

# **An Analysis Of Linguistic Features In The Speeches Of President Duterte On Controversial Issues**

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## **Abstract**

President Rodrigo Duterte is widely regarded as one of the most powerful and important political figures of our time. He is well-known for his harsh rhetoric, impromptu, direct, and impulsive speeches. This qualitative study looked at the linguistic features found in President Duterte's speeches on controversial issues through Critical Discourse Analysis. Critical Discourse Analysis explores the meaning of discourse and how such kind of meaning is produced by discourse. The corpora used in this study were the 10 speeches of President Duterte on controversial issues from 2016-2019, such as brash manner of speaking/making brash off-the-cut remarks, hardline stance against drugs and criminality, despotic policy against drug pushers and critiques, cessation of graft and corruption in the government, amped up attacks against the left/rebels/communists, insurgency in Mindanao, abhorrence of abusive and extortionist police, and intense love to his country. Results of the study revealed that President Duterte used different linguistic features such as swearwords, vulgarism, repetition, active voice construction, indicative mood, imperative mood, personal pronoun, clusivity, three-part list, clause subordination, emotionally-charged words/expressions, expletives, imperative, cussword, and emotive expressions in his speeches to deliver his messages according to his intentions while tackling various contentious issues that confront the whole nation and the Filipino people. The findings of the study provide a more general understanding of how speeches are organized to achieve a particular goal or intention. By examining discourses about this area, one can understand what a politician aims to do and the meaning behind his rhetoric.

**Keywords:** President Duterte, Linguistic Features, Controversial Issues, Critical Discourse Analysis

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, the Philippine President is recognized as one of the most powerful and influential political figures in modern time due to the language he employs in his speeches. He is known for his tough talk. His speeches are chiefly impromptu and impulsive with a dash of swearwords and obscenities when he feels strongly about a topic. He is inclined as well in rambling various topics, and oftentimes echoes his thoughts across multiple speeches (Timonera, 2017).

He frequently utilized his crude language, metaphor-rich insults, and distinct speaking style to weave narratives about his enemies and create a spectacular effect on his audience (Ranada, 2018). He usually sows hatred and dissension, spices his tirades with sexist jokes, curses, and threats to his critics and perceived enemies (Pascual, 2019) which often result in criticism, misinterpretation, and subjective judgment or biases from other people.

Despite President Duterte's foul mouth, predisposition for unrealized tough talk, connivance with rebels, support by an irrational mob of rude supporters, and disregard of the law in favor of a long history of extrajudicial killings, most Filipinos still hang on to his every word, listen to his anecdotes, and cling to his promises and aspirations with high optimism that other group of individuals may understand better the manner of his speech delivery, particularly in his use of a generic term like criminals, his structure of his statements, and his inclination to the poor (Quintos&Iwayama, 2017).

This study is focused to highlight the essence of analyzing the speeches of President Duterte concerning different controversial issues. By analyzing his distinct way of speaking, his use of strong words, expletive, and unsophisticated language in dealing with the controversies in his presidency, people are provided with the opportunity to identify his principles in life and to elaborate their understanding of how these principles impact their consciousness, belief system, opinions, and social awareness on the various issues tackled by the President of the Philippines.

Given further the following scenario, it is necessary to look into the speeches of the President on different controversial issues for there is a limited number of studies that span the analysis of lexical, and syntactic features that reveal the speaker's meaning in the discourses that cause eyebrow-raising scenario to the majority of the crowd. There are also other linguistic features that are still to be exploited through this study since they are not yet presented in other studies dealing with the President's speeches.

## **II. MATERIALS AND METHODS**

This research employed the qualitative design, which made use of critical discourse analysis that focused on exploring the linguistic devices found in President Duterte's speeches on controversial issues. Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) explores the meaning of discourse and how such kind of meaning is produced by discourse.

