

A Pragma- Rhetorical Study of the Use of Synonyms in Iraqi Parliamentary Speeches

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ABSTRACT

This research is a pragma-rhetorical analysis of the use of synonyms in Iraqi parliamentary speeches in 2024. It aims at identifying instances of the use of synonyms utilized by Iraqi parliamentary members in their speeches before the Iraqi parliamentary session. Also it is meant to clarify political speeches through using pragma-rhetorical strategies employed to affect and persuade their audiences. To achieve these aims, using synonyms in their language are analyzed by the researcher to examine the extent to which figures of speech are utilized by them. Then, an analysis is performed to investigate the way that Grice's maxims (of quantity, quality, relation, and manner) are flouted by Iraqi parliamentary speeches in using these synonyms via rhetorical figures to achieve this persuasive goal. The analysis carried out in this paper includes identifying specific tropes: metaphor, pun, overstatement, understatement, and rhetorical question as pragma-rhetorical devices. This paper is expected to be of benefit to show how synonym can be created by using different figures of speech. Besides, it will bridge a gap in this field of knowledge by applying a Pragma-Rhetorical analysis through which Iraqi parliamentary chosen speech will be examined thoroughly.

Keywords: *Pragmatics; rhetoric; pragma-rhetoric; synonyms; figures of speech.*

INTRODUCTION

Language is a powerful tool in the realm of politics, where the precision and impact of words can significantly influence public perception and political outcomes. In parliamentary settings, speakers employ a variety of linguistic strategies to persuade, motivate, and inform their audiences. One of such strategies, is the use of synonyms, which can subtly shift the connotations and emphasis of a message, thereby enhancing its rhetorical effectiveness.

1. RESEARCH PROBLEM

Understanding how synonyms are utilized within political discourse can provide deeper insights into the techniques employed by politicians to achieve their communicative goals. This research focuses on the pragma-rhetorical aspects of synonym use in Iraqi parliamentary speeches delivered in 2024. It examines how Iraqi parliamentarians employ synonyms as part of their rhetorical strategies to engage and persuade their audience. By analyzing these synonyms through the lens of pragma-rhetoric, this study seeks to uncover the underlying rhetorical figures and strategies that underpin parliamentary communication.

Central to this analysis is the examination of how synonyms interact with Grice's maxims- quantity, quality, relation, and manner. These maxims, foundational to the theory of implicature in pragmatics, are often flouted in political discourse to achieve specific rhetorical effects, (Schmitt, 2002). By investigating instances where these maxims are breached, this paper aims to elucidate the ways in which synonyms function as rhetorical devices. Specifically, it explores how synonyms are used in conjunction with various figures of speech such as metaphor, pun, and rhetorical questions.

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Through this analysis, we aim to provide valuable insights into the interplay between language and persuasion in a political setting, offering a nuanced perspective on the strategic use of synonyms in parliamentary rhetoric.

1.1 Research questions:

As such, the research questions will be as follow;

- 1-what are the types of synonyms that politicians use to achieve their communicative goals?
- 2-What pragmatic functions do synonyms serve in political discourse?
- 3-How do synonyms contribute to the pragma-rhetorical strategies in parliamentary speeches?
- 4-How synonyms are employed to achieve specific pragma-rhetorical goals as to enhance persuasive appeals or create nuanced meanings?

1.2 Aims

The study aims to:

- 1- Investigate types of synonyms that Iraqi politicians use to achieve their communicative goals.
- 2-Identify pragmatic functions that synonyms serve in Iraqi political discourse.
- 3- Highlight synonyms contribute to the pragma-rhetorical strategies in Iraqi parliamentary speeches.
- 4-Clarify the use of synonyms to achieve specific pragma-rhetorical goals as to enhance persuasive appeals or create nuanced meanings.

1.3 Research hypothesis

- 1-There are various types of synonyms that politicians use to achieve their communicative goals.
- 2-There are pragmatic functions that do synonyms serve in political discourse.
- 3- Synonyms contribute to the pragma-rhetorical strategies in parliamentary speeches.
- 4- Synonyms are employed to achieve specific pragma-rhetorical goals as to enhance persuasive appeals or create nuanced meanings.

1.4 Procedures

The procedures to be followed in this study consist of the following steps:

- 1-Surveying literature about the pragma-rhetorical analysis of the use of synonyms in political speeches thorough investigation of the texts.
- 2- Collecting data, i.e., two texts of two Iraqi parliamentary speeches (Read Al-Maliki and Aliah Nseif).
- 3-Selecting a suitable model for analysis, i.e., theories of Searle (1969) of speech acts, Grice's (1975) theory of implicature, McQuarrie & Mick, (1996) of rhetorical devices, and Curse (2000) theory of synonyms.
- 4- Conducting a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the data.
- 5- Drawing results analysis, and presenting discussion.
- 6-Eliciting conclusions and providing recommendations and suggestions.

Limits:

The study is limited to the pragma-rhetorical analysis of the use of synonyms in Iraqi parliamentary speeches of two Iraqi members of the parliament. Two texts are taken from two members of parliamentary speeches for the analysis relying on Searele (1969) of speech acts, Grice's (1975) maxims, McQuarrie & Mick, (1996) of rhetorical devices, and Curse (2000) theory of Synonyms in the developed eclectic model.

1.5 Significance of the study

The importance of this research lies in its potential to bridge a significant gap in the study of political discourse. While much has been written about rhetorical strategies in general, there is a notable scarcity of studies focusing specifically on the pragma-rhetorical analysis of synonyms within the context of Iraqi parliamentary speeches. By applying a pragma-rhetorical framework to this corpus, this paper contributes to a deeper understanding of how synonyms and rhetorical figures work together to craft persuasive political messages.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Pragma-rhetoric: is an intriguing blend of pragmatics and rhetoric combining both disciplines to explore the intentional phenomena that occur in most communicative uses of language. Let's delve into the detail

2.1-pragmatic

Pragmatics is the study of how context influences the interpretation of language. It focuses on the use of language in specific situations, considering factors like speaker intention, context and inferences. Pragmatics examines how people convey meaning beyond the literal words they utter, (Huang, 2007). It deals with speech acts implicature presupposition, and conversational implicatures. In essence, pragmatics explores how language users navigate communication by considering not just the words themselves but also the contextual cues, (Grice, 1975).

2.2. Rhetoric:

Rhetoric, on the other hand, is the art of persuasive communication. It dates back to ancient Greece and Rome, where orators used rhetorical techniques to sway audiences. Rhetoric encompasses strategies such as metaphor, repetition, analogies, and stylistic devices, (Fromkin, Rodman, and Hyams; 2014). It aims to influence, convince, and move people emotionally. Rhetorical analysis examines speeches, texts, and discourse to uncover persuasive elements and their impact on the audience, (Kalokerinos, et. al; 2014).

2.3. Pragma-Rhetoric:

Pragma-rhetoric: is an intriguing blend of pragmatics and rhetoric combining both disciplines to explore the intentional phenomena that occur in most communicative uses of language. Pragma-rhetoric combines these two fields. It views language use as both pragmatic and rhetorical, emphasizing the communicative intention and the intent to persuade, (Huang, 2007). Scholars studying pragma-rhetoric explore how speakers strategically employ language to achieve specific goals. They consider not only the context but also the persuasive effects of linguistic choices.

