

Review of the PhD *Conceptual Metaphors and Pragmatic Context in Political Speeches (in Spanish and Portuguese)*” by Henrique Dores

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The current review is written in relation to the public defence procedure of a dissertation for the awarding of the educational and scientific degree “doctor”. All the documentation accompanying the procedure was duly made available to the members of the committee. All necessary documents have been submitted.

The committee were provided with the text of the dissertation and the two summaries (in English and in Bulgarian). The text fully corresponds to the requirements and standards of an extensive academic text. No plagiarism has been detected.

Henrique Dores was admitted as a doctoral student at Sofia University in 2020 and managed to complete his full course in the required period and finish the extensive dissertation in time. Bearing in mind his previous educational background, encompassing Social and Political Critical Studies, European Studies, Semiotics, Language and Advertising and the diverse professional experience spanning from receptionist through media analyst to teaching Portuguese at university level, it is not surprising that the dissertation he has submitted shows maturity of analysis, breadth of scope and depth of comprehension.

Henrique Dores has submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the PhD educational and scientific degree “doctor” a dissertation of 326 pages, of which 295 are contentful pages. This excludes the excellent lists of abbreviations and tables, the table of contents, the acknowledgements section, the references, and the appendices. The twenty-three appendices extend up to 370 pages and in themselves represent a dedicated corpus, which can be used as a rich resource for future research.

The layout of the PhD is rather pleasant and really reader friendly.

The dissertation *Conceptual Metaphors and Pragmatic Context in Political Speeches (in Spanish and Portuguese)*” by Henrique Dores explores highly contentious and interesting issues and covers an extensive empirical material (the tailored corpora of inaugural and investiture speeches) and employs a comprehensive, interdisciplinary theoretical framework. In that sense it is a real achievement for an aspiring researcher.

After the Introduction, the dissertation is organised into four (recognized as only three in the text itself (p. 3) chapters and a Conclusion. Chapter 1 is titled 'Theoretical Framework' and provides an overview of the theoretical models that underlie the problematization and analyses of the data, Chapter 2, 'Methodology', includes the research questions, and a description of the employed methodology and operationalizations, as well as an outline of the corpora used as a data source in the dissertation. Chapters 3 and 4 are parallel in structure and content, dedicated respectively to an empirical analysis of the Spanish investiture speeches' and of the Portuguese inauguration speeches. The last part presents the conclusions drawn as answers to the research questions.

The data used for the analyses are logically consistent – i.e., the data constitute a single political genre and allow for comparative analyses (diachronically within the respective national traditions) and contrastively (across the two socio-cultural communities). The extensive appendices in themselves constitute a contribution since the rich material can be used for other types of research and remain an invaluable resource.

The structural organization of the text is clear and balanced, following a deductive-analytical model with natural unfolding of the application of the operational analytical methodology on different textual samples.

The conclusions tie up all lines of argumentation presented in the body of the text and logically follow from the analyses presented in the respective chapters of empirical research.

Presented below are notes on the submitted text (with the notes topically organized without following the sequential unfolding of the text).

The above very high assessment of the PhD is based on:

- Deeply informed and exceptionally effective combination of the theoretical threads of Conceptual Metaphor Theory, Critical Metaphor Analysis and knowledge management models as cognitive mechanisms for language processing in context;
- The adoption of an empirically sound textual analysis procedure, supplemented by Critical keyword analysis;
- The supplementation of the qualitative analysis with quantitative data, substantiating many of the claims made in the empirical analysis;
- The operationalization of a context model as an analytical tool consistently applied to all speeches analyzed, which includes personal or social aspects that may determine the choice of metaphor by the encoder, situational circumstances, and the cognitive circumstances (or background knowledge) of the speeches;

