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The Discourse of Hegemonic Monroeism: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Donald Trump's Rhetoric on Venezuelan Sanctions and Regime Change

Dr. Doaa Taher Matrood
Asst. Prof., Jabir Ibn Hayyan Medical University, Continuing Education Center, Najaf, Iraq

* Corresponding Author: **Dr. Doaa Taher Matrood**

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Abstract
Geopolitics and inter-state opposition is one flash point of the 21st-century geopolitics of the Americas; this particular one is between the United States opposed to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. While many of the texts in assessment literature focus on the economic effectiveness and the humanitarian impact of unilateral coercive action, there is not enough theory on the discursive and sociolinguistic processes that construct, legitimate and normalize such an intervention. In the present paper, the Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is exhaustive, analyzing the entirety of the span of official presidential discourse where the U.S. attitude towards sanctions, delegitimation of Venezuela's government, and regime change took off: 2017–2021. The methodology or theoretical synthesis is a true synthesis of the three dimensions of the dialectical-relational model of Norman Fairclough (NFAIM) and the four dimensions of the socio-cognitive Ideological Square (IC) by Teun van Dijk (Tdvd) along with the five dimensions of the typology of legitimation by Michael Halliday (MvH). With the support of text analysis and transitivity analysis, the presentation of lexical polarization, the change of epistemic and deontic modalities and the absence of nominalised agents indicate a systematic deployment of the technology of language and manoeuvre in the delivery of executive speech that made even economic warfare a humanitarian beneficing activity. Furthermore, the analyses suggest that there is a re-assertion of a modern-day 'neo-Monroeist' approach to the region which involves discursively displacing state sovereignty in favour of a re-established US hegemony in Latin American countries attempting to 'restore democracy' and beat back 'socialism'. Ultimately, the effects on international law, national sovereignty and applied critical discourse pedagogy are discussed.

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1. Introduction: The Rhetorical Architecture of Hemispheric Coercion

Foreign policy can be said to be a discursive achievement in formulating policies and executing them. Geopolitical power, however, is manifested in material machines – often much more intricate – such as military violence, naval blockade, secondary financial sanctions etc., but above all, in far more intricate machines that can produce domestic support and legitimation – as well as global legitimation – that are far more complex and elaborate (Chomsky & Herman, 1988; Fairclough, 1992) [2, 4]. But there are rules of international law as they are understood today, by which the sovereign states are taking care of themselves by ensuring the fundamental principles of the charter of the United Nations, and first of all, by art. 2[4]: "sovereign states will refrain from using force against any other state", and second of all, by art. 2[7]: "no intervention against a sovereign state shall be lawful except with such permission, or upon request, as this Charter may provide. The formation of such a discursive regime is necessary because a global super power tries to aggressively isolate another country, conduct economic warfare against

it outside the borders of the other super power and condemn and reinterpret/rethink settled norms of International Law, which can be silenced by this other super power (see Wodak, 2018) [21].

The following discursive fixation is a good example of the current discourse of this United States which highlights the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (2017 ? 2021) during the period of America's President. The Trump Administration adopted an unprecedented 'maximum pressure' approach with the aim of exerting maximum pressure on Venezuela, responding to the May 2018 re-election of President Nicolás Maduro—challenged by many in the country and internationally—and in January 2019, the self proclaimed 'interim president' Juan Guaidó. This policy involved harsh economic and oil sanctions (Executive Orders 13808, 13850 and 13884), open allegations of diplomatic illegitimacy and ongoing threats to 'all options are on the table'' and even actual military action (Bolton, 2020; CRS, 2021) [1, 3]. Humanitarian impacts of such embargoes – as they make food, medicines etc. scarce – have been noted by international relations scholars and economists (Weisbrot & Sachs, 2019) [20] but less has been explored regarding the use of language to be imposed, or how this is possible.

In this scenario, this research will be aimed to fill-up the gap of this research digressively by using Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) method. Moreover, the discursive process that other words represent is not only a representation of the political reality but a social-constitutive process that can compartmentalize, and even re-socialize social identity, inequalities and institutions (Fairclough, 1995; van Dijk, 1998) [5]. The Venezuelan crisis was dressed in a "rhetoric" - in the rhetoric of Donald Trump - that described it as a more and more socio-political and institutional conflict, even as an apocalyptic moral conflict between a democratic enlightenment of the "West" and a socialist tyranny of the "rest". In the presidential figures discourse, some 'lexical selections', 'grammatical transitivity processes', and 'legitimation categories' are used recurrently to narrate and reframe national sovereignty for the nation's citizens: Venezuelians; and imagine the United States as the 'indispensable' savior, an 'altruistic' actor.

