

## AN INVESTIGATION INTO "THE NEW NATIONALISM" BY THEODORE ROOSEVELT: A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS (CDA) APPROACH

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### ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper is to interpret Theodore Roosevelt's idea, conveying as "*The New Nationalism*" by means of critical discourse analysis (CDA). Roosevelt's political ideas stand for the crucial ideological change in American politics, towards the progressive nationalism. Applying Norman Fairclough's CDA, this work aims at getting to the roots of the discursive manoeuvres, power relations, and socio-political consequences that have been carefully woven into Roosevelt's language. The purpose of this study is a critical analysis of narrative, symbols and metaphors in Roosevelt's discourse. This analysis will be used to enable understanding how "*The New Nationalism*" constructed the ideas of citizenship, democracy and national identity in the beginning of the last century. The results of this investigation allow for a deeper understanding of the links among language, ideology and politics, as well as help to reveal the nationalistic legacy that continues to shape identities of present day citizens through politics.

**Keywords:** Critical Discourse Analysis, Fairclough's CDA, Theodore Roosevelt, The New Nationalism

### INTRODUCTION

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is a multidisciplinary field which studies the language used in texts, speech, and communication based on the social-political background of the issue. It tries to uncover the hidden power relations, ideologies and social structures that are concealed under the discourse. CDA acknowledges that language is not neutral but rather, it reflects and moulds social relations, identities and the power relations.

One of the main tasks of CDA when analyzing speeches is uncovering an exposure beyond the "superficial" content of the speech and studying how the language is used to establish and preserve ideologies, form public opinion, and keep or challenge power relations. The scrutiny of linguistic features, rhetorical and discursive strategies enables a deeper knowledge of the political, social and cultural dimensions of speeches.

The CDA approach of Norman Fairclough is of special significance to examine "*The New Nationalism*" of Theodore Roosevelt in that it offers a general outline. Fairclough's approach encompasses three dimensions: the textual analysis, the discourse, and the sociocultural context among them. This approach helps scholars not only scrutinize the content of the speech as well as the rhetorical methods employed in it but also to locate it within the broader socio-political context.

Theodore Roosevelt's idea of "*The New Nationalism*" rose during the progressive period in the United States, embodying his perception of an improved and public-oriented governance to tackle social and economic inequalities. Roosevelt was in favor of a strong federal government that would control large corporations, defend workers' rights and strive to reach social justice. "*The New Nationalism*" is based on shared responsibility,

citizens' participation, and the idea that the government needs to act as steward of society interests. This idea departed from laissez-faire capitalism on the way to the more active state policy aimed at social welfare improvement and economic justice endurances.

Fairclough's CDA way of thinking highlighted the interdependence between language, power, and ideology making it a suitable tool for analyzing political speeches that try to determine public discourses and collecting the support for specific ideas or agendas. One of the tasks as Fairclough's CDA approach is to deconstruct Roosevelt's discourses that create the concepts of citizenship, democracy, and national identity but also avail the power relations and social-political dynamics of the progressive era.

### **Scope and Limitations of Research**

#### **Scope**

This research paper aims at examining the concept of "*The New Nationalism*" presented by Theodore Roosevelt in his famous speech delivered at Osawatomie, Kansas during the year 1910. The main approach is Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) model since it tends analyze the linguistic features, the rhetorical strategies, and the socio-political dimensions of FDR's discourse. In addition, the paper discussion addresses the historical aspects of the progressive era and the sociopolitical background that is synonymous with the publication of "*The New Nationalism*".

#### **Limitations**

This study considers just one of Roosevelt's speeches; it may not all-encompass major parts of his political thought or what we call nationalist thinking. Furthermore, as this material is old and was dictated by history, then gain access to auxiliary information, such as additional interpretations and contextualization, could be a challenge. Majority if sources apart from the English language could lie beyond the reach of this study, possibly causing a loss of examination of the non-English angle of nationalism and disembodiment. In addition, the CDA tool as it is developed by Fairclough cannot be considered a comprehensive one as it does not fully address all the different sides of discourse and power relations present in the speech of the American president. Finally, the period covered by the study is not complete and possible not all possible versions,

interpretations, and implications of "The New Nationalism" can be included, particularly with respect to nationalists movements in broader historical or contemporary contexts.

