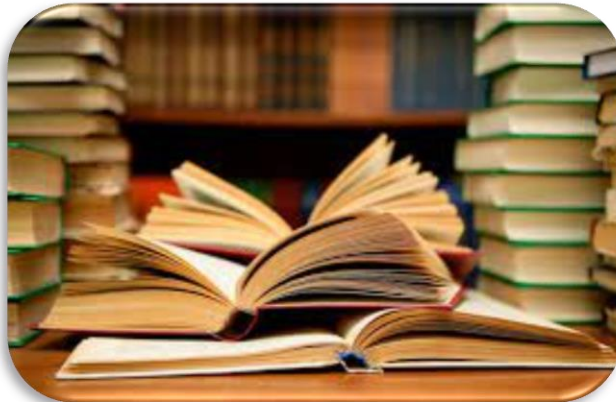**Research Paper**

Critical Political Discourse Analysis of Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs' Speech at the 58th Munich Security Conference

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ABSTRACT

Critical Discourse Analysis is the analysis of ideology and power. It emphasizes obtaining the hidden meaning beyond a text and explains how speakers/writers use the power of discourse to take the readers'/listeners' attention. The present study was a non-experimental descriptive study conducted in 2022 that investigated the salient linguistic features of the political speech of Iran's minister of foreign affairs at the 58th Munich Security Conference to search for his political attitudes and ideologies. Fairclough's CDA model was employed to investigate three inter-related analysis tactics and three dimensions of his discourse (the object of evaluation, including verbal and visual, and the processes by which the object is produced and acquired, including writing/ speaking/designing and reading/listening/viewing by human subjects, and the socio-historical conditions which govern these processes). The data were selected from this conference's video and were examined to check the word choice, personal and plural pronouns *I* and *We*, and the modal verbs used. The findings showed that *the Islamic Republic of Iran, Government, Iran*, and *relations* were among the most frequently used words to show his ideology about his nation and people. Moreover, *We* was used more frequently than *I* to create a positive image for the country. Aware of the difference between the meanings conveyed through these two pronouns, he preferred to avoid self-representation or speaking about himself as an individual to prevent all the blaming on him. Considering the modal verbs, *would* was used more frequently than the others to express his opinion and wishes to show medium politeness in his speech. This study could have implications for practitioners in the field to increase critical thinking and raise awareness of learning and producing appropriate political language.

Keywords: Critical Discourse Analysis, Modality in CDA, Political Discourse, Pronouns in CDA

تأثیر گرایش به داشتن تفکر نقادانه بر تسهیل و پیشرفت در مهارت مقاله نویسی استدلالی: بررسی دیدگاه استادان و دانشجویان ایرانی رشته آموزش زبان انگلیسی

این مطالعه به بررسی تأثیر دیدگاه زبان آموزان و اساتید آموزش زبان انگلیسی و آموزش اصول تفکر انتقادی (CT) بر توانایی‌های نوشتاری تعدادی از زبان‌آموزان مرد و زن ایرانی زبان انگلیسی که در دانشگاه آزاد اسلامی واحدکردستان، زبان انگلیسی تحصیل کرده‌اند، پرداخته است. دیدگاه نقش مهمی را بر یادگیری زبان خارجه به ویژه در پیشرفت مهارت مقاله نویسی استدلالی ایفا می کند. در این مقاله توصیفی در مرحله اول، 80 زبان آموز و 14 معلم انتخاب شدند. سپس در شروع ترم با استفاده از پرسشنامه آنلاین سنجش تمایل به داشتن تفکر انتقادانه کالیفرنیا (CCTDI) دیدگاه این زبان آموزان مورد ارزیابی و بررسی قرار گرفت. برای جمع‌آوری داده‌های مورد نیاز، آزمون مهارت‌های تفکر انتقادی کالیفرنیا (CCTDI) دو بار، یک‌بار قبل و یک‌بار بعد از تدریس انجام شد. این مطالعه از یک طرح شبه آزمایشی پیش‌آزمون پس‌آزمون استفاده کرد که در آن تکنیک‌های CT شامل حقیقت‌جویی، ذهن باز، تحلیل‌گری، سیستماتیک، اعتماد به نفس، کنجکاوی و اطلاعات در 6 مرحله به شرکت‌کنندگان معرفی شد. نتایج به دست آمده حاصل از این پژوهش نشان داد که معلمان و دانشجویان رشته آموزش زبان انگلیسی دیدگاه مثبتی را نسبت به تمام بخش های پرسشنامه سنجش تفکر نقادانه داشتند. آنان تمایل مثبتی نسبت به حقیقت جویی و کنجکاوی در نوشته های خود داشتند. نتایج حاصل از این تحقیق همچنین نشان داد که شرکت کنندگان در این تحقیق دیدگاه مثبتی نسبت به یادگیری زبان انگلیسی داشتند.

