



DECONSTRUCTING POWER, IDEOLOGY, AND CONFLICT IN DONALD TRUMP'S SPEECHES ON THE US–IRAN CRISIS

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Abstract:

Political discourse often appears clear and authoritative, yet it is shaped by language, ideology, and power. Deconstruction, associated with Jacques Derrida, challenges the stability of meaning by revealing contradictions, binary oppositions, and hidden assumptions within texts. This approach is particularly useful for analyzing political speeches that construct specific narratives rather than presenting neutral realities. In the context of the U.S.–Iran conflict, the speeches of Donald Trump reflect themes of power, national security, and global tension. Using a qualitative deconstructive approach, selected lines from these speeches are analyzed to identify hidden assumptions, contradictions, and binary oppositions. The analysis shows that meanings in the speeches are not fixed but unstable and relational. Concepts such as progress, power, and stability depend on their opposites, including limitation, vulnerability, and crisis. The coexistence of opposing ideas—such as peace and aggression—further reveals internal tensions within the discourse. Overall, the study demonstrates that political language constructs reality rather than simply describing it and meaning remains open to multiple interpretations.

Keywords:

Deconstruction, Political Discourse, Donald Trump, U.S.–Iran Conflict, Binary Opposition, Hidden Assumptions, Contradictions

1. Introduction

Deconstruction is a critical theory primarily associated with Jacques Derrida, which challenges the traditional idea that texts have fixed and stable meanings. Instead, it proposes that meaning is always shifting, unstable, and dependent on language itself. Deconstruction focuses on uncovering internal tensions, contradictions, and multiple interpretations within a text. It does not aim to destroy meaning but to show how meaning is constructed through language and how it can never be completely fixed or final. A key concept in deconstruction is binary opposition, where meaning is formed through contrasting pairs such as peace/war, strong/weak, or us/them. These oppositions are not neutral; rather, one term is usually given priority over the other. Deconstruction exposes how these hierarchies operate and demonstrates

that each term depends on its opposite for meaning. Along with this, deconstruction highlights contradictions within a text, showing how it may undermine its own claims. It also identifies hidden assumptions, which are ideas presented as natural truths but are actually constructed. Through these elements, deconstruction reveals that meaning is always relational and unstable.

