

Rationalized Rules: A Critical Metaphor Analysis of Selected Autobiographical Political Discourse

ABSTRACT

This paper aims at giving a critical analysis of the metaphors employed by Benazir Bhutto and General Musharraf in their political autobiographies, viz., Daughter of the East and In the Line of Fire, respectively. The issues of identity, power and their rationalization and ideology are the main concern and focus in the selected political discourses. The selected authors represent two types of ruling classes in Pakistan, the civilians and the military Generals. Both these classes achieved power and ruled the country right from its establishment since 1947. Both of them blamed each other for the adverse economic and social conditions and claimed their role as constructive one. The main idea behind the study is regarding the usage of language by the politicians for the rationalization of their rule and role. So, many linguistic techniques have been detected in their discourse but the focus is only on one rhetorical device that is the use of metaphor. The methodology is adopted from the paradigm of critical discourse analysis generally and its sub-category called critical metaphor analysis particularly. Both these approaches keep social, cultural and historical perspectives in view while analyzing some discourse to dig out the covert ideologies and other issues related with power, domination, discrimination, exploitation and identity. The three-point framework for critical metaphor analysis by Charteris-Black (2004) is applied on the selected discourse to arrive at findings regarding the rationalization of power and domination besides the identity or backgrounds of the authors underlying the metaphoric use of language. Favorable findings have been traced regarding the above mentioned issues in the discourse.

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