



Discourse Analysis of Former Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's Speech Commemorating the 1st Anniversary at Office.

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Abstract

Language is a powerful tool that could be utilized to communicate as well as to demonstrate power. One's use of language defines about his/her social strata as well. Therefore, this paper attempts to explore the use of language in former president, Gotabaya Rajapaksa's speech commemorating the 1st anniversary at office, in relation to the verbal communication and its impact of power on ethnic groups/ ethnic conflicts. This research will also analyze the morphological processes used in the former president's speech. Subsequently, the paper will reinforce the idea that holding power could affect a person's usage of vocabulary towards others. So, the paper will focus on salient points regarding the morphological processes used in the former president's speech. Morphological processes such as suffixation, borrowings and initialism could be found from the speech. Moreover, how the executive president highlighted his power through his speech will be further analyzed. The former president created the impression that he is the only one who could protect Sinhalese from local and foreign forces and ideologies that support separatism. With his speech, he has been able to attract the Sinhala majority; depicting the impact of verbal communication. Through his use of language that consisted morphological processes especially through loaned words (e.g.: ayubowan), what he did was attracting the audience for the speech. The power that has being reflected via the president's speech is not the legal power that exercised over the country without a personal interest in the welfare of the nation but goes beyond every limit and his way of communication created an impact, a negative impact.

Keywords: Discourse analysis, Language, Morphology, Power, Racism

