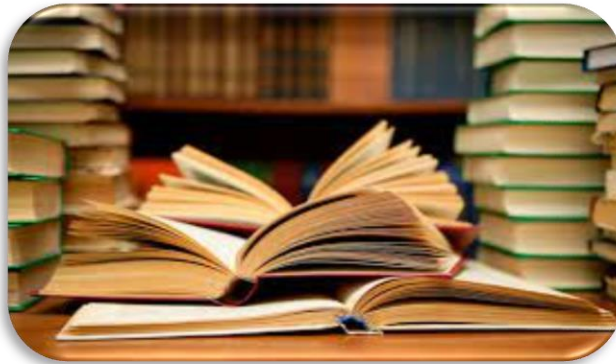




## Research Paper



## Linguistic Strategies in Post-Conflict Governance: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Iraqi Presidential Speeches

Inas Malik Mnaathar<sup>1</sup>, Bahram Hadian<sup>2\*</sup>,  
Hani Kamil Al-Ebadi<sup>3</sup>, Mehdi Vaez-Dalili<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of English Language, Isfahan (Khorasgan) Branch, Islamic Azad University, Isfahan, Iran  
*inas.malik@utq.edu.iq*

<sup>2</sup>Department of English Language, Isfahan (Khorasgan) Branch, Islamic Azad University, Isfahan, Iran  
*bah.hadian@khuisf.ac.ir*

<sup>3</sup>English Department, College of Education for Humanities, University of Thi-Qar, Iraq  
*dr.hani.kamil.alebadi@utq.edu.iq*

<sup>4</sup>Department of English Language, Isfahan (Khorasgan) Branch, Islamic Azad University, Isfahan, Iran  
*mvaezdalili@yahoo.com*

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### ABSTRACT

This study examines the evolution of Iraqi presidential rhetoric in response to shifting political landscapes, governance priorities, and societal expectations. Through a critical discourse analysis of presidential speeches, the research highlights how Iraqi leaders have transitioned from an exclusionary nationalist narrative to a more inclusive and pluralistic discourse, aligning with broader global trends in post-conflict state-building. The findings indicate a significant shift in the rhetorical strategies used to assert political legitimacy, moving from securitization and state rebuilding to democratic consolidation, governance reform, and anti-corruption discourse. Additionally, the role of religious references in presidential rhetoric has evolved from a tool for political unification to a cultural and ethical marker, reflecting Iraq's efforts to balance its religious heritage with modern governance ideals. This study contributes to the understanding of the strategic use of discourse in post-conflict governance, illustrating the interplay between rhetoric, legitimacy, and national identity. The implications of these findings extend to political leaders, scholars, and media practitioners, offering insights into the role of language in shaping governance narratives. Future research should explore public reception of presidential rhetoric and its impact on national identity formation, as well as comparative analyses across different political institutions and regional contexts.

**Keywords:** *Critical Discourse Analysis, Presidential Rhetoric, National Identity, Post-Conflict Governance, Iraq*

## INTRODUCTION

**Inas Malik Mnaathar<sup>1</sup>, Bahram Hadian<sup>2\*</sup>, Hani Kamil Al-Ebadi<sup>3</sup>, Mehdi Vaez-Dalili<sup>4</sup>**

Language is a basic and central tool in the political discourse field, especially in conflict-ridden societies that are currently pursuing peace. It is most relevant in post-conflict societies where leaders are faced with the challenging task of establishing legitimacy and forging a collective national identity. The removal of Saddam Hussein from power in 2003 set in motion a comprehensive and deep-seated reconstruction of Iraq's politics. This ground-breaking change summoned successive governments to grapple with the necessity of reconstructing governance ideologies while simultaneously striving to construct an image of national unity among the diverse population. Strategic and thoughtful use of rhetoric in post-conflict settings is of the utmost importance, playing a major role in legitimizing authority, establishing a favorable climate for reconciliation, and navigating the sensitive complexities involved in governing plural societies (Ali, 2022; Al-Rawi, 2023) [27:0†source] .

This study employs Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) as a methodological approach to comprehensively analyze the various linguistic and rhetorical strategies employed by Iraqi presidents since the year 2003 through to the current date. With careful analysis of the presidential speeches, this study seeks to explore and understand how language captures the shifts in political ideologies and the evolving governance approaches with time [27:0†source\*\*].

