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LIGNE EDITORIALE DE PARTICIP'ACTION

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Une courte présentation en note de bas de page des auteurs (es) ne devant pas dépasser 100 mots par auteur. On doit y retrouver obligatoirement le nom de l'auteur, le nom de l'institution d'origine, le statut professionnel et l'organisation dont il relève, et enfin, les adresses de courrier électronique du ou des auteurs. L'auteur peut aussi énumérer ses principaux champs de recherche et ses principales publications. La revue ne s'engage toutefois pas à diffuser tous ces éléments.

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Une liste de cinq mots clés maximum décrivant l'objet de l'article.

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Résumé en français. Mots-clés, Abstract, Keywords,

Introduction, Méthodologie, Résultats et Discussion, Conclusion, Bibliographie.

Par exemple : Les articles conformes aux normes de présentation, doivent contenir les rubriques suivantes : introduction, problématique de l'étude, méthodologie adoptée, résultats de la recherche, perspectives pour recherche, conclusions, références bibliographiques.

Tout l'article ne doit dépasser 17 pages,

Police Times new roman, taille 12 et interligne 1,5 (maximum 30 000 mots). La revue Particip'Action permet l'usage de notes de bas de page pour ajouter des précisions au texte. Mais afin de ne pas alourdir la lecture et d'aller à l'essentiel, il est recommandé de **faire le moins possible usage des notes (10 notes de bas de page au maximum par article).**

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Les passages cités sont présentés en romain et entre guillemets. Lorsque la phrase citant et la citation dépassent trois lignes, il faut aller à la ligne, pour présenter la citation (interligne 1) en romain et en retrait, en diminuant la taille de police d'un point. Insérer la pagination et ne pas insérer d'information autre que le numéro de page dans l'en-tête et éviter les pieds de page.

Les figures et les tableaux doivent être intégrés au texte et présentés avec des marges d'au moins six centimètres à droite et à gauche. Les caractères dans ces figures et tableaux doivent aussi être en Times 12. Figures et tableaux doivent avoir chacun(e) un titre.

Les citations dans le corps du texte doivent être indiquées par un retrait avec tabulation 1 cm et le texte mis en taille 11.

Les références de citations sont intégrées au texte citant, selon les cas, de la façon suivante :

- (Initiale (s) du Prénom ou des Prénoms de l'auteur. Nom de l'Auteur, année de publication, pages citées) ; - Initiale (s) du Prénom ou des Prénoms de l'auteur. Nom de l'Auteur (année de publication, pages citées). Exemples :

- En effet, le but poursuivi par **M. Ascher (1998, p. 223)**, est « d'élargir l'histoire des mathématiques de telle sorte qu'elle acquière une perspective multiculturelle et globale (...), d'accroître le domaine des mathématiques : alors qu'elle s'est pour l'essentiel occupée du groupe professionnel occidental que l'on appelle les mathématiciens (...) ».

- Pour dire plus amplement ce qu'est cette capacité de la société civile, qui dans son déploiement effectif, atteste qu'elle peut porter le développement et l'histoire, S. B. Diagne (1991, p. 2) écrit :

Qu'on ne s'y trompe pas : de toute manière, les populations ont toujours su opposer à la philosophie de l'encadrement et à son volontarisme leurs propres stratégies de contournements. Celles-là, par exemple, sont lisibles dans le dynamisme, ou à tout le moins, dans la créativité dont sait preuve ce que l'on désigne sous le nom de secteur informel et à qui il faudra donner l'appellation positive d'économie populaire.

- Le philosophe ivoirien a raison, dans une certaine mesure, de lire, dans ce choc déstabilisateur, le processus du sous-développement. Ainsi qu'il le dit :

le processus du sous-développement résultant de ce choc est vécu concrètement par les populations concernées comme une crise globale : crise socio-économique (exploitation brutale, chômage permanent, exode accéléré et douloureux), mais aussi crise socio-culturelle et de civilisation traduisant une impréparation sociohistorique et une inadaptation des cultures et des comportements humains aux formes de vie imposées par les technologies étrangères. (S. Diakitè, 1985, p. 105).

Pour les articles de deux ou trois auteurs, noter les initiales des prénoms, les noms et suivis de l'année (J. Batee et D. Maate, 2004 ou K. Moote, A. Pooul et E. Polim, 2000). Pour les articles ou ouvrages collectifs de plus de trois auteurs noter les initiales des prénoms, le nom du premier auteur et la mention "et al" (F. Loom et al, 2003). Lorsque plusieurs références sont utilisées pour la même information, celles-ci doivent être mises en ordre chronologique (R. Gool, 1998 et M. Goti, 2006).