Examples of pragma-rhetorical analysis include examining persuasive language in political speeches, interviews, and other communicative contexts, (McQuarrie & Mick, 1996).

In summary, pragma-rhetoric sheds light on how language serves both pragmatic functions (such as conveying information) and rhetorical functions (such as persuasion). It's a fascinating intersection where intention, context, and effective communication converge.

2.4 Political Speeches

When politicians address the public, they strategically use language to persuade, motivate, and rally support. Their choice of words, tone, and delivery, all fall under pragma-rhetoric. Consider a campaign speech where a candidate emphasizes their commitment to change, using phrases like "hope," "unity," and "a better future." These rhetorical appeals aim to sway voters. Lawyers also use pragma-rhetoric in courtrooms. They present evidence logically (pragmatics) while also appealing to jurors' emotions (rhetoric), (Hurford, Heasley, and Smith; 2007).

A defence attorney might say, Consider the impact on this young family if the accused is wrongly convicted. This blends pragmatics (the case) with emotion (sympathy), (Fleeson, 2001). Social media influencers and celebrities employ pragma-rhetoric to engage their followers. They share personal stories, opinions, and calls to action. An influencer's post about a charity event combines pragmatic details date, location with rhetorical appeals encouraging followers to participate. Furthermore, in formal debates or casual discussions, pragma-rhetoric is at play. Participants aim to convince others of their viewpoint, (Aristotle, 2007). A debater might use logical reasoning pragmatics alongside emotional anecdotes rhetoric to sway the audience.

2.5 Synonyms

Synonyms play a pivotal role in language, enriching expression and fostering precision in communication. These linguistic counterparts, sharing akin meanings, provide a palette for writers and speakers to paint vivid pictures with words, (Maxwell, 1997).

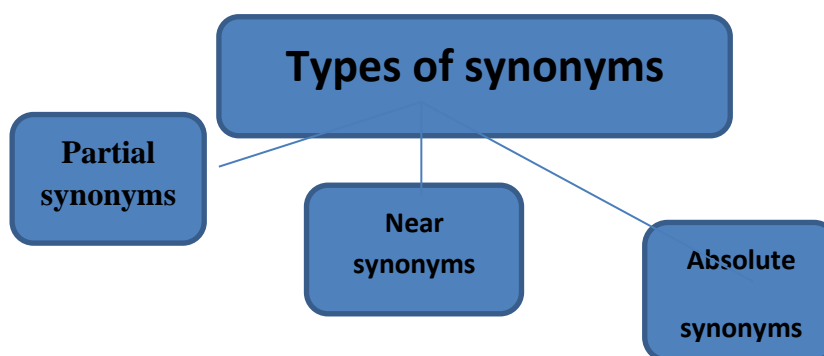
In the realm of synonyms, nuances abound. Consider the synonymous pair happy and "joyful." While both convey a sense of positivity, joyful carries a more intense and elated connotation. This subtle distinction empowers individuals to tailor their language to the exact sentiment they wish to convey, (Brown & Yule, 1983).

Moreover, synonyms offer a linguistic dance, enabling flexibility in communication. Whether crafting poetry, prose, or everyday conversation, the judicious selection of synonyms permits a writer to evoke specific emotions or paint varied images, (Searle, 1969). Take, for instance, the word walk. Synonyms like stroll, amble, or "saunter" not only describe a similar action but also infuse the narrative with distinct rhythms and moods. However, the realm of synonyms is not without its pitfalls, (Brown & Yule; 1983). Overreliance on the thesaurus can lead to awkward or forced language, diluting the authenticity of expression. A nuanced understanding of each synonym's contextual appropriateness is crucial to avoid unintended nuances or miscommunication, (MacDonald, 2017).

Synonyms are words that have the same or similar meanings. They can help you avoid repetition, enrich your vocabulary, and express yourself more precisely, (Perloff, 2017). However, not all synonyms are interchangeable, and some may have subtle or significant differences in tone, connotation, or usage.

2.5.1 Types of synonyms

There are various types of synonyms based on how close the meanings are that can be seen in Roget, (1852) Classic Treasure of synonyms as in the following figure (1);



a- Partial synonyms:

A partial synonym for detail is a word that has a similar but not identical meaning to detail. For example, the word (item) is a partial synonym for detail, as both words can mean a separate part in a list, account, or series. However, item can also mean a piece of merchandise or a matter of interest or concern which are not meanings of detail, (Tangney, Stuewig, & Mashek; 2007). Another example of a partial synonym for detail is the word fact. Both words can mean a single piece of information. However, fact can also mean a truth verifiable from experience or observation or a piece of information presented as having objective reality which are not meanings of detail. Some other partial synonyms for detail are particular, element, feature, and point. These words have some overlap with detail, but also have different shades of meaning or usage.

b-Near synonyms:

Near synonym is a word that has a different meaning but is closely related to another word. For example, the word "feature" is a near synonym for detail. They both refer to a part or aspect of something, but feature implies more prominence or importance than detail. You can say:

- The painting has many fine details that are hard to notice at first glance.
- The movie has many interesting features that make it worth watching.

Both sentences are correct, but they have slightly different meanings and tones.

c-Absolute synonyms:

An absolute synonym is a word that means exactly the same as another word in all contexts. However, finding absolute synonyms is very rare, as most words have slight differences in meaning, usage, register, or connotation. One possible example of absolute synonyms for detail is particular; both words can mean a specific aspect or item of something. For example:

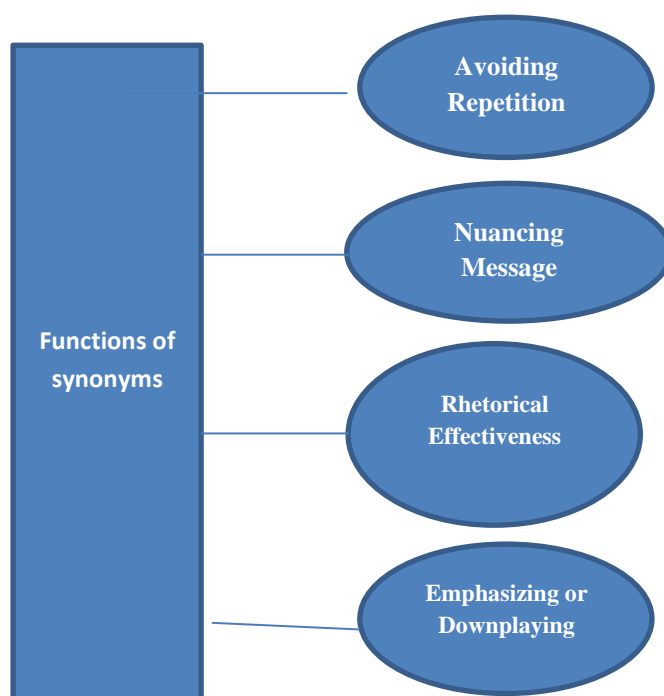
- He explained every detail/particular of the plan.
- She noticed a small detail/particular on the painting.

