

Hate Speech

Case study:

Greek-Macedonian

Name Dispute Solution

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Introduction

- The lecture is devoted to the language of hate used by politicians, journalists, political experts and prominent individuals when they inform or analyze the name dispute between Greece and the Republic of Macedonia(which has been going on for 27-28 years) and the possible solution of the dispute

Aim

The aim of the analysis is to determine which linguistic tools are used in presenting the information:

- the choice of lexical items,
- the choice of rhetorical tropes,
- the use of grammar and syntax,

Furthermore:

- the possible effects they might have on the public.
- to identify the ideologies that might lie behind the official speech (press releases of political parties), expert analyses or stance.

Method of analysis

- The linguistic analysis is conducted on press releases by political parties, journalists and prominent individuals that informed or expressed their stance towards the settlement of the name dispute
- (facebook and twitter - informal posts are not included in analyses)
- The analysis includes both:
 - a) Main Greek opposition parties and certain prominent individuals against the solution
 - b) Main Macedonian opposition party and Macedonian journalists against the solution

Method of analysis

The method that is applied is predominantly linguistic and partly based on Perrin (2013) classification and includes the following tools of linguistic analysis:

- Lexical analysis: the choice of words and their meaning; the use of collocations;
- The choice of rhetorical tropes such as: metaphors, metonymy, hyperboles, puns, neologisms
- Naming and reference

Why linguistic analysis?

The analysis tends to deconstruct the language as a tool for creating hate speech.

Yet, the general tendency is to try to instruct (part of) the public to identify, avoid and protect from the (hidden) bigotry and intolerance towards those who hold different opinions from oneself.

Why Critical Discourse Analysis?

Fairclough and Wodak (1997: 271–280) describe CDA as addressing social problems.

CDA concentrates upon the interaction of language, discourse and social structure (van Dijk 2014).

Ideologies contain principle attitudes or beliefs that direct the attitudes shared by group members (van Dijk 2014).

Hate Speech - Definition

“bias-motivated, hostile, malicious speech aimed at a person or a group of people because of their actual or perceived innate characteristics”... “intended to injure, dehumanize, harass, intimidate, debase, degrade and victimize the targeted groups, and to foment insensitivity and brutality against them” (Cohen-Almagor, 2011)

3 major forms:

1. harsh forms (explicit and implicit calls for violence and discrimination),
2. soft forms (statements creating negative image of an individual or a group) and
3. moderate forms (accusations)

(Source: Hate Speech in the Media and Internet Report prepared by School of Peacemaking and Media Technology in Central Asia, published in 2014)-taken from Z.Trajkova's paper presentation

Hate Speech vs Freedom of Expression

1. It is not an easy task to determine what constitutes the hate speech
2. It is not an easy task to draw a line between the freedom of expression and hate speech

Background

- Macedonia and Greece: Deal after 27-year row over a name
- After 27 years of talks - and many protests Greece and the Republic of Macedonia have settled on the formal name of **Republic of North Macedonia.**
- Greece had objected to the name Macedonia, fearing territorial claims on its eponymous northern region.
- It had vetoed the neighbour's bid to join Nato and the European Union.

(source <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-44401643>)

Greek Opposition Parties against Solution

“Since the political leadership of the country is not acting in the interests of the nation, but their own personal interests, I call on the military leadership of the country to keep their vows . To arrest Prime Minister Aleksis Tsipras, to arrest the Defense Minister and to prevent this treason. Your heads off in Prespas!”MP Barabarovissis (Golden Dawn) said in the Greek Parliament.

(source <https://www.amna.gr/en/article/267212/Golden-Dawn-barred-from-parliament-debate-after-MP-urges-military-to-arrest-PM--president>)

Greek Opposition Party

“You have given up everything. You capitulated on everything You are signing a monstrosity of an agreement that instead of solving the problems will act as a trigger for destabilisations” ... “We, the Greek people and their political parties, in spite of all the disagreements that naturally exist, have never given legitimacy to [FYROM's] irredentism. This is exactly what you are doing now. MP Antonis Samaras (New Democracy)

<https://www.amna.gr/en/article/267626/Samaras-on-name-deal-monstrosity-that-triggers-destabilisation>

Mikis Theodorakis and others....