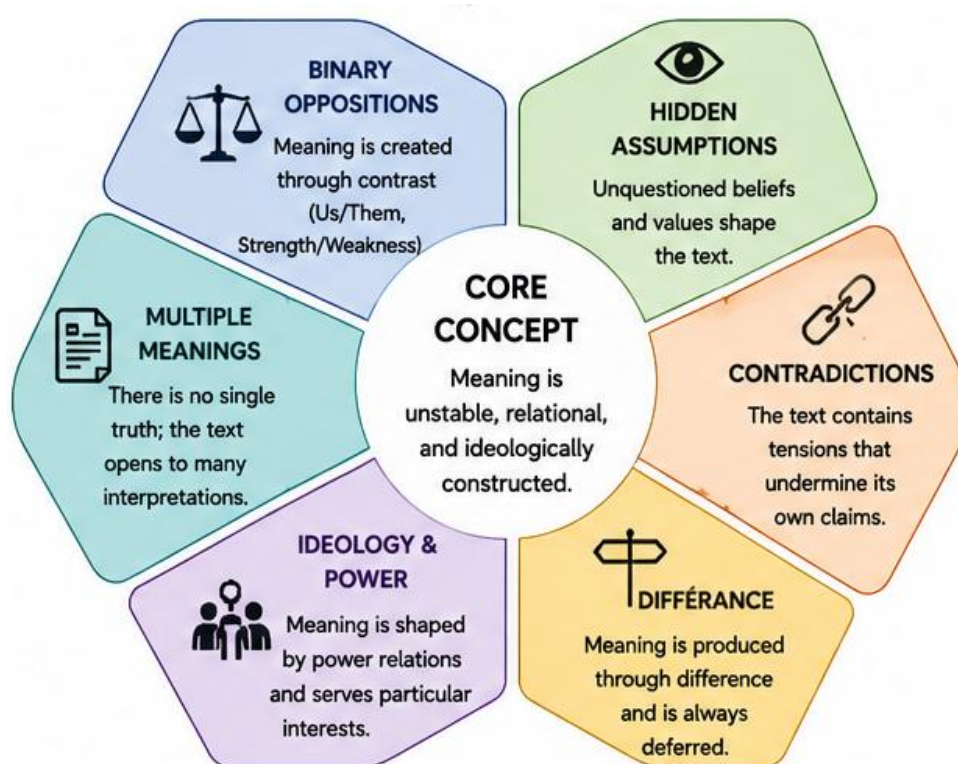


Figure 1. Deconstruction and concepts

In political discourse, language plays a crucial role in shaping public perception and constructing reality. Political speeches often present themselves as clear and authoritative, yet they contain underlying ideologies and persuasive strategies. This study focuses on the speeches of Donald Trump, whose rhetoric is marked by strong language, emotional appeal, and clear oppositional framing. His speeches frequently rely on binary oppositions such as strength versus weakness and security versus threat, making them highly suitable for deconstructive analysis. The selected speeches are related to the U.S.–Iran conflict, a significant geopolitical issue involving military actions, economic consequences, and global tension. During this period, discourse around the conflict emphasized themes of power, threat, national security, and economic stability. The speeches delivered on 2 April, 8 April, and 13 April provide valuable material for analyzing how political language constructs meaning in times of conflict. These speeches not only reflect political intentions but also shape how the audience understands global events.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

Despite the apparent clarity and authority of political speeches, they often contain hidden assumptions, contradictions, and ideological structures that remain unexamined. The

problem addressed in this study is to investigate how the selected speeches construct meaning through language and how deconstruction can reveal the instability within these meanings.

1.2 Research Objectives

The main objectives of this study are:

1. To analyze selected speeches using deconstruction theory.
2. To identify hidden assumptions, contradictions, and binary oppositions in the text.
3. To interpret the deeper and unstable meanings produced through language.

1.3 Research Questions

1. How do the selected speeches construct meaning through language?
2. What hidden assumptions and contradictions are present in the discourse?
3. How do binary oppositions shape and destabilize meaning?

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study is significant as it contributes to the understanding of political discourse from a deconstructive perspective. It highlights how language is used to construct reality and influence public perception. The study is also useful for students and researchers in English linguistics, stylistics, and discourse analysis, as it provides a practical application of deconstruction theory.

1.5 Research Gap

Although many studies have explored political speeches using critical discourse analysis, limited research has applied deconstruction theory to contemporary political discourse, particularly in the context of the U.S.–Iran conflict. This study addresses this gap by offering a deconstructive analysis of recent political speeches and uncovering their hidden meanings and internal instabilities.

2. Literature Review

The present study examines the concept of deconstruction, particularly associated with Jacques Derrida with wider range of secondary data. The examined studies on Jacques Derrida's deconstruction indicate that it is a critical methodology that rejects fixed meanings and uncovers various interpretations within texts. Some studies (Sofi & Mohammad, 2022; Garg, 2021) characterize it as a theory of unstable meaning, whereas others (Butt et al., 2022; Dash & Sahoo, 2022) underscore language as dynamic and founded on difference. Other scholars (Sikirivwa, 2020; Dar, 2017) explain its philosophical origins in the works of thinkers such as Plato, Martin Heidegger, and Ferdinand de Saussure. Some studies (Umar, 2024; Parveen & Dixit, 2025) emphasize its efficacy in enhancing reading and critical thinking skills, whereas others (Alsaqer, 2023) demonstrate its function in translation. The literature generally agrees that deconstruction challenges conventional notions of truth and meaning, fostering profound and diverse interpretations of texts.