2.5.2-The Concept of Synonym and Its Usage and function in Political Discourse

Synonyms are words or phrases that carry similar meanings and play a crucial role in the richness and nuance of language. Their ability to convey subtle variations in meaning allows speakers to tailor their messages to different contexts, audiences, and rhetorical purposes. In political discourse, synonyms are not merely interchangeable terms; they are strategic tools used to shape perception, enhance persuasion, and manage political messaging, (Cruse, 2006).

2.5.2.1. Understanding Synonyms: At its core, a synonym is a word that has the same or nearly the same meaning as another word. However, synonyms are rarely perfect substitutes; they often carry different connotations, emotional undertones, and contextual appropriateness, (Gee, 2014). For instance, the words "reform," "revise," and "overhaul" may all relate to the idea of making changes but differ in their implications and the strength of the changes they suggest.

2.5.2.2 The Functions of Synonyms in Political Discourse: In political discourse, the use of synonyms serves several strategic functions as claimed by Cruse (2000), and it can be observed in figure (2):



a-Nuancing Message: Politicians use synonyms to fine-tune their messages. By choosing a synonym with specific connotations, they can highlight particular aspects of an issue or policy. For instance, referring to "economic stimulus" versus "economic bailout" can affect public perception of a policy's intent and impact, (McQuarrie & Phillips, 2008).

b-Avoiding Repetition: Repetition of the same terms can lead to monotony and disengagement. Synonyms allow speakers to maintain interest and engagement by varying their language while reinforcing key concepts. This variation helps keep the audience attentive and ensures that important points are driven home without sounding redundant, (Magee & Galinsky, 2008).

c-Emphasizing or Downplaying: Synonyms can help in emphasizing or downplaying certain aspects of a message, (Curse; 2000). For instance, a politician might use "challenge" instead of "problem" to frame an issue in a less negative light, or "innovative" rather than "experimental" to present new policies more favorably.

d-Rhetorical Effectiveness: The strategic use of synonyms can enhance rhetorical impact. Politicians often select words based on their emotional resonance or persuasive power, (Magee & Galinsky, 2008). For example, terms like "freedom" and "liberty" may be employed to evoke strong patriotic sentiments, while "regulation" and "control" might be used to address concerns about governance.

2.6-Relevance to Synonyms:

In the context of synonyms, the insights from Lakoff and Johnson's work (1980) help to understand how different synonyms can be employed within metaphorical frameworks to convey subtle variations in meaning and influence. For instance, choosing between synonyms like "reform" and "overhaul" in political discourse can affect how metaphors are constructed and how they resonate with different audiences, (Tannen, 1998).

2.7-Synonyms in Political Discourse: Specific research on synonyms in political discourse highlights their role in shaping political narratives. For example, studies by Van Dijk (2002) in "Discourse and Context: A Sociocognitive Approach" investigate how political language, including the use of synonyms, is employed to construct social and political realities. Van Dijk's analysis demonstrates how synonyms are used to frame issues and influence public opinion.

2.7.1-Previous Studies;

Empirical studies that analyze political speeches often examine the strategic use of synonyms. Research by Tannen (1998) in "The Argument Culture: Moving from Debate to Dialogue" and by Billig (2008) in "The Argumentative Turn in Policy Analysis and Planning" provide case studies on how synonyms are used to navigate political debates and shape policy discussions. These studies illustrate how synonyms function as rhetorical tools in real-world political contexts.

2.7.2-Recent Developments: Recent research continues to explore the evolving role of synonyms in political discourse, particularly in the digital age. Studies by Bhatia (2010) in "Genre Analysis in Political Discourse" and by Gee (2014) in "An Introduction to Discourse Analysis: Theory and Method" examine how synonyms are employed in contemporary political communication, including social media and digital platforms, (Pekrun, Elliot & Maier, 2009). These studies highlight the dynamic nature of synonym use in shaping modern political narratives.

3- RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This section is concerned with research technique. It includes the methods of analysis utilized in analyzing some texts from Iraqi Parliamentary Speeches, "The proposal to amend the Personal Status Law " It also presents the details of data collection for the analysis. Finally, the section includes the details of the eclectic model for the analysis of data under investigation.

3.2 Research Design

Mixed methods research design will be adopted in this research based on theories of Searle (1969) of speech acts, Grice's (1975) theory of implicature, McQuarrie & Mick, (1996) of rhetorical devices, and Curse (2000) theory of synonyms. It can be defined as a procedure for collecting, analyzing, and "mixing" both quantitative and qualitative research and methods in a single study to understand a research problem. Such method provide a better understanding of your research problem than either type by itself, (shank, 2002, p.5). Qualitative analysis is used to identify the devices and quantitative one is to confirm the frequencies and occurrences of devices to state the types of synonyms applicable and pragma-rhetorical strategies.

3.3 Data Collection

Two texts for "The proposal to amend the Personal Status Law " will be adopted. The analysis involves (2) extracts for the parliamentary members: Raed Al-Maliki, and Aliah Nseif. Two texts from each political speech were chosen to be investigated and analyzed using the eclectic model. This amount of extracts was chosen since it is sufficient for the analysis while also avoiding the section being too long. The political speeches are read three times. The concerned data is selected to be analysed in the following section representing (2) extracts according the following procedure;

3.3.1-Synonyms and Pragma-Rhetorical Strategies:

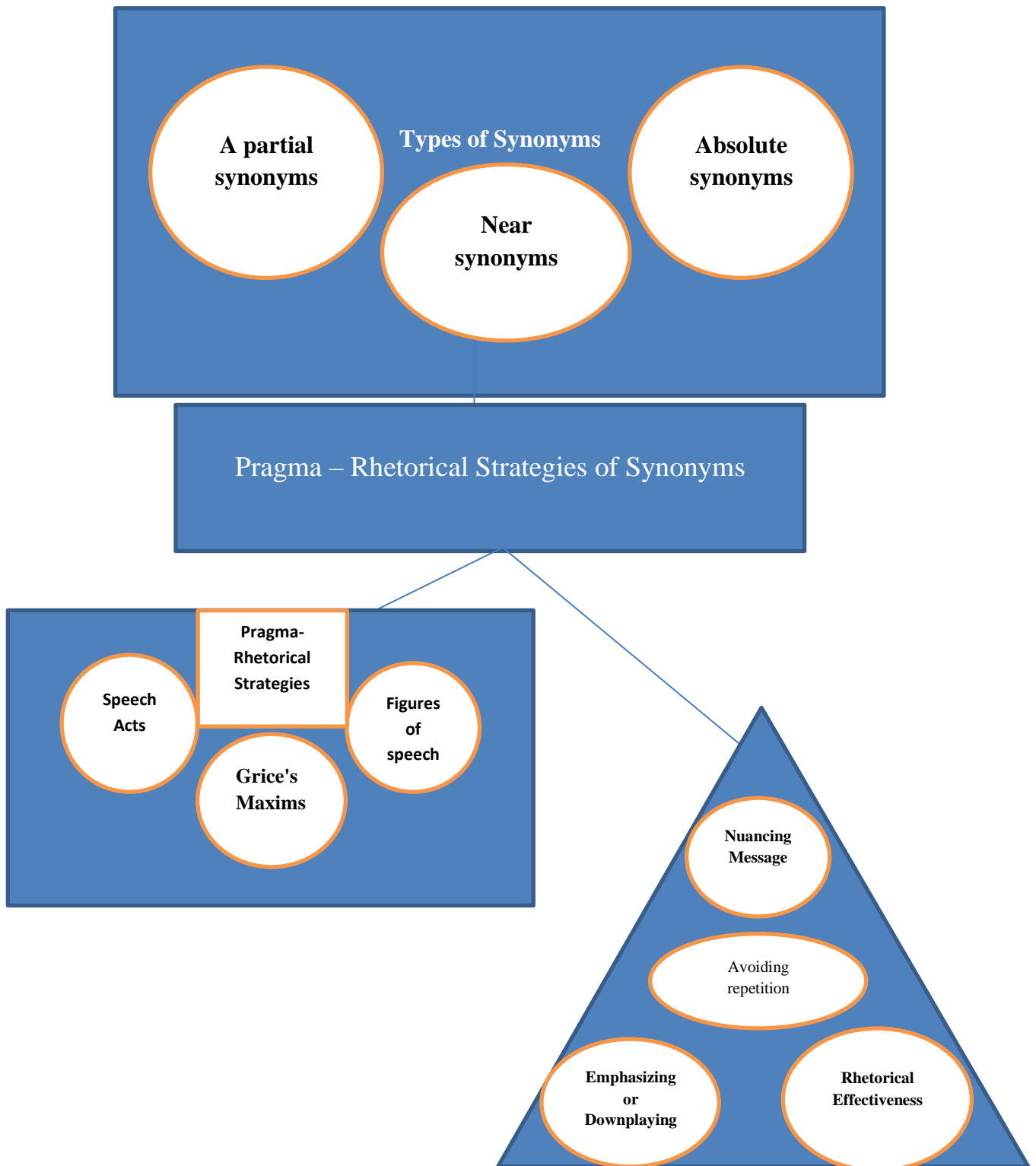
Pragma-rhetorical analysis examines how language functions in specific communicative contexts, focusing on the interplay between pragmatics and rhetoric. In this framework, synonyms are analyzed not just for their meanings but for their rhetorical effects and the strategic choices behind their use.

3.3.1.1-Pragmatics and Grice's Maxims: In pragmatics, the study of how language is used in context reveals how synonyms can be employed to flout Grice's maxims. Grice's (1975) theory of implicature, which outlines maxims of quantity, quality, relation, and manner, is instrumental in understanding how speakers manipulate these principles to achieve rhetorical effects. Researchers like Levinson (1983) in "Pragmatics" and Searle (1969) in "Expression and Meaning" have expanded on how violating these maxims can serve strategic purposes in communication, including political discourse. As such, politicians may flout Grice's maxims of quantity, quality, relation, and manner to achieve rhetorical effects. For instance, they might use a less direct synonym to avoid directly addressing a controversial issue or to maintain a favorable image. Analyzing how synonyms are employed to flout these maxims provides insights into the underlying rhetorical strategies and intentions.

3.3.1.2-Figures of Speech: Synonyms often appear in conjunction with figures of speech such as metaphors, puns, or rhetorical questions. For example, a metaphor like "a beacon of hope" can be enhanced by synonyms like "beacon" or "guiding light," each carrying distinct nuances that contribute to the overall rhetorical effect. (McQuarrie & Mick, 1996). Lakoff and Johnson's (1980) "Metaphors We Live By" explores how metaphors shape our understanding of political concepts. Their work provides insights into how synonyms can be used to craft metaphoric language that influences public perception. Similarly, studies by Charteris-Black (2005) in "Politicians and Rhetoric: The Persuasive Power of Metaphor" focus on how metaphoric language, facilitated by synonyms, can enhance political persuasion.

3.3.1.3Synonyms strategies: The study of synonyms has long been a topic of interest in linguistics, focusing on the subtle distinctions between words with similar meanings. Scholars like Cruse (2000) and Lyons (1995) have explored how synonyms are not only interchangeable but carry different connotations and emotional weights. Cruse's "Meaning in Language: An Introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics" provides a foundational understanding of semantic relations, emphasizing that synonyms can differ in their contextual usage and impact. Similarly, Lyons' work on semantics highlights how the choice of synonyms can influence the listener's perception and interpretation. In summary, synonyms are more than mere linguistic substitutes; they are powerful tools in political rhetoric. Their strategic use enables politicians to craft messages that are nuanced, persuasive, and contextually appropriate, (Huang, 2007). Understanding the role of synonyms in political discourse through pragma-rhetorical analysis provides valuable insights into how language shapes political communication and influence. Thus the diagram of the eclectic model will be:

Pragma-Rhetorical Strategies of the use of synonyms



Adopted eclectic model of The use of synonym in political speeches.

4.DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

The following table (1) includes the contexts of the two extracts that are quoted from the Iraqi parliamentary speeches:

Table (1)

Seq.	Names of Members of Iraqi Parliament	Place and Date	Context
1-	Raed Almaliki	Alsumaria News - Politics Thursday, 8/8/2024	The submission of a draft law to amend Personal Status Law No. 188 of 1959.
2-	Aliah Nseif	Alsumaria News - Politics Thursday, 8/8/2024	The submission of a draft law to amend Personal Status Law No. 188 of 1959.

Extract (1) stated by Raed Almaliki (a member of Iraqi parliament in 2024);

"The proposal to amend the Personal Status Law was subjected to great media injustice and in its content it grants freedom to apply Islamic Sharia. - One of the main reasons that led to the high divorce rate in society is the provisions in the current Personal Status Law. - Resorting to Sharia rulings is a respected matter and most Arab and Islamic countries work on it. - We, as a legal committee, circulated to the representatives the presentation of the problems and observations related to amending the Personal Status Law and the amendment in the wording or content in the draft is possible".

1-Types of Synonyms:

Partial Synonyms: it is found in,

"Personal Status Law" and "current Personal Status Law", these refer to the same legal framework but differ in specificity. "Current Personal Status Law" specifies the version currently in place, whereas "Personal Status Law" is a more general term. "Amend" and "amending", these words are related in meaning, but "amend" is a verb, and "amending" is the gerund form used as a noun here. "Freedom to apply" and "resorting to Sharia rulings", "Freedom to apply" implies the liberty to use a particular set of rules (in this case, Islamic Sharia), while "resorting to Sharia rulings" refers to using those rules. They share related concepts but are not entirely interchangeable. "High divorce rate" and "provisions", while "high divorce rate" refers to a statistical measure, "provisions" are the rules that might influence this measure. They are related in the context of the law's impact but are not direct synonyms. "Respected matter" and "work on it", these phrases suggest a level of recognition or acknowledgment but are used in slightly different contexts. "Respected matter" denotes something valued, while "work on it" implies an active engagement. "Presentation of the problems and observations" and "circulated", the term "presentation" refers to the act of presenting information, while "circulated" refers to distributing it. They are related but emphasize different aspects of the communication process. "Draft amendment" and "amendment in the wording or content", both involve changes to a document, but "draft amendment" refers to a preliminary version, while "amendment in the wording or content" can be more specific.