Les sources historiques, les références d'informations orales et les notes explicatives sont numérotées en série continue et présentées en bas de page.

Références bibliographiques (obligatoire)

Les divers éléments d'une référence bibliographique sont présentés comme suit : NOM et Prénom (s) de l'auteur, Année de publication, Zone titre, Lieu de publication, Zone Editeur, pages (p.) occupées par l'article dans la revue ou l'ouvrage collectif.

Dans la zone titre, le titre d'un article est présenté en romain et entre guillemets, celui d'un ouvrage, d'un mémoire ou d'une thèse, d'un rapport, d'une revue ou d'un journal est présenté en italique. Dans la zone Editeur, on indique la Maison d'édition (pour un ouvrage), le Nom et le numéro/volume de la revue (pour un article). Au cas où un ouvrage est une traduction et/ou une réédition, il faut préciser après le titre le nom du traducteur et/ou l'édition (ex : 2nde éd.).

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BERGER Gaston, 1967, L'homme moderne et son éducation, Paris, PUF.

DIAGNE Souleymane Bachir, 2003, « Islam et philosophie. Leçons d'une rencontre », Diogène, 202, p. 145-151.

DIAKITE Sidiki, 1985, Violence technologique et développement. La question africaine du développement, Paris, L'Harmattan.

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NB2 : La quête philosophique centrale de la revue **Particip'Action** reste: **Fluidité identitaire et construction du changement: approches pluri-et/ou transdisciplinaires.**

Les auteurs qui souhaitent se faire publier dans nos colonnes sont priés d'avoir cette philosophie comme fil directeur de leur réflexion.

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A CRITICAL DESCRIPTIVE, INTERPRETATIVE AND EXPLANATORY ANALYSIS OF VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS'S VICTORY SPEECH

Ferdinand KPOHOUÉ*

Nassourou IMOROU*

Edouard L. K. KOBÀ*

Abstract

This paper has explored Vice President Kamala Harris's victory speech with the goals of uncovering the US economic and socio-political issues in the days of Covid-19 through the analyzed linguistic properties drawing on Fairclough's (1989) Critical Discourse Analysis model. In light of the identified processes classified in descending order, being processes have taken the lead and are followed by projecting and doing processes accordingly. They respectively point out the state of the nation as led by the outgoing president (Donald Trump), the sustainable recovery plans suggested by the incoming vice president's team and the stocktaking of their endeavors during the electoral campaign. It is revealed that the US Democratic Party has materialized the promotion of women. Contemporary American issues were chiefly raised and some urgent and adequate measures were promised to tackle them.

Keywords: Discourse, processes, recovery, sustainable, stocktaking.

Résumé

Cet article a exploré le discours de victoire de la Vice-présidente Kamala Harris dans le but de faire ressortir les problèmes économiques et sociopolitiques des Etats-Unis à l'ère du Covid-19 à travers l'analyse des propriétés linguistiques en s'appuyant sur le modèle d'analyse critique du discours de Fairclough (1989). À la lumière des verbes identifiés classés par ordre décroissant, les verbes d'état viennent en premier et sont suivis des verbes de projection et d'action. Ils mettent respectivement en évidence l'état de la nation tel que dirigé par le président sortant (Donald Trump), les plans de redressement durable proposés par l'équipe du vice-président entrant et le bilan des efforts déployés pendant la campagne électorale. Il est

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révélé que le parti démocrate américain a matérialisé la promotion des femmes. Les problèmes contemporains américains ont été particulièrement évoqués et des mesures urgentes et adéquates ont été promises pour les résoudre.

Mots-clés : Discours, verbes, redressement, durable, bilan.

Introduction

The running for any office, be it the Oval Office or the Élysée Palace, is conditioned by the identification of the economic, socio-political predicaments of voters and the wording of campaign promises that potential voters are expected to hear or read about during election times. Standing as a candidate for an electoral position means selecting appropriate and eye-catching slogans and campaign backgrounds to persuade and win the large majority of electors' votes. This commonsensical assumption regularly leads candidates, for the sake of winning elections, to make utopian promises whose achievements become problematic and unattainable. The flip side of the medal of offering grounds for fame and glory to the populations can turn into a nightmare for candidates when policy decisions and future re-election mismatch. Actually, voters make objective judgments based on the ratio between what is said and what is achieved and opponents to the incumbent rulers surf on these undelivered promises to criticize and attempt to conquer the power. In the American context, the failure of “make America great again” has made it possible for the democratic candidates (Joe Biden and Kamala Harris) to access the power machinery. Accordingly, the blemish of a ruling party sets a fertile ground for the opposition party, which has a more criticizing stance to tame voters in pandemic, isolationist, protectionist and cold trade warfare contexts.