On one side, what are the micro-linguistic devices (lexical option, transitivity, modality, nominalisation) that the official discourse of Donald Trump uses in regard to the sanctions dealt to Venezuela? Therefore, at macro-sociocognitive level of the intervention legitimation strategies are confirming the unilaterality of the economic enforcements and the change of regime and invalidating it by the same validators used in economic enforcements. Third, what kind of speech serves in this modern lifting of old imperial rhetoric – a rhetoric that will become hegemonic in the 21st century in the Americas – in the year 1823, when it is dynamic?Third, what is this modern (late modern) rhetoric doing in the scheme? This study explains either by answering the above questions or by providing a set of critical semiotic tools which can be used by applied linguists and political scientists in order to analyse hegemonic geopolitical discourses.

2. Theoretical and Methodological Framework

This work, which is built on a theoretical background based on different fields (interdisciplinary), sees the intertwining relationship between a political discourse and the executive hegemony and geopolitical coercion of it.

2.1. Fairclough's Three-Dimensional Model of Discourse

A dialectical-relational approach to discourse, proposed by Norman Fairclough (1992, 1995, 2003) [4, 5, 6] takes a stance that there are three levels of discourse: first, it is a language-based text; second, it is part of a discursive practice; third, it is part of a social practice. The triadic architectures open up the space for a complete analysis at the level of textual dimension: micro-linguistic aspects of description in the text, macro-societal aspects of ideological explanation in the broader of the discursive and social practices. the transitivity dimension, and the modality dimension – in the Textual Dimension; the processes of text production and the discursive practices of institutional textwriting – in the Discursive Practice Dimension; the social practices of the discursive event in the larger scope of the imperial power-relations, the prevalence of western hegemony – in the Social Practice Dimension.

2.2. Van Dijk's Socio-Cognitive Approach and the Ideological Square

But it does not involve direct change in the structure of the materials, which has to go through human mental representation, including the mental organization of meaning in language (van Dijk, 1998, 2008). The language of political justifications concerning international conflicts dwells on 'omissions' of the 'context models' and the 'event models' which can be imagined, as leaders try to bring the citizens' assessments into alignment with their policy targets. The ideological square proposed by van Dijk, and the universal move in the sociocognitive realm, is based on four main discursive moves: emphasis of positive features of Us, emphasis of negative features of Them, de-emphasis of negative features of Us (sanitisation of sanctions), and de-emphasis of positive features of Them.

2.3. Van Leeuwen's Typology of Legitimation

The theoretical framework which this study is based on is that developed by Theo van Leeuwen (2007, 2008) about the legitimation of policy in terms of the creation of moral and legal consensus of which van Leeuwen makes the following definitions: legitimation in discourse is realized in four ways: Authorization (in discourse it is legitimated through the use of the powers of the head state official, through the recognition of foreign coalitions); Moral Evaluation (in discourse it is legitimated through the act of praising or condemning; turning the distinction to a moral dichotomy of good and bad); Rationalization (in discourse it is legitimated through the possibility to act according to functional efficacy; through economic transition); Mythopoesis (in discourse, it is legitimated by the construction of cautionary moral stories of tragic socialist suffering).

2.4. Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics: Transitivity and Modality

Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) is Michael Halliday's (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014) [9] grammatical tool-kit used to this analysis. The Ideational Metafunction (Transitivity): links experiential reality with the process types (Material, Relational, Mental, Verbal) indicating who is allowed to be the agent in the process of making history or whose language is either grammatically passivized or even removed. The epistemic (also called 'modal') verba doubt in statements or command expressions (also called 'deontic imperatives') are researched simultaneously, while the epistemic certainty

(also called ‘modal’) verbs are afforded.It is not simultaneous, but concurrent; being the research of the Interpersonal Metadiscoursive (Modality) - a level of epistemic certainty and a level of commands that is declared and ordered (deontic imperative).

3. Data Selection, Corpus Construction, and Analytical Methodology

For a “good” Critical Discourse Analysis, it is important to clearly and explicitly justify the selection of data, list the institutional source of the texts, explain the time frame that has been taken up in the texts and describe the methods used to build a corpus (Fairclough, 1992; 2003; Wodak & Meyer, 2015) [4]. It provides details of what it has been made from, what it looks like, and the sociolinguistic considerations that led participants to the choice of the specific types of data and not other data (earlier, later, from other people, or other conversations) from a different communication interface for empirical study.