2.1 Review of the empirical Study

According to (Sofi & Mohammad, 2022) Derrida theory illustrate us that meaning is never fixed and it should always be open to different interpretations. It is more about the journey of understanding rather than reaching a final conclusion. This study reveals how Derrida changed the way we understand language, meaning and text. Another relevant source is a research article by (Sikirivwa, 2020) that explains the background of this theory by discussing the ideas of Plato, Martin Heidegger and Ferdinand De Saussure. This study provide



insight into deconstruction, emphasize that it is difficult to define because Derrida himself didn't give clear definition. It further explains that Derrida challenges the western thinking by showing both sides of idea is important. Furthermore, he critiques the Plato's idea of truth, Heidegger's idea of destruction of philosophy and Structuralists belief in fixed meanings. Additionally, a study conducted by (Umar, 2024) explores how Deconstruction theory can be useful way for improving reading skills. It introduces a new method instead of traditional teaching enabling teachers to help and guide students toward deep understanding. This study enhances reader ability to think critically and understanding multiple meanings within a text. In their study (Parveen & Dixit, 2025) demonstrate the practical application of Deconstruction theory for student studying at various universities. The study emphasizes that language is very complex phenomenon and students often commit mistakes while reading and writing. This supports Derrida view that language is subjective. It further explains that Readers while reading may create their own interpretation based on their interest and needs which results into multiple meaning of text.

According to (Butt, et all, 2022) language is impermanent, dynamic and unstable. It also demonstrates that philosophy is the primary target of the theory of deconstruction. It explains the Derrida views that spoken words function as linguistics signs only to the context that it can be recurred in various contexts, in the absence of the original speaker. Another study by (Dash & P Sahoo, 2022) demonstrates that words gain their meaning from the difference of others words rather than from the fixed truth. It also explains the Derrida views, which question western thinking about binary opposition (like speech/writing or True/Falsehood) showing these distinction are not clear as seem. This approach helps readers to think critically and explore meaning in text, making it important in literature and other fields.

Deconstruction plays a significant role in literary translation. It highlights the translator must understand the ambiguity and connotative meaning within text which is quite helpful in improving translation quality. It also explains the importance of balance between source and target norms to ensure clarity and coherence. Furthermore, translator must understand the structural elements within source text which create stylistic effect on text and replete these element in target text. (A Alsaqer, 2023) Another Study by (Guney & Guney, 2008) demonstrates the variance between Deconstruction and Hermeneutics. It explains the Derrida viewpoint that text is not the natural reflection of the world and it is reader who is the supplement of the text. Furthermore, it suggests that readers may produce multiple interpretations and none of which can be considered absolutely final or completely false.

According to (Yegen & Abukan, 2014) meaning is uncovered and revealed through careful analysis of language and its structure. This study highlights that from deconstructive perspective, reality and meaning is not singular but varies according to the interpretation of the reader. Furthermore, deconstruction challenge western metaphysical assumption and expose hidden meaning within a text. Additionally, a study conducted by (Baring, 2014) demonstrates that deconstruction has significant impact on study of meaning as it changes the traditional way of meaning. It explains that speeches are greatly influenced by the history and culture. It also describes that Derrida gave the idea of trace and difference, which shows that meaning is changes over time and varies with different interpretation. According to (M. Dhengle, 2024) Deconstruction has strong influence on critical theory because it challenges the perspective that meaning is fixed and language is simple. This study explains Derrida view that provides important tool to question power and highlights marginalized perspective. It also focuses on the idea of justice and fairness and accepts that meaning is flexible and changeable. Another study conducted by (Sahu, et all, 2021) compares the concept of deconstruction with the

concept of “emptiness” given by “Nagarjuna” which suggests that everything is interdependent and has no final essence. Both approaches show that meaning is not fixed. The study also argues that Deconstruction can be seen as modern form of older philosophical thought as many thought came from old philosophical traditions.

The study (Garg, 2021) emphasizes the instability of meaning and absence of fixed center in text. It also demonstrates the perspective of critics Christopher Norris and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak who argue that deconstruction promote open-ended textual interpretation. The concept of difference is discussed as main idea which explains how meaning is constantly deferred. Furthermore, this article criticizes the Structuralists ideas given by Ferdinand De Saussure by question the stability of signifier and signified. Overall this study focuses on close reading that uncover the contradiction and hidden assumption within text rather than only fixed interpretation. A part of literature reveals that deconstruction relies on discourse, sign and semiotics to explore how meaning is constructed and interpreted. The study challenges the western metaphysical tradition by rejecting the fixed interpretation of meaning. It also demonstrates that concept such as presence, absence, difference and repetition are key elements to identify the hidden meaning within the text. It presents deconstruction as a method which uncovers hidden meaning within text by analyzing its language, structure and semantics. (Belkacem et. all, 2026)