The interest of linguists in the analysis of discourse (advertising discourse, religious discourse, political discourse, gender discourse, etc.) is substantiated by the huge discursal devices therein, which are fruitful

estates for the scientific exploration of the explicit and implicit contents of the said and unsaid dimensions of the messages. Of the tools at the disposal of language analysts, Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG), Multimodal Discourse Analysis (MDA) and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) are worth using to carry out an undertaking of this scope. Narrowing the investigation down to the use of just one analytical tool, this paper is grounded in N. Fairclough's (1989) three-stage model (description, interpretation and explanation) in order to carry out a critical exploration of Vice President-elect Kamala Harris's victory speech, a speech delivered on November 7, 2020.

The set objectives of this paper are to identify and analyze the process types attached to each sentential structure and to dig out the past achievements and plans, current challenges and potential ambitions through the linguistic resources in the victory speech under scrutiny.

- 1- What are the identifiable processes in the speech?
- 2- How can the processes account for the past (doing), present (being) and outlook (projecting) of the USA?

The relevance of the current paper is to come up with the benchmark of achievable political promises in campaign speeches and advocate the ethic of credibility in political commitments at the start of terms of office in keeping with the actual potentials and capabilities of the countries by considering exogenous and unforeseen events such as the Covid-19 pandemic, climate change, etc., which challenges all human-led governments and economic activities.

1. Theoretical Framework and Methodology

This section clarifies the theoretical background of CDA and sheds some light on the methodological outlook. It gets started with a broad view of CDA.

1.1 Critical Discourse Analysis: Origin, Definition and Principles

CDA can be traced to the 1970s in the work by R. Fowler, B. Hodge, G. Kress, and T. Trew (1979) on Language and Control under the banner of Critical Linguistics. Their work is grounded in how language works in the social context and how it is related to power and ideology. In the words of Fowler et al. (1979, p.90), “critical linguistics (CL) simply means an enquiry into the relations between signs, meanings, and the social and historical conditions which govern the semantic structure of discourse, using a particular kind of linguistic analysis”. This suggests that CDA draws much from critical linguistics in order to construct its social and historical backgrounds. Besides, CDA is not rooted in just one school’s achievements but rather in an approach under the scope of which there are a number of trends. Utilizing Halliday’s functional grammar as an analytic tool, “CL changed its nomenclature in the 1990s to CDA by scholars through a series of symposia which aimed at articulating the various theories and methods of CDA” (R. Wodak and M. Meyer, 2001, p.13).

Offering more clues, R. Wodak (1996, p.6) makes it clear that “CDA is an interdisciplinary research paradigm which draws its methods from a variety of disciplines such as classical rhetoric, text linguistics, sociolinguistics, applied linguistics, pragmatics, sociology, anthropology and linguistics”. These various disciplines uncloak that CDA is not only an interdisciplinary research paradigm but also a transdisciplinary one.

In light of the above, CDA is not just a theoretical framework or simply a method of enquiry. van Dijk (1997, p.99) calls it “a perspective in doing scholarship”, whilst R. Wodak (1989) terms it a “research paradigm,” a kind of orientation or model or pattern of research in need of constant revising. A. Jaworski and N. Coupland (2002, p.115) view “CDA as a sort of forensic activity with a libertarian political slant”. Owing to its multidimensional trends and diversified sources, “Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is obviously not a homogenous model, nor a school or a

paradigm but at most a shared perspective on doing linguistic, semiotic or discourse analysis” (T. van Dijk, 1997, p.131). On the bedrock that CDA’s principles and methods are ambivalent, it can be asserted that there is no monolithic theoretical framework or methodology for CDA because it encompasses a range of possible approaches to discourse analysis (N. Fairclough, 1995b; T. van Dijk, 1988; R. Wodak, 1989, etc). These scholars explicitly take a political stance and apply critique to the analysis of oppressive, discriminatory, exploitative, offensive and repressive language use. In keeping with N. Fairclough’s (1989, p.134) view, “CDA is perceived as a research tactics constitutive of social structures, the same way as the social structures determine discursive practices. CDA recognizes both directions and in particular ‘explores’ the tension between these two sides of language use, the socially shaped and socially constitutive”. In this breath, “discourse is a form of social practice which both constitutes the social world and is constituted by other social practices” (M. Jørgensen and L. Phillips, 2002, p.61). For T. van Dijk (1998, p.352), Critical Discourse Analysis is “a type of discourse analytical research that primarily studies the way social power abuse, dominance and inequality are enacted, reproduced and resisted by text and talk in the social and political context”. It is simply a social science which advocates the establishment and maintenance of social peace, justice, equity, protection and defense of the most vulnerable populations.