واژگان کلیدی: دیدگاه، تمایل به داشتن تفکر نقادانه، زبان آموزان رشته زبان انگلیسی، مقاله نویسی استدلالی.

INTRODUCTION

Language is used as the primary means among people to achieve communicative functions. Communication among people is done to express information and doing actions. The primary social representation of communication is discourse. Several definitions have been proposed by different scholars in the field, which are, to some extent, not alike because of the various theories used by each. The root of the word discourse is the Latin term *discursus,* meaning speech or conversation. Therefore, discourse can come in the form of social exchange, either written or spoken. Forms of language taken by communicators in different situations in society are referred to as discourse (Fairclough, 1992; Fairclough & Wodak, 1997; Van Dijk, 1997).

Discourse analysis (DA) is a broad field relating to the use of language in context. Brown and Yule (1983) state that DA explains how language users comprehend and interpret social and contextual information in linguistic texts. Furthermore, Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is used to reach the hidden meaning beyond a text and to analyze ideology and power to understand why a speaker or a writer uses particular words in his/ her speech or text and how these words reflect their ideologies and thoughts. In this regard, political speeches have been analyzed a lot (Faiz et al., 2020; Houda, 2016; Kaewrungruang & Yaoharee, 2018; Mohammed Hasan, 2013; Muhammad Jasim, 2021) to interpret all implicit or explicit messages because politicians need to have a compelling voice to influence the listeners, and control their minds.

In Iran, some studies have been conducted on critical discourse analysis of political speeches (Naghibzadeh Jalali & Sadeghi, 2014; Shabani & Habibzadeh, 2021; Sharififar & Rahimi, 2015). However, to the best knowledge of the researcher, the political speeches of Iran's current minister of foreign affairs have not been investigated yet. Therefore, to understand the ideologies and beliefs of this politician, one of his speeches has been selected for this study, that is, his speech at the 58th Munich Security Conference. The reason for choosing this speech was different issues about the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran's new government, and additional topics like the Persian Gulf, nuclear energy, sanction, issues related to Yemen, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Etc. The use of special lexical items, pronouns *I* and *We*, and modal verbs were analyzed in his speech using Fairclough's (1995) model of CDA. This study is significant in increasing critical thinking in teachers and learners as well as practitioners in the field of discourse analysis. It can further raise awareness of learning and producing appropriate political language.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In this section, the theoretical issues concerning discourse analysis, including Critical Discourse Analysis and Fairclough's model in CDA, will be presented. According to the purpose of the study, cases of modality and pronouns *I* and *We* will also be provided. At the end of this section, some empirical studies done on analyzing the political speeches of politicians all around the world are discussed.

Theoretical Background of CDA

Language use in different domains, such as politics and social contexts, can be evaluated in CDA. It emphasizes obtaining the hidden meaning beyond a text. It explains how the speaker/writer uses the power of discourse to take the readers' or listeners' attention and, therefore, control their minds and

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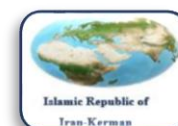
actions to make them agree with his ideologies and thoughts. Scholars in the field have suggested many models do CDA (Fairclough's, 1995; Van Dijk's, 2009; Wodak 's, 1995). In this study, Fairclough's model has been utilized to analyze the political speech of Iran's current minister of foreign affairs.

