

US REPRESENTATION IN “REMARKS BY PRESIDENT BIDEN ON THE DRAWDOWN OF US ARMY IN AFGHANISTAN”

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ABSTRACT. The US' decision of leaving Afghanistan, after about 20 years of remaining there in an effort to overthrow the Taliban regime, was phenomenal and caused the world's negative perspective toward the country. Due to this fact, the study is conducted to open a new critical point of view regarding the issue. The paper mainly discusses the US representation within Joe Biden's speech entitled “Remarks by President Biden on the Drawdown of US Army in Afghanistan”. van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), which deals with power abuse and dominance in the social and political context, is utilized as the main approach in order to reveal the representation of the United States. The discussion will be limited to the micro-level analysis, which comprises macrostructure, microstructure, and superstructure analyses. In the microstructure analysis, two linguistics tools, namely number game and norm expression, will be used. A qualitative descriptive research method is employed and the result of the research shows that the US as the Self is represented positively in the speech. This is shown consistently throughout the macrostructure, microstructure, and superstructure aspects.

Keywords: US representation; Critical Discourse Analysis; van Dijk; micro-level analysis

REPRESENTASI AMERIKA DALAM “REMARKS BY PRESIDENT BIDEN ON THE DRAWDOWN OF US ARMY IN AFGHANISTAN”

ABSTRAK. Keputusan Amerika Serikat untuk meninggalkan Afghanistan, setelah sekitar 20 tahun berada di sana dalam upaya menggulingkan rezim Taliban, merupakan hal yang fenomenal dan menimbulkan pandangan negatif dari dunia internasional terhadap negara tersebut. Berdasarkan fakta tersebut, penelitian ini dilakukan untuk membuka sudut pandang baru yang kritis terhadap isu tersebut. Penelitian ini secara khusus membahas representasi Amerika Serikat dalam pidato Joe Biden yang berjudul “Remarks by President Biden on the Drawdown of US Army in Afghanistan”. Teori Analisis Wacana Kritis yang dikemukakan van Dijk, yang membahas penyalahgunaan kekuasaan dan dominasi dalam konteks sosial dan politik, digunakan sebagai pendekatan utama untuk mengungkap representasi Amerika Serikat. Pembahasan akan dibatasi pada analisis tingkat mikro, yang terdiri atas analisis struktur makro, struktur mikro, dan superstruktur. Dalam analisis struktur mikro, dua fitur linguistik akan digunakan, yaitu permainan angka (*number game*) dan ekspresi norma (*norm expression*). Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah deskriptif kualitatif. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa dalam tataran mikro Amerika Serikat sebagai *Self* direpresentasikan secara positif dalam pidato tersebut. Hal ini ditunjukkan secara konsisten, baik dalam aspek makrostruktur, aspek mikrostruktur, maupun aspek superstruktur.

Kata kunci: representasi Amerika; Analisis Wacana Kritis; van Dijk; analisis tingkat mikro

INTRODUCTION

One of the recent interesting events of the world comes specifically from the Middle East. What is more interesting, the US seems to always have a role in most of the political events happening in the Middle East. Starting from the political matters that happen within the area, such as the US-Saudi relationship related to fearing common enemies and the rise of Islamist extremism (Stephens, 2019), the US in Syria intending to fight ISIS (Copp, 2021), to the US invasion toward Afghanistan to hunt down Osama bin Laden (Shams, 2021), who was the leader of the Al-Qaeda organization and the main actor behind the attack of 9/11 in the US. Al-Qaeda is an organization under the protection of the Taliban, a regime that ruled over Afghanistan in 1990 (Britannica, 2021).