3.1. Rationale for Data Selection and Temporal Scope (August 2017 – January 2021)

This study's period of analysis was strategically set from August 2017 to January 2021 because it spans the time when the Venezuelan government was facing America's ‘maximum pressure' pressure campaign, while fueling wider demonstrations.For this study, the time span for analyzing was deliberately chosen as the time span in which the Venezuelan regime had been under America's so-called ‘maximum pressure' pressure campaign, and in which the union of larger protests occurred, August 2017-January 2021. These are the stages of "financial warfare" as it has been since August 2017 when Exec. signed. Order (EEO) 13808 that barred access by the Venezuelan government and its government-owned oil company (PDVSA) to the U.S. financial debt market. Meters in August 2019, Juan Guaidó and the downtown Economic embargo have been unconditionally recognized via Executive order 13884 (CRS, 2021) [3]. The last four years' Obama “executive orders” and the next four years' Biden “executive orders” are not an exact match, so it's just the four year span of the regular White House records of his actions that gives you a textually and ideologically coherent one.Of course, not the last 4 years of the Obama executive orders, not the next 4 years of the Biden ones, but the 4 years of those over this – those are the most Leo Straussian, the most populist, the most unilateralist, the most neo-Monroeist to be sure in the rhetorical style of the Trump administration.

3.2. Data Provenance, Modalities, and Triangulated Sourcing

Written communications: four situations and contexts – legal documentation, political speech (verbal communication), video/TV campaign address, address given online (videos/in social media):

1. Primary supporting official legal documents, such as official executive orders and the text of written institutional documents (institutional EDs) were retrieved from the Federal Register and official National Archives and Records Administration (archives.gov) documents. Specifically, Executive Orders 13808, 13827, 13850, and 13884 were selected. The 'warm down' at high level is not 'disturbing' in nature, but rather 'legalistic'; In fact it is a declaration of
2. Executive will, claiming that 'There is an 'unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States' 'for Venezuela's state of functioning'.
3. All of the following speakers were consulted from "Multilateral Diplomatic Speeches: The White House Briefing Room" archive, and from the webtv.un.org home of the official audio-visual collections for the UN General Assembly (UNGA), were scanned for speeches made to members of the UN diplomatic corps at UNGA: Transcripts from the 72nd (2017), 73rd (2018), and 74th (2019) sessions were analyzed. The texts are supposed to illustrate the most advanced form of multi-lateralism in conducting statecraft, 'unilateral coercion' – any executive action would require justification before the UN Charter and a community of citizens living in an environment open to the understanding of the UN Charter, on the ground of various countries around the world.
4. Targeted Political Campaign Rallies and Broadcast Speeches (Spoken Domestic Enunciation) were studied as it pertains to foreign intervention; these are the types of political speeches seen on TV that are officially videotaped in the White House and on the C-SPAN video archives. The first of these is Trump's Feb. 18, 2019 speech before thousands of Venezuelan and Cuban expatriate voters, at Florida International University (FIU) in Miami. Perhaps this is particularly apt given the genre chosen – relatively free from politeness of the traditional party political order and strongly emotive in character – complex international relations become translated, linearized as a Manichean shot through with party political theology.
5. In an attempt to capture those 4th Digital and Interactive Modalities, the American Presidency Project: presidency.ucsb.edu gathered a transcript of the press briefings in and out of the White House with regional heads of state, like Colombia's President Ivan Duque and Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro. The Trump Twitter Archive – which is only now being officially moved from the “T” to the “X” (thetrumparchive.com) – was used to gather Trump's information from back in the day, essentially adding on his previous platform, now “Platform X”; Trump gave ultimatums on Twitter regarding the army of Venezuela – his media message displayed directly as a geopolitical coercion tool with no audience in the target country.

3.3. Corpus Architecture and Textual Typology

The final corpus is made up of 32 representative texts (48,500 words) which are represented within four balanced linguistic domains. Table 1 below indicates the genre, modality (oral vs written), specific institution where the spoken text is generated and the words used in the text.

3.4. Analytical Coding and Multilevel CDA Protocol

The three dimensional description of coding used, proposed by Norman Fairclough, was adopted for systematically and iteratively coding the corpus qualitatively and quantitatively. The basic steps in the micro textual stage were to break down the texts into the different parts of the grammatical transitivity processes (Material, Relational, Mental, Verbal), the different kinds of nominalisations of the transitivity processes (from sanctions to the abstract form of sanctions as