Fairclough identified the link between language, power, and social situation. His three-dimensional model includes verbal, visual or verbal, and visible texts referred to as an object of evaluation, processes through means of writing, speaking, reading, and listening, and finally, socio-historical conditions controlling these processes (Fairclough, 1995). Furthermore, every dimension needs a different kind of analysis. The first kind of analysis is text analysis (description) done on sounds, semantics and cohesion, and grammar, which are all part of linguistic analysis. The second type of analysis is processing analysis (interpretation), in which the relationship between text and interaction is analyzed. The third type is social analysis (explanation), where the relationship between social context and interaction is highlighted (see figure 1). This model enables us to focus on lexicalization, active and passive voice, nominalization, modality and plurality, mood choices, cohesion devices, etc (Fairclough, 1995).

Figure 1
Fairclough's Model in CDA
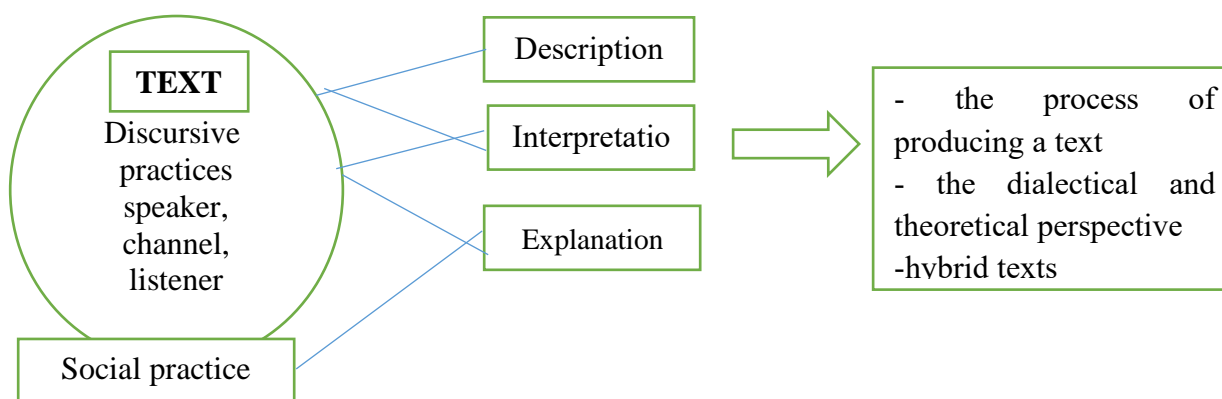
Modality and Pronouns in Discourse
In the present study, modal verbs and pronouns *I* and *We* are chosen to analyze Iran's current minister of foreign affairs speech based on Fairclough's (1995) model. Modals vary mainly in their communicative functions ranging from possibility (may) to necessity (must). Judgments of the speaker's proposition, authenticity, the enforceability of its requirements, and the willingness in the proposal are all reflected through modal verbs. It is, in fact, an instrument in CDA for showing power and control, demonstrating the speaker's experience and his anticipation of the future, and for forming his ideas and judgments about the topic and the audience.

The modal *will* expresses plans and purposes, predictions, and willingness (Huddleston & Pullum, 2002). The modal *can* represents polite request informally, permission, ability, and possibility, and *can't* expresses impossibility (Azar, 2002). A polite request, certainty, suggestions, past ability, and impossibility in negation are shown through the modal *could*. The modal *would* is used to indicate a past

event, the future in the past, the conditionals, desires, polite requests and questions, opinions or hopes, wishes, and regrets. The modal *should* is appropriate to show certainty about future prediction and advisability (Azar, 2002).

In political speeches, pronouns are essential in indicating 'institutional identities'. Kaewrungruang and Yaoharee (2018) assert that personal pronouns refer to people or things the speaker is talking to or about. The personal pronoun *I* in speeches shows the speaker's authority toward the audience and makes the speech more personal but also makes the speaker at a distance from the audience. However, it is not expected that others will always agree with his opinions (Bramley, 2001). When a politician uses the pronoun *I* in his speech, he can convey his personal qualities, principles, power, and strength, although if something goes wrong, all the blames would be on the speaker. Using *We* by a politician creates a positive picture for his party and sometimes a negative one for the other (Bramley, 2001). *We* can be used to present a political party as a team in which the responsibilities are shared. Politicians prefer to use the pronoun *We* to show solidarity and avoid taking on all their responsibilities (Beard, 2000).