The corpora used in this study were the 10 speeches of Duterte on controversial issues from 2016-2019. The official transcripts of the speeches were taken from online websites namely: Presidential Communications Operation Office, MindaNews, and Inquirer.net. These sites were considered already as public domains. The 10 transcripts of PRRD's speeches deal with controversial issues only and these include the brash manner of speaking/making brash off-the-cut remarks, hardline stance against drugs and criminality, despotic policy against drug pushers and critiques, challenging his detractors, cessation of graft, and corruption in the government, amped up attacks against the left/rebels/communists, insurgency in Mindanao, abhorrence of abusive and extortionist police, extreme bravery and courage, and intense love to his country.

In analyzing the data, I read and re-read the corpora carefully for me to be acquainted well with their content. Then, coding was done to identify topics, issues, similarities, and differences that are revealed in President Duterte's speeches. The articles were coded, where they were segmented according to the number of speech (*PRRDSI* for the first speech on a controversial issue up to *PRRDS10* for the last speech), paragraph number (*P* for Paragraph followed with a number).

Meanwhile, in identifying the linguistic features of President Duterte's speeches, specific categories were labeled accordingly. In so doing, I read the contents of the speeches of PRRD to identify primarily possible features grounded from the theory of Fairclough supported with the lines of thoughts of Finegan and Fromkin. The analyses were presented in tabular form with excerpts from the speeches to provide a clear discussion of the findings and finally, conclusions were drawn to answer the research questions.

In addition, all of the sources of speeches were identified and indicated in the archival log, which was appended in the appendices for ethical consideration. The whole manuscript of the study was also submitted to the Research Ethics Committee (REC) of the University of the Immaculate Conception to ensure that no violations were committed throughout the conduct of the study.

## **III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Linguistic Features of President Duterte's Speeches on Controversial Issues**

The use of linguistic features communicates specific functions in speeches, which contribute to the influence on mass consciousness. It shows how language can be utilized to impose certain ethical values and convey certain views to people (Kulo, 2009). Linguistic features formulate political discourse (Kenzhekanova, 2015). The findings of the study revealed that President Duterte used different linguistic features in his speeches on controversial issues.

Controversial Issues	Linguistic Features	Excerpts from PPRD's Speeches
Brash manner of speaking/ making brash off-the-cut remarks	Swear words	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Isauli ninyo 'yang p***** i**</i> PRRD1-P40</li> <li>• <i>t*** i***** 'yan direktso sa jai alai</i> PRRD1-P71</li> <li>• <i>ang mga y*** na ito --- bread and wine pa</i> PRRD1-P39</li> <li>• <i>mga u*** na constitutionalists</i> PRRD1-P72</li> <li>• Tell those f***** idiots PRRD1-P39</li> <li>• <i>...itong mga obispo na mga u****</i> PRRD2-P33</li> <li>• <i>...di gyud ni mahuman y*** ni.</i> PRRD2-P13</li> <li>• <i>Masyado ka namang bobo. P***** i** papasok ka ng ganun tapos magiging g*** ka.</i> PRRD3-P68</li> <li>• Shut up. You son of a b****. You go to hell. PRRD3-P116</li> </ul>
Hardline stance against drugs and criminality	Indicative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• And there was a time when we declared the state of lawlessness and everything was being watched and raided in Central Mindanao. PRRD8-P6</li> <li>• Hitler massacred three million Jews. Now there is three million, there's a three million drug addict. There are. I'd be happy to slaughter them. At least if Germany had Hitler, the Philippines would have you know, my victims, I would like to be, all criminals to finish the problem of my country and save the next generation from perdition. PRRD7-P40</li> </ul>
	Vulgarism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Kung wa ka kasabot anang p***** i***** patyon...</i> PRRD2-P116</li> </ul>
	Repetition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you destroy a country, its citizens can really kill you. If you destroy a country by drugs and crimes, you know one million six... PRRD4-P78</li> </ul>
	Active voice construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Kasi patayin ko talaga 'to.Maniwala kayo. Papatayin ko 'tong mga 'to. Dahan-dahanan ko. Ma-mayor ka, wala akong pakialam. Pinapatay mo ang bayan ko eh.</i> PRRD4-P79</li> <li>• <i>...huhulihin talaga kita</i> PRRD1-P86</li> <li>• <i>Papatayin talaga kita.</i> PRRD2-P115</li> <li>• <i>Sabi ko sa kanila huwag mong pakainin ang mga anak ko ng droga. 'Pag sinira mo ang anak ko, papatayin kita. Simple justice 'yan. Hindi 'yan murder-murder.</i> PRRD4-P30</li> </ul>
Despotic policy against drug pushers and critiques	Indicative mood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• O, Duterte killed 4,000." Without any particular reason. Where? What? How? When? Wala. Oh, how was he killed? What was the kind of weapon? Where was it? And for how --- what happened? <i>Wala basta sinabi lang 4,000.</i> PRRD2-P56</li> <li>• Basta may nakitang patay diyan, extrajudicial killing. And why publish only 4,000? Who are they? Who are they? <i>May CIA ba dito? Iyong intelligence may nakita kayo?</i> PRRD3-P138</li> <li>• And nobody can tell me. <i>Ni America, ni Human Rights ang magsabi sa akin "huwag mong gawin 'yan kay hindi tama." P***** i** ninyo. 'Pagdating ng panahon sumabog itong bayan ko, kayo ang... Sabihin ko sa inyo, "P***** i**, you better answer me or else pasabugin ko 'yang ulo mo."</i> PRRD4-P46</li> </ul>
	Imperative mood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Huwag kang matakot pumatay, lumaban, arestuhin</i> because the rule is when you make an arrest, you announce your authority, "police to" PRRD3-P57 (this is police)</li> <li>• Go out and hunt for them, arrest them, announce your authority if there is time but if there is no time, then you have to ask him to surrender because if he does something overt which you think will kill you as a peace officer, then kill the idiot. PRRD3-P57</li> <li>• If you have a gripe or complaint against the Philippines or personally sa akin, go to the United Nations,</li> </ul>