The study conducted by (Dar, 2017) elucidates that deconstruction is not a static methodology but a means of critically examining texts to reveal concealed contradictions and diverse interpretations. It also shows how philosophers like Martin Heidegger, Friedrich Nietzsche, and Ferdinand de Saussure affected Derrida's ideas. The main ideas, like différance, aporia, trace, and logocentrism, are explained in a way that is easy to understand. The article also talks about how deconstruction challenges the idea that meaning and truth is always the same. In general, it shows that deconstruction is a useful way to read that shows how meanings in texts can change and be different, while also making it less scary to think about how complicated it is.

Table 1: Comparative Summary of Empirical Studies

| Sr. No. | Author(s) | Year | Methodology | Key findings | Relevance to Current Study |
|---------|-----------------|------|----------------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | Sofi & Mohammad | 2022 | Qualitative/Theoretical Analysis | Meaning is unstable and open-ended. | Supports instability of meaning in speeches. |
| 2 | Sikirivwa | 2020 | Conceptual/Theoretical Study | Deconstruction challenges fixed meanings. | Provides theoretical framework for analysis. |
| 3 | Umar | 2024 | Educational/Qualitative Study | Deconstruction challenges fixed meanings. | Provides theoretical framework for analysis. |



| | | | | | |
|----|-----------------|------|----------------------------------|--|---|
| 4 | Parveen & Dixit | 2025 | Qualitative Research | Readers create multiple meanings. | Supports multiple interpretations of speeches |
| 5 | Butt et al. | 2022 | Philosophical/Qualitative Study | Language is unstable and contextual. | Explains shifting meanings in political language. |
| 6 | Dash & P Sahoo | 2022 | Theoretical Analysis | Meaning depends on difference. | Relates to binary oppositions in analysis. |
| 7 | A Alsaqer | 2023 | Translation/Qualitative Study | Texts contain ambiguity and hidden meanings. | Supports semantic interpretation of speeches. |
| 8 | Guney & Guney | 2008 | Comparative/Theoretical Study | No interpretation is final. | Strengthens deconstructive reading approach. |
| 9 | Yegen & Abukan | 2014 | Qualitative/Theoretical Study | Meaning varies by interpretation. | Supports relational meaning in discourse. |
| 10 | Baring | 2014 | Historical/Theoretical Analysis | Meaning changes across contexts. | Helps contextual speech analysis. |
| 11 | M. Dhengle | 2024 | Critical/Theoretical Study | Deconstruction questions power structures. | Supports ideological analysis of speeches. |
| 12 | Sahu et al. | 2021 | Comparative Philosophical Study | Meaning has no fixed essence. | Reinforces instability of meaning. |
| 13 | Garg | 2021 | Qualitative/Theoretical Analysis | Meaning is deferred and contradictory. | Supports deconstructive framework. |
| 14 | Belkacem et al. | 2026 | Semiotic/Discourse Analysis | Meaning is constructed through language. | Relevant for discourse analysis of speeches. |
| 15 | Dar | 2017 | Conceptual/Theoretical Study | Deconstruction reveals contradictions. | Supports analysis of hidden meanings. |

3. Methodology:

This methodology outlines a qualitative, deconstruction-based analysis of selected speeches by Donald Trump from CNN, BBC, and YouTube (dated 2, 8, and 13 April). By examining hidden assumptions, contradictions, binary oppositions, and meaning, the study aims to uncover the instability and ideological construction of political discourse.

3.1 Research Design

This study adopts a qualitative research design, focusing on textual analysis of political discourse. The research is interpretive in nature and is grounded in the theoretical framework of deconstruction, which seeks to reveal instability, contradictions, and hidden meanings within language.