In 1990, Iraq intended to gain control over the oil supply in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Frightened that Iraq might have full control over the supply, the

US under George W. Bush government along with 34 other nations formed a coalition to prevent such a thing. On the other hand, Osama bin Laden also offered to send his fighters to protect Saudi Arabia from Iraq's invasion; yet, the country refused and joined the US coalition instead (Khan Academy, n.d.). This ended up in the Al-Qaeda, supported by the Taliban, attacking the US in the 9/11 event in 2001. After the attack, the US sent their troops to Afghanistan to capture Osama bin Laden, overthrow the Taliban regime, and it has remained there for about 20 years (Britannica, 2021).

Nevertheless, the US army has currently withdrawn from Afghanistan after 20 years of staying and fighting in the war. The withdrawal has undeniably raised a question in the eyes of the world, as the US has a two-decade-long military presence in Afghanistan and improved Afghanistan's economy, healthcare system, education, and other aspects (Shams, 2021). By the US leaving, the Taliban came

and its reconquest caused a tremendous collapse of Afghanistan, for the Taliban decided to change the systems back to the time when the US was not involved in the conflict 20 years ago; thus, making the Afghans, especially women, experience the negative consequences. At present, the Taliban commands schools and universities to segregate students based on their sexes and it is mandatory that women wear hijab (BBC News, 2021), and most recently women have to stay home from school; hence restricting their educational rights (BBC News, 2021).

Regarding this, many condemn the action done by the US as “irresponsible” and it shows the country’s failure in Afghanistan for the past two decades (Zixin, 2021). Despite all the accusations above, on 28 July 2021, Biden as the US President delivered his remarks upon the US military withdrawal from Afghanistan by defending the decision of the US in front of the world.

This is an intriguing topic to discuss for the US military had been in Afghanistan for 20 years and yet, it finally withdrew. Acknowledging the controversial background of the event, the researchers become interested in analyzing Biden’s speech entitled “Remarks by President Biden on the Drawdown of US Forces in Afghanistan”, by using van Dijk’s (2000) Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) theory. According to van Dijk (2015: 466), CDA is “discourse analytical research that primarily studies the way social-power abuse and inequality are enacted, reproduced, legitimated, and resisted by text and talk in the social and political context.” Since Biden’s speech is within a political context, van Dijk’s CDA is suitable to apply to reveal the representation of the United States as the Self.

Representation itself, according to Hall (2013: 1) is “using language to say something meaningful about, or to represent, the world meaningfully to other people.” In other words, it is the point of view or understanding that a speaker or a writer has in mind when referring to something in order to be delivered to the audience.

Within van Dijk’s CDA, there are three levels of analysis. The first level is the macro-level analysis, which deals with “power, dominance, and inequality between social groups” (van Dijk, 2015: 468). Rachman and Yunianti (2017) have executed a macro-level study to reveal the representation of Donald Trump in his presidential campaign. By using four basic indicators, which are the utterances that illustrated political discourse, the way of delivery, the aim, and the effect, they succeeded in revealing that Donald Trump’s ideology is mainly related to power.

Another level of analysis in CDA is the meso-level analysis (van Dijk, 2015: 468), which deals with “the context and the processes of production of

the text” (Byrne, 2017). Tampubolon et al. (2017), utilizing Fairclough’s (1992) meso-level theory, managed to show Medan Local Newspaper’s (SKTM) prominent roles in conveying various political and social issues within the society. It is seen that the company performs different roles according to the evolving community.

The last level is the micro-level analysis, which consists of the macrostructure, microstructure, and superstructure aspects and which deals with “language use, discourse, verbal interaction, and communication” (van Dijk, 2015: 468). Nurhaliza and Tanto (2019) executed research using the tool of lexicalization to expose the negative representation of Indonesia’s judiciary towards Basuki Tjahaja Purnama in the blasphemy case. While it is true that Nurhaliza and Tanto’s research is similar to this paper as they are within the realm of micro-level analysis, the linguistic tools used are different.