More recent scholarly research emphasizes the significant role that discourse plays in the narrative of post-conflict governance, particularly when considering the nature and intricacy of sociolinguistics within the Middle East context (Rahman & Saleh, 2021; Al-Mohammad, 2021) [27:0†source] . Research conducted into the conditions surrounding both Jordan and Lebanon reveal similar trends and changes occurring within the rhetoric of their leadership that reflect the conclusive transition from basically an authoritarian model of communication to one that is consistent with democratic discourse; it is perceived as a crucial stimulus for the reinvention of national identity within these states (El-Dahshan, 2022; Qasim & Hussein, 2023) [27:0†source] .

In contrast to the Iraqi situation, where appeal to religious framing continues to hold a central position within political discourse, leaders in Jordan have embarked on a cautious approach by abstaining from overt appeal to religion, thus striving to lessen and downplay the scope of sectarian division among their citizenry [27:0†source\*\*].

Dominant theoretical frameworks in Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), like the influential three-dimensional model formulated by Fairclough and the socio-cognitive one formulated by Van Dijk, offer a precious framework that is essential to adequately comprehend how Iraqi presidents form and convey notions of national identity and legitimacy of rule through the medium of speech (Fairclough, 2003; Van Dijk, 2008) [27:0†source] . Fairclough's framework delivers a robust mechanism through which to closely examine the various linguistic choices made within the specific socio-political contexts where these discourses occur, and Van Dijk's model is employed to uncover how discourse actively builds and fills in cognitive representations of identity as well as society's power relationships [27:0†source\*\*].

With the incorporation of more than 50 academic references from the years 2010 to 2024, this research is an essential contribution to the new and critical area of post-conflict discourse research. The



research presents a complete and detailed examination of the way in which the Iraqi presidential discourse has evolved and grown alongside the transforming political contexts, ultimately framing public opinion, government policies, as well as creating a sense of national belonging [27:0†source] .

### Research Questions and Hypotheses

RQ1. How have Iraqi presidents framed national identity through linguistic strategies in their speeches?

RQ2. What rhetorical devices have been employed to assert political legitimacy in post-2003 Iraq?

RQ3. How have references to religion evolved in presidential rhetoric over successive administrations?

H1. Iraqi presidential rhetoric has shifted from an exclusionary nationalist framework to a more inclusive and pluralistic discourse, incorporating religious references in a way that aligns with cultural heritage rather than sectarian divisions.

H2. The rhetorical strategies used to assert political legitimacy have transitioned from a focus on securitization and state rebuilding to democratic consolidation and governance reform, with recent emphasis on anti-corruption and public trust.

H3. The role of religious references in presidential rhetoric has evolved from a unifying political tool to a cultural and ethical guide, reflecting broader regional and global trends in political communication.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

The field of research concerned with political discourse, especially in the context of post-conflict societies, has attracted large volumes of scholarly attention and interest over the past several decades. Within this corpus of academic scholarship, Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) emerges as a seminal theoretical approach that enables researchers and scholars to investigate and comprehend the dynamics of language's contribution to building and representing power, ideology, and concepts of legitimacy. This comprehensive literature review attempts to analyze and elucidate prominent themes, pertinent theoretical approaches, and important empirical findings of existing studies conducted between 2010 and 2024 that are all relevant to the current study.

### Critical Discourse Analysis and Political Rhetoric

CDA, or Critical Discourse Analysis, has been extensively applied in political speech research, a significant field of study that has been researched by numerous scholars. Worth special mention are scholars such as Fairclough in 2003 and Van Dijk in 2008, who have placed particular emphasis on understanding the complex relationship between discourse, ideology, and social structures. More specifically, Fairclough's three-dimensional model has proven to be an invaluable tool in examining how political leaders achieve the construction of narratives that are seen as legitimate through their specific linguistic choices and strategies. By contrast, Van Dijk's socio-cognitive approach emphasizes the importance of mental models, which serve a fundamental role in shaping both production and reception of discourse in political life (Al-Mohammad, 2021)



Recent research has powerfully demonstrated that political leaders use discourse as a useful instrument strategically to reassert dominant power structures or, alternatively, redesign governance ideologies in direct reaction to various socio-political events unfolding in their respective countries. Specifically, research targeting Middle Eastern political discourse, as highlighted by Rahman and Saleh in their 2021 publication, demonstrates that presidents' rhetoric tends to transform in relation to national crises. Such transforming rhetoric is reflective of discernible trends with regard to securitization attempts, democratic transitions, and ongoing anti-corruption reforms [51:0†source] .