3.2 Data Selection and Sources

The data for this study consists of selected speeches delivered by Donald Trump during the period of the U.S.–Iran conflict. The speeches were collected from credible international media platforms, including CNN, BBC News and YouTube. These platforms provide widely accessible and reliable recordings and transcripts of political speeches. The selected speeches are dated which are 2 April, 8 April and 13 April. These dates were chosen because they represent key moments in the discourse surrounding the U.S.–Iran war, where political narratives of power, conflict, and justification are strongly articulated. Reports and coverage confirm that speeches and statements during this period were central to the ongoing conflict and public communication around it.

3.3 Data Description

The dataset consists of eight selected lines extracted from the speeches delivered on the above dates. These lines were chosen because they directly reflects Military action and justification, National pride and technological advancement and threats, responses, and economic consequences. Each line serves as a unit of analysis for detailed deconstructive examination.

3.4 Analytical Framework

This study employs deconstruction theory, primarily associated with Jacques Derrida. Deconstruction challenges the idea of fixed meaning and instead focuses on how texts produce multiple, unstable meanings. The following figure illustrates the deconstruction process applied in the present study:

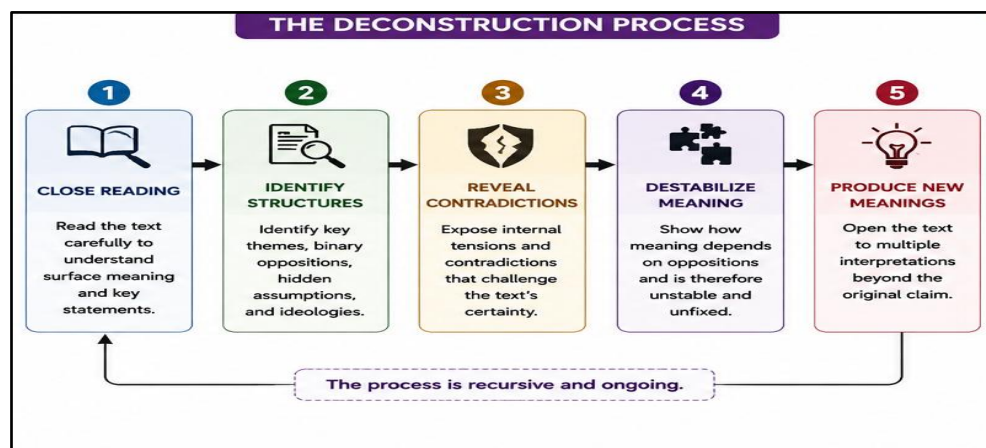


Figure 2. Deconstruction Process

The analysis is conducted by identifying the following key elements in each selected line:

- **Hidden Assumptions:** Implicit beliefs presented as natural or unquestioned
- **Contradictions:** Internal tensions where the text undermines its own claims
- **Binary Oppositions:** Paired concepts (e.g., peace vs war, strength vs weakness) that structure meaning hierarchically

- **Meaning (Deconstructive Interpretation):** The deeper, unstable meaning revealed after analyzing assumptions and contradictions

3.5 Procedure of Analysis

The analysis follows a systematic line-by-line approach. Each selected line from the speeches is examined individually. For every line, hidden assumptions are identified. Contradictions within the statement are analyzed. Binary oppositions are extracted and examined for hierarchy and instability. A deconstructive interpretation of meaning is derived, showing how meaning is relational and unstable. This structured approach ensures consistency and depth in the analysis.

3.6 Rationale for Using Deconstruction

Deconstruction is particularly suitable for this study because political speeches often present fixed, authoritative meanings, while actually containing ideological biases, contradictions, and hidden power structures. By applying deconstruction, this research reveals how political discourse:

- Constructs reality rather than simply describing it
- Depends on oppositions and exclusions
- Produces meanings that are unstable and open to reinterpretation

3.7 Limitations of the Study

The study focuses on selected lines rather than full speeches, which may limit broader contextual interpretation. Interpretation is qualitative and may vary depending on the researcher’s perspective. The analysis is limited to deconstruction and does not incorporate other frameworks like CDA in detail.