The three previous studies have been proven to be tremendously valuable in terms of language analysis. The macro-level analysis in Rachman and Yunianti’s research (2017) as well as the micro-level analysis in Nurhaliza and Tanto’s (2019) utilize van Dijk’s theory, whereas the meso-level analysis done by Tampubolon et al. (2017) applies Fairclough’s theory; all done to uncover representation. Particularly, this study also utilizes van Dijk’s CDA, but it focuses mainly on the usage of other linguistic tools to broaden the horizon of language role within the realm of micro-level analysis in revealing representation. Thus, so as to enrich knowledge regarding Critical Discourse Analysis, the researchers will use different linguistic tools, namely number game and norm expression, in unveiling the US representation in Biden’s speech. This is done in the hope that the issue of the US army’s drawdown from Afghanistan can be critically viewed from one perspective only; in this way, so that a broader and better understanding of the matter can be gained.

METHOD

This study applies a qualitative research method. According to Creswell (2012), this particular research method deals with interpreting meanings regarding political, social, and cultural contexts with the presence of the researcher involved. In addition, a descriptive research method is employed. The method is used systematically to describe the existing phenomena (Atmowardoyo, 2018: 198). Thus, based on the two definitions mentioned, it is clear that the methods are suitable in conducting Critical Discourse Analysis research in analyzing the existing phenomena within a society, such as in social and political contexts.

In addition, the analysis is conducted using a library research method. According to George (2008), it is a technique of collecting data by learning and understanding data, which is closely related to the problems from books, theories, notes and documents. This particular research uses a library research technique for all the sources come from references.

The data taken for the research is in the form of a written speech entitled “Remarks by President Biden on the Drawdown of US Forces in Afghanistan”. The whole speech was derived on 1 October 2021 from the official US government’s website (whitehouse.gov) The speech was delivered by the US President, Joe Biden, with the context of the US military withdrawing from Afghanistan on August 31, 2021. This is an intriguing topic to be discussed for the US military had been in Afghanistan for 20 years and yet it finally withdrew. Moreover, the event occurred within the same year of this research, which therefore makes it an up-to-date issue to analyze.

In executing the research, not everything in the data source will be analyzed further; out of 54 paragraphs consisting of 2,088 sentences in the text, only those relevant to the US representation analysis are taken. Employing van Dijk’s (2000) micro-level analysis, the researchers divided the analysis into three sections, namely macrostructure, microstructure, and superstructure analyses. In the macrostructure analysis, what becomes the data are the ones taken from the thesis statement and reiteration, as it is an analytical exposition text (Mubais, 2021: 5). The data supporting the microstructure analysis will be taken from words, phrases, or sentences that can be analyzed using linguistics tools, such as number game and norm expression to unveil the representation of the US. Furthermore, for the superstructure analysis, the whole text will be divided based on the parts of an analytical exposition, namely thesis statement, arguments, and reiteration, each of which will be analyzed further.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this part, in-depth explanations regarding how the US is represented in Biden’s speech entitled “Remarks by President Biden on the Drawdown of US Forces in Afghanistan” will be provided. van Dijk’s Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is going to be employed as the main approach. The analysis will be limited only to the micro level analysis, which consists of three aspects of analysis, namely the macrostructure, microstructure, and superstructure analyses.

1. Macrostructure

van Dijk (2005) mentioned that “the macrostructure of a discourse is the structure of its global

meaning, topic or theme.” Therefore, within this definition, it is clear that the global topic of the discourse is to be found out. The discourse analyzed is in the form of a speech with the genre of an analytical exposition, which has the function to persuade readers or listeners to believe the case that is being discussed (Gerot & Wignell, 1998). Moreover, in an analytical exposition, the global topic can be found in the thesis statement and reiteration (Analytical Exposition Text, 2020). A thesis statement “summarizes the main point of a paper or a piece of writing” (Bouchrika, 2023), while reiteration is “the action of repeating something, typically for emphasis or clarity” (Oxford Learners Dictionaries, n.d.).