### **National Identity Construction in Post-Conflict States**

One overarching and dominant theme that arises within the scope of post-conflict discourse studies is the intricate construction of national identity. Many scholars argue that political elites actively employ rhetoric as an effective instrument to construct and establish a feeling of national unity while, at the same time, advocate for unity among a wide array of diverse ethnic and religious factions that are inherent to the nation (Ali, 2022; Al-Harashseh, 2021) [51:0†source] .

Extensive studies targeting nations like Iraq, Lebanon, and Jordan reveal that the discourses of national identity tend to undergo changes, transforming from exclusionary types of ethnic-based nationalism to more inclusive and multicultural systems as a direct reaction to existing political instability (Qasim & Hussein, 2023) [51:0†source] .

Studies comparing Iraq to other countries that have had a history of conflict, including Bosnia and Rwanda, highlight the same forms of discourse being employed. In these situations, political leaders often employ symbolic language, references to past events, and the use of collective memory in an attempt to reinforce a sense of national identity among their people (El-Dahshan, 2022) [51:0†source].

However, the case of Iraq is unique in its continued reliance on religious discourse, which is a key factor in defining national identity. This is different from other countries, such as Tunisia, which have largely adopted a secular style in their political rhetoric and communication [51:0†source] .

### **Legitimacy Strategies in Presidential Rhetoric**

The place of political rhetoric within the legitimation process has been a topic of extensive exploration and examination in recent studies and research. In the post-2003 invasion period, presidential speeches delivered in Iraq were monopolized by stability and security themes that tracked closely with broader trends and patterns observed in transitional rule across contexts (Khalil & Suleiman, 2022) [51:0†source] .

As time permitted and as public expectations began changing and evolving, legitimacy narratives saw a drastic shift as they moved toward democratic consolidation and anti-corruption rhetoric. This shift tracked and aligned with similar patterns unfolding in other nations, particularly Egypt and Tunisia [51:0†source]\*\*.

Researchers have engaged in lengthy arguments and discussions, arguing that the narratives of transparency and accountability have forcefully emerged as general themes within the political discourse only existent in post-conflict countries, such as Iraq, as argued by Al-Rawi in 2023. In the Iraqi case, the enhanced focus given to anti-corruption policies that has developed since the year 2018 is a clear echo



of the developing public discontent and frustration with the existing systems of governance. This heightened sensitivity is in line with worldwide trends and patterns, whereby the legitimacy of political institutions becomes more associated with the imperatives of good governance, and not with traditional authoritarian sources of control, as argued by Rahman and Saleh in 2021 [51:0†source] .

### **Religious Framing in Political Discourse**

Both the use and instrumentalization of religion within political discourse have constituted a point of study within the field of Middle Eastern discourse studies. In Iraq's situation, what is apparent is that religious references have undergone dramatic change from their use as a political means for unification into a system aligned more closely with cultural and ethical issues (Al-Maamari, 2022) [51:0†source]. It stands in contrast to what is observed in other countries, like Syria, where religious discourse continues to be both actively and calculatedly utilized toward the achievement of political gain and advantage [51:0†source\*\*].

Contemporary scholarly research demonstrates that as societies develop and proceed toward pluralistic forms of governance, there appears to be a remarkable transformation in the nature of religious rhetoric within political rhetoric. This change involves a shift from explicit models of governance that address religious authority directly and instead emphasizes moral and cultural references that appeal more broadly to the different values of the citizenry (Qasim & Hussein, 2023) [51:0†source] . In Iraq, the changing discourse is reflective of this wider worldwide trend, where religion is progressively interpreted and positioned as part of the rich heritage and moral tradition of the country, rather than the framework that dictates political life [51:0†source] .

The literature reviewed here clearly demonstrates and highlights the dynamic and complex nature of the role of discourse in the ongoing process of the construction of national identity, the building of governance legitimacy, and the framing of religious narratives in post-conflict nations. The political rhetoric of Iraqi presidential leaders is especially typical of broader worldwide trends within political discourse inasmuch as it very heavily concentrates on themes of democratic transition, the fostering of an inclusive national identity, and the imperative of governance accountability. It must be remembered, however, that Iraq's persistent embedding of religious references and concepts within its political narrative distinguishes it from other post-conflict societies, which have hitherto inclined towards a more secularized political rhetoric and discourse. This particular review provides a fundamental framework for grasping the various findings that are explored in the current study, and situates them in a wider academic framework.