4. Thematic Section

The thematic analysis of the selected speeches by Donald Trump identifies key patterns of power, conflict, national pride, technological progress, economic influence, and global instability. These themes are not fixed but are shaped through ideological language and shifting contexts. The analysis also includes literal and contextual interpretation to understand surface and situational meanings, along with deconstructive elements such as hidden assumptions, contradictions, and binary oppositions that expose instability in meaning. This combined approach highlights how political discourse constructs and simultaneously unsettles meaning. For better understanding, the following table presents the selected lines along with speaker and context:

Table 3. Utterances and context

| Sr. No. | Line | Speaker | Context |
|---------|---|--------------|------------------------|
| 1 | “Let me begin by congratulating the team at NASA and our brave astronauts on the successful launch of Artemis 2...” | Donald Trump | 2 April Evening Speech |
| 2 | “It's amazing. They are on the way and God bless them...” | Donald Trump | 2 April Evening Speech |
| 3 | “As we speak this evening, it's been just one month since the United States military began operation epic fury...” | Donald Trump | 2 April Evening Speech |



| | | | |
|----|--|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| 4 | “In these past four weeks, our armed forces have delivered swift, decisive, overwhelming victories...” | Donald Trump | 2 April Evening Speech |
| 5 | “We did not have to wait long for an answer...” | Donald Trump | 8 April News/Press Statement |
| 6 | “He also claimed that other countries will be involved with this blockade...” | Donald Trump | 8 April Press Briefing |
| 7 | “It's a response to Iran effectively blockading the straight...” | Donald Trump | 8 April Public Statement |
| 8 | “We could hit them. We could have them all down.” | Donald Trump | 13 April Political Statement |
| 9 | “Maybe everything. Both of those things, certainly, and more.” | Donald Trump | 13 April Political/Media Interaction |
| 10 | “We can't let a country blackmail or extort the world.” | Donald Trump | 13 April Public Address |

4.1 Thematic Analysis

4.1.1 Hidden Assumptions

The selected speeches by Donald Trump contain several hidden assumptions that shape the ideological meaning of the discourse. The speeches assume that technological advancement, such as the NASA mission, naturally represents national superiority, progress, and success without considering possible limitations or risks. Similarly, the bravery of astronauts is presented as noble and justified, implying that risking human life for national or scientific achievement is acceptable and honorable. In the political and military context, the speeches assume that the United States holds moral authority, while Iran is portrayed as fully responsible for terrorism and instability. Military victories are represented as inherently positive and morally correct, suggesting that the use of force is justified when it serves national interests. The discourse further assumes that free trade and unrestricted global movement are normal conditions that should remain uninterrupted, while any disruption is presented as a threat to global order.

Another underlying assumption is that immediate military action is necessary and effective in resolving conflict, reinforcing the idea that power and control can only be maintained through force. Economic stability is also treated as the natural state of the global system, even though the speeches themselves reveal instability and crisis. Moreover, the discourse assumes that possessing superior military power guarantees dominance, security, and authority. The later lines strengthen this ideological framework by implying that expanding military or political action is justified to preserve global control and security, while the targeted country is portrayed as irrational, immoral, and responsible for threatening world order. Through these assumptions, the speeches construct a narrative that legitimizes authority, military intervention, and national dominance while marginalizing alternative perspectives.

4.1.2 Contradictions

A close reading of the selected speeches by Donald Trump uncovers multiple internal contradictions that weaken the apparent confidence and coherence of the discourse. The claim of technological progress and advancement depends upon the existence of limitations, uncertainty, and unknown risks, although these aspects remain unacknowledged in the

speeches. Similarly, the praise of astronauts' bravery indirectly highlights the presence of fear, danger, and human vulnerability, revealing that heroism exists only because risk is present. In the political and military context, the discourse repeatedly promotes peace, protection, and security while simultaneously supporting aggression, war, and military action, creating tension between the stated goal of stability and the means used to achieve it. The celebration of military victories also implies the constant possibility of defeat, showing that power is meaningful only in relation to weakness. Furthermore, the speeches present global freedom of trade and movement as normal and stable, yet they also demonstrate how easily these freedoms can be restricted through political conflict and military strategies.