Empirical Studies

The importance of political discourse stems from its effect on a nation's future. Critical political discourse analysis emphasizes the reproduction of political power, power abuse, or domination through political discourse (Hussein, 2016). Political speeches have gained much attention from researchers in the field (Faiz et al., 2020; Houda, 2016; Kaewrungruang & Yaoharee, 2018; Mohammed Hasan, 2013; Muhammad Jasim, 2021) to interpret all implicit or explicit messages in politicians' speeches.

For instance, Sharififar and Rahimi (2015) analyzed Obama's and Rouhani's speeches at the UN in September 2013 based on Halliday's (1978) systematic functional linguistics. It was revealed that Obama used colloquial language, simple words, and short sentences understandable to different people. In contrast, Rouhani used more formal language and complex words due to his first days of presidency. Moreover, the use of modal verbs revealed their firm plan to fulfill the tasks, make their language easy, and shorten the distance between them and the audience. 'Will' and 'can', as two frequent modals in their speeches, showed the audience could trust them in difficulties that their country might confront in the future. Obama and Rouhani also frequently used the personal pronoun 'we' to show intimacy with the audience and follow the same objective.

Houda (2016) analyzed Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential election campaign discourse using Fairclough's model of CDA. The focus was on discursive structures. Elements of gender references, rhetoric, frames, and intertextuality were uncovered. It was revealed that elements indicating gendered language, techniques for persuading, and frames representing her ideology are the most used in her speech.

Moreover, Kaewrungruang and Yaoharee (2018) investigated the use of personal pronouns *I* and *We* in the political speeches of Donald Trump and Hilary Clinton in the debates over the US Presidential Election in 2016. These two pronouns were used as techniques to represent persuasive messages and the politicians' ideologies toward self and group. Textual and discourse analysis was applied to see in what situations the personal pronouns were used. The findings showed that the situations and contexts in which each politician used personal pronouns differed significantly; that is, Trump and Clinton used different persuasive strategies to convey their ideologies to their audience.
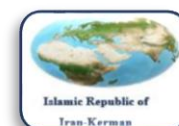
Further, Shabani and Habibzadeh (2019) conducted a study to compare the ideologies of Iranian presidents Khatami, Ahmadinejad and Ruhani reflected in their speeches. The data were analyzed within the framework of CDA proposed by Fairclough. The results indicated some similarities in their ideologies regarding the rights of Iran and oppressed nations. Khatami liked to integrate all nations to work similarly to reach agreements. However, because of situational contexts and specific conditions due to sanctions, Ahmadinejad and Ruhani attempted to mobilize nations to resist oppressing nations.

In another study, Faiz et al. (2020) examined Trump's speech with attention to his ideology about Jerusalem and analyzed the illocutionary acts using Fairclough's model. Five illocutionary acts were identified, of which the representatives were his most expressed ones. He used his power and supremacy in his speech to make peace in Jerusalem. Furthermore, Muhammad Jasim (2021) investigated using personal pronouns *We* and *I* in Trump's 2020 State of the Union speech. Findings revealed that Trump used these pronouns to express his ideologies and mainly to have a positive self-representation. The study concluded that Trump applied personal pronouns to indicate collectivity, nationalism, and direct/shared responsibility.

As it can be seen, many studies have been done so far to analyze the political speeches of different politicians to reach their ideologies and attitudes. The current study is the discourse analysis of Iran's current minister of foreign affairs' political speech at the 58th Munich Security Conference. It searches for the structures representing aspects of this politician's attitudes and ideologies. To the best knowledge of the researcher, no CDA research has been done so far on the speech of this politician. As a non-experimental descriptive research, his speech at this conference was chosen because he talked about various dimensions of the foreign policy of the new government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Therefore, different issues such as the Persian Gulf, nuclear energy, sanctions, Yemen, Afghanistan, Ukraine ,Etc. were referred to. Fairclough's (1995) model of CDA was used to analyze the word choice, grammatical structures, and hidden meaning in his speech. This study further examines word choice and grammatical patterns, such as modal verbs and using pronouns *I* and *We*.

To reach the objectives of this study, it addresses two research questions:

1. *What does the choice of certain lexical items in the political speech of Iran's minister of foreign affairs reveal about his ideologies?*

2. *What ideologies are reflected in Iran's minister of foreign affairs' usage of modal structures?*

3. *What are the ideologies reflected in Iran's minister of foreign affairs' usage of pronouns I and We?*

METHODOLOGY

In this section, details about the design and context of the study are provided. Information about the political speech of Iran's current minister of foreign affairs at the 58th Munich Security Conference is given as the data for this study. The instrument used to gather the data, and the procedure for collecting, and analyzing it are presented at the end of this section.