#### **Significance of Research**

The present research piece helps in the political discourse research by relying on Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) framework of Fairclough applied on Roosevelt's classic speech. Through an examination of the language, rhetoric, and power relations embedded in "*The New Nationalism*," such study tries to explain how ideology is constructed and sustained via discourse. First of all, study data shows the process of nationalism evolution in the U.S. during the progressive era. His "*The New Nationalism*" concept can be better appreciated when placed in the socio-political context of the time, and consequently, the researchers will give further insights into the ideological dynamics that shaped Americans' identity and citizenship in the early 20th century. The results may have their impact on the way we conceive about politics, especially for the nationalism and populism phenomena. Through laying emphasis on Roosevelt's nationalism concept and comparing it with the modern political themes and movements, the study makes obvious that historical discourses, in the end, have an enduring footprint in driving modern debates and policies. On the one hand, the study examines these various disciplines, including political science, discourse analysis, and American history, from a multi-disciplinary perspective, and it makes some interdisciplinary points about the linguistic, ideological, and political aspects of a discourse. The article shows how linguistic research can clarify the underlying trend in sociology and political science using a strict analytical model in this way. The research paper is presented as a value-added educational material for those who are interested in American history, political theory, and discourse analysis from students, scholars, and policymakers alike. Through critical reading of the original records and theoretical constructs it enriches the scholarly cognizance of nationalism as a matter of complexity and difference.

### Research Questions

1. What are the linguistic components and persuasive strategies or techniques used by Theodore Roosevelt in his speech on "*The New Nationalism*"?
2. In what way does Theodore Roosevelt's speech on "*New Nationalism*" form and reinforce ideas about the nationalism and the citizenship?
3. What is the inherent power structure as well as the embedded ideologies in Theodore Roosevelt's speech about "*The New Nationalism*"?
4. What was the social climate surrounding Theodore Roosevelt's articulation of "*The New Nationalism*" and how did it play a role in shaping his message?

### Objectives of Research

- To examine linguistic aspects, such as metaphors, persuasive language, and vocabulary, which are employed by Theodore Roosevelt in his speech entitled "*The New Nationalism*."
- To examine how Theodore Roosevelt's essay on "*The New Nationalism*" has helped to develop and strengthen the ideas of citizenship and national identity during the progressive era.
- To get to the core of the power relations including ideologies and socio-political implications in the "*The New Nationalism*" speech by Theodore Roosevelt.
- In order to examine the socio-political background of Theodore Roosevelt's address "*The New Nationalism*" and how external factors influenced the creation and perception of his discourse.

### Literature Review

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is an interdisciplinary tool taking its footing in linguistic, sociological, and critical theories. Its objective is to unveil the power relations, ideologies, and social structures that are embodied into the discourse. Fairclough's CDA perspective is specifically relevant in examining speeches as it involves analyzing the language as a zone of power relations governed by its three-dimensional framework of text analysis, discourse practice, and

sociocultural context. Fairclough (1995) claims that discourse represents social reality and at the same time constructs it, which makes the latter a particularly useful instrument for uncovering the manifold dimensions of power. CDA gives way to unwrapping the concealed meanings, ideologies and social injustices within a speech, as well. Van Dijk (2008) pushes further on the CDAs function as it pertains to political discourse, he shows us that politicians make use of legitimize power and warp public opinion. Through an exploration of language in political speeches, scholars are able to reveal the ideas behind and the rhetorical techniques being used for the shaping of public opinion.