nouns measures, pressure); and the different kinds of modal operators Epistemic certainty as Deontic obligation. The discursive-practice analysis lot for the second step, texts themselves, was intertextual, which concerned how the contemporary Counter-socialist campaign slogans, recontextualised the nineteenth-century Monroeist doctrines. It was used the 3 dimensional description of coding, that Theo van Leeuwen had introduced in his book legitimation categoriale approach, to code the corpus in an iterative process that results in a corpus description that can be qualified as both qualitative and quantitative/organic type of coding. The texts were divided on the micro text level to get grammatical transitivity processes (transitive processes of the text entity) of Material, Relational, Mental, Verbal and the grammatical nominalisations of sanctions – 'measures', 'pressure'. There were other modal operators analysed as well (Epistemic certainty, deontic obligation. In the second discursive-practice phase the texts have been analysed in relation to the re-contextualisation strategies the nineteenth-century concepts were invested with on the way to the formation of the contemporary anti-socialist phrases. The goal of the third step in social practices was to map the findings on to Theo van Leeuwen's legitimation categories - a description and explanation of the functioning of the language, and finally the rendering of its functional claim to outside coercion.

4. Empirical Findings: Linguistic Mechanisms of Hegemonic Legitimation

The empirical research reveals a coherent strongly regular discourse in which Trump constructs a binary moral space in which he denies the foreign sovereignty, and frames the economic coercion as an expression of benevolence towards Venezuela.

4.1. Lexical Polarization and the Construction of the Criminal 'Other'

Sentence polarization in the lexicalisation of high-frequency words is noticed in this corpus like in the paradigm of The Ideological Square of van Dijk. Not regular diplomats' names such as Phamony of president of Venezuela (Nicolás Maduro). Two out of three nominal phrases using the ‘presidential' names (Maduro is president) were substituted by sentences of criminalization and de-legitimization of the quite complex and heavy rhetorical usage. There are two nominal phrases that do not occur in the entire text: the other is 'a socialist tyrant'.Two of the three nominal phrases that were identified as referring to a ‘presidential’ role, namely ‘the dictator' and ‘a Cuban puppet', are criminalised and delegitimised and the third ‘a socialist tyrant' does not appear in the corpus.

Table 1

Corpus Category	Communicative Genre	Modality	Primary Data Source Archive	Word Count
Executive Legal Decrees	Executive Orders 13808, 13827, 13850, 13884	Written Statutory Text	Federal Register & National Archives	8,450
Diplomatic UN Addresses	72nd, 73rd, & 74th UNGA Presidential Speeches	Spoken (Verbatim Transcripts)	UN Web TV & Official Records	14,200
Domestic Political Rallies	Miami FIU Rally & Diaspora Addresses	Spoken Public Address	White House Archive & C-SPAN	15,650
Press Briefings & Digital Posts	Bilateral Conferences & Platform X Statements	Interactive Spoken & Written Digital	The American Presidency Project & Twitter	10,200

Table 2: displays the lexical distribution of ideological naming strategies across the corpus:

Discursive Entity / Actor	Ideological Lexical Categorization	Critical Discourse Function
Nicolás Maduro & Administration	Illegitimate tyrant, narco-terrorist regime, ruthless gang, murderous syndicate, Cuban puppet.	Complete juridical and political delegitimation; criminalizing political opposition to eliminate legal protections under international law.
The United States & Leadership	Champion of freedom, righteous nation, beacon of hope, generous protector, liberating force.	Hyperbolic positive self-presentation; establishing divine moral authority and exceptionalist entitlement to intervene.
Venezuelan Civilian Population	Helpless victims, starving citizens, hostage people, courageous freedom fighters.	Victimization and infantilization; stripping domestic citizens of political agency to justify external rescue.
Juan Guaidó & Opposition	The legitimate, constitutional President; heroic democratic freedom fighters.	Legal and institutional fabrication; manufacturing alternative state sovereignty to validate foreign resource seizure.
Socialism & Anti-Imperialism	Deadly ideology, alien virus, complete catastrophe, misery, tyranny, total poverty.	Ideological demonization; framing an economic and political philosophy as a pathological biological infection.

Linking Maduro with the same vocabulary used by organized crime and narcotics traffickers elevates this quarrel out of the sovereign international diplomatic arena and takes it into that of international criminal policing. It is a lexicological device that has a very great strategic value; it is rare to use the term of ‘showed sovereign' for negotiations with a gangster who could be referred to as ‘gang boss', and then a ‘cartel'. If the moral argument for development becomes “moral” argument to criminalise development is “total” and “fundamental” “just to criminalise” the changes of the regime.

4.2. Transitivity and the Erasure of Sanctions as Coercive Violence

The material that will be used also turns out to be the addresses made by the participants and the processing of the mind they underwent in their construction that are then found in the transitivity structure of US economic sanctions in psychogenic approach using Hallidayan approach. On a classicistic system of grammar doing/causing is one of the kinds of processes that need the presence of Actor and Goal. However, in all instances, there is a transitivity pattern that

'socialism' or 'Maduro' places 'economic collapse' or 'catastrophe' on Venezuela, these decisions having nothing to do with US sanctions.