Assertions of control and authority appear strong on the surface, but they are actually reactive responses to existing threats and instability, revealing that control is not absolute but dependent on external conditions. Economic stability is described as the expected condition of the global system, yet the speeches themselves acknowledge crisis, disruption, and instability. The discourse also claims absolute military power and dominance, but such strong assertions indirectly expose hidden insecurity and vulnerability. In the later lines, exaggerated claims about limitless action and power suggest uncertainty and the absence of clear limits or control. Likewise, while the speeches emphasize protecting the world from blackmail and maintaining global order, they simultaneously justify threats, pressure, and coercive power, exposing contradictions between peace and domination. These contradictions reveal that the speeches undermine their own certainty and demonstrate the unstable and relational nature of political meaning.

4.1.3 Binary Opposition

The selected speeches construct meaning through a series of binary oppositions that reveal underlying tensions within the discourse. On one level, success is framed against failure, advancement against limitation, and exploration against the unknown, suggesting that progress is always defined in relation to boundaries. Similarly, bravery is understood through its opposition to fear, life to risk, and fear to danger, indicating that heroism gains meaning only in the presence of threat. In the political dimension, peace is repeatedly contrasted with war, order with terror, and "us" with "them," reinforcing a divided worldview where stability depends on conflict. Victory is defined against defeat, power against helplessness, and strength against weakness, showing that dominance is meaningful only when vulnerability exists.

The discourse further contrasts openness with closure, freedom with restriction, and trade with blockade, highlighting how global mobility is always vulnerable to control. Action is positioned against reaction, control against chaos, and response against silence, implying that authority is often reactive rather than absolute. Stability is opposed to instability, growth to decline, and prosperity to crisis, revealing the fragile nature of economic and political order. In a similar way, attack is contrasted with defense, power with vulnerability, and dominance with submission, emphasizing the relational nature of military strength. Certainty is set against uncertainty, the limited against the unlimited, and the known against the unknown, suggesting that claims of confidence always contain ambiguity. Finally, control is opposed to threat, freedom to coercion, and legitimacy to illegitimacy, and power to vulnerability, exposing the persistent tension between authority and insecurity within the discourse.

4.1.4 Meaning (Deconstructive Interpretation)

The selected lines, when read through a deconstructive perspective, reveal that the central concepts of political discourse—such as progress, bravery, peace, power, freedom, control, and stability—do not function as fixed or self-contained meanings. Instead, each



concept gains significance only through its relationship with an opposing term, which destabilizes its apparent certainty. Progress, for instance, is not an absolute forward movement but depends on the presence of limitation, uncertainty, and unknown risks, suggesting that advancement is always defined in relation to what it is not. Similarly, bravery is not an independent virtue but emerges only in the presence of fear and danger, meaning that the heroic image is constructed through the very vulnerability it appears to transcend.

In the political sphere, peace is not presented as a neutral or natural condition; rather, it is dependent on the construction of an enemy or “other,” showing that political meaning is ideologically shaped and sustained through exclusion. Power and victory also lose their fixed stability, as they derive meaning only in contrast to weakness and defeat, implying that dominance is never complete but always dependent on its opposite. Likewise, freedom of trade and global movement appears as an ideal condition, yet it is shown to be conditional and easily restricted through political or military action, exposing the fragility of global systems.

Control and authority are further revealed to be reactive rather than inherent; they emerge in response to disorder, instability, or perceived threats, rather than existing as absolute forces. Economic stability is similarly problematized, as it is shown to be temporary and continuously exposed to external disruptions, indicating that prosperity is always vulnerable to decline. Across all these formulations, power is consistently shown to be relational—it exists only in relation to vulnerability, meaning dominance is not fixed but constantly dependent on what it seeks to suppress or overcome.

At a deeper level, meaning itself is exposed as unstable and self-differing, where certainty and uncertainty, presence and absence, or stability and instability continually overlap rather than remain separate. Even the notion of absolute power or global control collapses under scrutiny, as it depends on the existence of threat, resistance, or instability to justify itself. Ultimately, these lines demonstrate that political discourse does not simply reflect objective reality; instead, it constructs meaning through unstable oppositions that continually undermine their own claims to certainty, coherence, and permanence.