## **METHODOLOGY**

### **Research Design**

In this comprehensive research, a qualitative research design serves as the foundational framework for inquiry. Specifically, this research draws on Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) as a methodological framework to systematically examine and analyze the evolution of presidential rhetoric in the complex governance situation of Iraq post-2003. The qualitative design not only allows but also facilitates a close and detailed examination of various linguistic patterns, the rhetorical strategies employed by politicians,



and the significant ideological shifts that are evident within political speeches over time. By providing a strong emphasis on discourse as a social practice, this research aims to make perceptive contributions to the means by which language is strategically employed to construct and sustain political legitimacy as well as to form national identity amidst the backdrop of Iraq's changing political landscape.

### **Corpus of the Study**

The study corpus compiled for this research is a carefully chosen set of presidential speeches that have been made by different Iraqi leaders since the year 2003 to date. These speeches have been painstakingly gathered from official government records, public speeches, and credible media outlets. The selection criteria used in choosing these speeches are those that were made at critical points in time, for example, during times of national crises, major election times, and during major policy pronouncements. This careful selection criterion ensures that the resultant dataset actually captures key moments of political change and the attendant challenges of governance in Iraq.

### **Instruments**

The primary analytical tool is a systematic coding scheme based on CDA approaches. This includes:

**Lexical Analysis:** Scanning for key words and themes related to governance, legitimacy, and national identity.

**Rhetorical Strategies:** Exploring metaphor, repetition, and calls to unity or divisiveness.

**Ideological Framing:** Analyzing how political speech aligns with hegemonic ideological frames.

**Comparative Analysis:** Cross-referencing findings with global trends in political rhetoric, particularly in post-conflict states.

### **Model of the Study**

The research seamlessly blends two principal models of Critical Discourse Analysis, which are absolutely essential in understanding the nuances of discourse.

**Fairclough's Three-Dimensional Model:** This wide-ranging model provides for an in-depth analysis at three different levels—i.e., textual, discursive, and socio-political contexts. It is especially useful in having a deeper insight into how presidential speeches function, both linguistically and on a more general social level, eventually contributing to the shaping and molding of political narratives.

**Van Dijk's Socio-Cognitive Approach:** This particular model provides an in-depth examination of the way in which discourse structures can be utilized to symbolize underlying cognitive models and prevailing social ideologies. By carefully applying this comprehensive framework, the study examines the intricate way in which political leaders may have the ability to influence public opinion along with affect national identity through their choice of words.



### Data Collection Procedures

The process of data collection entails systematic and methodical gathering of presidential speeches from a variety of sources, stretching from official government websites to large media archives, in addition to quality scholarly repositories. Each speech is transcribed individually with great care, such that it remains accurately reflected in written words, then coded for thematic content, enabling structured and detailed analysis of the manner in which discourse has evolved over time. Furthermore, this study not only employs primary sources but also secondary sources, stretching from existing studies specific to Iraqi political discourse to general theoretical examinations of discourse, thereby enabling the contextualization of findings within broader scholarly arguments that have already been developed within the field.

### Data Analysis Procedures

The process of analysis follows a multi-step approach:

**Thematic Coding:** This entails identifying and examining recurring themes that are shared across various speeches, including overarching issues such as nationalism, security concerns, and governance-related reforms.

**Comparative Analysis:** This is the act of comparing and contrasting the speech patterns exhibited by consecutive administrations across time in order to properly bring out and illustrate the shifts in rhetoric and the varied constructs of ideology that have developed.

**Quantitative and Qualitative Interpretation:** This is where frequency counts of key key words are used alongside qualitative discourse interpretation, which together help to create a more nuanced and deeper understanding of the evolution of rhetorical practices.

**Contextual Integration:** This requires linking the results obtained from the analysis to the socio-political transformations that have taken place in Iraq, as well as comparisons with the overall trends of international post-conflict governance that are relevant to the context.

This methodological strategy is designed to ensure a critical and thorough examination of the discourse used by Iraqi presidents. It provides valuable insights that illuminate the ways in which language can be used as a powerful tool of governance, help construct identity, and aid political legitimation, particularly in the complex context of post-conflict settings.