Fairclough (1989) conceived the three-dimensional model of CDA that covers all the aspects of discourse analysis. Two-pronged aspect underlines how linguistic features as term choice, grammar and rhetorical devices are used in the textual dimension. The practice of discourse dimension is about to reveal how texts come into being, circulate, and get interpreted in a particular social context. Lastly, through the socio-cultural dimension, the focus goes on deeper social and institutional structures that make up discourse including interpersonal and ideological interactions. In terms of political discourse analysis, CDA has had superior performances. According to Wodak and Meyer (2009), the linguistic analysis is not used only in the matter of determining which ways political actors manipulate language to consolidate their power, shape identities, and direct public attention. Through a bit of analysis, we can uncover the base of the political power and ideological struggle behinds a speech.

Fairclough's (2001) approach, which incorporates an interplay between text, discourse practice, and sociocultural context, is incredibly useful for researchers who are aiming to unravel and understand discourse in-depth. By such an approach one can understand how a speech is used for the demonstration of power-retaining, social-order-establishing and hegemonic ideas-set. Sensitivity to context (CDA) has become an important toolkit for the sociologists operating in the political realm to uncover the reasons behind the tactics used by politicians to manage public opinion and retain power. Wodak and Van Dijk (2000) emphasize the importance of speech in placing new limitations, policies, and themes. When closely assessing political speeches by means of following CDA

principles, scholars expose the power instruments applied, which is exactly how control over citizens' attitudes and behavior is imposed.

From "The Wilderness Warrior," Douglas Brinkley tells of how Theodore Roosevelt carved out a vast area of protected land and manifested his national agenda on the environmental conservation front. Brinkley (2009) uses an in-depth research of Roosevelt's progressive conservation policy of creation of (national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges) to make him a pioneer conservationist. What "Theodore Roosevelt and the Conservation Movement" does is examine the idea that Roosevelt understood and stressed the link between the conservation of nature, the rule of democracy, and the greatness of the nation, making him to be a great leader who tried to preserve America's natural heritage for the future generations. Brinkley shows that in his saving the land of the nation, Roosevelt drew such ethos from detailed research and skillful prose that has not been left outside of the American environmental policy.

In Doris Kearns Goodwin's "The Bully Pulpit," Theodore Roosevelt (T.R) and William Howard Taft's careers are in the spotlight as the biography is about their personal and political lives. The book also shows how American journalism of the era was changing and how it looked like during the Progressive Era. Goodwin wrote what establishment politics between Roosevelt and Taft was well-told and personal, political, and friendship as well as rivalry portrayal with each other's dynamic and progressive movement. What makes the book special is the author's in-depth discussion of Roosevelt's ideas on the social and economic reforms (on forming a New Nationalism) and, besides, the examination of the ways these ideas were spreading through the mass media boom of the time. In spite of nothing other than telling the vivid stories and making the insightful reviews she is able to demonstrate various factors such as the power, character, and idea that dominated the course of the period.

In his book "The Age of Reform," written by Richard Hofstadter, the author examines in detail the political, social, and intellectual tendencies distinguishing the late nineteenth century through the New Deal era. According to Hofstadter (1955), the various reforming groups, including the progressive politics, the population, and socialism, developed as the major responses to the problems brought by

industrialization, urbanization, and political corruption. The book ultimately examines TR's New Nationalism in context with other reform, which is to see it as a response to the problem of corporate tycoons and economic monopoly. One of the greatest achievements of Hofstadter's work resides in the importance it still holds in conservative studies, even after many decades of its publication. It remains a valuable tool for understanding the ideas, contradictions, and transformations of the period.

The work of Edmund Morris's "Theodore Rex" fits in with the description of the biography's approach to the construction of animal behavior, because it is a very thoroughly researched and just lived written account of Theodore Roosevelt during his presidency that is from 1901 to 1909. According to Morris (2001), Roosevelt was an impressive person (the one is a larger-than-life figure) that implemented significant changes in both the presidency and the nation during the period of fast changes. The book examines Roosevelt's leadership style, his interior and exterior policies as well as his attempt to create a vision through the new Nationalism initiative by means of new New Deal. Leveraging an abundance of primary sources and archival material, Morris gives you the experience of recreating Roosevelt's image of a leader full of craft, capable diplomat and a charismatic figure who left the American society with the lasting influence.