		ventilate your gripe or your grievance then ask for a motion that it be sent to the proper organ or agency under the United Nations. PRRDS9-P88
Cessation of graft and corruption in the government	Personal pronoun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I will arrest you and place you inside the prison and I will see to it that you will not get out for the longest time. PRRDS1-P29</li> </ul>
	Clusivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>...we cannot overcome such scourges alone and we need everyone's help in ridding our nation of these ills.... PRRDS2-P5</li> </ul>
	Three-part list	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You commit corruption, you threaten people, you destroy people PRRDS1-P41</li> </ul>
	Clause subordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you can't catch nor chase them, I won't be able to run down corruption because even in military hospitals, medicines intended for the wounded soldiers were all ghost deliveries. PRRDS2-P20</li> <li>...if we cannot stop graft and corruption and cannot maintain law and order in this country, Philippines should never reach the level of economic progress enjoyed by Malaysia and Indonesia on the present level. PRRDS2-P29</li> <li>When I said no corruption, so I will kill you. PRRDS9-P34</li> </ul>
Amped up attacks against the left/ rebels/ communists	Emotionally-charged words/ expressions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>...okay lang 'yang mga bata pero kanang matatanda, ang inyong bibliya ang utok ni Sison. It's really empty of an ideology, wala na. PRRDS2-P95</li> <li>And I was referring to the contamination of the ISIS, which was slowly creeping into our shores. PRRDS8-P10</li> <li>Huwag tayong magbolahan. You will be marginalized and outcast because your form of government is always anathema to the rest of the religious zealots in this world. PRRDS8-P37</li> </ul>
	Expletives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>P***** ang sinabi ko. P***** ang sabi ko, sige kayo anak. Para ma-overemphasize ko na huwag ganun. Huwag kung papasok lang naman kayo sa kalihukan, why do you have -- mandamay ka ng ibang tao sa mundong ito PRRDS3-P107</li> </ul>
	Imperative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sana itong mga NPA, do not mess up kasi pati kayo nakikinabang. Huwag kayong makialam at maghinging taxation kasi mas malalo tayong lalayo nang lalayo nang lalayo sa solusyon natin. Huwag kayong makialam kasi election to. Do not terrorize and I will tell the Armed Forces and the police not to interfere if you are not deputized by the Comelec. PRRDS3-P202</li> <li>I ordered you to destroy the organization. I'm ordering you now. pulpugin ninyo ang Abu Sayyaf by whatever means. PRRDS4-P31</li> </ul>
Insurgency in Mindanao	Indicative mood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It's a --- it's a movement of evil men. The only way to fight them is to become evil also. PRRDS4-P23</li> <li>Basta sa giyera and the execution of the war or in the implementation of the laws of the land 'pag nasabit, walang sasabit sa inyo. Walang sasabit kasi akin lahat iyan, utos ko iyan kasi may giyera. PRRDS4-P45</li> <li>So, it finally came to a head and much as I really hate to order an offensive against the Maute and the rest of the terrorists, napipilitan akong mag-martial law because of the so many factors involved. PRRDS6-P3</li> <li>I am worried about an ideology that wants to supplant the Filipino way of life. Iyan ang problema. They are trying to correct a way of living for everybody and they do it by killing people invoking the name of God and that is a very terrible ideology. It does not know anything except to waste human lives. PRRDS8-P21</li> </ul>
Abusive and extortionist police	Cussword	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kamong mga pulis, do not f*** with me. PRRDS2-P133</li> <li>Ang police maraming atraso. P***** i** kayo. Sinabi ko na sa inyo, tama na eh. PRRDS3-P37</li> <li>O, di alam mo na problema mo -- patayin mo, yang police mong p***** i****... Buwisit. Kaya na-buwisit ako. Sabi ko, "Ano ba 'to, walanang katapu..." Eh kayo mismo inaasahan ko eh. Pinagmamalaki ko." PRRDS3-P74</li> </ul>
	Indicative mood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tapos meron pang mga police generals na sabit sa droga. PRRDS3-P52</li> </ul>
Intense love to his country	Emotive expressions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Let us continue to serve our beloved homeland with honor, duty and valor. PRRDS8-P58</li> <li>May this event bolster a newfound spirit of courage and patriotism in your hearts so that you will never falter in your mission. PRRDS8-P56</li> </ul>