The thesis statement of the speech can be found in paragraphs (1) to (4):

- (1) THE PRESIDENT: Good afternoon. Earlier today, I was briefed by our senior military and national security leaders on the status of the drawdown of US forces and allied forces in Afghanistan.
- (2) When I announced our drawdown in April, I said we would be out by September, and we’re on track to meet that target.
- (3) Our military mission in Afghanistan will conclude on August 31st. The drawdown is proceeding in a secure and orderly way, prioritizing the safety of our troops as they depart.
- (4) Our military commanders advised me that once I made the decision to end the war, we needed to move swiftly to conduct the main elements of the drawdown. And in this context, speed is safety.

It can be seen in paragraphs (1) to (3) that Biden is addressing the status of a military operation in Afghanistan that would conclude on 31 August 2021.

Moreover, Biden also mentions “US forces and allied forces”, which gives a clearer context that the operation is particularly related to US troops along with their allies.

In paragraph (3) specifically, Biden mentions the process of the drawdown to be “secure and orderly”. The word “secure” means, “positioned or fixed firmly and correctly and therefore not likely to move, fall, or break” (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.); and “orderly” means, “well arranged or organized” (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.). Based on the definitions of the two words, it is clear that Biden cares a lot about the safety of the troops. He sees to it that the procedure is running smoothly as he also wishes to prioritize their safety.

Moreover, in paragraph (4) Biden states “speed is safety”. By stating the clause, he implies that the drawdown is likely to cause harm to the troops, if they do not conduct it quickly. Fortunately, when the speech is delivered, the drawdown process is being

conducted in a desirable manner. This paragraph provides the same idea of how the drawdown is being conducted, as stated in paragraph (3). It also strengthens the fact that the US cares about the safety of the troops, as it does not want any harms to happen during the process.

In addition, the reiteration in the speech can be found in paragraph (53) of the speech:

(53) We're ending America's longest war, but we'll always, always honor the bravery of the American patriots who served in it.

In this paragraph, Biden reiterates what has been mentioned in the thesis statement. Here, he is stating about "ending America's longest war", which seems to be a subtle substitution for the word "drawdown" itself. The reason can be seen from the definition of the word "drawdown", which is "the act of reducing a supply of something that has been created over a period of time" (Oxford Learners Dictionaries, n.d.); and "ending" means, "The act of finishing something; the last part of something" (Oxford Learners Dictionaries, n.d.). From the definitions, it is clear that the meanings correlate with each other and therefore, they have almost the same connotation, which means that by executing a drawdown, the US is ending the war.

Furthermore, Biden says that he is honoring the US army who have served the country for 20 years. He wants the drawdown to be executed securely, orderly, and swiftly, so that the troops may arrive safely in the US. This is his way of honoring their life and service. Again, in this context, Biden is making a subtle paraphrase of the word "honor" that is used in the thesis statement.

Since the thesis statement and reiteration of the speech have been identified, one global topic is able to be extracted, which is "The drawdown of the US army from Afghanistan is being conducted safely, orderly, and swiftly as a form of honoring them." Thus, it is clear that in the macrostructure the US is represented positively.

2. Microstructure

Microstructure, according to van Dijk (1980), encompasses the discourse's directly expressed structures. Given the multifaceted nature of discourse (van Dijk, 2000), this study employs two linguistic tools – the number game and norm expression – to highlight underlying representational nuances. This choice opens avenues for future researchers to explore additional linguistic tools for microstructure analysis.

a. Number Game

The first tool, number game, refers to "numbers and statistics [which] are the primary means in our culture to persuasively display objectivity" (van Dijk,

2000: 79). In President Biden's speech, this tool is employed to uncover the positive representation of the US, more specifically in underscoring the objectivity of the sacrifice and help that the US has made. In this speech there are five data which use number game as the tool as can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1. List of Data of Number Game