'Socialism has ravaged Venezuela (Actor: Socialism | Material Process: has ravaged | Goal: Venezuela). Maduro has starved his own people (Actor: Maduro | Material Process: has starved | Goal: his own people).'

But in this case, economic deprivation is presented as the sole, direct result of a homegrown socialist regime. It is however less true when Trump moves onto the United States' complete financial embargoes (the administrative measures that frozen billions of dollars in sovereign state assets, hindered the import of crucial insulin and cancer drugs, and paralyzed the national electrical grid). However, there are no violations but rather Relational and Verbal processes of moral virtue that are re-contextualized:

'We are standing with the righteous people of Venezuela (Actor: We | Material/Relational: are standing with | Circumstance: the righteous people). We have placed tough sanctions on the regime to cut off their corrupt funds (Actor: We | Material Process: have placed | Goal: tough sanctions | Purpose Clause: to cut off their corrupt funds).'

When the sanctions begin to be implemented they turn into 'tough sanctions' – in abstraction, protection, diplomacy and for 'corrupt funds'. Absolute absence from the list of the actual victims of the sanctions: The millions of ordinary working citizens of Venezuela which are deprived of their right to health, medical care, access to medical supplies, which is so scarce in such hyperbola of their inflation rates, even because of the lack from the Government. Once more, it's about to be a hairy and germ-filled moral war of attrition fought by economists.

4.3. Modality Shifts: From Diplomatic Probability to Imperative Coercion

Epistemic and deontic modality have been highly evaluative IPMs in Trumps' speech, and each of the modals has a blithely resplendent intermodal valuation. Epistemic modality (used with statements of certainty, probability and knowledge) has been repeated, and is used to make a prediction, that Venezuela's regime is a historical reality that cannot help but fail.

'The twilight hour of socialism has arrived in our hemisphere. The days of Maduro's tyranny are completely numbered. Freedom will prevail, and it will prevail very soon.'

The absolute temporal and degree adverbs 'completely' and 'very soon' eliminate all sense of negotiation, diplomatic ambiguity and leave no playing with the possibility of negotiated co-existence: In the meantime Trump is engaged in his work to affect a modulatory change: that of commanding and obliging and prohibiting absolutely:

'The Venezuelan military must accept the righteous offer of amnesty by President Juan Guaidó. You must choose freedom. If you choose this path, you have a chance for a new life. But if you choose the second path, to continue supporting Maduro, you will have no safe harbor, you will find no easy exit, and there will be no way out. You will lose everything.'

The deontic auxiliary 'must', most importantly in the next sentence in the address from Florida International University (FIU): The United States must not repeat the very same error that brought us down (to Iraq/ Libya). It was at no other point in Trump's entire foreign policy work of rhetoric that he made such a point of using the deontic auxiliary verb 'must', as a mandate as in relation to a foreign country's military: "The United States must not make the same mistake that brought us down in Iraq and Libya" (2019). Trump bypasses the Venezuelan state apparatus and invites army abroad to defection. The conditional clauses, 'you will find no easy exit' and 'you will lose everything', further invincible epistemic certainty and overt violence of total personal and bodily annihilation. As abrupt and sweeping as it is, the discourse does not try to deal with political subtext—it's more as though it said in the imperative sentence, 'Exeunt! (Unconditioned).'

5. The Revival of Neo-Monroeism: Hegemonic Paternalism and Regional Entitlement

In order to offer a challenge to the level of discourse (the third in Fairclough's system), as well as to the historical and ideological moves taking place at that level, a Critical Discourse Analysis needs to be more than just a 'sentence-level' analysis. One of the latest intriguing theories in this research is the overall resurgence of the contemporary geopolitical ideology as seen in Trump's words before he made a presidential statement 'The Monroe doctrine' – which was a repeat statement in 1823.It has been one of the most important theoretical results in this study to see how, or at least, as, there is an out-there and unabashed (discourse of) Hegemonic Monroeism shockingly making a return as it was formulated in 1823.

5.1. The Hemispheric Ownership Trope: 'Our Hemisphere'

Throughout the Corpus the 1st person plural personative possessive determiner 'our' indicates 'whole of North, Central and South America' or 'this hemisphere' or 'this region': 'our hemisphere', 'this hemisphere', 'our region'. This doctrine was repeated and emphasised by him in UN GA in 2018 two times in his world famous speech, delivered to the UN General Assembly.