Table 1. Linguistic Features in PRRD's Speeches on Controversial Issues

**Brash manner of speaking/making brash off-the-cut remarks.** One of the escalating criticisms faced by President Duterte in his presidency is his brash manner of speaking or making brash off-the-cut remarks. The president has been known to curse and bawl out those who criticize him and his government, including those

who raise concerns about extra-judicial killings in his war on drugs. Foul language is prevalent in our society and its vocabulary, as well as its use, has continued to grow (Stern, 2013).

*Swearwords.* President Duterte delivered his messages or speeches on different contentious issues to the crowd brim with swear words. The use of swearwords is evident in the speeches of President Duterte on different contentious issues as revealed in the study. The findings corroborate with Steinmetz' (2016) comments where his utterance of swearwords like *p\*\*\*\*\* i\*\*\*\*\* (putangina)*, *g\*\*\*\* (gago)*, *y\*\*\*\* (yawa)* allows him to express his emotions, to vent, to release, to communicate very effectively and immediately his feelings and to convey his position or state whether he is upset, angry, excited, aroused, and surprised as well as the intensity of that state. It further substantiates Jay's (2009) idea that often the use of profanity is to insult an object, a view, or a person. When people swear they choose a word or phrase that represents what is most potent to them (Hughes, 1998) as cited in Methven (2007).

The President's impulsive use of profanity is explained in the study of Cavanna and Rickards (2013) as typically his unfiltered candid expression of emotions. Speeches of President Duterte which involve swearwords have a stronger impact on people than regular speech and be processed on a deeper level in people's minds which gives light to the study of Jay, Caldwell-Harris, & King (2008).

**Hardline stance against drugs and criminality.** Another controversial issue under President Duterte's administration is his hard-hitting, uncompromising and forceful approach in tackling crimes in the Philippines. His lawless war on drugs (i.e. shoot-to-kill) has attracted intense hullabaloo from the people. He has been constant and unwavering in his stand against criminality especially on illegal drugs and corruption. President Rodrigo Duterte has started his aggressive fight against the Philippine drug trade where thousands of suspected drug users and dealers are killed without trial by law enforcement and vigilantes and he vowed to end crime and corruption throughout his period of the presidency (Kerrigan, 2016). According to Karnavian (2016), President Rodrigo Duterte's war on drugs has influenced others on the idea that capital punishment is an effective way to combat drug dealers.