No.	Number Game
1.	(para. 10) Together, with our NATO Allies and partners, we have trained and equipped over three hu- — nearly 300,000 current serving members of the military — of the Afghan National Security Force , and many beyond that who are no longer serving. Add to that, hundreds of thousands more Afghan National Defense and Security Forces trained over the last two decades.
2.	(para. 21) Since I was inaugurated on January 20th, we've already approved 2,500 Special Immigrant Visas to come to the United States. Up to now, fewer than half have exercised their right to do that. Half have gotten on aircraft and com — commercial flights and come, and the other half believe they want to stay — at least thus far.
3.	(para. 38) Already we have members of our military whose parents fought in Afghanistan 20 years ago . Would you send their children and their grandchildren as well? Would you send your own son or daughter?
4.	(para. 39) After 20 years — a trillion dollars spent training and equipping hundreds of thousands of Afghan National Security and Defense Forces, 2,448 Americans killed, 20,722 more wounded , and untold thousands coming home with unseen trauma to their mental health — I will not send another generation of Americans to war in Afghanistan with no reasonable expectation of achieving a different outcome.
5.	(para. 39) After 20 years — a trillion dollars spent training and equipping hundreds of thousands of Afghan National Security and Defense Forces, 2,448 Americans killed, 20,722 more wounded , and untold thousands coming home with unseen trauma to their mental health — I will not send another generation of Americans to war in Afghanistan with no reasonable expectation of achieving a different outcome.

The five data that use this particular tool come from paragraphs (10), (21), (38), and (39). In paragraph (10), Biden is talking about training and equipping hundreds of thousands of Afghanistan National Defense and Security Forces. Interestingly, he emphasizes the number by stating that the US and NATO have trained nearly 300,000 of them. Bender and McLeary (2021) also stated that "the United States spent more than \$88 billion to train and equip Afghanistan's army and police". By contributing such an astronomical amount of money, it can be seen that the US has sacrificed a lot in order to help Afghanistan fight for their country.

Additionally, in paragraph (21), it is seen that the US has approved of 2,500 special visas for the Afghans to enter the country. It shows that the US cares about civilians other than the US civilians and about the safety of these people. The country does not want to give up helping and taking care of the Afghans, even in a situation as difficult as it is.

Furthermore, paragraph (28) portrays the idea that the US is such a loyal ally to Afghanistan, as Biden states “Already we have members in our military whose parents fought in Afghanistan 20 years ago”. The number of year stated is a reflection of how long it has been for the country to fight for and help Afghanistan as much as they could. In terms of the span of time, 20 years is not a short time; on the contrary, it is a noticeably long period. Furthermore, from Biden’s statement “whose parents fought in Afghanistan 20 years ago”, it supports the idea that the war has passed through two generations of Americans, which is quite extraordinary. It reveals that the US has such a high dedication in helping its ally to be free from any particular oppressing regime, despite the risks and time spent.

In paragraph (39), Biden states that the US spends a trillion dollars to train and equip the Afghan soldiers. It means that the country has invested a lot in developing and training the army in order to be able to protect Afghanistan. The amount of money provided during the 20 years is not just a simple number; on the contrary, it is an enormous one; thus, showing a great sacrifice of the US.

Additionally, he states, “2,448 Americans killed, 20,722 wounded.” When seeing the two numbers, it is obvious that there have been a great number of victims in this chaotic war. Those victims, specifically Americans, have sacrificed their safety and even lives to fight for their country in Afghanistan. It is such a noble act and it shows how dedicated the army is to the country.

The US’ actions starting from training and equipping the Afghan military, approving special visas, to staying for 20 years despite of the time consumed and risks taken, prove a tremendous contribution for Afghanistan. Therefore, in conclusion, through the use of number game, the US is represented positively.

b. Norm Expression

Another tool that is going to be utilized for the analysis is norm expression, which deals with what one should or should not do (van Dijk, 2000: 79). In President Biden’s speech, this tool is employed to reveal how the US is portrayed positively for the US holds an important role in deciding what is beneficial for every party involved. There are three data of norm expression found in the speech as can be seen in Table 2 below.