Additionally, CDA is a theory and a social practice that is regulated by principles which orient its realm of activities. N. Fairclough and R. Wodak (1997, p.271-80) conveniently give an account of the major principles of CDA:

1. CDA addresses social problems
2. Power relations are discursive
3. Discourse constitutes society and culture
4. Discourse does ideological work

5. Discourse is historical
6. The link between text and society is mediated
7. Discourse analysis is interpretative and explanatory
8. Discourse is a form of social action.

Critical discourse analysts are more inclined to the defense of social, political and economic justice and stand against all entities aiming at abusing the use of social or political power against the ordinary people. In this view, "CDA does not deny, but explicitly defines and defends its own sociopolitical position. That is, CDA is biased – and proud of it" (T. van Dijk, 2001, p.96). The working hand of CDA (an interdisciplinary approach) in the descriptive stage is Systemic Functional Grammar. This research work aims at using the transitivity pattern entrenched in the experiential meaning to conduct the investigation into the Victory Speech delivered by Kamala Harris. This pattern mostly aims at turning our experience into wording and meaning. It spans over our external experiences of the world and leans on the verb and verbal phrases in the clause. The transitivity system zeroes in on the clausal participants, processes and circumstances. In the words of M. A. K. Halliday and M. I. M. Matthiessen (2004), the transitivity system construes the world of experience into a manageable set of PROCESS TYPES. M. A. K. Halliday (1985) identifies six process types: material (doing-and-happening), existential (actuality of something/someone), behavioral (physiological and psychological actions/behaviors), mental (cognition, affection, perception and emotion), verbal (communicative actions or saying things) and relational (being and having). These processes are further linked as follows: doing (material and behavioral), projecting (mental and verbal) and being (relational and existential).

There are three worlds in his theory: the outer world, the inner world and the abstract relationship world in experimental metafunction. The outer world is the physical world with natural phenomena, human beings' as well as entities' activities, and it is realized into Material, Existential and Behavioral processes. The inner world is the world of consciousness and awareness including processes of perception, cognition and affection, and it is realized into Mental and Verbal processes. The last world is the abstract relationship between human and nature, relationship among human beings and it is realized in Relational processes (N. T. T., Trinh, P. V. Hoa & T. H Phuc, 2017:212).

In the figure below, three worlds are purposively deduced as related to the categorization above.

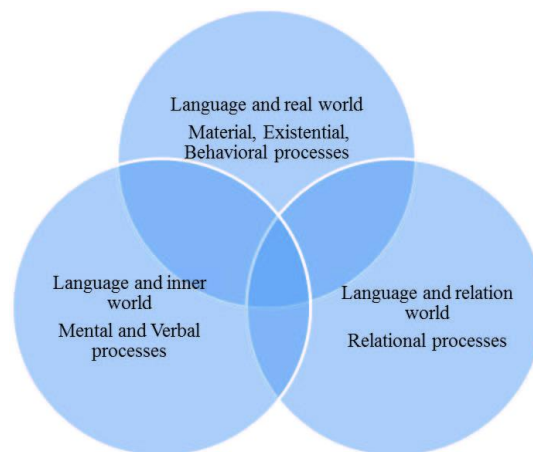


Figure 1: The three worlds and their processes in grammar of experiment (N. T. T., Trinh, P. V. Hoa & T. H. Phuc, 2017, p.212). These three categories represent the subject matter of this linguistic analysis.

1.2 Methodological Outlook

This analysis has adopted Fairclough's three stages (Description, Interpretation and Explanation) of analysis. By using that approach, it stands to reason that the analyses are both quantitative and qualitative. At the descriptive level, the speech has been systemically broken down into constituent clauses. Each clause is then numbered and labelled with a view to categorizing and quantifying the formal process types. Tabulated

statistics are brought up and serve as the backbone to the descriptive analysis. At the interpretative stage, the data have been discussed to dig out their implications. At the explanatory junction, the socio-political practice in the electoral tradition of the US has been exploited to reveal the challenges and ambitions of the newly elected vice president.

2. Descriptive Analysis

The table below shows the statistical distribution of processes as identified in Kamala Harris's Victory Speech (henceforth KHVS).