Henry F. Pringle's "Theodore Roosevelt: In his biography, "The Eleanor Roosevelt: The Illegitimate First Lady," Allison generally gives a true history of Roosevelt's life and political career. Pringle (1931) does that by concentrated on the details of Roosevelt's family background, the beginning of his public career in New York politics and ends with his further trouble and sound management of the biggest crisis of the era, the Great Depression. The biography depicts thus the nature of Roosevelt, his motives, the evolution of his political philosophy, comprising his strategies in implementing New Nationalism. Along with all these he places Roosevelt within the historical context he had to deal with, elaborating on the social, economic and political forces which shaped his personality and contributed to the development of his policies. Amidst a ringing detaillessness and equality in the treatment, Pringle furnishes the readers with a complicated view of an extraordinary and therefore the most accordant leader in the American history.

Francis Ninkovich's "The Global Republic" provides yet another viewpoint on the interrelationship between Theodore Roosevelt's foreign policy and "New Nationalism" he endorsed which encompassed his nation's domestic affairs as well. Ninkovich (2014) asserts that Roosevelt's view of American powerhood was rooted in the conviction that the nation of America had to shoulder the moral responsibility for promoting democracy and justice at home and internationally. The book looks into how Roosevelt came up with means to express America's influence all over the globe especially through diplomacy, military involvement and the ships he had at the oceans. Ninkovich refers to the conflict between Roosevelt's belief that the US is to be the idealist power justifying its presence abroad and the actuality of power politics. By giving new nationalism of Roosevelt a place in the complicated international relations of American Empire, Ninkovich makes it clear that the history of American foreign policy during the progressive era is not as simple as it may seem

Such reviews and works will be valuable in supplementing our knowledge about Roosevelt's New Nationalism because these will add a personal colour to his thoughts, extend his global horizon, and bring to light how his ideas were shaped keeping in view the historic context.

### Research Methodology

This study has been carried out by using Fairclough's three-dimensional model of CDA, which incorporates textual analysis (linguistic analysis) discourse (practices of socialization) and the sociocultural context (social, political relationships). The main information obtain is Theodore Roosevelt's speech on "*The New Nationalism*" and other supporting insights from the historical documents, academic literature, and political analysis. The study entails the use of metaphors, rhetoric, and lexicon, which are all language-use problem, as well as broader speech patterns, power relations, and political and social influence. The research informs scholars of political science, discourse analysis, and those involved in American history that in Theodore Roosevelt's "*The New Nationalism*", we have a unique case to explore it within the historical context.

### Discussion & Analysis

#### Linguistic Features and Rhetorical Strategies

The persuasive language and rhetorical devices that characterize Theodore Roosevelt's "*New Nationalism*" address are very evident. The speaker aims to move the audience through linguistic features and rhetorical strategies. The author of this essay applies metaphor as a prominent form which she uses to cause the images to be spectacular and to enhance the understanding of complex ideas. For example, he applies the "*crooked and twisted serpent*" metaphor, illustrating the fact that the way unexpected and deceptive corporate power impacts on politics is problematic. Using this metaphor, he was able to convey a very clear image to the audiences members, as well as it was quite useful to dehumanize those who opposed him and increase support for his actions.

Moreover, Roosevelt applies the tool of repetition for bringing to the fore the most salient points and thoughts throughout his speech. Throughout this very plain language, the phrase "*national duty*" appears many times so that the citizens know they owe somewhere to the nation-building. Adoption of this rhetorical strategy works towards conferring his message with a sense of complexity and emphasis, making members of the audience adopt the proposed solution.