Near Synonyms: it is seen in,

"Amend" and "change", both involve modification, but "amend" often implies formal or legal changes, while "change" is more general. "Islamic Sharia", none identified, while "Sharia" alone might be a near synonym, specifying "Islamic" adds context.

Absolute Synonyms: it is none identified,

"Islamic Sharia" is a specific set of religious laws and has no direct synonyms in this context.

As such, in the speech provided, there are mainly partial synonyms, where words and phrases share related meanings but are not fully interchangeable. Near and absolute synonyms are less prevalent in this specific context. The focus is primarily on the specific legal terms and the process involved in amending the Personal Status Law.

2-Pragmatic strategies:

a-Speech Acts; to analyze the given speech according to John Searle's theory of speech acts (1969), we'll break it down into its various illocutionary acts and perlocutionary effects based on Searle's framework. Searle's theory categorizes speech acts into several types: assertives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declarations.

-Assertive in; *"The proposal to amend the Personal Status Law was subjected to great media injustice and in its content it grants freedom to apply Islamic Sharia"*, the speaker is asserting a fact about the proposal's treatment in the media and its content. This assertion conveys the speaker's position on the proposal and its content.

Intended Effect is to inform the audience of the perceived media bias and the nature of the proposal, potentially influencing their opinion on the fairness and content of the proposal.

"One of the main reasons that led to the high divorce rate in society is the provisions in the current Personal Status Law". The speaker is providing an explanation for the high divorce rate by attributing it to the current law. This serves to justify the need for the proposed amendment.

Intended Effect: To convince the audience that the existing law is flawed and needs reform to address social issues.

"Resorting to Sharia rulings is a respected matter and most Arab and Islamic countries work on it". The speaker is asserting that Sharia rulings are respected and widely used in other countries. This is meant to legitimize the application of Sharia within the proposed amendment.

Intended Effect: To build credibility for the proposal by aligning it with practices in other countries and suggesting that such a practice is both accepted and respected.

-Directive and Commissive in:

"We, as a legal committee, circulated to the representatives the presentation of the problems and observations related to amending the Personal Status Law and the amendment in the wording or content in the draft is possible".

This statement has elements of both directives (implying a call for action or review) and commissives (committing to the possibility of changes in the draft). The speaker is directing representatives to consider the problems and observations while also committing to the flexibility of the amendment process.

Intended Effect is to encourage representatives to review the issues presented and to signal that changes can be made based on their feedback.

Thus, most of the speech consists of assertive acts where the speaker is providing information and making claims about the current law, the proposed amendments, and the application of Sharia. These statements are meant to inform and persuade the audience of the necessity and legitimacy of the proposed changes. The last statement involves both directives and commissives, aiming to guide representatives' actions and commit to the possibility of further revisions in response to their input. By using these speech acts, the speaker seeks to influence the audience's perception of the proposal, justify the changes, and encourage a collaborative review process.

b-Grice's maxims: to analyze the given speech according to Grice's maxims, we will evaluate how well the speech adheres to the principles of conversational implicature as outlined by Grice in his theory of implicature. Grice's maxims are part of his Cooperative Principle, which includes four maxims: Quantity, Quality, Relation, and Manner. Each maxim serves to ensure effective and meaningful communication.

Speech Text:

1-*"The proposal to amend the Personal Status Law was subjected to great media injustice and in its content it grants freedom to apply Islamic Sharia."*

2-*"One of the main reasons that led to the high divorce rate in society is the provisions in the current Personal Status Law."*

3-*"Resorting to Sharia rulings is a respected matter and most Arab and Islamic countries work on it."*

4- "We, as a legal committee, circulated to the representatives the presentation of the problems and observations related to amending the Personal Status Law and the amendment in the wording or content in the draft is possible."

Analysis According to Grice's Maxims:

Maxim of Quantity (Providing the right amount of information):

1. The speaker provides specific information about the media's treatment of the proposal and its content. The detail that the proposal "grants freedom to apply Islamic Sharia" gives enough information to understand the nature of the amendment. However, the term "great media injustice" could be seen as somewhat vague without examples.
2. The explanation of the high divorce rate being linked to the current law is relatively specific. However, without more detailed data or examples, this assertion could be seen as lacking full context.
3. The statement about Sharia rulings being respected and widely used in Arab and Islamic countries provides relevant information to support the legitimacy of the proposal. However, it could benefit from specific examples or evidence.
4. The statement informs about the circulation of the presentation and the possibility of amending the draft, providing a clear action point for the representatives.

Maxim of Quality (Providing truthful and accurate information):

1. The assertion about media injustice could be perceived as biased unless supported by evidence. The claim that the proposal grants freedom to apply Islamic Sharia is presented as a fact, which should be accurate and verifiable.
2. The claim linking high divorce rates to the current law should be supported by evidence to maintain truthfulness. Without data, this could be seen as an overgeneralization.
3. The assertion that Sharia rulings are respected in other countries is generally accurate, but its credibility would be strengthened by specific examples or references.
4. The statement about the committee's actions and the possibility of amendments seems truthful and procedural, assuming that the committee's actions align with what is described.

Maxim of Relation (Staying relevant and on topic):

1. The statement is relevant to the discussion about the proposal and its treatment. It connects media bias to the content of the proposal.
2. The link between the high divorce rate and the current law is relevant to the argument for amending the law.
3. This statement supports the argument by providing context about Sharia rulings, which is relevant to the legitimacy of the proposal.
4. The information about the committee's actions and the potential for amendments is directly relevant to the legislative process and how representatives should proceed.

Maxim of Manner (Being clear and orderly):

1. The statement is somewhat clear but could be more precise about what constitutes "great media injustice" and how it specifically affects the proposal.
2. The connection between the current law and divorce rates is clear but could be better structured to enhance understanding.

3. The respect for Sharia rulings is clearly presented, but adding specific examples could improve clarity.

4. This statement is clear and provides a structured update on the legal committee's actions and the potential for amendments.

Overall, the speech mostly adheres to Grice's maxims, though it could be improved by providing more detailed evidence and examples to support the assertions made.

C-Figures of speech;

To analyze the speech according to the figures of speech of metaphor, pun, and rhetorical question, let's first identify these devices within the speech and then explore their function and impact.

1-Metaphor:

"The proposal to amend the Personal Status Law was subjected to great media injustice", the term "media injustice" uses a metaphor to describe how the proposal has been treated by the media. Injustice typically refers to a legal or moral violation, but here it is used to convey that the media coverage has been unfair or biased. This metaphor emphasizes the speaker's view that the media has been unfairly critical or distorted in its reporting on the proposal. By using this metaphor, the speaker frames the media's actions as morally wrong and implies that the media's portrayal of the proposal is deeply flawed, which could bias the audience against the media's narrative.