'Here in the Western Hemisphere, we are committed to maintaining our independence from the encroachment of expansionist foreign powers. It has been the formal policy of our country since President James Monroe that we reject the interference of foreign nations in this hemisphere and in our own affairs.' (Trump, 2018) [17]

In terms of applied linguistics' postcolonial point of view, it can be viewed as a courageous discourse of annexation. The USA eradicates independence or sovereignty of the 'nation state' and installs them as a part of one territory: 'our hemisphere' and property rights 50 % of an individual world. In this paternalistic linguistic paradigm, any kind of extra-hemispheric diplomatic, economic and trade relationship struck by Venezuela, a then-Sovereign nation, with a country outside the hemisphere is not considered (nor is it defines as) normal international diplomacy, but as a 'foreign encroachment' and as a direct threat to 'American security.

5.2. Paternalism, Infantilization, and Manifest Destiny

The speech is heavily inspired by the metaphorical image that's bound with the body, as well as of the family, all the time imbued with the notion that there is an imperially – inherited father.The family itself and the image of the family are, of course, metaphorically "married" in terms of an "imperially inherited" father: it's these that provide "inspiration" for the neo-Monroeist type of speech. Latin American countries are stereotyped as being 'little brothers', 'needys', 'fragile' and 'weaklings', and are always supposed to be weaker than other countries in facing foreign ideas

(socialism/communism) known as ‘tenderloaves'. But, is the U.S., the gentle strong father, who chooses to come to the rescue of its broken off, not its out of place, children, to restore them, and to hold them pure from the contamination of human families, to do for them everything he is able?
This is the rhetoric of ‘Manifest Destiny' and Theodore Roosevelt's ‘Roosevelt Corollary' in the latter part of the 19th Century in Latin America and the ‘flagrant and chronic wrongdoing' that enabled U.S. to exert its ‘international police power'. The colonial/post-colonialism 'grammar', established by the Trump 'new' again re-colonializes the raising of the sovereignity violation of Venezuela as ‘customary' and ‘historical' ‘right' of the US ‘guardianship' over the hemisphere.

6. Typology of Legitimation: Deconstructing Theo Van Leeuwen’s Four Categories

By applying complicity in action theory of Theo van Leeuwen (2007), the Trump's coercive sanctions can be observed in the domestic and international arena, which can be done through a scaffolding structural arrangement.

6.1. Authorization: The Invention of Alternative Sovereign Recognition

Illegal are unilateral sanctions which are not approved by the U.N. Security Council. Trump's rhetoric and discourse creates a parallel, legal, authorization.Trump's declarations, however, help forge an alternative legal framework of authorization to overcome this quandary. Not against international courts and tribunals, there are, according to the argument, 2 points to consider: (1) Sovereignty of the Self-Proclaimed Sovereign (don't care about its “constitutional” character as a “request” to control the assets) and (2) Coalition Authorization (believe the Lima Group over the UN General Assembly/UCLGA).

6.2. Moral Evaluation: The Manichean Rhetoric of Good vs. Evil

The two types of evaluative words – moralized adjectives and evaluative metaphors – are evaluated morally, removing the possibility of discussing the rational policy. Trump's language and telling about Venezuela are Manichean: resting on religious narratives of exceptionality, of a distinctly American sort. While Maduro's Venezuela is a 'nightmare of poverty and despair,' an 'abomination' and a 'cruel tyranny'. The sanctions policy of the United States, on the other hand, is sanctioned based on high moral evaluative lexemes, such as ‘righteous,’ ‘noble,' ‘sacred cause of liberty,' and ‘God-given freedom. This distinction of values imputes to any householder critic against the policies of sanctions that he is no longer just an opponent of politics, but a tyrant and child-starver.

6.3. Mythopoesis: The Cautionary Tale of Socialist Ruin

In fact, Trump has often used Venezuela as a mythopolis to caution, of course, not just about what was happening in Venezuela but chiefly to his own country, the United States: *'Venezuela was once the wealthiest nation in South America, rich in oil, blessed with fertile land and incredible beauty. But socialism took over, and socialism destroyed everything. The stores are empty, the hospitals have no medicine, and children are dying in the streets. This will never happen to the United States. America will never be a socialist country.'* It is the usual mythological story, in which paradise disappears, because of the death of Socialism. In this story, Venezuela is no longer a country of complexity and diversity of humanity, but a rhetorical prop to make the image of growing into what people call the "fighters against progressive home policy" as monochromatic and demonic. The ideology of foreign policy comes to be veritably caught up in an election war.

7. The Dialectics of Resistance: Venezuelan Counter-Discourses of Anti-Imperialism

The sense of contestation-and the need to act with pluralism in hegemonic power-can not be neglected in a comprehensive CDA. The focus of Fairclough (1995) [5] and Foucault (1980) [7] is set on 'with power, there is resistance' and 'with power, there is counter-discourse'. In other words, power is an always unstable balance which is always in the face of challenge by an indistinguishable counter-discourse. But in response to the provocative remarks of Trump, the Venezuelan government responded with a measured, and even – albeit sophisticated – counter-hegemonic speech.