Table 1: Process types in KHVS

| Process types | | Retrieval of processes in clauses | Total |
|--|-----|--|----------------|
| Doing 35 (27.55%) | TMP | 6.2-7-8-11.1-14.1-16-28-30.1-37.1-43-48.2-48.3-48.4-49.2-49.3-51.2-54-56-63-67.2-67.3-67.4-67.6-67.7-67.8-71 | 25 (19.68%) |
| | MMP | 2-15.3-25-45-48-48.1-64-67- | 08 (06.29%) |
| | BeP | 60-67.9 | 02 (01.57%) |
| Being 51 (40.15%) | ARP | 3-4-5.1-6-6.3-14.2-15.2-29-32-1-37-41.1-47-51-58.2-68-69-70-75 | 18 (14.17%) |
| | IRP | 5-32-33-47.1-52-55-56-57-65-65.1-71.1 | 11 (08.66%) |
| | CRP | 6.1-12-13-15.1-18.1-19.1-23-24-38-39-46-50-61-65.2-66-67.5-77 | 17 (13.38%) |
| | PRP | 11-51.1 | 02 (01.57%) |
| | EP | 9-10-51.3 | 03 (02.36%) |
| Projecting | MeP | 12.1-15-19-22-27-30-31-34-35-35.1- | 27 |

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|--|----------------|
| 41 (32.28%) | | 35.2-36-40-41-42-49-49.1-53-58-58.1- 62-62.1-62.2-65.3-72-73-74 | (21.25%) |
| | VeP | 1-5.1.1-14-18-18.2-20-21-26-30.2-36.1- 59-67.1-76-77.1 | 14 (11.02%) |
| Total | | | 127 |

As it can be observed, 127 processes of various stables have been meticulously identified in KHVS. There are 35 doing processes split into 25 (19.68%) transitive material processes and 02 (01.57%) middle material processes. The availability of doing processes [35/127: 27.55%] in a victory speech is a clue that the speaker is taking a stock of all the deeds of the electoral campaign. Having in mind that the incumbent president (Donald Trump) is overthrown by this victory, the democratic candidate-elect has not yet acted in the Oval Office to have some performances. Oscillating between doing and mental processes, 02 behavioral processes (01.57%) have been identified. This relays that some physiological and psychological phenomena have been expressed by the speaker.

Kamala Harris has made use of 51 being processes (40.15%) which are distributed into four main clans. First, there can be seen 18 attributive relational processes (14.17%) which create a relationship between a carrier and an attribute whereby the carrier is assigned a trait in an ascriptive dimension. Additionally, 11 identifying relational processes (08.66%) have established a relationship between an identifier and an identified whereby roles, signs, symbols or elaborations are used to detect or distinguish an entity in an equative realm. Moreover, 17 circumstantial relational processes (13.38%) have played the role of elaborating on the spatio-temporal, comparative, causative, conditional and purposive circumstances which materialized and characterized the electoral campaign right up to the victory in the running for the Oval Office. The identification of this type of process reveals that events, facts and acts have marked out the long way to and

battle for the White House. Last but not the least in the typology of being processes are possessive ones which account for 03 occurrences (02.36%). In a relationship between a possessor and a possessed wherein one entity has an ownership, it is made clear that the White House's new tenants have less to claim in terms of governorship's ownership on the eve of their term of office in view of the limited number of possessive processes.

In KHVS, 41 projecting (32.28%) have been part of the count of this analytical sailing. The considerable number of prospective and futuristic processes symbolizes the ambitions of the White House's new occupants to write some pages about the history of the US in a Covid-19 pandemic era. On this premise, 27 mental processes (21.25%) have shown up and confirmed that desiderative, perceptive, cognitive and emotive dimensions have characterized the speaker in her first speech as vice president-elect. In addition, there are 14 verbal processes (11.02%) which reflect the rapport between a sayer and a receiver in a context where the saying entity can be targeting, quoting, talking and indicating. On balance, KHVS can be likened to a metaphorical salad bowl wherein all process-ingredients are suitably playing their culinary roles.

3. Interpretative Exploration

Split into 3 major categories, the 127 verbs and verbal phrases in KHVS are of the classes of doing [35/127: 27.55%], being [51/127: 40.15%] and projecting [41/127: 32.28%] processes. It is of the nature of human beings to be generally acting more than thinking. In certain respects, a limited thought will regularly ignite many actions and this is reflected in various research findings through which doing processes surpass being and projecting processes (L. K. E. Koba 2019; L. K. E. Koba 2020; N. Nabifar & K. Shayegh 2012). However in KHVS, being processes and projecting processes take the lead. As a matter of fact, the proportion of doing processes [35/127: 27.55%] shows that the speaker is aware of her inactivity

as a ruling party that has not yet begun any state duties which would have offered them material deeds. The sprinkled material processes are substantially the narrative on the last campaign's acts and actions. The speech sides with acts of valor and gratitude mainly towards the democratic voters and secondarily in the direction of republican voters who are bound to live together despite Donald Trump's fiasco in the 2020 US presidential election.