2-Pun:

There is no clear instance of a pun in the provided speech. A pun involves a play on words that exploits multiple meanings or similar-sounding words for humorous or rhetorical effect. The speech does not seem to contain any puns as it focuses more on conveying serious points regarding legal reforms and media treatment.

3-Rhetorical Question:

There is no explicit rhetorical question in the provided speech. A rhetorical question is a question asked to make a point rather than to elicit an answer. The speech is composed of direct statements and assertions without any rhetorical questions. In sum, the primary rhetorical device used in the speech is metaphor, which helps to underline the speaker's argument about media bias. The speech is direct and lacks puns or rhetorical questions, maintaining a formal and factual tone.

3-Synonyms Strategies:

To analyze the speech based on the synonyms' strategies, including how they nuance the message, avoid repetitions, emphasize or downplay elements, and contribute to rhetorical effectiveness, let's examine each key term and phrase in the context of the speech.

a-Nuancing the Message

"Media injustice" vs. "biased reporting, the term "media injustice" adds a strong moral dimension, suggesting not just bias but a deeper unfairness. Using a term like "biased reporting" would have been less forceful and more neutral.

"Freedom to apply Islamic Sharia" vs. "flexibility in religious application", "Freedom to apply" conveys a sense of autonomy and empowerment, whereas "flexibility in religious application" could imply a more procedural change. The choice of "freedom" emphasizes the positive aspect of the proposal in terms of religious practice.

b-Avoiding Repetitions

-The Personal Status Law: The phrase "*Personal Status Law*" is consistently used throughout the speech to maintain focus on the subject without repetitive or redundant phrasing. Each instance builds on the discussion of the law's amendment, ensuring clarity without unnecessary repetition.

- Amendment" vs. "revision ":By using "amendment" and "revision" interchangeably, the speaker avoids monotonous repetition of the same term, thus keeping the speech engaging and varied while discussing potential changes to the law.

c-Emphasizing or Downplaying:

" *Great media injustice*" vs. "*minor media criticism*"

"Great media injustice" emphasizes the severity of the media's treatment of the proposal. It downplays the notion that media criticism was trivial or negligible, making the issue seem more significant.

" *High divorce rate*" vs. "*increased divorce cases*"

- "High divorce rate" is more impactful and alarming than "increased divorce cases," highlighting a significant social issue that underscores the need for legislative change.

d-Rhetorical Effectiveness:

" *Grants freedom to apply Islamic Sharia*" vs. "*Allows implementation of Sharia principles*"

- "Grants freedom" is more emotive and suggests a positive, liberating change compared to "allows implementation," which may sound more neutral or administrative. This choice of words is rhetorically effective in framing the proposal as beneficial and empowering.

"*Respected matter*" vs. "*accepted practice*";

"Respected matter" conveys a stronger sense of reverence and importance than "accepted practice," enhancing the rhetorical effect by stressing the esteem in which Sharia rulings are held, thus bolstering the proposal's legitimacy.

Actually, the careful choice of synonyms in the speech effectively nuances the message, avoids repetitive language, emphasizes critical issues, and enhances rhetorical impact, contributing to a compelling and persuasive argument, as shown in Table (2) Frequency and Percentage of the pragma-rhetorical strategies of the use of synonyms in the speeches of Read Almaliki (member of Iraqi Parliament).

Table (2)

Frequency and Percentage of the pragma-rhetorical strategies of the use of synonyms,

Name of the politicians	Main Strategies	Sub-strategies	Frequency	Percentage
Read Almaliki	1-Types of synonyms			
		Partial synonyms	15	75%
		Near synonyms	4	20%
		Absolute synonyms	1	5%
			20	32,2%
	2-Pragma-rhetorical pragmatics			
	a-Speech acts			
	Assertive	5	55,5%	

	Directive & Commissive	4	44,4%
		9	14,5%
b-Grice's Maxims			
	quantity	2	16,6%
	quality	2	16,6%
	relation	4	33,3%
	manner	4	33,3%
		12	19,3%
c-Figures of speeches			
	Metaphor	4	100%
	Pun	0	0%
	Rhetorical Questions	0	0%
		4	6,4%
3-Synonyms Strategies			
	Nuancing message	5	29,4%
	Avoiding Repetition	4	23,5%
	Emphasizing or Downplaying	4	23,5%
	Rhetorical Effectiveness	4	23,5%
		17	27,4%
Total		62	100%

Partial synonyms is at the top of the list with (15) occurrences and a percentage of (75%), Assertive act of speech with (5) occurrences and a percentage of (55,5%), Nuancing message with (5) occurrences and a percentage of (29,4%), Near synonyms, Avoiding Repetition, Emphasizing or Downplaying, Rhetorical Effectiveness, Metaphor, Relation & Manner maxims, and Directive & Commissive speech act with (4) occurrences and a percentage of (20%), quantity and quality maxims with (2) occurrences and a percentage of (16,6%), Absolute synonyms with (1)) occurrences and a percentage of (5%), pun and rhetorical question with (0)) occurrences and a percentage of (0%) for each which represents the lowest frequency and a percentage.

Extract (2) stated by Aliah Nseif (a member of Iraqi parliament in 2024);

"they are proposing a law in installments, and accordingly we vote on the law today, and after six months its codes are written. I say to those who are enthusiastic about the law, what is the purpose of rushing other than (a rush)? Isn't it better to wait for the code to be written, then study it and contemplate it, because it is the most important law that regulates family life?"

-Why do they want to fool our minds with slander and accusations?"

-We will never sell our minds at the expense of the interests of the Iraqi family."

1- Types of synonyms

a-Partial Synonyms:

- "Proposing" and "suggesting" could be partial synonyms in this context. While "proposing" involves putting forward a formal suggestion, "suggesting" can be less formal and may not always involve an official proposal. Also, "study" and "contemplate" are partial synonyms. Both involve thinking deeply about something, but "study" often implies a more systematic examination, while "contemplate" can suggest a more reflective or meditative approach.

- "Slander" and "libel" could be partial synonyms in this context. Both refer to forms of defamation, but "slander" is spoken defamation, while "libel" is written or published. Additionally, "accusations" and "charges" are partial synonyms; both involve claims of wrongdoing, but "charges" often imply formal legal implications, whereas "accusations" can be more general.

- "Interests" and "benefits" could be partial synonyms. Both refer to what is advantageous or desirable, but "interests" often implies ongoing or long-term considerations, while "benefits" can refer to immediate advantages or gains.

b- Near Synonyms:

- "Rushing" and "a rush" can be considered near synonyms. Both convey the idea of hastening something, but "rushing" is a verb, while "a rush" is a noun. The distinction lies in their grammatical use and subtle emphasis.

- "Fool" and "deceive" are near synonyms. Both involve misleading someone, but "fool" often implies trickery with a connotation of amusement or trickery, while "deceive" is more neutral and can involve more serious intent.

- "Sell" and "sacrifice" can be near synonyms. "Sell" here is used metaphorically to mean giving up one's principles for a price, while "sacrifice" also implies giving up something of value, but it can be more general and less transactional.

c- Absolute Synonyms:

- "Slander" and "accusations" are not absolute synonyms. "Slander" specifically refers to false and defamatory statements, while "accusations" can be general claims or charges that may or may not be true.