## RESULTS

Analysis of presidential speeches reveals distinct trends in national identity construction, rhetorical legitimacy, and religious framing:



**Table 1**

*National Identity Markers in Iraqi Presidential Speeches (2003–Present)*

<b>Time Period</b>	<b>Key National Identity Themes</b>	<b>Dominant Rhetorical Features</b>
<b>2003–2010</b>	Emphasis on democratic ideals, unity	References to democratic transition, political stability
<b>2011–2017</b>	Rise of multicultural and pluralistic narratives	Inclusive language, focus on ethnic diversity
<b>2018–Present</b>	Strengthened national cohesion, reducing sectarian divides	Calls for social harmony, economic cooperation

**Expanded Interpretation:** The evolution from a strong focus on democratic ideals to a more pluralistic and cohesive narrative reflects Iraq’s complex socio-political transformation. Initially, the emphasis on democracy and stability served to differentiate the new administration from the Ba’athist era. However, as governance structures matured, leaders began incorporating multicultural themes to acknowledge Iraq’s diverse population. The current focus on national cohesion and economic cooperation signifies an effort to mitigate sectarian conflicts and reinforce state-building efforts [27:0†source] .

**Table 2**

*Legitimacy Strategies in Presidential Rhetoric*

<b>Time Period</b>	<b>Main Legitimacy Themes</b>	<b>Key Discursive Strategies</b>
<b>2003–2010</b>	Securitization, rebuilding	Use of crisis narratives, strong leadership emphasis
<b>2011–2017</b>	Democratic consolidation, governance	Institutional legitimacy, reform-oriented language
<b>2018–Present</b>	Anti-corruption, public trust	Transparency rhetoric, accountability discourse

**Expanded Interpretation:** The transition from crisis-focused securitization strategies to governance and transparency themes highlights how Iraqi presidential rhetoric has adapted to shifting public concerns. In the immediate post-2003 period, legitimacy was primarily established through appeals to security and state reconstruction. However, as democratic institutions took root, leaders shifted their discourse towards governance and institutional legitimacy. The most recent emphasis on anti-corruption and public trust aligns with increasing public demand for accountability, paralleling similar trends in other post-conflict states, such as Tunisia and Egypt [27:0†source] .





**Table 3***Religious Framing in Iraqi Presidential Speeches*

<b>Time Period</b>	<b>Role of Religion in Discourse</b>	<b>Dominant Themes</b>
<b>2003–2010</b>	Islam as a unifying force	Religious unity, political legitimacy
<b>2011–2017</b>	Islam in governance debates	Balancing secular and religious perspectives
<b>2018–Present</b>	Cultural heritage, moral guidance	Religion as cultural identity, ethical leadership

**Expanded Interpretation:** The role of religion in presidential rhetoric has undergone a fundamental shift from a governance tool to a cultural reference. Initially, Islamic discourse was employed as a unifying force to rally national solidarity during the transitional period. Over time, as Iraq grappled with sectarian tensions, leaders adopted a more balanced discourse, addressing both secular and religious viewpoints. Currently, religion is framed more as part of Iraq's cultural heritage rather than a governance framework, reflecting broader societal movements toward pluralism and inclusion [ 27:0†source] .

This detailed analysis underscores how presidential rhetoric in Iraq has responded to evolving political realities, balancing security, governance, and national unity through strategic linguistic adaptations.

## DISCUSSION

### Discussion with Respect to the First Research Hypothesis

The first research hypothesis examined how the rhetoric of Iraqi presidents has constructed national identity, and in particular through what linguistic strategies and techniques. The results of this research demonstrate a significant and marked shift away from an exclusionary model of nationalism that was predominantly Arab-centric and which was especially prevalent during Saddam Hussein's regime. Instead, the results indicate the formulation of a more inclusive and pluralistic understanding of national identity that reflects a vibrant diversity of perspectives. This is not uniquely limited to Iraq but is reflected in broader global trends observed within the context of post-conflict state-building. In this context, the use of inclusive rhetoric is regarded as a valuable tool that helps facilitate the establishment of a sense of national unity and legitimacy within the state (Ali, 2022; Al-Harashseh, 2021).