4.2 Literal Interpretation

The selected discourse presents a wide range of literal meanings centered on space exploration, military action, and global political tension. It praises NASA and highlights the Artemis 2 mission as an advanced step in human spaceflight, emphasizing progress and achievement in exploration, while also honoring astronauts for their bravery and resilience. Alongside this celebratory tone, the text shifts to military and geopolitical concerns, referring to U.S. military operations against Iran, reported victories, and anticipated further actions, which reflect an atmosphere of conflict and strategic power. It also mentions Iran’s potential move to block the Strait of Hormuz, indicating possible disruption to global trade and economic stability.

Within this context, the discourse suggests that the United States possesses strong military capability to respond to and defeat perceived threats. Additionally, some statements convey uncertainty and openness by implying that situations may include “everything” or more than what is explicitly stated, while others stress the rejection of any form of coercion such as blackmail or extortion at a global level. Collectively, these literal meanings construct a narrative that blends technological advancement, military strength, and international instability within a single geopolitical framework.

4.3 Contextual Interpretation

In a global and geopolitical context, the selected discourse reflects how space exploration, military action, and international trade are deeply interconnected with power, innovation, and ideological competition among nations. Space missions symbolize technological progress and national prestige, while also highlighting the risks involved, which in turn elevates societal admiration for courage and sacrifice in high-risk professions. At the same time, the discourse reveals underlying geopolitical tensions, where narratives of victory and strength are used to reinforce political authority and maintain public confidence. Strategic locations such as the Strait of Hormuz are presented as critical points for global oil supply and economic stability, showing how international economies remain highly sensitive to political conflict and military decisions. The emphasis on rapid response and military readiness reflects the dynamics of global power relations, where states act swiftly within an unstable international system. In addition, aggressive political positioning highlights the competitive and often confrontational nature of international relations. Within this broader framework, some statements are intentionally open-ended and expansive, emphasizing uncertainty and the possibility of multiple interpretations beyond fixed categories. Similarly, the rejection of blackmail or extortion at a global level reflects concerns about coercive state behavior and is framed as a justification for collective resistance and the maintenance of international order through power and control.

6. Conclusion

The deconstructive analysis of the selected speeches of Donald Trump during the U.S.–Iran conflict demonstrates that political discourse is not as clear, stable, or objective as it appears on the surface. While the speeches project confidence, authority, and certainty through themes of military strength, national pride, and global control, a deeper reading reveals the presence of hidden assumptions, contradictions, and binary oppositions that destabilize their meaning. This confirms that language in political contexts functions not merely as a tool of communication but as a mechanism for constructing and reinforcing particular ideological perspectives. The analysis shows that the speeches consistently rely on hierarchical binary oppositions such as strength versus weakness, peace versus war, and us versus them. These oppositions are not neutral; rather, they privilege one side while marginalizing the other. However, deconstruction reveals that each privileged term depends on its opposite for meaning, thereby challenging the hierarchy itself. For instance, the assertion of strength is meaningful only in relation to weakness, and the idea of peace is constructed through the existence of conflict. This interdependence exposes the instability of meaning and undermines the authority the speeches attempt to establish.

Furthermore, the study highlights significant contradictions within the discourse. The speeches simultaneously promote ideas of peace, protection, and stability while endorsing aggression, military action, and control. Such contradictions reveal that the text undermines its own claims, making its meaning inconsistent and open to multiple interpretations. Hidden assumptions also play a crucial role, as they present certain beliefs such as the moral superiority of one nation or the inevitability of military action as natural and unquestionable, even though they are ideologically constructed. In line with the theoretical framework of Jacques Derrida, the findings confirm that meaning is never fixed but always deferred and relational. The speeches do not convey a single, unified message; instead, they produce multiple layers of meaning that shift depending on perspective. This demonstrates that political language is inherently unstable and cannot be understood at a purely surface level. In conclusion, this study



emphasizes the importance of applying deconstruction to political discourse, as it reveals the complexities, tensions, and power structures embedded within language. By uncovering hidden meanings and challenging apparent truths, the research contributes to a deeper understanding of how political narratives are constructed and how they influence public perception in times of conflict.

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