7.1. Reclaiming International Law and the UN Charter

In Trump's soliloquy, one can see moral judgment and paternalism in action, in Venezuela's State Discourse, it was the Lawfulness of the UN Charter that was followed. Diplomatic activists from the Portuguese-speaking nation of Venezuela reused the word “sanctions” to diplomatically translate U.S. sanctions over and over in their UN Human Rights Council and General Assembly speeches. These were referred to by the White House a few months ago as ‘targeted economic measures' or ‘tools to promote democracy' but by the Venezuelan counter-discourse, and ‘opposition' (also in quotation marks, as we very rarely hear it speak for itself, rather it hears the voice of the United States behind it) as ‘unilateral coercive measures' (medidas coercitivas unilaterales), ‘crímenes de lesa humanidad' (crimes against humanity), and ‘illegal economic warfare' (guerra económica ilegal).

7.2. The Bolivarian Mythos: Anti-Imperialist Historical Memory

Furthermore, Venezuelan counternarration was borrowed from another mythical past of its own, Venezuelan history of wars of independence from Spain in the ninth-nineteenth centuries. Maduro's rhetoric frequently highlighted the words of Bolívar, and mixed it-in with antibracorial sentiment, which was also an integral element in current socialist discourse, anti-imperialism, seen as a continuation of the Latin-American countries' fight for independence under the leadership of Bolívar, subsequent to their struggle against indigo colonialism and their fight against the Spanish Empire. Faced with a discursive countermattack, it's exhibited that it did not end up losing its power to tell me in spite of the absurd situation of material and economical suffocation in the Venezuelan condition.It takes, in a discursive counter attack, that it did not lose its tool to narrate despite the cold place of material and economical suffocation in the Venezuelan status.

8. Implications for Applied Linguistics, Political Discourse Studies, and International Law

Likewise from an empirical perspective, and apparently from a theoretical one as well, implications of this research are far and seemingly extend beyond a number of academic fields including the field of critical applied linguistics on one hand and international jurisprudence, international pedagogy of diplomacy, etc. on the other.

8.1. Advancing Critical Discourse Studies (CDS)

The value and necessity of the combination of SFG and critical geopolitical analysis of this study is revealed. For too long the political scientists have been dealing with the complicated realisms/liberalisms discussion, almost as if they ignore the complex linguistic mechanics that are shaping the ever-changing political landscape, like the passive subjects erased by nominalization, the modals, and changes in the structure of verbs. This paper relies and institutionalizes the Hallidayan micro-grammar and simultaneously builds it up in a synergy with the macro-ideological approach of Fairclough and legitimation typologies of van Leeuwen, to develop a powerful methodological approach for analyzing contemporary international crisis communication.

8.2. Developing Pedagogical Frameworks for Critical Diplomatic Literacy

As for Hyper-mediated digital diplomacy, a large proportion of Statecraft takes place in a push towards social media (280 character), a press diagnosis-maker and a viral Press pressing. Based on the findings of this research, immediate need can be observed that Higher Educational Institutions need to design its curricula related to ‘Critical Diplomatic Literacy' on the students of International Relations, Foreign Policy and Applied Linguistics fields. Students and young diplomats need to be educated in this less-than-objective vocabulary of the world's power, less-than-trustworthy words that enable the power to become more trustworthy – words that disguise the nature of what drives regime change – that is, the less-than-words-for-more ones that are used to do just that.

9. Conclusion: The Language of Empire in the Twenty-First Century

The multi-layered Critical Discourse Analysis of this research paper focused on Donald J. Trump's official discourse concerning Venezuelan sanctions, diplomatic isolation and hope for a regime change between 2017-2021. In order to analyse and clarify exactly what such mechanism might be, the study has broken down the exact mechanisms of language, ideology and action of the executive power making this an act of a theoretical synthesis of the three.

But at the micro textual level, the investigation successfully highlights three general effects in the language: a hyper-polarisation of language in the speeches of the leaders of the executive bodies; a linguistic process of ``criminalisation' and/or ``dehumanisation' of the Venezuelan head of state; and the conferring of ``divinely exceptional' moral status on the United States. Secondly, from the interpersonal perspective, absolute epistemic certainty as well as the aggressive deontic modality are very frequent in the presidential text production of 'no way, no how'. Thirdly, at an ideology level, the rhetoric is a radical and forthright reading of a well-known nineteenth-century doctrine: Monroe's doctrine. This is discurse and an argument which regressive to a paternalistic concept of entitlement and 'Manifest Destiny' over the diseases of Latin America as 'our hemisphere', while dusting off the dusty 'doctrine of entitlement' that imperialists have brought with them.