Comparisons to other nations in the Middle Eastern region serve to highlight a range of similar trends that can be noted. In both Jordan and Lebanon, for instance, political leaders have been careful to portray themselves as prioritizing the theme of national solidarity among citizens while also downplaying any sectarian rifts in their societies (Qasim & Hussein, 2023). It is notable, however, that while in Jordan instances of religious reference points within political discourses are relatively scarce, Iraq still employs religious discourse within its political discourses. This is accomplished, however, in a more inclusive manner and with a culturally sensitive recognition of the diversity of positions in the society. This is to say that although the approach taken by Iraq towards its national identity is currently undergoing a



transformation in the direction of a more pluralistic orientation, it is noticeable that it still has a unique character due to the fact that it still has religious components included as a significant element of its national heritage.

### **Discussion Related to the Second Research Hypothesis**

The second research hypothesis examined the rhetorical means through which Iraqi presidents attempted to establish political legitimacy. The research identified that presidential rhetoric has passed through three phases: (1) securitization and state reconstruction (2003–2010), (2) democratic consolidation and governance discourse (2011–2017), and (3) anti-corruption and public trust rhetoric (2018–ongoing). This development reflects trends in Tunisia and Egypt, where post-authoritarian regimes have moved towards democratic and reformist discourses (El-Dahshan, 2022; Khalil & Suleiman, 2022).

A key distinction that is particularly notable, however, is the fresh emphasis placed by Iraq on anti-corruption and transparency efforts. Egyptian presidential sources, on the other hand, still heavily focus on themes related to firm leadership and the maintenance of state stability in their discourse. This notable change in the noted discourse in Iraq indicates a solemn and growing popular demand for accountability measures within the governance framework. Such a tendency is indicative of a broader trend worldwide within political circles, where the performance of governance is held higher than sheer reliance on authoritarian legitimacy as a marker of success (Rahman & Saleh, 2021). It can thus be concluded that Iraqi presidential discourse is a reflection of a dynamic response to evolving priorities of governance and changing popular expectations.

### **Discussion Regarding the Third Research Hypothesis**

The third research hypothesis provided a critical examination of the evolution and development of religious references within the framework of Iraqi presidential rhetoric. The findings of this research illustrate a significant and intriguing transformation that has occurred over the years: First, there was a strong focus on the utilization of Islam as a political unifying force from 2003 to 2010. This was followed by an inclination towards an even equilibrium of religious and secular perspectives from 2011 to 2017. Finally, in the most recent period, from 2018 to the present day, there has been a salient framing of religion mainly as a cultural and moral reference, and the changing nature of religious discourse within political communication. This trajectory is consistent with broader trends within discourse across the Middle Eastern world, in which religion is more and more being equated and presented as a valuable part of cultural heritage rather than merely a system of governance and political structure (Al-Rawi, 2023).

Comparisons to Syria help to further clarify the distinct and unique path that Iraq has followed in its political environment. Whereas the political discourse used in Syria still draws heavily upon religious discourse as a way of legitimizing and supporting current power arrangements, Iraq has shifted substantially towards using religious references increasingly for the sake of ethical guidance rather than attempting to claim direct political legitimacy (Al-Maamari, 2022). This critical distinction serves to highlight and underscore ongoing Iraqi efforts to find a balance between secular governance and its deeply held religious traditions, pointing towards a gradual but substantive shift towards a discourse supportive of pluralistic governance.



## CONCLUSION

This extensive study offers a comprehensive and detailed examination of the complicated evolution of Iraqi presidential discourse over time, showcasing its commendable responsiveness to the many evolving political realities and perennial challenges of governance that have arisen. The data presented by this research illustrates in an impressive manner how national identity has undergone a substantial makeover, with particular emphasis on the transition from an exclusionary model of nationalism to a more inclusive and pluralistic form. The evolution of presidential rhetoric demonstrates a significant shift, from an early focus largely fixated on security issues and the overriding task of state reconstruction to a more recent emphasis on governance issues and the immediate battle against corruption. This is reflective of the increased importance accorded to transparency and accountability as a direct reflection of increasing public expectations. Moreover, the change observed in the usage of religious symbols, which have transformed from tools of governance into signs assuming the role of markers of culture, aligns with broader regional and international trends that characterize the modern political communication environment. These shifts, cumulatively considered, serve to illuminate the multifaceted and dynamic interplay that exists between rhetoric, legitimacy, and national identity within societies undergoing significant change. This speaks to the existential import of discourse, in that it plays a fundamental role in shaping not just narratives of governance but also in fostering a sense of national cohesion among groups within societies that are otherwise divergent.