In sum, the texts involve a mix of near and partial synonyms that highlight nuanced meanings and connotations relevant to each context. Absolute synonyms are rare in these examples as the words used have specific and distinct meanings.

2-Pragmatic strategies;

a-Speech Acts;

- **Assertive:** The speaker provides information about the law's process (proposing in installments, voting, and writing codes later). This is an assertion of facts about the legislative process.

-The speaker asserts that there is an attempt to mislead or deceive (fool our minds) and that this is being done through slander and accusations. This is a statement of belief or opinion about the intentions behind certain actions.

- The speaker asserts a commitment or belief that they will not compromise their principles or values for personal gain, emphasizing loyalty to the interests of the Iraqi family. This is a statement of intent or principle.

Directive: The question "What is the purpose of rushing other than (a rush)?" and "Isn't it better to wait for the code to be written, then study it and contemplate it?" function as directives. They are intended to persuade or suggest that a more thoughtful approach is preferable to hasty action.

-Implicitly, the question may be a directive aimed at prompting the audience to question or reconsider the motives of those engaging in slander and accusations. It encourages the listener to think critically about the situation.

-**Expressive:** The speaker expresses concern and frustration about the rush in the legislative process. This reflects an attitude or emotion towards the perceived haste and its implications.

-The speaker conveys indignation or concern about being misled and accosted by false information. This expresses a negative emotional response to the situation.

-The speaker expresses a firm stance or conviction regarding the protection of the Iraqi family's interests. This conveys a strong personal or collective attitude towards maintaining integrity and prioritizing familial interests.

-Commissive: This statement functions as a commissive because the speaker is making a commitment or promise about future behavior. They are pledging not to "sell" their minds or principles. These analyses reveal how different speech acts work together to convey information, persuade, and express attitudes or commitments in the texts.

b-Grice's maxims:

To analyze the provided texts according to Grice's Maxims from his theory of implicature, we need to assess how each text aligns with or flouts the Gricean Maxims of **Quantity**, **Quality**, **Relation**, and **Manner**.

Maxim of Quantity: The text provides a reasonable amount of detail about the legislative process and the speaker's opinion. The amount of information seems appropriate for the context, balancing enough detail to understand the issue without overwhelming the reader.

- The question is succinct and to the point. It provides an adequate amount of information by highlighting a concern without going into excessive detail.

- The statement is concise and provides a clear commitment without unnecessary elaboration. It delivers an appropriate amount of information about the speaker's stance.

Maxim of Quality: The speaker appears to adhere to this maxim by presenting their views and questioning the need for haste in a manner that seems to be based on their perspective and understanding of the legislative process. There's no apparent falsehood or misleading information.

-This text implies that there is an attempt to mislead through slander and accusations. It assumes the reader will accept this implication as true. If the claim is not substantiated, it might flout this maxim.

- The speaker asserts a strong commitment not to compromise principles. Assuming this statement reflects the speaker's genuine intent, it adheres to the maxim of quality. If it's a rhetorical device rather than a true commitment, it could flout this maxim.

Maxim of Relation: The speaker's comments are relevant to the discussion about the law and its implementation. They question the rush to pass the law without waiting for the complete and written code, which is pertinent to the legislative process being discussed.

- The question is relevant to the topic of misleading information and accusations. It prompts the audience to consider the motives behind certain actions, making it relevant to the ongoing discourse about deception.

-The statement is relevant to discussions about ethical principles and the protection of family interests. It aligns with the context of discussing values and integrity.

Maxim of Manner: The speaker's statements are clear and structured. They outline the current situation, pose a rhetorical question about the need for haste, and then suggest a more deliberate approach. The text is fairly orderly, though the rhetorical questions could introduce some ambiguity about the exact point being made.

-The text is direct and clear. It poses a straightforward question without unnecessary complexity, making it easy to understand. However, it could be seen as somewhat inflammatory depending on the context and audience.

- The statement is clear and unequivocal, avoiding ambiguity. It's presented in a straightforward manner that clearly conveys the speaker's position. Each text reflects different aspects of Grice's Maxims, highlighting how conversational implicature and adherence to these principles can affect communication.

C-Figures of speech;

-Metaphor: The phrase "fool our minds" serves as a metaphor. It implies that the intent is to deceive or mislead the audience, not just in the literal sense of tricking someone but in the broader sense of manipulating their thinking or beliefs.

- The phrase "sell our minds" is a metaphor. It suggests giving up one's principles, beliefs, or integrity for personal gain or other interests. The metaphorical use implies that such a compromise is equivalent to selling one's intellectual and moral values.

-Pun: There is no pun in this text. The language used is serious and straightforward, focusing on the commitment to uphold principles.

-Rhetorical Questions:

- "What is the purpose of rushing other than (a rush)?" This rhetorical question is used to challenge the necessity of hastening the legislative process. It implies that rushing serves no purpose beyond the act of rushing itself, encouraging the audience to reconsider the need for haste.

- "Isn't it better to wait for the code to be written, then study it and contemplate it?" This rhetorical question suggests that a more considered approach (waiting and studying) is preferable to rushing. It implies that thorough examination is more beneficial, reinforcing the argument against hastening the law's passage.

- "Why do they want to fool our minds with slander and accusations?" This rhetorical question serves to question the motives behind the use of slander and accusations. It implicitly criticizes those who are using these tactics and prompts the audience to reflect on the reasons and implications of such actions. Each text uses rhetorical devices to enhance its persuasive impact and convey its underlying message more effectively.

3-Synonyms Strategies:

a-Nuancing the Message:

- "Proposing a law in installments" vs. "Introducing a law gradually"

"Proposing a law in installments" suggests a piecemeal or incremental approach, implying a lack of thoroughness or consideration. "Introducing a law gradually" could sound more neutral and less critical, but the choice of "installments" nuances the message to imply fragmentation or incomplete implementation.

- "Rushing" vs. "Expediting"

The term "rushing" conveys a negative connotation, suggesting hasty and potentially reckless behavior. "Expediting" would be a more neutral term. The use of "rushing" emphasizes the speaker's concern about the lack of proper review and consideration.

- "Contemplate" vs. "Consider"

"Contemplate" implies a deeper, more thoughtful reflection, while "consider" might suggest a more superficial or casual examination. The choice of "contemplate" underscores the importance of thorough understanding of the law before it is enacted.

b-Avoiding Repetitions:

"Law" vs. "Codes"

The text alternates between "law" and "codes" to avoid repetition while discussing different aspects of the legislative process. "Law" refers to the overarching legal framework, whereas "codes" refer to the specific regulations or details that will follow. This variation helps maintain clarity and engagement.

"Fool our minds" vs. "Sell our minds"

By using different phrases, the speaker avoids monotonous repetition and emphasizes different negative actions. "Fool our minds" suggests deceit and manipulation, while "sell our minds" implies a betrayal of intellectual integrity for personal gain. Each phrase highlights a different dimension of the perceived threat.

c-Rhetorical Effectiveness:

"Rush" vs. "Act hastily"

-The term "rush" is emotive and highlights a sense of urgency that may not be justified, thus creating a negative impression of the process. "Act hastily" would be more neutral. By using "rush," the speaker underscores the perceived recklessness of the process.