The first data using the norm expression tool is found in paragraph (12): “Afghan leaders have to come together and drive toward a future that the Afghan people want and they deserve.” In this context, it is clear that the US is inviting the Afghan leaders to be united with their people in order to

achieve a better future. The US somehow forces them to do so, for it is obvious that the only way to thrive and be free from the war is stand together as one. Moreover, the US insists that the Afghan leaders should move forward to build a future that all Afghan people deserve to have. This shows that the US still gives its attention towards the well-being of the Afghan people, even though it has departed from the country. From this action, the US is clearly providing a motivation for Afghanistan to solve the problem.

Table 2. List of Data of Norm Expression

No.	Norm Expression
1.	(para. 12) But most critically, as I stressed in my meeting just two weeks ago with President Ghani and Chairman Abdullah, Afghan leaders have to come together and drive toward a future that the Afghan people want and they deserve.
2.	(para. 17) To be clear — to be clear: Countries in the region have an essential role to play in supporting a peaceful settlement. We’ll work with them, and they should help step up their efforts as well.
3.	(para. 40) The United States cannot afford to remain tethered to policies creating a response to a world as it was 20 years ago. We need to meet the threats where they are today.

Following that, paragraph (17) also uses norm expression. From the sentence “Countries in the region have an essential role to play in supporting a peaceful settlement”, the tool usage can be seen implicitly. Biden intends to say that Afghanistan’s neighboring countries are the ones that are close with Afghanistan. Therefore, the countries have a more immense role in helping their neighbor than the US, which locates far away from the region. Here, the neighboring countries are asked to contribute because their existence within this matter is crucial. Regardless, it can be seen that the US will not close its eyes and is still willing to help solve the problem, should it be needed. The US takes the first initiative regarding the issue and invites respective countries for a peaceful negotiation. It also shows that the country is not selfish in deciding what is best for Afghanistan; instead, it listens to advice and suggestions from other important parties.

Aside from that, the tool usage can be seen within all of the sentences in paragraph (40). From the first sentence, “The United States cannot afford to remain tethered to policies creating a response to a world as it was 20 years ago”, it can be observed that Biden is referring to the US’ policies 20 years ago. During this period, George W. Bush was the president of the country – and within the same period, the tragedy of 9/11 happened. This caused Bush to declare “global war on terror” (Vine, 2020) and invaded Afghanistan. In this context, the norm expression as to “what one should not do” can be seen, as Biden implicitly says that the US should not

have gone and stayed in Afghanistan for too long. In other words, the country has to move on.

Nevertheless, one of the US' goals for the future is stated, which is to "... meet the threats where they are today." In this context, it is clear that the US realizes that the country can no longer handle the current situations like 20 years ago. Therefore, it intends to move forward and decides not to look back to the fact that they have undergone a war in Afghanistan. By doing so, it does not mean that the US will neglect those who are in need, but focusing on what is to come and being ready to face other challenges become the main priority. It indicates that the country has a vision of what to do in the future for its development.

From the three data that have been analyzed, it can be concluded that the US always takes the lead to solve the problem. It invites the Afghan government, as well as the neighboring countries to contribute as much in order for the Afghan citizens to receive their rights of freedom that they deserve. Moreover, the US also realizes that they will move forward to face challenges ahead, which is a sensible action to do. All in all, the US is represented positively.