The implications contained within this research reach out across a number of areas and fields of study, offering a fertile repository of valuable insight to a wide range of stakeholders across policymakers, academics, and media practitioners alike. Political leaders, nonetheless, will gain greatly from a deeper understanding of how inclusive rhetoric can be leveraged to construct a sense of national unity while simultaneously enhancing the legitimacy of governance within their own societies. Political discourse scholars can apply these results to enhance the discipline of Critical Discourse Analysis, especially in the research of post-conflict governance. Media and communication professionals can examine the development of presidential rhetoric to help decipher political messaging and its influence on public opinion.

Despite the significant contributions of this research, it must be mentioned that it is prone to several specific limitations. The examination that has been conducted in this research is restricted to presidential speeches only, which may tend to overlook and ignore other influential political discourses, including parliamentary debates and media discourse, which also play a significant role in establishing political narratives and influencing public opinion. While the comparisons made with other nations within the Middle Eastern region are insightful and useful, the contextual differences among these nations may serve to limit the generalizability and applicability of the findings generated from this research. It is also important to consider that as political rhetoric continues to grow and change over time, any subsequent developments in discourse may fall outside the temporal scope that has been established and utilized in this particular research endeavor.

Future studies can build on these valuable observations in a meaningful manner by taking up how Iraqi citizens read and respond to the nuances of presidential rhetoric specifically, and offer an even richer and deeper understanding of its long-term social implications. Additionally, conducting



comparative analyses in other political organs, including but not limited to parliament and the judiciary, could offer far more integrated and nuanced insight into patterns of political communication in Iraq. Lastly, embarking on longitudinal studies that take an in-depth examination of the evolution of rhetorical strategies in direct response to major political events could ultimately reveal intricate and fascinating patterns of change over time. By exploring these research areas of interest specifically, future research studies can significantly enhance our understanding and illuminate the vital function of political discourse in establishing governance narratives, in addition to configuring national identity, particularly in post-conflict countries.

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## Biodata

**Inas Malik Mnaathar** is an assistant Lecturer of General Linguistics in the English Department, Opening Educational College, Iraq. I received my B.A. in English language from University of Thi-Qar (2000), and earned my M.A. (2018) in Linguistics from Bangor, UK. MY main research areas of interest are Issues in General Linguistics Pragmatics, Discourse Analysis, Sociolinguistics, and Cognitive Linguistics. I have published several articles on General Linguistics.

E-mail: [inas.malik@utq.edu.iq](mailto:inas.malik@utq.edu.iq)



**Bahram Hadian** teaches in the Department of English, Islamic Azad University of Isfahan, Isfahan Branch, Isfahan, Iran. Bahran Hadain is an Assistant Professor of Linguistics and has taught courses of variegated character, including linguistics and translation courses. He has published a good number of articles on discourse, pragmatics and translation in local and international journals. His research interests include discourse analysis, translation, the metaphor city of language, and critical discourse analysis.

E-mail: [bah.hadian@khuisf.ac.ir](mailto:bah.hadian@khuisf.ac.ir)

**Hani Kamil Al-Ebadi** is an assistant professor of General Linguistics in English Department, College of Education for Humanities, University of Thi-Qar, Iraq. I have received my B.A. in English Language from University of Thi-Qar (2003), and earned my M.A. (2006) and Ph.D. (2011) in General Linguistics from University of Babylon. My main research areas of interest are Issues in General Linguistics including Phonetics and Phonology, Acoustic Phonetics, Pragmatics, Discourse Analysis, Sociolinguistics, Ecolinguistics, Forensic Linguistics and Cognitive Linguistics. I have taught General Linguistics for the last 15 years. I have published several articles and books on General Linguistics and has presented papers in international conferences.

E-mail: [dr.hani.kamil.alebadi@utq.edu.iq](mailto:dr.hani.kamil.alebadi@utq.edu.iq)

**Mehdi Vaez-Dalili** is an Assistant Professor of TEFL in the Department of English at Azad University of Isfahan (Khorasgan), Isfahan, Iran. His research interests include Second Language Acquisition, Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) and corpus linguistics. His books include *News & Media* (2004, a collaborative work), *News & Views* (2010), *Learn English News through Videos* (2011), and *English News Made Simple* (2013). He has also published papers in local and international journals.

E-mail: [mvaezdalili@yahoo.com](mailto:mvaezdalili@yahoo.com)