In addition, Roosevelt's use of parallelism heightens a sense of unity the audience by conveying a shared experience. He notes "*We are all American, and nothing else,*" which in other words means that despite people's different backgrounds and beliefs, those who are citizens of the United States have a common identity and shared values as Americans. This rhetorical move brings forth the amalgamation concept of national unity and all wielding a collective purpose, and this, in turn, calls for everyone to forget their differences and all work hand-in hand to a common goal.

Through vocabulary, Roosevelt pronounces words that are meant to attract the patriotism and national pride feelings to the citizens. With expressions such as "*being an American*" and "*national efficiency,*" high patriotism and loyalty are connoted. It reflects his aim to make his concept an intrinsic part of the American identity and values. Through bringing these back up, Roosevelt wants to make the audience stand by and for which he will be greatly used his argument as well as providing legitimacy to his rule.

### **Construction of Citizenship and National Identity**

By the president's discourse on "*The New Nationalism*" construction of and reminding of the idea of citizenship and national identity are occurring, as it clearly shows the possibilities of active and involved citizenship, which in return benefits the society as a whole. He stresses the principle according to which to be a real citizen then is not only about rights; rather that one should do his part and fulfill the duties and responsibilities not only to the nation but also to the members of it.

A moral fiber of the concept, that in the eyes of Roosevelt, is civic virtue, which he sees as one's willingness to become subordinate to the interest of the nation and not to one's individual interests. Through his proposal of creating policies that bring social justice and provide economic opportunities, Roosevelt portrays citizenship as a synonym of participation and inclusiveness as everyone is involved in political processes and residents are committed to elevating the well-being of all the community members.

Furthermore, narration of Roosevelt stresses the principle that Americans' identity is determined by a shared passion for democracy, equality and improvement. By upholding the principles which seek to regulate the prevailing social conditions and economic inequality, he envisioned citizenship as a path to attaining the nation's founding principles and therefore better the common well-being.

In another way, Roosevelt showed that he was of the opinion that the coalition and regulation reforms played a very important role in building a unified national identity which the entire people should share. They should also base their unity on a sense of the common aim, purpose, mission and destiny. In this pursuit, he seeks to fund a more assertive stance by the government on social and economic issues to ensure the brotherly spirit and feelings of nationwide belongingness prevails as social challenges and inequality expand.

### **Power Relations and Ideologies**

Through "*The New Nationalism*," Roosevelt brings forth of a hidden power structure which penetrates to the most core intellectual system of the progressive age. Roosevelt's discourse first and foremost depicts the contrast between competing ideologies like progressivism and conservatism, and liberalism, each distinctively encompassing different

views respectively of governmental roles as well as the social distribution of power.

The fact that Roosevelt promoted the government's watchdog role over big business with regards to the rights of citizens occurred from his point of view that the state is superior to corporate interests. This policy that emerged during the era between reminiscent of the shape of year 1880s and 1920s was called the progressivism when its objective was to balance the power between government, business and society to ensure social justice and economic fairness. Roosevelt's demand for active participation of the federal government through addressing social and economic injustices, not limited to the authority of government and a constituted capitalist system, leads to a shift in the nature of the political arena at that time.

In addition to that, the women's suffrage speech by Roosevelt manifests itself in the aspects of class, race, and gender. His proposal shows that he is a supporter of policies that help working class people and those in need; at the same time, his speeches tend to imply and even encourage ideas of white superiority and male supremacy which in turn deepens those inclusion gaps in society.

On the other hand, the personal factor, his political ambitions and personal convictions, is also granting Roosevelt a pillar in his public speech. The very fact that he launched his presidential candidacy pretty much from oblivion, on the back of what is believed to have been an outdated system to-be-replaced by the "*The New Nationalism*", can only suggest the high ambitions and goals of the man: to bring about a more just and equitable society and again gain the people's trust against the powerful corporate interests. As a result, his speech does not only serve the purpose of kowtowing to ideological positions but also increases his control by means of enlarging the power and influence on the political arena.