- Consistent application of Jonathan Charteris-Black's Critical Metaphor Analysis (Charteris-Black 2004) deployed into three stages: metaphor identification, metaphor classification and metaphor explanation. The application of CMT to the analysis of specific categories of political discourse also served as a powerful analytical tool, as it allowed for the identification, explanation, and exploration of the purpose of conceptual metaphors in political speeches, offering a structured framework to unravel the layers of meaning embedded in political language;
- Supplementation of the individual speeches' analyses with discourse systematicity analysis;
- The qualitative analyses are supplemented by Critical Keyword Analysis and the incorporation of the quantitative tool AntConc 4.2.0 for concordance and word frequency analysis, which is used to corroborate some of the findings of the qualitative analysis;
- The incorporation of CMT and pragmatics into a single analytical model, with a focus on the process, patterns, and models in human cognition, demonstrates an interdisciplinary approach to the study of metaphor as a cognitive phenomenon and the cognitive processes in local knowledge management, which shed light on the linguistic choices made by political leaders, which tie into a complex of communicative strategies, analyzed from different relevant perspectives;
- The incorporation of contextual models, encompassing situational and cognitive circumstances for each speech, enhance the methodology's robustness;
- An operationalization decision concerning the locus of all dimensions of analysis has led to the identification of the speaker as an embodiment of the strategic decisions taken in the writing process of the speech. No differentiation is assumed between the speechwriter and the speaker, and it is explicitly stated that the methodological decision is to consider the collective effort behind the speech as the product of a single mind, represented as the speaker;
- The analyses lead to revealing the intricate embroidery of leadership strategies, the framing of national identity, and the different approaches to governance that have shaped the Portuguese and Spanish leaders' political discourse;
- Sufficient evidence is provided (from both corpora) for a prevalence of conceptual metaphors employing the semantic fields of JOURNEY, BUILDING and CONFLICT;

- The conceptual metaphor POLITICS IS RELIGION is also extensively used in the Spanish corpus, with a marked disbalance of lowered use in the Portuguese one;
- The analyses reveal that in the Portuguese corpus there is a correspondence with the values of the Nurturant Parent, which suggests that context plays a major role, as the social nature of the Portuguese revolution invites a sustainment of such values and attitudes;
- Adequate account of the differences between the contexts of the political speeches investigated - inauguration and investiture speeches - in terms of their ceremoniality, procedural import and nature, i.e., the immediately relevant formal and objective limitations of the speeches that predetermine the speaker's context models. Due attention is paid to the fact that the type of rhetoric is influenced by the need for parliamentary support in the Spanish case, and the speech's ceremonial nature in the Portuguese context. More specifically, the empirical analysis reveals that in the specific political discourse in Spanish greater management of group and institutional knowledge and the prevalence of deliberative rhetoric is detectable, with a greater salience of argumentative structures, whereas this genre in Portuguese is characterized by more cultural and national knowledge management and is more prone to the use of epideictic rhetoric. The difference between the types of knowledge managed in each corpus is explained by the goals, addressees, and audience of the speeches in each corpus;
- Providing evidence for a relationship between the ideologic membership of the speaker and the alignment with the family-based morality models: parties more to the left of the political spectrum favor the Nurturant Parent model, unlike parties on the right, which align more readily with the Strict Father model;
- The references are relevant and up-to-dated (providing in many cases the trajectories of developments of certain theoretical models or overall branches of linguistics). The intext citations are accurate and properly referenced.

Mr. Dores has excelled at another impressive task – incorporating all the recommendations and critical notes concerning the text of the dissertation discussed at the internal round of the defence procedure and has polished many of the inconsistencies, unnecessary extensive coverage of not immediately relevant issues, etc., which are quite natural in such an extensive work. The final version has been significantly improved.

The dissertation demonstrates advanced and profound knowledge of Van Dijk's contextual models, Critical Metaphor Theory, Conceptual Metaphor Theory, Pragmatics, strategic discourse management and political discourse analysis. It reveals that this knowledge of multiple theoretical models has led to the development of a set of discerning critically informed analytical skills in Mr. Does.

For all the reasons stated above, with full conviction, I recommend to the members of the committee to award the well-deserved educational and scientific degree "doctor" to Mr. Does.

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