Being processes [51/127: 40.15%] are the most dominating ones and have nearly doubled the count of doing processes. The speaker has leaned on attributive, identifying and circumstantial language properties to depict the state of affairs in the US. In her role of a describer of the country where she has just inherited the executive governance, she is calling Americans to take note of the state in which the outgoing president (Donald Trump) has left their beloved nation. In a critical stance, she goes through the social, economic and political details which need to be seriously tackled for Americans to be empowered. The predominance of being processes amply evidences that there are a lot of untouched nation-building aspects and that the incoming team will assuredly take up the challenges. The victory of the democratic duo occurred in the course of a covid-19 pandemic which challenged the then incumbent president and the populations were looking for a new glimmer of hope.

After diagnosing and describing, it is reasonable and logical that the leader unveils, in her capacity as vice president, her envisioned project for the country. In this perspective, the speaker has uncloaked their recovering plan through projecting processes [41/127: 32.28%]. In order for the team to heal the ailed country, desiderative, emotive, perceptive and cognitive senses have been mixed to concoct the salvation plan for the US both locally and internationally. More particularly, the identification of verbal processes helps to highlight the phraseological genius of this female political leader of contemporary times, who aims at rallying all American

citizens to the ideal of social, economic, political and technological development. All in all, it goes without saying that the speaker should cognitively diagnose the country's predicaments and vicissitudes and manifest her desire to affectively dedicate four years of her lifespan to the service of her country in the uppermost position. As the speaker is morally obligated to report to her voters, she takes the responsibility of exhibiting the current state of the nation and calls upon the electors to judge her on future actions. Expecting her on a possible sustainable plan, Kamala Harris has articulated projecting processes to reassure Americans when it comes to her forecasts and prospective ambitions.

4. Explanatory Scrutiny

The societal and institutional make-up of this discourse offers these researchers a great deal of challenging topical issues. Buttressing this fertile speech, the researchers have decided to uncover three salient issues: the challenge that comes with the American democracy, the promotion of women within political parties and promises of the vice president-elect.

4.1 An under-threat US Democracy

Sustained by at least 250 years of democratic experience, the US democracy stands as the role model worldwide. With its bicameralism system, it has stood over threats and taken on challenges for long. However, the 2020 presidential election, in which Joe Biden (US Democratic Candidate) and incumbent president Donald Trump (US Republican Candidate) were competing, revealed the inadequacies of the worldwide-acclaimed democracy. The gambit of Kamala Harris in this victory speech is: 'Congressman John Lewis, before his passing, wrote "Democracy is not a state. It is an act." And what he meant was that America's democracy is not guaranteed'. This statement blatantly relays that the US democracy can

be challenged no matter how long they have been experiencing alternations in power.

The contemporary challenges posed to one of the oldest democracies of the world dated minimally back to the 2016 presidential election. It is widely reported that the Russian government interfered in the 2016 US presidential election. The plain objective was to influence and damage Hilary Clinton's campaign, and perversely boost Donald Trump's candidacy and ignite a political clash in the US. Years later, the findings from Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation shed light on the Russian government's efforts to influence the 2016 presidential election, and as a result questions linger about vulnerabilities in the democratic process and the influence of modern technology (<https://news.stanford.edu>). In the same vein, political scientist Michael McFaul maintains that "We know more than ever before about what happened in the 2016 election. Now we need to pivot to what needs to be done to prevent it in the future – from concrete legislative acts as well as steps that online platforms can take even without legislation" (<https://news.stanford.edu>). This statement imparts that the electoral authorities are to protect the integrity of the American elections by finding out state-of-the-art tools and devices which will stand as a seamless firewall to fight against the vulnerability of the computerized electoral system.

As a matter of fact, Americans cast their ballot in a covid-19-pandemic era amid turmoil of disinformation and conspiracy theories which evade the media landscape and which muddied the electoral process. These challenges were the prequel of the events to happen after the victory speeches of the democratic candidates. Once more under Donald Trump's leadership, the US democracy has been stained with enormous defects about which the worldwide populations were all flabbergasted. Democracy is first and foremost the compliance with the verdict of ballots in a true and fair

electoral process. The decline of the US democracy these recent days (2016-2020) heavily pertained to its politicians.

If Trump can comply with the rules, then he will not stop holding elections suddenly for no apparent reason. Protests and interventions without legal evidence show his egoism and political immaturity; things a national political elite and president should not do. Second, as the incumbent president, Trump did not show rationalism and political fair play to his supporters. Trump continues to engage and play the emotions of his supporters for the sake of his broader political goals and vested interests (P. P. Nainggolan and S. V.). Muhamad, 2020, p.7).