Design and Context of the Study

The present study was a quantitative non-experimental descriptive one done in 2022. This study was done during the presidency of Ebrahim Reisi in Iran, and the salient linguistic features of the political

speech of Iran's minister of foreign affairs at the 58th Munich Security Conference were analyzed. This conference was held in February 2022 for three days in Munich. The participants in this conference were international decision-makers of high positions, such as heads of state and governments, defense ministers, and ministers of foreign affairs, as well as leading figures from civil society, academia, and businesses. They attended this conference in Munich or virtually.

Data

The data in this study were taken from the political speech of Iran's minister of foreign affairs at the 58th Munich Security Conference. At this conference, he started his speech by referring to the forty-third anniversary of the glorious revolution of Iran, which emphasizes freedom, independence, and the Islamic Republic. Then, he referred to the government of President Raisi, which is, in his opinion, based on dynamic diplomacy and smart interaction with others based on shared interests, mutual respect, and support of multilateralism rather than unilateralism. He also referred to the illegal withdrawal of the US from the Iran nuclear agreement and making heavy economic sanctions on Iran.

Continuing his speech, he referred to the problem of the Persian Gulf. He asserted that The Islamic Republic of Iran would accept any idea and plan that aims to contribute, without foreign intervention, to stability and peace in the region. Later, he referred to the problems in Yemen, Afghanistan, Palestinian, Ukraine, and Russia saying that the Islamic Republic of Iran supports these nations and would help settle peace in the region. At the end of his speech, he emphasized that the new government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is pragmatic and result-oriented and is consequently ready to fortify constructive, sustainable, and viable relations with all countries based on mutual respect and shared interests.

Table 1
Characteristics of the Conference Participated by This Politician

context	Participants	topics discussed	number of words in his speech
during the presidency of Ebrahim Reisi in Iran in 2022 58th Munich Security Conference held in February 2022 for three days in Munich	international decision-makers in high positions heads of states and governments defense ministers ministers of foreign affairs leading figures from civil society, academia, businesses	forty-third anniversary of Iran's revolution the government of President Reisi Iran nuclear agreement and economic sanctions Persian Gulf Yemen Afghanistan Palestinian Ukraine Russia	1143

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Instrument

Fairclough's (1995) model of CDA was used as the instrument in this study. This model identified and analyzed modal verbs and pronouns *I* and *We* to answer the research questions. Three analytical techniques and three discursive dimensions, which are all interrelated, are included in this model. The dimensions include the object of evaluation (verbal and visual), the processes involved in producing and acquiring the object (writing/ speaking/designing and reading/listening/viewing), and the socio-historical conditions dominating these processes. For each dimension, a unique form of textual content analysis is needed, called description, interpretation, and explanation, according to Fairclough (1995).

Data Collection Procedure

After posing the research questions, determining the objectives of the study, and gathering the theoretical and empirical studies related to the aim of this study, the video of the 58th Munich Security Conference was downloaded from the internet, in which Iran's minister of foreign affairs had a speech about various dimensions of the foreign policy of the new government of the Islamic Republic of Iran including issues of nuclear energy, sanction, Persian Gulf, issues related to Yemen , Afghanistan, Ukraine, Etc. The transcription of his speech was also downloaded to be analyzed later. His speech was analyzed based on Fairclough's (1995) model of CDA. This analysis focused on using modal verbs and the pronouns *I* and *We* to examine his ideologies and political perspectives and how he could express himself and defend his government and nation. The researchers analyzed the data for the second time one week later to enhance the intra-rater reliability of the results.

Data Analysis Procedure

Fairclough's (1995) model of CDA deals with lexicalization, transitivity, active and passive voice, modality, text's thematic structure, cohesion devices, pronouns, Etc. In this study, to meet the objectives, the modal verbs and pronouns *I* and *We* were focused on analyzing the speech of Iran's minister of foreign affairs at the 58th Munich Security Conference. The selected data, that is, this speech, as a type of political discourse, were examined to check the choice of special lexical items by this politician, the use of pronouns *I* and *We,* and the modal verbs used in his speech. For this purpose, the transcribed speech was read, highlighting the words this politician frequently used. Furthermore, the modal verbs and pronouns *I* and *We* were highlighted, and at the end, the frequency and percentage of each word, modal verb, and pronoun were calculated.

