

Abstract

Chinese Diplomatic Discourse: The Process of Meaning Construction and the Roles of
Discourse in International Relations in the 21st Century

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This research aims to examine the discourse of diplomacy in the speeches of Chinese President Xi Jinping by means of Critical Discourse Analysis approach. The objectives of this research include: 1) To analyze processes of Chinese discourse construction in international affairs, 2) To investigate linguistic strategies used for meaning construction in various Chinese diplomatic discourses, and 3) to analyze the roles of diplomatic discourses in the speeches of Chinese President. The data were gathered from 15 speeches in the website of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China from March 2013 to July 2014.

It is found that the speeches of President Xi Jinping construct two main discourses, i.e. Development discourse and Security discourse. Thereby, the Development discourse consists of four sub-discourses: Peaceful development, Win-win cooperation, China model, and Chinese Dream. The Security discourse consists of two sub-discourses: Strategic partnership and New security consensus. It is also found that President Xi Jinping constructed China identity by using language strategy in two ways: 1) On record politeness strategies such as modesty, promising, expressing concern, and slogans, 2) Off record politeness strategies such as metaphor, association clues, intertextuality, aphorism, and presupposition.

The Diplomatic Discourse in the speeches of President Xi Jinping represents three main functions: 1) An Identity function which portrays China as a peace-loving country in order to obtain trust from the global community, 2) A Relational function including three types of relations concerning China, i.e. China and developing countries, China and the great power, and the relations among countries in the world politics, which leads to the righteousness power in using foreign policy, and 3) An Ideational function which reproduces “the Hanonious World” the dominant ideology of Chinese society to create the world with stability for the sustainable development of China.

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