

ენათმეცნიერება Linguistic

The Cognitive Effect of Semantic-Structural Items in Political Discourse

Ekaterine Topuria

Akaki Tsereteli State University

e-mail: Ekaterine.topuria@atsu.edu.ge

<https://doi.org/10.52340/lac.2024.31.05>

SJIF 2024: 8.268

The article under the title “Functional-Systematic Forms in Public Speeches of Politicians” turns to be the contemporary work on search of functional-structural analysis for political public speeches.

The article studies the Caesar’s as the world strategic politician’s strategies for making the purposeful speeches for the future military success. The grammatical-functional speech units represented in the article are as follows: Gerundive forms, sapines and subordinate sentences of purpose to express the politician’s strategies.

The article once again proves the historical truth approving the Caesar as the politician and strategic general as well as a thoughtful narrator and an interesting grammarian.

Key words: The exemplum positivum, dicourse, sapines

Introduction. The article highlights that politicians who well master the public speech-making techniques clearly see the importance of syntactical as well as the word choice in search of the right emotional impulse upon the audience. Robert Maxwell Ogilvie states that the overwhelming impression of the politicians’ speeches is its clarity and precision’. (B.Gall).

The presented article highlights the peculiarities of Julius Caesar’s preference for plainer elements over the ornate speech style. The nature of one’s brevity is usually reflected in his public speech especially if it precedes the up-coming threatening political instability in the country .

The aim of the article is to highlight the beginning of his treatise on Grammar by Iulius Caesar who reportedly claimed: “Avoid as you would a rock, every unheard and unusual word”!

He also promoted ‘the knowledge of this easy and everyday speech’. These sayings have been outstanding in search of the right linguistic approach to overwhelming political interests of many politicians of different times while making their public speeches.

Procedure. The purpose of my choice to go into deeper grounds of the Caesar’s speech appeared to me very interesting as the OE (Old English, the course I deliver) is the adopter of many ecclesiastic as well as political terms from Latin vocabulary and grammar. On the other hand I research the political discourse markers.

Thus the Methodology lies on the ground of discourse analysis studied on the empiric material from the book Classical Philology by Karen L.Carducci. (The First Sapine in Bellum Gallicum And Bellum Civile, a study of Caesar as Grammatician , Narrator and Exemplum , The University fo Chicago Press, volume 113,number 4, 2018)

Findings. Political speeches are usually purposeful .In Old Latin expressing purpose in unique syntactical as well as semantic patterns was relatively rare occasion, so Caesar used the first supine, the fourth declension form derived from the verb stem just the same way like in Old English which ended in **-tum** or **-sum**. This form and adverbial accusative, closely accompanies the forms that serve as purpose. Most of these sapines based upon the edition follow common verbs of motion (strengu, stund, hentan).If on the one hand he was attempting to correct the text he had in front of him he would more likely change it for the more familiar to make it more understandable for the audience. Thus he often changed the grammar construction for the familiar gerundive forms.

The usage of the named linguistic forms usually referred to the certain purpose such as the change of the physical location of the army for the coming battle. In this way he as an ideal general who showed to his men a positive example (exemplum positivum) worthy of his men faithfulness.

The lesson of another example serves as the lexically marked “exemplum positivum”, when he applies to the Cimbri and Teutoni who tried to cross the river Rhine by hostile forces and establish the likeness between the ancient Germanic tribes of Teutoni , Germani and Cimbri. This event clearly showed their wish of invasion of Rome for the second time.

- a) Homines feros ac barbaros
- b) Ut ante Cimbri Teutonique fecissent

The examples show that he judges the migration of the tribes dangerous for Roman interests. So the Caesar as the actor and embedded focalizer believes that like Cimbri and Teutoni and Germani are to be answered as swiftly as possible.

- a) Quibus rebus quam maturime occurrendum putabat (B.Gall)

Thus another “exemplum positivum” used to be mentioning Marius as highly praising general to show that his army appears to be a threat and warning as not the best experience for the Cimbri and

Teutoni. Marius was the person whom the Caesar publicly awarded with a statue for the victory over the Cimbri and Teutoni as the commander brutally competent. Thus the Caesar as the commander played the role of the author of massive recruitment and training while reforming a loyal, professional military.

Indeed, to succeed against these aggressive opponents in addition to adopting Marius' political éclat as the defender of the Roman interests Caesar is warning the audience that if it is necessary he will make the second Marius whose personal glory is mirrored in the Roman legions.

Like many Greek and Roman writers describing the past events the Caesar relies also on the discourse of **exemplarity** to convey themes via the discourse making the citizens draw the historical parallels for acknowledging the term “example” in action and speech. So linguistically the Caesar uses the sapines and the Genitive structural forms for marking the exempla(examples). Sapines are an abbreviated forms in Latin and thus impersonal kind of purpose clause. Thus the purpose clauses are the best means for expressing the human actions in military and political domains against the treachery of barbarian enemies. Here, ‘mutatis mutandis’, he can use them to mute particular circumstances surrounding a purpose clause which can thereby draw closer to generalities about human action in military and political domains. (K.L Carducci)

Using sapines notifying what a real military leader should do or avoid the Caesar shows the importance of begging to avoid mercy not to miss the treachery of barbarian enemies. The “exemplum positivum” described the caesar's character in transgressive virtues to overwhelm the most dangerous of enemies those who could not understand that Caesar's interests were their interests as well. The Caesar's unexpected advocacy for mercy surprised everybody as contrary to Republican virtus. “Exempla positive” was the modelling action for aspiring the commanders and voted authors expressed in terms of grammatical structural as well as lexical forms. Mercy towards the enemies renders him in possession of power not only over those he presents as public enemies but also over fellow Romans.

Reference:

1. Karen L.Carducci_ the First Sapine in Bellum Gallicum And Bellum Civile, a study of Caesar as Grammarian , Narrator and Exemplum , Classical Philology, The University of Chicago Press, volume 113,number 4, 2018
2. Batstone, William Wendell and Cynthia Damon.2006 Caesar's Civil war.Oxford Approaches of Classical Literature
3. Manana Mikadze. (2021). Georgian and Language Competition in the Diaspora (Emigrant community) . *Language and Culture*, (25), 42–45. <https://doi.org/10.52340/lac.2021.654>
- 4.Irma Gogolidze. (2024). “Georgia in the Context of World Politics (On the Example of Batumi Region)”. *Language and Culture* (March 9, 2022). Accessed March 25, 2024. <https://journals.4science.ge/index.php/enadakultura/article/view/781>.