RESULTS

The speech of Iran's current minister of foreign affairs at the 58th Munich Security Conference was analyzed based on Fairclough's (1995) model of CDA. The frequency and percentage of the lexical items and pronouns *I* and *We* were calculated to find the answer to the research questions.

As illustrated in Table 2, the lexical items frequently used in this politician's speech were calculated to see their frequency and percentage. *The Islamic Republic of Iran*, *Government*, *Iran,* and *relations* were among the most frequently used items.

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Table 2

Frequency and Percentage of the Lexical Items

Certain Lexical Items	F	P
The Islamic Republic of Iran	9	19.1
Iran	6	12.7
Islamic Revolution of Iran/ Revolution	3	6.5
Government (Iran or other countries)	9	19.1
Relations	7	14.9
Believe	4	8.5
Peace/ Peaceful	6	12.7
Stability	3	6.5
Total	47	100

Note: F=Frequency; P=Percentage

Table 3

Frequency and Percentage of the Pronouns I and We

Pronoun	F	P
I	5	29.5
We	12	70.5
Total	17	100

Note: F=Frequency; P=Percentage

For the second research question, the frequency and percentage of the pronouns *I* and *We* were calculated, and the results showed that *We* was used considerably more than *I*. Table 2 illustrates these results.

Table 4

Frequency and Percentage of the Modal Verbs

Modal verb	F	P
Will	1	8.3
Can	2	16.7
Could	0	0
Would	8	66.7
Should	1	8.3
Must	0	0
Total	12	100

Note: F=Frequency; P=Percentage

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Table 3 presents the frequency and percentage of the modal verbs in the minister of foreign affair's speech, and the results revealed that the modal *would* be used more frequently than the others while there was no use of the modals *could* and *must*.

DISCUSSION

The present study investigated the political speech of Iran's current minister of foreign affairs at the 58th Munich Security Conference. In this conference, he talked about various aspects of the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran's new government, including issues of nuclear energy, sanction, the Persian Gulf, and issues related to Yemen ,Afghanistan ,Ukraine, Etc. The use of certain lexical items, modal verbs, and pronouns *I* and *We* were analyzed in his speech to see his ideologies and attitudes toward power.

As the findings of this study showed, this politician frequently used the phrase *The Islamic Republic of Iran* and the word *Iran* to present his sense of belonging and identity. He also proudly mentioned the celebration of the 43rd glorious revolution of Iran and declared that this revolution offered a new model of democracy based on religion, focusing on independence, freedom, and the Islamic Republic. It showed that he was very proud of his country and its revolution and therefore wanted to convey this feeling to other nations. It is in line with the studies mentioned in the literature review of this study (for example, Houda, 2016). In other studies, the politicians used special lexical items to show their ideologies and thoughts, like Obama's or Clinton's selection of certain words to present their ideologies.

He also referred to the new government of President Raisi, in which he was the minister of foreign affairs, as a government based on the principles of establishing a balance, dynamic diplomacy, and smart interaction with others. His use of the word *smart interaction* showed how careful he was in choosing the words. He showed his government did not undergo any interaction with others unless all the rights of his country and people were reserved. He expressly referred to the withdrawal of the United States from the agreement and imposing sanctions on the Iranian nation. At the same time, the Islamic Republic of Iran remained fully and faithfully committed for an entire year to all of its JCPOA commitments. It remained in the deal for the following years to provide an opportunity for others to fulfill their obligations. Nevertheless, unfortunately, Iran did not receive all the promised economic benefits of the JCPOA.

The word *relations* was also used frequently in his speech. He emphasized that relations, especially with the Muslim world, are based on shared interests, mutual respect, and without interference in each other's domestic affairs, and focused on multilateralism rather than unilateralism. He mainly mentioned peace and stability in nations under invasion, such as Palestine, Yemen, Afghanistan, and Ukraine, and he showed his government's support to these nations. His speech about these nations and the issues they were involved in showing how cautious he was about the problems in the area and how he conveyed his support to them. Further, his speech declared that he supported peace and stability, and the government did not support any war, invasion, or conflict. This is compatible with how Trump used the words to show his power in creating peace in Jerusalem (Faiz et al., 2020).