Our country drew on an act of historical defeat and national treason with unpredictable consequences at the expense of our country and our people. At the same time, the will of the overwhelming majority of the Greek People was trampled on.....but above all the great Shame that will stigmatize us forever. Mikis Theodorakis – a famous Greek composer

<http://en.protothema.gr/mikis-theodorakis-the-agreement-with-fyrom-is-an-act-of-historic-defeat-treason/>

..... the agreement signed in Prespa is a national defeat. Yiorgos Michaelides (editor in chief)

<https://www.eleftherostypos.gr/apopseis/264212-i-symfonia-gia-to-skopiano-pnigike-stis-prespes/>

Macedonian Opposition Parties – VMRO-DPMNE

The agreement that changed the name signed by Zaev and Dimitrov with Greece is harmful and represents capitulation this humiliation should not continue

<https://vmro-dpmne.org.mk/pres-centar/pres/dogovorot-za-promena-na-imeto-koj-zaev-i-dimitrov-go-potpishaa-so-grcija-e-shteten>

Zoran Zaev and SDSM renounced the name, the nation, the identity, and the Macedonian minority. The embarrassing agreement that represents capitulation violates the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia

<https://vmro-dpmne.org.mk/pres-centar/soopshtenija/zaev-i-sdsm-se-otkazhaa-od-imeto-od-nacijata-od-identitetot-i-makedonskoto>

Macedonian Journalists against the Agreement

The operation - the liquidation of the Macedonian state and its owner the Macedonian people as a founder, has been accelerated only because the Euro-Atlantic corporate fascism, whose creator is UK and its Western European partners, and yet the main contractors are the US corrupt politicians, secret services, as well as quasi-activist –financed organizations by the Nazi psychopath George Soros are irrevocably exposed and unmasked.

<http://www.dudinka.org/%D0%BC%D0%B8%D1%80%D0%BA%D0%B0-D0%B2%D0%B5%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B2%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B0-12/>

Change of name and identity - betrayal of centuries-old national ideals. The survival of Macedonia is at risk. To be Macedonian is dangerously threatened.

<https://kurir.mk/kolumni/promena-na-imeto-i-identitetot-predavstvo-na-vekovnite-nacionalni-ideali/>

Political Experts and others

So far, however, it is only the beginning of our troubles and humiliation. Our main national institutions are eliminated, thus giving a lethal blow to the Macedonian people and everything else that has a national symbol, including tourism, anthem, money ... Complete slaughter is being planned in the process of negotiations for entry into the EU. Then they will beat us up. That's the US strategy. Risto Nikovski (ex-ambassador and political analyst)

<https://www.novamakedonija.com.mk/makedonija/politika/%D0%B8-%D1%98%D0%B0%D0%B7%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%B7%D0%B0%D0%BF%D0%BB%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BA%D0%B0%D0%BD-%D0%B2%D0%BE-%D0%BD%D0%B5%D0%B1%D1%83%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B7%D0%B8/>

Heads off! Macedoniaans! Can't you see the kind of state that is being made up by Baily and Zaev. Stevco Jakimovski (ex mayor of a municipality in Skopje)

<http://infomax.mk/wp/%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BB%D1%83%D0%BC%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B5%D0%B2%D1%87%D0%BE-%D1%98%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%B8%D0%BC%D0%BE%D0%B2%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B8-%D1%9C%D0%B5-%D0%BB%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%B0%D0%B0/>

Linguistic tools

1. Careful selection of words –emotionally coloured to maximize the effect of the so-called “damage done by signing the agreement”

ex. treason, heads off, to arrest, monstrosity, irredentism, betrayal, defeat, to trample on, shame, capitulation, humiliation, harmful, slaughter, psychopath, threatened.

Most of the words are nouns that carry a specific negative, unpleasant and frightening connotation

Linguistic tools

2. Well entrenched collocations:

historical/national defeat

national treason

great Shame

agreement that represents capitulation

betrayal of centuries-old national ideals

dangerously threatened

lethal blow

unpredictable consequences

overwhelming majority

Give excessive description and indicate some anxiety on the part of the speaker
(Machin&Mayr, 2015:37)

Linguistic tools

3. Metaphors

heads off,
the will of the Greek People was trampled on
agreement that represents capitulation
the liquidation of the Macedonian state,
its owner the Macedonian people,
the survival of Macedonia is at risk,
complete slaughter,

The use of metaphors is to foreground certain aspects and to shape people's opinion with the purpose of political manipulation– to present the agreement as an invalid, worthless and unacceptable solution of the problem (metaphors of war and killing)

Linguistic tools

4. Use of pronouns

The use of the pronoun *we*, *us* (referring to the speech / text producer and the nation Greek/Macedonian) aligned in the idea of saving the nation, identity, pride versus *you*, or *they*, *them*, conducting the betrayal, surrender, treason.

We, the Greek people have never given legitimacy to [FYROM's] irredentism.

You have given up everything.

You capitulated on everything.

They renounced the name.

Concluding remarks

- The analysis was conducted on a representative corpus collected from different news media - it proves that language plays a crucial role in constructing the language of hate
- The theoretical linguistic knowledge helps us deconstruct the possible biases and ideologies behind the speeches.

Concluding remarks

- The idea of critical language study is to reveal connections between language, power and ideology that are hidden from people (Fairclough (1989:5).
- What would be the underlying ideological motivation for presenting the agreement in a clearly negative light?
 - the fear of losing identity
 - possible irredentism
 - or simply a wish for regaining power

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