*Indicative Mood.* President Duterte uses indicative mood to express what he considers to be a known state of affairs, as in declarative sentences (Hogg, Lass, Blake, Romaine, et al, 2000). He uses it further to give evidence of positive or negative development of the situation (Karnyushina, 2017) such as the growing menace in Mindanao where he issued the Proclamation No. 216 or known as the 2017 proclamation of martial law and suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus to address the radical Islamic terrorism and narcoterrorism in Mindanao.

*Vulgarism.* Vulgarity is a common linguistic expression and is used to perform several linguistic functions. In the analysis of the speeches, it was revealed that President Duterte often employed vulgarity to express emotion in language and express his negative sentiment or emotions into the prevalence of illegal drug use in the Philippines and to intensify the sentiment present in the speech on the preservation of the country and the people and preservation of family's life by reducing the number of Filipinos enslaved in illegal drugs (Wang, 2013). He established a stronger impact on people by processing the speech on a deeper level in minds of the audience through vulgarity (Jay and Caldwell-Harris, King, 2008).

*Repetition.* Kulo (2009) contends that repeating words, phrases paves the way towards making the ideas contained in them with sense. Word repetition, usually in long speeches is used by the President to hold the speech together and underscore moral values (Beard, 2000). It allows him to emphasize his own role and responsibility as the President (Bonnefille, 2010).

What has been analyzed in the study about the use of repetition verified what Asaad (2018) revealed in his study that repetition has been used extensively by President Duterte to underpin his strategy of expressing his message emphatically, emphasizing to everyone that drugs and crimes can cause massive destruction to the entire nation and its people. He uses the rhetorical device to influence the hearers' attitudes, beliefs, and ideologies (Khawaldeh, 2018).

*Active voice construction.* The active voice demands an actor or an active subject (Beard, 2000) as highlighted in Kulo (2009). The results of the study revealed that active voice tends to make the speeches of President Duterte more personal and affirms that verbs provide so much useful information that readers prefer to get them early in his statements (Cutts, 2007). The study further validates Kazemian's (2014) claim that the use of this type of construction appeals to the audience's inner heart to connect the political beliefs, ambitions with their expectation, and hope in a clear and emphasized way. The use of the active construction of the President in his speeches shows that he is a doer. He acts on his own to see the immediate result of the existing problems.

**Despotic policy against drug pushers and critiques.** PRRD has waged one of the world's most spiteful and bloodiest counter-narcotics campaigns which brought controversies in his reign. As the country's chief diplomat, he has been described by many as despotic who has taken a — 'nobody has the right to tell and lecture me' stance as the basis of governance against drug pushers and his critiques. The Country Reports on Human Rights Practices (CRHRP, 2018) recounted that extrajudicial killings have been the leading human rights concern in the country for many years and, after a sharp upsurge with the inception of the anti-drug campaign in 2016 under Duterte's administration.

*Indicative Mood.* Grammatical mood enables the speakers to express their attitudes toward what they are saying and decide as to their intention of saying it. An indicative mood is a verb form that makes a statement or asks a question. PRRD uses indicative mood to express factual statements, assertion, denial, and questions (Grammatical Mood, 2018).

*Imperative Mood.* Imperatives are directives conveying an illocutionary force of commanding, prohibiting, suggesting, permitting, or requesting by the speaker (Potsdam & Edmiston, 2018). Results of the study revealed that President Duterte utilized imperative moods to arouse both positive and negative feelings of the audience and use it as the principal mood of will and desire (Fanani, Purwati, Setiawan & Maisarah, 2019).

**Cessation of graft and corruption in the government.** In developing countries like the Philippines, corruption leaves a piercing adverse impact on the integrity and competency of the government in alleviating poverty (Marcelo, 2013). President Duterte works hard to curb the problem of graft and corruption to maximize economic growth, make the government spending composition stable, encourage investments, stabilize the mission of the nation in the reduction of poverty and improve greatly the quality of life for the rural and poor divisions of the developing countries (Mistry & Jalal, 2012).