Regarding the second research question, the use of the pronoun *We* were more than the pronoun *I*. This politician used the pronoun *I* to greet and, in conclusion, to thank the audience. As discussed in the

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literature, *I* show the speaker's subjectivity and authority, reveal more personal feelings, attitudes, and principles, and keep the speaker at a distance from the audience. However, using the pronoun *We* by a politician creates a positive image for his nation (Bramley, 2001). The frequent use of the pronoun *We* by him showed that he knew the difference between the meanings conveyed through these two pronouns. He avoided talking about himself and presenting himself as an individual. Moreover, the more frequent use of *We* showed how he prevented all the blame on himself.

This study is also compatible with the results of the study done by Kaewrungruang and Yaoharee (2018). They investigated the use of personal pronouns *I* and *We* in the political speeches of Trump and Clinton in the debates over the US Presidential Election in 2016. These two pronouns were used as techniques to present persuasive messages and the politicians' ideologies toward self and group. It is also in line with the study by Muhammad Jasim (2021), who investigated the use of personal pronouns *We* and *I* in Trump's 2020 State of the Union speech. Findings revealed that Trump used these pronouns to express his ideologies and mainly to have a positive self-representation.

When it comes to the question of modal verbs, it was revealed that the modal *would* be the most frequently used one in his speech. It was mainly used to express his opinion and wishes and to show medium politeness in his remarks. He used the modal *can* twice, which showed a possibility in his speech. The modal *will* and *should* were used once. The former showed the willingness of Iran to support Yemen, and the latter showed the advisability to the people of Palestine that "You are the ones who should decide about your destiny and future." It is in line with Sharififar and Rahimi's (2015) study in which Obama's and Rouhani's speeches at the UN in September 2013 were analyzed based on Halliday's (1978) systematic functional linguistics. The use of modal verbs showed their determination in fulfilling the tasks, making their language easy, and shortening the distance between them and the audience. Two frequent modals in their speeches were 'Will' and 'can', which showed the audience could trust them in difficulties. Obama and Rouhani frequently used the personal pronoun 'we' to create a sense of intimacy with the audience.

CONCLUSION

The present study investigated Iran's current foreign affairs minister's ideologies and attitudes. Therefore, his speech at the 58th Munich Security Conference was analyzed based on Fairclough's (1995) model of CDA. The analysis focused on using pronouns *I* and *We* and modal verbs in his speech. After analyzing the data, it was concluded that the current minister of foreign affairs in Iran was the spoken man whose ideologies were reflected in his speech, and his speech reflected the ideology of his government and, generally, his country. His frequent use of some particular words represented the concepts of unity and caring for different nations. His speech showed no sign of egoism and self-glorification as he used the pronoun *We* more than *I*. However, he tried to ensure the US and other nations that the only way to have relations with Iran is respecting all the rights of its people. The use of modal verbs revealed how he was determined to fulfill his responsibility and create a sense of intimacy with the audience.

The present study has some implications for students in the field as it makes them critical thinkers, depending on their intellectual abilities. Teachers may also benefit from this study by using critical activities in their classes to enhance learners' critical thinking. It also has some limitations. For instance,

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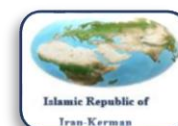
only one of this politician's speeches is analyzed in this study. Moreover, among different frameworks for CDA, Fairclough's (1995) model was applied. It is suggested that other researchers use other political speeches of him to have a more accurate account of his ideologies. As well, his speech about other political issues, and at other times can be analyzed. Because the speech chosen from the present study was from the early presidency of his government, it is suggested that other political issues, and at different times would be analyzed. The other suggestion is to read the literature and use another CDA framework proposed by other scholars in the field instead of Fairclough's.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that this study's findings are limited to its data, design, and the instrument the researchers have chosen. If this study were done with other data, at another time, and by different designs and instruments, the results might not be the same. Therefore, all the limitations and responsibilities of the results are on the shoulders of the researchers.

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