### **Socio-political Context**

Roosevelt's "*New Nationalism*" was expressed at a time when the progressive era was emerging, and this era was characterized by industrialization and urbanization at a high pace intertwined with social upheavals. The dominance of giant corporations and the growing concentration of wealth in the possession of a few has resulted in wide-spread economic inequality and social upheavals, realizing the need for ambitious reforms to bring about the

basic remedies to the underlying causes of social and economic injustice.

Roosevelt's rhetoric became a reaction to these challenges which were also a source of a high demand for progressive reforms that had the aim of checking the corporate power and protecting the interests of ordinary people. His position opposing the laissez-faire attitude of government towards businesses, protecting workers' rights, and uplifting the social well-being embodied the sentiments of Americans who were disillusioned by the blind capitalism and the growing gap between the rich and the poor.

In addition to these, Roosevelt's rhetoric was influenced by the other significant social and political movements of the time, which included the labor movement, women's suffrage and civil rights movement. The activism in those movements created pressure on the government to deal with social and economic inequalities and to widen its grant of rights and opportunities to marginalized groups, thereby affecting the creation and reception of the discourse by Roosevelt.

In addition, the rise of 'new nationalism' by Roosevelt was also driven by his own political ambitions and personal beliefs. As a former president looking for a way back into the political limelight, he resorted to the platform of his speech to promote a society that was to be just and equitable for everyone while also upcoming as a voice of the masses against powerful corporate interests. Consequently, his speech did not impose itself over the broader socio-political context in which it evolved, because it was molded by and in turn moulded the political dynamics of the progressive era.

As a whole, the speech on "*The New Nationalism*" depicts a balanced interaction between linguistic resources, socio-political status quo, and ideology at the time of progressivism. Therefore, Roosevelt demonstrated a very real genius for language and rhetoric as he tried to establish and reinforce perceptions of what a citizen and a national identity were, challenged the existing power structure, and promoted his own political ambitions. Nevertheless, the transmission and outcome of his lecture were impacted greatly by the society-wide and political influences in evidence, and this underlines the continuous role of language, power and politics in the process.

## Conclusion

Precisely, this research paper has been conducted as critical discourse analysis of Theodore Roosevelt description of "*The New Nationalism*" which he made in his 1910 speech held in Osawatomie in Kansas. Following Fairclough's CDA approach, we unearthed factors of language, rhetoric and socio-politics in the communications of Roosevelt. As a result of these assessments, the major outcomes of this study are summarized. First of all, Roosevelt's discourse called "*The New Nationalism*" reveals that a vital ideological shift was taking place in American politics, towards a progressive nationalism during the early 20th century. He argued that the top priority of the nation was common good, just distribution of resources, and the government's right to decide on economic and social transformations. Thirdly, through the evaluation of the language of and rhetoric in Roosevelt's speech, it is clear that the speech construct the images of the nation using certain discourse strategies. Not only intently using the devices such as metaphors and symbols but also engaging the historical narratives as his political tools, Roosevelt refined his speech into one that his groups of audience could relate to and embrace. Furthermore, our conclusion stresses that the discourse of American President Roosevelt abounds in the ideologies, power relations, and social determinants. Roosevelt pretended to be a migrant movement leader to increase the nationalists' vision in his promotion of hierarchical of citizenship and exclusionary notions of American identity. Besides, it was demonstrated how historical narrations remain important in the evolution of the modern political worldview and behavior. Once we establish some parallels to Roosevelt's idea of nationalism with the modern-day movements we will be able to determine what sticks over time and what has changed in the construction and contestation of national identity.

In short, this paper has made certain understandings that political ideologies are constructed, contested, and legitimized in discourse; thereby, contributing to our understanding of the situation. Through the critical examination of Roosevelt's speech on "*The New Nationalism*," the world has been given the knowledge of how language power, and ideology can blend to formulate the American nationalism of that time and the era to come. On the whole, this research brings accent to the fact that linguistic analysis plays a significant role in making revelation of the

complexities of political discourses and their ramifications for society.

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