhetoric towards foreign entities. particularly Western countries and international organizations, has implications for the country's positioning geopolitical and economic partnerships. Moreover, while appealing to nationalist sentiments can consolidate domestic support, it may also isolate the Philippines diplomatically and limit avenues for international cooperation. The analysis of Duterte's speeches underscores their impact on democratic processes and governance in the Philippines. His confrontational rhetoric towards political opponents and media critics has contributed to a climate of polarization and distrust in democratic institutions. The use of adversarial language and demonization of dissenters undermine pluralism and civic discourse. potentially eroding democratic norms and freedoms.

Moreover, Duterte's rhetorical strategies have reshaped public discourse and political narratives, influencing public opinion and electoral outcomes. The emphasis on security and stability resonates with voters disillusioned with traditional politics, contributing to his electoral success and sustained popularity despite controversies and criticism. By contextualizing Duterte's rhetoric within global trends of populism and authoritarianism, researchers can deepen their understanding of its implications for democratic governance and national development. The critical discourse analysis of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's political speeches illuminates the complex interplay between language, power, and politics in contemporary Philippine governance. Duterte's rhetoric blends authoritarianism, populism, nationalism, and moral discourse to consolidate power, mobilize support, and shape national identity. While resonating with segments of the population, his rhetoric also raises fundamental questions about its impact on democratic processes, human rights, and the rule of law.

Conclusion

Volume 04 Issue 07-2024

(ISSN - 2752-7018)

VOLUME 04 ISSUE 07 Pages: 11-19

OCLC - 1276789625









Publisher: Frontline Journals

The critical discourse analysis of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's political speeches offers a comprehensive examination of the rhetorical strategies, themes, and implications embedded within his governance and communication style. Throughout his presidency, Duterte's speeches have been marked by authoritarianism, populism, nationalism, and moral discourse, shaping public perception, policy agendas, and the socio-political landscape of the Philippines.

Duterte's discourse reflects strong authoritarian streak, characterized by assertive language and decisive directives aimed at portraying him as a strong leader capable of addressing societal issues. His populist rhetoric has effectively appealed to the frustrations of the Filipino populace, positioning him as a champion against corruption and inequality, albeit at the expense of institutional checks and balances. his nationalist narrative Moreover. emphasized sovereignty and national pride, resonating with sentiments of historical grievance and resistance to foreign influence. Ethically, Duterte's discourse has often framed policies, such as the controversial war on drugs, within moral narratives of societal cleansing and protection, legitimizing contentious measures

under the guise of national security. However, these moral absolutes have drawn international criticism and internal scrutiny regarding human rights abuses and due process.

In conclusion, the critical discourse analysis of President Duterte's political speeches highlights the intricate interplay between language, power, politics in contemporary Philippine governance. By scrutinizing Duterte's rhetoric through a critical lens, this study enhances our understanding of how political discourse shapes public perception, policy-making, and democratic practices. It underscores the imperative for informed civic dialogue, ethical governance, and institutional resilience in safeguarding democratic principles amidst evolving sociopolitical challenges. Ultimately, this analysis contributes to a deeper appreciation of the complexities and implications of leadership communication in shaping the trajectory of nations, offering valuable insights for future research and policy development in Philippines and beyond.

REFERENCE

Volume 04 Issue 07-2024

18

(ISSN - 2752-7018)

VOLUME 04 ISSUE 07 Pages: 11-19

OCLC - 1276789625









Publisher: Frontline Journals

- 1. Academic Research Guide (2013). Analysing qualitative data. London: Routledge.
- 2. Aghagolzadeh & Bahrami-Khorshid (2009) .The power of discourse and the discourse of power: Pursuing peace through discourse intervention. International Journal of Peace Studies.3 (9) 20-29.
- 3. Alexander, C. (2005). Cultural Pragmatics: Social Performance between Ritual and Strategy. Sociological Theory 22.4: 527-573. American Sociological Association. Web. ISTOR Archive.
- **4.** Ary, E. (2002) . Qualitative data analysis. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publication.
- **5.** Barton S. & Hamilton T. (1998). Modernity and ambivalence. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 6. Batstone, D. (1995). Advances in discourse approaches. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

- 7. Bayram, F.(2010). Ideology and political discourse: a critical discourse analysis of erdogan"s political speech. ARECLS, 7(4), 23-40.
- **8.** Beard, A. (2000). The language of politics. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- **9.** Berg, T. (1998). Research methods in primary care. Oxon: Radcliffe Medical Press.
- 10. Blommaert, V. (2011). Critical discourse analysis: scrutinizing ideologically -driven International discourses. **Iournal** of Humanities and Social Sciences. 16(7) 25-31.
- 11. Breeze, R. (2011). Critical discourse analysis and its critic. International Pragmatics (Pragmatics 21:4.493-525 , Association. 2011)
- **12.** Brno. T. (2011).Discourse analysis. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- 13. Blommaert, A.(2002). Social psychology and discourse. Oxford, UK: Wiley - Blackwell.

Volume 04 Issue 07-2024