"Slander and accusations" vs. "Criticism and claims"

- "Slander and accusations" have a stronger negative connotation, implying malicious intent and unfairness. "Criticism and claims" would be more neutral. The choice of "slander and accusations" effectively amplifies the rhetorical impact, portraying the opposition as untrustworthy and deceitful.

"Sell our minds" vs. "Compromise our principles"

"Sell our minds" conveys a more visceral and dramatic image of intellectual betrayal, suggesting a moral and ethical sellout. "Compromise our principles" might be more restrained. The use of "sell our minds" enhances the rhetorical force of the statement, emphasizing the severity of the ethical breach the speaker is addressing.

Accordingly, the speaker's strategic use of synonyms effectively nuances the message, prevents repetition, and enhances the rhetorical impact of the text, making the arguments more compelling and emotionally resonant.

d-Emphasizing and Downplaying:**1. Emphasizing:**

"Rushing" vs. "Acting quickly"

The term "rushing" is used to emphasize a negative aspect of the process, suggesting impatience or a lack of thorough consideration. It conveys a sense of recklessness and urgency. "Acting quickly" would be more neutral and less emotive, thus less effective in highlighting the potential downsides of the hurried approach.

"Most important law" vs. "Significant law"

The phrase "most important law" is used to emphasize the critical nature of the law in regulating family life. It elevates the importance of the law above others, implying that it deserves careful scrutiny. "Significant law" would be less emphatic and would not convey the same level of urgency or importance.

"Contemplate" vs. "Consider"

"Contemplate" suggests a deeper, more thoughtful process compared to "consider." By using "contemplate," the speaker emphasizes the need for thorough reflection on the law, stressing that it is not just a matter of casual consideration but requires serious thought.

"Slander and accusations" vs. "Criticisms and allegations"

"Slander and accusations" carry stronger negative connotations compared to "criticisms and allegations." These terms suggest malicious intent and deceitfulness, thus emphasizing the severity and untrustworthiness of the opponents' claims.

"Sell our minds" vs. "Compromise our principles"

"Sell our minds" is more dramatic and emotive than "compromise our principles." It suggests a betrayal of intellectual integrity and moral values for personal or political gain, thus emphasizing the gravity of the potential betrayal. "Compromise our principles" would be a more restrained way to describe the same concept.

2-Downplaying:

"Codes are written" vs. "Detailed regulations are completed"

The phrase "codes are written" is more neutral and factual compared to "detailed regulations are completed," which might suggest a more thorough and involved process. The choice to use "written" downplays the complexity and depth of the regulations.

"Enthusiastic" vs. "Supportive"

While "enthusiastic" conveys a strong and possibly irrational support, "supportive" would be a more neutral term that does not carry the same intensity. The use of "enthusiastic" helps to downplay the reasonableness of the support for the law, suggesting it is more emotional or less rational.

"Rush" vs. "Proceed with haste"

The term "rush" is used to imply a negative and potentially careless approach, while "proceed with haste" might sound more neutral and less critical. By choosing "rush," the speaker downplays the rationality of the expedited process.

In sum, the choice of synonyms in the text strategically emphasizes the speaker's concerns and criticisms while downplaying aspects that could be seen as favorable or reasonable, thereby shaping the audience's perception in a specific direction, as shown in Table (3) Frequency and Percentage of the pragma-rhetorical strategies of the use of synonyms in the speeches of Aliah Nseif (member of Iraqi Parliament).

Table (3): Frequency and Percentage of the pragma-rhetorical strategies of the use of synonyms,

Name of the politicians	Main Strategies	Sub-strategies	Frequency	Percentage
Aliah Nseif	1-Types of synonyms			
		Partial synonyms	10	55,5%
		Near synonyms	6	33,3%
		Absolute synonyms	2	11,11%
			18	95,2%
	2-Pragma-rhetorical pragmatics			
	a-Speech acts			
		Assertive	6	26,0%
		Directive	6	26,0%
		Commissive	3	13,05
		expressive	8	34,7
			23	21,9%
	b-Grice's Maxims			
		quantity	6	23,0%
		quality	9	34,6%
		relation	5	19,2%
		manner	6	23,0%
			26	24,7%
	c-Figures of speeches			
		Metaphor	4	57,1%
		Pun	0	0%
		Rhetorical Questions	3	42,8%
			7	6,6%
	3-Synonyms Strategies			
		Nuancing message	8	23,5%
		Avoiding Repetition	4	11,7%

	Emphasizing or Downplaying	16	47,0%
	Rhetorical Effectiveness	6	17,6%
		34	32,3%
Total		105	100%

Emphasizing synonyms is at the top of the list with (16) occurrences and a percentage of (33.33%), partial synonyms with (10) occurrences and a percentage of (16.66%) quality maxims with (9) occurrences and a percentage of (25%) expressive act of speech and nuancing message with (8) occurrences and a percentage of (25%), Near synonyms, Assertive & directive speech acts, manner maxim, and rhetorical effectiveness with (6) occurrences and a percentage of (25%), relation maxims with (5) occurrences and a percentage of (25%), Avoiding repetition & Metaphor rhetorical devices with (4) occurrences and a percentage of (25%), Rhetorical question and commissive speech acts with (3) occurrences and a percentage of (25%), pun with (0)) occurrences and a percentage of (0%) for each which represents the lowest frequency and a percentage.

CONCLUSION

To conclude a research study on the pragma-rhetorical use of synonyms and rhetorical devices in political speeches, the researcher found that the texts have used several types in synonyms which verify hypothesis one as it can be seen through the analysis of partial, near and absolute synonyms. Emphasizes the importance of careful deliberation over hasty decision-making in the legislative process is very obvious. The rhetorical questions and synonyms like "study" and "contemplate" highlight the value of thorough analysis and thoughtful consideration. Criticizes deceptive practices using the metaphor "fool our minds" and rhetorical questions to question the motives behind slander and accusations, which verify hypothesis three in using the metaphor "sell our minds" to express a strong commitment to ethical principles, emphasizing the prioritization of collective interests over personal gain. The metaphor reinforces the message of integrity and principled behavior. Metaphors in Texts, effectively frame issues in ways that highlight underlying values and commitments, making abstract concepts more tangible and emotionally resonant. Rhetorical Questions engage the audience in critical reflection, challenging assumptions and prompting reconsideration of current practices or beliefs.

Finally, hypothesis four is achieved via the nuanced use of synonyms in these texts that adds depth to the argumentation, helping to differentiate between various aspects of the issues discussed and reinforcing the rhetorical stance. We can also declare that, the study illustrates how the strategic use of rhetorical devices and synonyms can shape public perception and influence political discourse. Understanding these techniques can enhance political messaging and public persuasion strategies. Effective use of rhetorical questions and metaphors can mobilize audiences, challenge opponents, and strengthen arguments, thereby impacting political debates and decision-making processes.

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