*Personal Pronoun.* PRRD uses the personal pronoun “I” in his speeches on the issue of widespread corruption in the government and military that confront the country. The use of the personal pronoun “I” is not only used for self-reference but also to provide personal involvement, emphasis, and commitment. The findings of this study corroborate Bramley’s comment (2001) as cited in Hakansson (2012) that the use of the pronoun “I” is used to present himself as an individual and speak from his own perspective, preferably highlighting one’s good qualities and accomplishments. Moreover, this finding reiterates Karapetjana’s (2011) suggestion that the pronoun “I” implies a personal level, and he uses it to show authority, personal responsibility, participation as well as commitment.

*Clusivity.* It is a grammatical distinction between inclusive and exclusive first-person pronouns – the inclusive ‘we’ and exclusive ‘we’. Exclusive “we” does not refer to the addressee. ‘We’ is generally used to refer to the speaker and third parties who may or may not be present in the immediate situation. The use of the exclusive “we” can be exploited to share responsibility, while inclusive “we” refers to the speaker and the listener. President Duterte uses the inclusive “we” as part of underscoring that he, his constituents, and the listeners are in the same arena in facing the challenges and providing solutions to the existing problems of drugs, corruption, and terrorism in the Philippines. This is in consonance with Karapetjana’s (2011) claim that “we” can be used by the politician if he or she wishes to share the responsibility, and also create involvement with the audience. He emphasizes the use of “we” to establish a sense of intimacy with the audience as well as follow a common objective (Sharififar & Rahimi, 2015).

*Three-part list.* This refers to a collection of three words, phrases, sentences, lines, paragraphs/stanzas, chapters/sections and this happens when new ideas or pieces of information are presented in three parts. The first part is supposed to initiate an argument, the second part emphasizes or responds to the first and the third part is a reinforcement of the first two and a sign that the argument is completed (Charteris-Black, 2005). President Duterte utilizes a three-part list as a rhetorical device in his speeches to convince an audience that his arguments are valid. The findings corroborate with Kulo’s (2009) comment that presenting statements in groups of three is particularly appealing; thus, political speakers use three-part lists to augment their arguments.

*Clause Subordination.* Subordinate constructions have been described in syntax as dependent structures elaborating on primary elements of a discourse. Subordinate constructions elaborate the discourse background (Lelandais & Ferré (2017). Undoubtedly, the utilization of President Duterte of clause subordination augments the coherence of a speech and its variety while reducing redundancy. Subordinate constructions simplify the processing load of the co-speaker, acting on interpreting constraints and triggering certain inferential operations as they link accessible information to new elements (Levinson 2003).

**Amped up attacks against the left/rebels/communists.** President Duterte declares an all-out war against the rebels when the NPA lifts its unilateral ceasefire after several skirmishes with government troops. Previous talks broke down when each side accused the other of initiating attacks, sometimes violating cease-fires (Jennings, 2019). He also cancels the peace talks and demands a bilateral ceasefire agreement as a condition for further talks.

*Emotionally-charged words/expressions.* Emotionally-charged words or expressions on the use of words, phrases that are meant to elicit a strong emotional response from the listeners. President Duterte uses this kind of expression in his speeches as a powerful means of conveying his feelings and attitudes towards critical political issues. Moreover, he uses words and sentences in an emotive manner to create a feeling of solidarity, to arouse emotions such as fear, hate and to enhance or give his speech a kind of power (Al-Hamad & Al Shunnag, 2011).

*Expletives.* Results of the study revealed that PRRD used expletives in his speeches to emphasize and express a heightened level of emotion. These are interjections or exclamations that are clearly emotionally charged. Thought does not address anyone specifically, the President utilizes expletives as a form of releasing his frustrations issues and giving vent to his emotions on various controversial issues. Wajnryb (2005).

*Imperatives.* President Duterte employs imperative in his speeches as a means of urging the NPA or rebels to perform things following what he says and prohibiting them from doing things that would destroy the nation. The typical function of imperatives is to get the addressee(s) to do or not to do something. In another use, the imperative is a clause type (alongside interrogatives and declaratives). It is a specific morphosyntactic structure restricted to conveying directive modality (Potsdam & Edmiston, 2015).