3. Superstructure

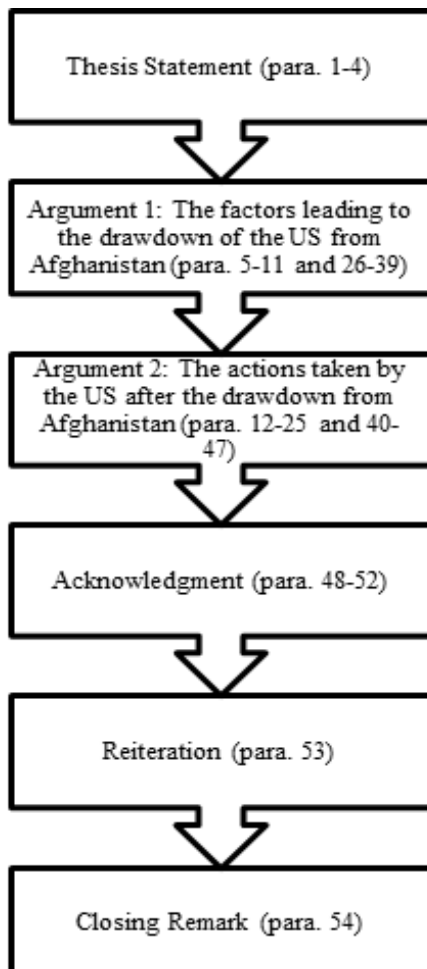


Figure 1. The Schematic Structure of Biden's Speech

In Figure 1 above, it can be seen that Biden starts his speech with a thesis statement, followed by some paragraphs that contain arguments 1 and 2, and then he continues with a reiteration followed by a closing remark in the end. The structure follows a logical order and the ideas flow in an organized and systematic way; thus, the speech is easy to read and comprehend.

The details of the first argument concerning the factors leading to the drawdown of the US from Afghanistan can be seen in Figure 2 below:

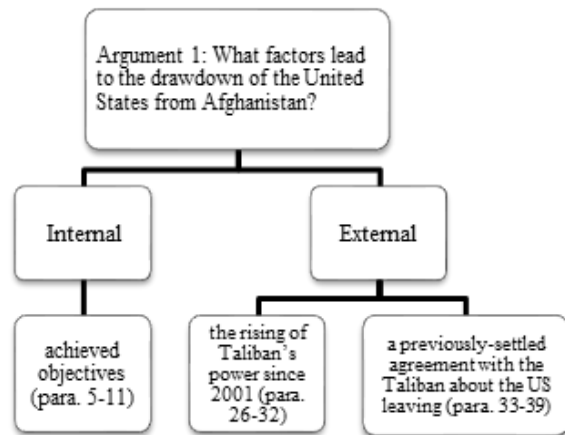


Figure 2. The Schematic Structure of Argument 1

In this context, Biden provides internal and external factors of why the US army fled from Afghanistan. It is seen that the first argument consists of some important points that are able to lead the audience into thinking that the US has a positive representation.

Initially, in paragraphs (5) to (11), it can be seen that the US has achieved its goals in Afghanistan. Starting from delivering justice to Osama bin Laden to keeping Afghanistan from becoming a terrorist base, the US has done extremely well. Furthermore, the fact that the country has trained hundreds of thousands of Afghan soldiers and provided tons of modern equipment shows that the US really cares about Afghanistan and has contributed numerous resources in order to keep it safe. Based on the internal factor, it can be seen that the US has given a positive impact.

Sidewise, there are also two external factors that lead to the drawdown of the US forces from Afghanistan. Seeing that the US still stayed there despite the fact that the Taliban's power has grown since 2001, the US is shown not to want to give up on Afghanistan. It shows that the country still wanted to protect the Afghan people by sacrificing its own military. More importantly, the agreement between the Taliban and the US has been struck, so that it was not possible for the country to stay any longer. From this perspective, the US is acting wisely so as to

avoid any further harms for the US troops (para. 38). By taking this decision, the US is also shown to have cared about the safety of the army. In conclusion, through the first argument, the US is represented positively.\