This refusal to abide by the Electoral College votes – Biden won 306 votes against Trump’s 232 votes – (<https://www.cnbc.com> December 14, 2020) reveals that the effectiveness of democratic regimes leans on the integrity of political leaders. The aftermath of this non-respect of the Electoral College verdict led Trump to lawsuits (in the Supreme Court) and his supporters to violent riots which escalated to the vandalism of the Capitol (the US symbol of democracy) on January 6, 2021 (14 days before Joe Biden’s inauguration). The message conveyed by these demonstrators and their leaders is that the presidential election is stained with irregularities and that they cannot accept the results of the US Congress which cemented Joe Biden and Kamal Harris’s victory. As a consequence of these unprecedented violent acts in the US democracy, “seven U.S. Capitol Police officers filed a federal lawsuit [...] accusing former President Donald Trump, far-right ‘violent extremist groups’ and others of being directly responsible for the deadly invasion of the Capitol on January, 6” (<https://www.cnbc.com> August 26, 2021). On the whole, the 2016 and 2020 US presidential elections proved that democracy should not be taken for granted and it should be in a perpetual adaptation to circumstances and leaderships.

4.2 Promotion of Women within Political Parties

Women were originally deprived of voting rights and had no role to play in decision-making bodies. They used to be viewed as both children-making devices and good at handling household chores. For long centuries, women were referred to as the 'weaker sex'. As such, they could not play some specific roles and some key positions were accordingly dedicated to males only. This creates some sexist usage of language and it was difficult for a woman to be called President, Chairwoman, Minister, etc. This negative discrimination has engendered revolutions in different countries. The feminist movement has been one of the leading worldwide organizations which defended women's positions and rights in western societies.

Protest movements and demonstrations were led by female leaders to make their voices heard. The awareness, empowerment and fight for women to be treated as men's equal partners paid off in the 1900s in the US. Concerning the women's voting right, it was passed by the Congress on June 4, 1919 and was ratified on August 19, 1920. It is legally through the 19th Amendment that women were guaranteed the right to vote. The price of freedom being fight and abnegation, the 19th Amendment was the milestone in advancing women positions in the US. It is exactly 100 years after that a woman accessed one of the highest political functions in the US. The Democratic Party is one of the most women-promoting parties at the highest political positions. According to a survey conducted by Pew Research Center on March 18-April 1, 2020, the following findings can stand as a reference:

In terms of the groups and institutions that have done the most to advance the rights of women in the U.S., 70% say the feminist movement has done at least a fair amount in this regard. The Democratic Party is viewed as having contributed more to the cause of women's rights than the Republican Party: 59% say the Democratic Party has done at least a fair amount to advance women's rights"[...].

About three-in-ten (29%) say President Donald Trump has done at least a fair amount to advance women's rights (<https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends>).

It follows from this that political parties' leaders, feminist movements' pioneers and exponents have contributed to the emergence of women in topnotch positions and roles in the country's management. By promoting women candidacies with the case of Hilary Clinton running for president in the 2016 presidential election and Kamala Harris competing for the position of vice president in the 2020 election, the Democratic Party sets a strong example in the US political arena. It shows that gender promotion is operational and that the inferiority complex about women and the myth of women's inability are simply outdated and void. In this vein, a never-happened event occurred in the US political history as uttered by the speaker herself: "Democrat promotes women four years ago, Hilary competed against Trump as candidate in the position of president and four years later Kamala Harris became the first woman in this position" (KHVS). Being the first woman ever in this position from the Democratic Party as well as the whole history of the US, it is understandable that women's confidence and capability along with their male counterparts have collected momentum. This confidence in women and their commitment to legitimate struggles are perceivable in the following statement: "and to the children of our country, regardless of your gender, our country has sent you a clear message: Dream with ambition, lead with conviction, and see yourself in a way that others might not see you, simply because they've never seen it before" (KHVS). So, the struggle for gender equality is on and irreversible. Although much more is left to be done, not little has been already done. The ideal would be that women should have effective equal rights with men in a mutual respect condition wherein men regard women as stakeholders in a win-win partnership, rather than in a relationship between a prey and its predator.

4.3 Promises of the Vice President in relation to the US Current Socio-political Issues

In inaugural speeches, speakers make a pronouncement on the major sectors of their programs and as such a victory speech is not far from this logical orientation. After being grateful to the campaign team and all voters as well as election officials, she said:

to the poll workers and election officials across our country who have worked tirelessly to make sure that -every vote is counted our nation owes you a debt of gratitude as you have protected the integrity of our democracy. And to the American people who make up our beautiful country thank you for turning out in record numbers to make your voices heard (KHVS).