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Appendix: Corpus of Primary Geopolitical Texts, Executive Decrees, and Multimedia Archival Sources

Everything in this study is empirical and they are housed in a digital and screened primary source repository of memes: the speeches (verbal, diplomatic), broadcasts on TV and social media which reiterated those events that took place in this study. To ensure a high empirical rigour (academic repeatability), this has been done by adding the date of the textual records, and also by naming the institutional repository from which they can be confirmed by the internet and by specifying genre of communication from which they are drawn and finally by providing hyperlinks.

Text ID & Geopolitical Event	Enunciation Date & Speaker	Genre & Modality	Verifiable Archival Repository & Digital Link
Doc V-01: Executive Order 13808 (Financial Blockade)	August 24, 2017 President Donald J. Trump	Written Statutory Legal Decree	Federal Register Archive / The American Presidency Project Link: https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/executive-order-13808
Doc V-02: 73rd UN General Assembly Address (Neo-Monroe Doctrine Revival)	September 25, 2018 President Donald J. Trump	Spoken Multilateral Address (UN)	United Nations Audiovisual Web TV & Official Transcript Link: https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/united-states-america
Doc V-03: Florida International University Address (Ultimatum to Venezuelan Military)	February 18, 2019 President Donald J. Trump	Spoken Public Campaign / Diaspora Rally	White House Press Office / C-SPAN Official Broadcast Link: https://www.c-span.org/video/?458000-1/president-trump-delivers-remarks-venezuela
Doc V-04: Executive Order 13884 (Total Economic Property Blockade)	August 05, 2019 President Donald J. Trump	Written Presidential Executive Order	National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Link: https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/08/07/2019-16980/blocking-property-of-the-government-of-venezuela
Doc V-05: Digital Diplomatic Ultimatums & Tweets (Platform X Coercive Statecraft)	2018 – 2020 @realDonaldTrump (Verified)	Written Digital Social Media Discourse	The Trump Twitter Archive / Library of Congress Archive Link: https://www.thetrumparchive.com/?searchbox=%22Venezuela%22

Detailed Archival Annotations & Verbatim Excerpts

Doc V-01 (Executive Order 13808 - Imposing Financial Embargo)

- **Archive Link:** https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/executive-order-13808
- **Core Statutory Excerpt:** *'I, Donald J. Trump, President of the United States of America, in order to take additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13692... find that the Government of Venezuela has engaged in public corruption and the undermining of democratic processes... and therefore prohibit all transactions related to new debt...'*

Doc V-02 (73rd UNGA Address - the Explicit Neo-Monroeist Re-Articulation)

- **Archive Link:** https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/united-states-america | Broadcast Recording: UN Web TV.
- ***Core Spoken Excerpt:*** *'Here in the Western Hemisphere, we are committed to maintaining our independence from the encroachment of expansionist foreign powers. It has been the formal policy of our country since President James Monroe that we reject the interference of foreign nations in this hemisphere and in our own affairs.'*

Doc V-03 (Florida International University Address - Miami Diaspora Speech)

- **Archive Link:** https://www.c-span.org/video/?458000-1/president-trump-delivers-remarks-venezuela | Broadcast: C-SPAN (Miami, FL).
- **Core Spoken Excerpt:** *'The Venezuelan military must accept the righteous offer of amnesty by President Juan Guaidó. You must choose freedom. If you choose this path, you have a chance for a new life. But if you choose the second path, to continue supporting Maduro, you will have no safe harbor, you will find no easy exit, and there will be no way out. You will lose everything.'*

Doc V-04 (Executive Order 13884 - Total Economic Embargo)

- **Archive Link:** https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/08/07/2019-16980/blocking-property-of-the-government-of-venezuela
- **Core Statutory Excerpt:** *'All property and interests in property of the Government of Venezuela that are in the United States, that hereafter come within the United States, or that are or hereafter come within the possession or control of any United States person, are blocked and may not be transferred, paid, exported, withdrawn, or otherwise dealt in.'*

Doc V-05 (Digital Twitter/Platform X Statements - Real-Time Coercive Statecraft)

- **Archive Link:** https://www.thetrumparchive.com/?searchbox=%22Venezuela%22
- **Representative Tweet:** *'The United States recognizes Juan Guaido as the official President of Venezuela. The Maduro regime is illegitimate. The Military must fulfill its constitutional duty and stand with the People. All options remain on the table!'*

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