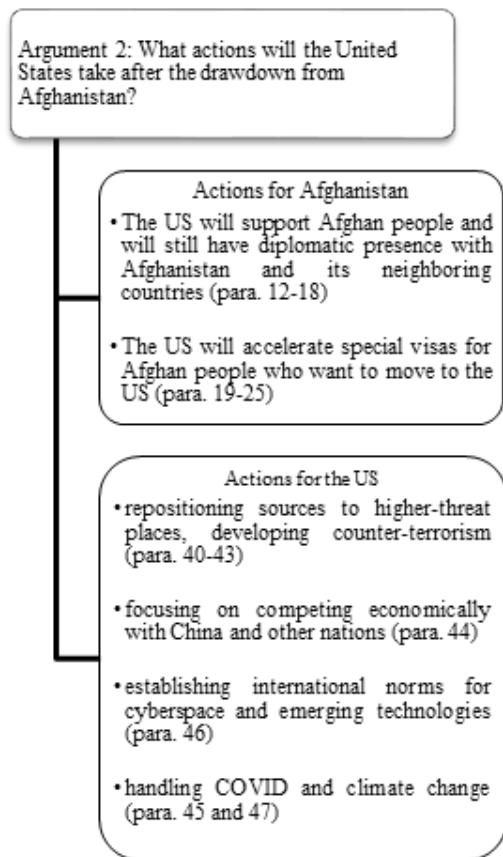


Figure 3. The Schematic Structure of Argument 2

The second argument regarding the actions that will be taken after the drawdown also consists of some important ideas to reveal the positive representation of the US. In this context, the argument is divided into two main actions, which are for Afghanistan and for the US itself.

Within the first section, the positive thing that can be seen is that the US will still support and maintain relations with Afghanistan and its neighboring countries. It shows that the country will not abandon Afghanistan after all done there and that the country will still care about the Afghanistan citizens under the Taliban ruling. Moreover, the US also welcomes the people of Afghanistan who would like to move by providing them with special visas, which, in terms of the number provided, can be regarded as quite significant. By seeing this, it is clear that the country still takes a huge responsibility in supporting Afghanistan.

As for the US itself, repositioning the military and developing counter-terrorism around the globe will be an important action in the future. By doing this decent move, it can be seen that the US is taking preventions before anything bad happens. Along

with this, the US will also compete economically with China and other nations around the world. It shows that the country is competitive and active in developing itself in order to be able to survive and expand its wings in the future.

Remarkably, the country also decides to establish international norms regarding cyberspace. According to Bussell (2013), it is a “supposedly virtual world created by links between computers, Internet-enabled service, and servers [...]”. It is a complex and global matter in the Internet, consisting of many intelligent beings that have possibilities in threatening a government. Therefore, by establishing norms, it can be seen that the United States is, again, being preventive in stabilizing the country’s system, which is considered something positive.

On the last note, the US intends to handle two crucial global issues, which are the COVID-19 and climate change. This proves that the US cares about the safety of not only its citizens, but also all the people around the world. It shows that the country is not blind towards issues that need to be fixed. Hence, in the second argument the US is portrayed to have a positive representation.

CONCLUSION

The study discloses Biden’s intention to show a positive representation of the US in his speech. In the macrostructure analysis, the subtle positive representation by telling the audience that the drawdown is a form of honoring the army is effective. It not only builds the positiveness of the idea but also convinces the audience to be on the same page as his. In addition, in the microstructure analysis, by utilizing the tool of number game, in which numbers and data are presented, Biden manages to reveal in a convincing way how dedicated the US is in helping Afghanistan. Moreover, the tool of norm expression is also an effective strategy in conveying positive actions done by the US. As for the superstructure analysis, Biden’s arguments are structured and orderly so that the speech is easy to digest as well as comprehend.

It is crucial for the United States to portray a positive image in this situation, given its historical involvement in other nations’ affairs. Developing a favourable self-image is necessary to dispel suspicions held by various parties. These suspicions often revolve around potential hidden agendas, such as combating “Islamic” terrorism, managing nuclear capabilities, or securing access to oil resources, all under the guise of “rescuing” Afghan citizens.

In essence, the study underscores the potency of language in conveying specific representations. Notably, due to limitations imposed by time and

space, the research exclusively delves into micro-level analysis. However, it is strongly recommended to extend the investigation to encompass macro-level and meso-level perspectives. This expansion is pivotal for achieving a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.

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