She came back to the issues that were urgent and where Americans were expecting credible answers. A political speech by a leader with this background and without a number of promises will be seen as a car without a driver. Kamala Harris delved into promises that will be assessed and appreciated at the junction of 2024. As part of the newly elected vice president's duties, the finding of solutions to the existing problems is of pivotal importance.

In that perspective, she expresses herself as follows: "The hard work. The necessary work. The good work. The essential work to save lives and beat this pandemic. To rebuild our economy so it works for working people (KHVS)." In reality, President Trump's management of the covid-19 was not satisfactory. He himself downplayed its effects and did not abide by the protective measures and was finally tested positive, which created a 10-day delay in his campaign. "The news of infections in people involved in the Biden campaign follows an outbreak within President Donald Trump's White House, family and presidential campaign in which more than 30 have tested positive including Trump, the first lady and their son Barron" ([www.cnbc.com.](http://www.cnbc.com), October 15, 2020). Actually, the US is part of the

countries recording the highest death toll (at a given period of the pandemic). As of October 30, 2021, 745 075 Covid-19 deaths were recorded in the US (www.nytimes.com). Americans were expecting the new leaders to offer them the ready-made solutions. The availability of a vaccine after Joe Biden and Kamala Harris's election shows that their health-related diplomacy has begun working. The urgent work was to heal the ailed populations and to rebuild the economy since the pandemic has upset and affected all economic activities creating thousands of jobless people. It is crystal clear that the country is fraught with both a pandemic economic crisis and an isolationist trade war against China. This fact calls upon Joe Biden and Kamala Harris to restore alliances and Washington's leadership position globally. Joe Biden's famous citation is: "America is back, diplomacy is back". All the leaders of the US traditional allies (European allies) welcomed the election of Joe Biden and largely tweeted their congratulation messages.

They hope that international cooperation in various fields will recover after a tumultuous era in US foreign policy under the Trump administration. World leaders see that Biden can strengthen cooperation on various crucial issues, from handling the Covid-19 pandemic, climate change, to restoring the multilateralism approach in international diplomacy. (P. P. Nainggolan and S. V. Muhamad, 2020, p.9).

Wearing sometimes Joe Biden's shoes, Kamala Harris revealed the ambition of the leading team. She also evoked the challenging and everlasting question of racism and discrimination. She promised to root out systemic racism in their justice system and society. This ongoing phenomenon imparts that the fights of leaders such as Rosa Park, Malcom X and Martin Luther King are incomplete.

It can be perceived that racism is a systemic problem in the US despite the enforced laws. The country must be healed of/from racism and discrimination which affected its real union as a single nation. Beyond

different laws, the hearts of white Americans should be metamorphosed to ease the collaboration with the colored people. This pending issue is addressed by Kamala Harris as she is from a foreign origin and it is part of her role to play the game of restoring the affected confidence of marginalized people into their legitimate rights. On this ground, she deemed it necessary “to unite our country and heal the soul of our nation” (KHVS). One of the recurring problems challenging all governments is the issue of climate change which Kamala Harris raises as one of the biggest challenges which must be dealt with in the course of their term of office. All these topical problems which are worded in promises will be skillfully assessed at the end of their term of office when the time comes for their state-of-the-nation address.

Conclusion

The linguistic exploration of KHVS through Fairclough’s pattern of critical discourse analysis has brought about significant findings at every single stage of the analyses. At the descriptive phase, it is discovered that the speech is made up of considerable proportions of being and projecting processes and a negligible proportion of doing processes. The interpretative stage underscores that the preeminence of being processes over the other types of processes (projecting and doing) is symptomatic of the fair view of the country as previously led by Donald Trump. The significant proportion of projecting processes reflects both the recovery and sustainable development plans concocted by the democratic victors. Moreover, the scarcity of doing processes reveals not only the inactivity of the new tenants of the Oval Office but also the light deeds in their electoral campaign. The explanatory step has unearthed three major socio-political questions. The never-happened election of a woman in the position of vice president in the US electoral history showcases the promotion of women in political parties.

The descriptive state of the nation and the promises to solve socio-political problems (racism, corrupt judicial system and developmental challenges) materialize the desire of the vice president-elect to really commence more pressuring work. All the legal battles, demonstrations and vote recounts related to the non-recognition of the democratic candidates as winners of the 2020 election up to January 20th, 2021 (On the Inauguration Day when Trump wrote: Joe, you know I won”) unveils a tested and tried US democracy. All in all, Americans will take a stock of all the deeds of the vice president throughout the four-year term of office and time remains the best judge in the long run.

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