**Insurgency in Mindanao.** The Philippines has suffered major armed conflicts for many years in Mindanao involving the nationwide communist insurgency with the National Democratic Front (NDF), Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), and militants acting in the name of the Islamic State or ISIS. These conflicts are intermittent in nature yet last for generations, often becoming minefields between the state and revolutionary armed groups.

*Indicative Mood.* This mood is utilized by the President to make factual statements, ask questions, or express opinions as if they were facts. With the findings, the researcher concurs with Barrera, Guriev, Henry & Zhuravskaya's (2020) proposition that stating facts is highly persuasive. By using it, he can highlight the impact of terrorism done by any rebel groups on the country and its people. This further enables him to convince the people to side with his plan of stopping these groups by retaliating as if having evil minds too.

**Abhorrence of abusive and extortionist police.** The police force is commonly identified as one of the most corrupt governmental institutions in many countries around the world (Transparency International, 2017). This leads to the repugnance of abusive and extortionist police under PRRD's administration.

*Cussword.* The most obvious advantage of swearing is to communicate effectively. By using cussword, a speaker conveys the meaning of a sentence, and at the same time the expressive response to the meaning – the emotional reaction to something. It also allows a person to express anger, disgust, or pain, or indicate to someone that they need to back off, without having to resort to physical violence (Wen, 2016).

Research suggests that the amount of latent benefit that you get from swearing or using cussword hinges on how taboo the curse word is to you, which likely depends on how often you were punished for using them as a child (Tomash & Reed, 2013). The study confirms that cursing or the use of cusswords acts as a speech intensifier; it establishes an informal, even friendly relationship with the receiver. By talking like everyday men and women, without the pomposity and pretension of proper English, President Duterte can be understood easily and appears to be more relatable (Cortez, 2019).

**Intense love to his country.** President Duterte exudes an ardent and intense feeling of love, devotion, and a sense of attachment to his country, the Philippines. Political leaders have regularly invoked patriotism to motivate public support for (and to attempt to justify) various decisions and policies. The shared understanding that appears to lie behind these appeals to patriotism is that patriotism is either an obligation of citizenship or a virtue that citizens sought to possess (Simons, 2011).

*Emotive Expressions.* Emotive words can be defined as words that trigger an emotional response in the audience and influence their perception of reality (Walton & Macagno, 2014). One can conceal an implicit change of the interlocutor's knowledge or a silent alteration of his system of values (Walton & Macagno, 2014). President Duterte uses emotive expressions to evoke emotion. It provides him the opportunity to influence his audience's opinions, and expose his leanings on a particular issue (Entman, 1993; Druckman, 2002). The paper also corroborates Macagno & Walton's (2019) conclusion that emotive expressions influence the interlocutor's decisions, and it helps him craft their emotions.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

The study had shown that a speaker may present his speech in several ways in accordance with his goals and intentions and may be interpreted differently by his audience. With the use of CDA, I was able to decipher the linguistic features of President Duterte on controversial issues.

The use of the critical discourse analysis framework is undeniably significant for it provided me an opportunity to be aware of how the structures of speeches function and to what aims they are used. It taught me to be critical and evaluative of the discourses I have listened to and pay attention to the language the speakers used. It served as an eye-opener for me to focus and read between the lines as the speaker delivers his speech in order to comprehend what is really being said. Indeed, a lot of things can be learned from a simple word choice.

I was able to realize further that in delivering a speech, the kind of persona President Duterte has will really be reflected inclusive of his environment, family background, and the peers he has associated most of the time regardless of whatever professional level he has reached. But in terms of linguistic aspect, it can be seen that he is a brilliant speaker because of the terminologies he has employed in his speeches. He is the kind of speaker who has really the edge of making the audience understand the salient features of his speech. In addition, his speech is truly bombastic that it can really arouse the ire of the persons whom the purpose of the speech is intended for. Indeed, he has a big heart for the Philippines and the Filipino people.

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