

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Problem

I aim for conducting the research of a critical discourse analysis of Joe Biden's inauguration speech vis-a-vis the policies of the United States of America. Critical Discourse Analysis (henceforth CDA) is uncovering the silent meaning of the speech, moreover if the speech is spoken by a president that has so many aspects in forming the discourse that can be interpreted in various ways. As a linguistic student working on the way the language is applied, I have an important task to be able to understand what the implicit meaning of the speech which is not basically interpreted through the literal meaning but the whole aspects within the speech. Hence, I work on critical discourse analysis to reveal the implicit meaning within his inauguration speech related with what the policies he applies to The United States of America and what character he has in the use of language styles.

Reading competence cannot be separated from the ability in comprehending the text with a proper meaning as a result. Reading in earning the proper meaning of the text requires us to go underneath the backgrounds of the text, where the text is delivered from, who the text is written by, who the text is delivered by, when the text is delivered, what the text is delivered for, whom the text is addressed to, that those seem very complex yet it can guide us to understand the silent meaning of the text. To comprehend the meaning of the text, we require to have prior knowledge to understand the silent meaning according to the backgrounds behind the text. Meaning is a very complex concept with its own background forming the text or speech. There must be a reason of making the text or delivering the speech. Smith (1973: 6) explains that non-verbal information is what the reader already knows about reading, language, and the world in general, however verbal information is something that can be seen in a text or other kind of writing.

Discourse is related to text. It can be both written (i.e. brochures, newspaper, and magazine) and spoken (i.e. monologue, dialogue, and speech). Tarigan (1987:27) conveys that discourse is the most complete linguistic unit, higher than clauses and sentences, with good cohesion and coherence, a defined beginning and

finish, and the ability to be conveyed both orally and in writing. Therefore, discourse is not scoped in sentence or paragraph. Moreover, it can scope in phrase, clause, or even word.

President Joseph Robinette Biden, Jr., was born November 20, 1942, in Scranton, Pennsylvania, the first of four siblings. In 1953, the Biden family moved from Pennsylvania to Claymont, Delaware. President Biden graduated from the University of Delaware and Syracuse Law School and served on the New Castle County Council. He became one of the youngest people ever elected to The United States Senate when he was at age 29. During the time he married Neilia Hunter in 1966, then they were blessed with three children. Just weeks after the election, tragedy struck the Biden family when Biden's wife, Neilia and their one-year-old daughter, Naomi, were killed and their two young sons critically injured in an auto accident. (Joe Biden, the President from Scranton to Wilmington to the White House with thousands of train rides in between, n.d.)

The day had changed since President Joe Biden of Democrat party was inaugurated as the 46<sup>th</sup> President of The United States of America in January 20, 2021 with Kamala Harris as his vice president. President Joe Biden's inauguration speech has been calling out the Americans to unite and to make a better movement in every sector in the future. President Joe Biden successfully conveyed his speech in front of Americans with the power within his discourse empowering movements for all. Joe Biden's inspiring speech was as the result of his collaboration with his speechwriters and historian, John Meacham. Both of them created a magical speech that was powerful to uplift and to make the United States of America great again. The backgrounds of the microstructure and macrostructure were delivered into the elements of speech to form the strength of his vision and mission. Joe Biden put the touches into his speech with the theme of unity, alliteration, highlight differences, repetition, and shared dreams. The backgrounds of the discourse were very essential and influential to form the strong points of the speech he conveyed.

## **1.2. Identification of the Problem**

I identify comprehending the implicit meaning of the text can be potentially disrupted by the subjective matters of the readers about the speaker or about the writer of the text. The diverse perspectives generate so many analyses of predictions of what will happen in the country once after the inauguration speech of Joe Biden. That matters create any commotion affected by public reactions to respond either in pros or cons of Joe Biden's inauguration speech.

### **1.3. Limitation of the Problem**

Having a strong focus on analyzing is this term paper's priority to result proper analyses in examining the silent meaning of Joe Biden's inauguration speech. To avoid uncontrolled problem focus, this term paper is conducted in three categories of Van Dijk CDA, they are microstructure, macrostructure, and superstructure.

### **1.4. Formulation of the Problem**

I hereby outline the formulations of the problem in three questions:

1. What issues does President Joe Biden bring into his priorities to be restored through Van Dijk CDA?
2. What are the leadership styles of Joe Biden of being the President of The United States of America through Van Dijk CDA?
3. How does President Joe Biden differentiate his presidency from Barack Obama through the style of language compared to Obama's second inauguration speeches through Van Dijk CDA?

### **1.5. Objective of the Research**

1. To find out the matters that President Joe Biden brings into his priorities to be resolved.
2. To describe the leadership styles of Joe Biden's presidency.
3. To explain the differences of language style between Joe Biden's and Barack Obama's analyzed through their own inauguration speeches.

### **1.6. Benefit of the Research**

Specifically, this term paper aims for assisting students of linguistic to be more competent in interpreting the silent meaning of the strategic speeches spoken by a president of any country. Hence, the students of linguistics are expected to be good links that will be distributing their knowledge to interpret the implicit meaning of president's speech to public whom are not coming from the background of linguistics. Regardless of people's difference perspectives in understanding and

responding every speech of the newly elected president, the linguistic students are expected to be able to present their more credible interpretation based on more academically point of view in regards to critical discourse analysis correlated with the linguistic field. As the result, a proper interpretation is able to prevent public misunderstanding that potentially creates commotion either in domestic or international. This term paper can be expected to be a good reference for students of linguistics and people in generally to study the linguistics aspects.

## **1.7. Systematic Organization of the Research**

### **CHAPTER 1**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter comprises the background of the problem, identification of the problem, limitation of the problem, formulation of the problem, objective of the problem, benefit of the research and systematic organization of the research.

### **CHAPTER 2**

#### **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

This chapter comprises of the theoretical framework and previous related studies, they are language, public speaking, discourse, ideology, critical discourse analysis, Van Dijk CDA, the definition of public policy, and previous related studies.

### **CHAPTER 3**

#### **RESEARCH METHOD**

This chapter comprises of time and location, research approach and method, research objects and data, data collection technique, and data analysis technique.

### **CHAPTER 4**

#### **CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF JOE BIDEN'S INAUGURATION SPEECH VIS-A-VIS THE POLICIES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

This chapter presents the analyses of the research answering the three of formulation of the problems.

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **CONCLUSION**

This chapter comprises of the final conclusions of the analyses answering the formulation of the problems. To end this chapter, it is provided the suggestion for future researchers who are interested in doing the research of critical discourse analysis.

