

A Cognitive Ideological Study of the Language of Power between Egypt and Ethiopia on the Renaissance Dam Crisis

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Abstract:

This research aims to investigate the cognitive ideological aspects of the language of power employed by Egypt and Ethiopia in the discourse surrounding the crisis. Employing linguistic, ideological, and cognitive analyses, the study seeks to shed light on the underlying cognitive structures and ideological frameworks that shape the communication strategies used by Egypt and Ethiopia. The study adopts a multidisciplinary approach to explore the linguistic and cognitive dimensions of the language of power. Through a comprehensive examination of official statements, speeches, media coverage, and diplomatic negotiations, the study identifies and analyzes key linguistic features and discursive patterns employed by both countries. By combining linguistic analysis with ideological and cognitive frameworks, this research aims to uncover the cognitive structures, belief systems, and power dynamics that shape the language used by both countries in the Renaissance Dam crisis. By examining the cognitive dimensions of the language of power, the study offers insights into the underlying cognitive processes that shape and are shaped by political discourse. Furthermore, the research may provide valuable implications for diplomatic efforts, conflict resolution, and effective communication strategies in similar international crises.

Keywords: Cognitive linguistics, ideological cognitive analysis, language of power, discourse analysis.

دراسة أيديولوجية إدراكية للغة القوة بين مصر وإثيوبيا حول أزمة سد النهضة

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ملخص البحث باللغة العربية

برزت أزمة سد النهضة بين مصر وإثيوبيا كقضية جيوسياسية هامة في السنوات الأخيرة، وكان لها تأثير إقليمي ودولي بشكل واضح. تعتمد الدراسة على فرضية مفادها أن اللغة تلعب دوراً مهماً في تشكيل جوانب الأزمة، وأن كلا البلدين يستخدم اللغة لتعزيز مواقفهما ومصالحهما، والترويج لقيمهما ومعتقداتهما، وتشكيل الرأي العام والتأثير على نتائج المفاوضات. ويهدف هذا البحث إلى دراسة لغوية للجوانب الأيديولوجية والإدراكية للغة القوة التي تحاول كلا من مصر وإثيوبيا استخدامها في الخطاب المتعلق بالأزمة. ومن خلال تحليل لغوي وإيديولوجي وإدراكي، تسعى الدراسة إلى إلقاء الضوء على الأنماط الإدراكية الأساسية والإطارات الأيديولوجية التي تشكل استراتيجيات التواصل المستخدمة من قبل مصر وإثيوبيا. وتتبنى الدراسة نهجاً متعدد التوجهات لاستكشاف الأبعاد اللغوية والإدراكية للغة القوة. من خلال دراسة للتصريحات الرسمية من وزارة الخارجية المصرية والإثيوبية، وكذلك من خلال عينات من الصحف المصرية والأثيوبية. كما تسعى الدراسة لتحديد وتحليل السمات اللغوية الرئيسية وأنماط الخطاب المستخدمة من قبل مصر وإثيوبيا. وتحاول الدراسة من خلال التحليل إلى استكشاف الأيديولوجيات والعمليات الإدراكية الأساسية التي تؤثر في صياغة وفهم هذه التصريحات. تستخدم الدراسة مجموعة متنوعة من الأساليب التحليلية، بما في ذلك التحليل اللغوي والتحليل الأيديولوجي والتحليل الإدراكي. وتلخص الدراسة إلى أن مصر وإثيوبيا تستخدم اللغة بطريقة تعكس مصالحهما المباشرة في أزمة سد النهضة. حيث تستخدم مصر اللغة للتأكيد على حقها التاريخي في مياه النيل، بينما تستخدم إثيوبيا اللغة للتأكيد على حقها في التنمية الاقتصادية. تشير النتائج إلى أن اللغة تلعب دوراً مهماً في أزمة سد النهضة. يمكن أن تستخدم اللغة لتعزيز آليات لحل الأزمة. وتسعى هذه الدراسة للتركيز على أهمية الطريقة التي يتم بها استخدام اللغة في الصراعات، حتى يتمكن من فهم الأسباب الكامنة وراءها وبناء حلول مستدامة.

الكلمات الرئيسية: اللغويات المعرفية، تحليل إيديولوجي، تحليل إدراكي، لغة السلطة، تحليل الخطاب، أزمة سد النهضة، الجيوسياسية.

**A Cognitive Ideological Study of the Language of Power between
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1. Background

The language that Egypt and Ethiopia use to talk about the GERD crisis is revealing of their respective positions and interests. Egypt often uses language that frames the dam as a threat to its national security. For example, Egyptian officials have referred to the GERD as a "weapon of mass destruction."

Ethiopia, on the other hand, often uses language that frames the GERD as a symbol of its development and sovereignty. For example, Ethiopian officials have referred to the GERD as a "national pride." The use of language is not just a matter of rhetoric. According to Chilton (2004:32) language can also be a way of shaping public opinion and influencing the outcome of negotiations. By using language that frames the GERD crisis in a certain way, Egypt and Ethiopia are trying to gain the upper hand in the dispute.

A cognitive ideological study of the language of power between Egypt and Ethiopia on the GERD crisis will examine how the two countries use language to construct their respective positions and interests, and to influence public opinion and the outcome of negotiations. Such a study would draw on a number of theoretical frameworks, including cognitive linguistics, critical discourse analysis, and social psychology. It would also involve analyzing a corpus of texts related to the GERD crisis, such as speeches, press releases, and news articles.

A cognitive ideological study of the language of power between Egypt and Ethiopia on the GERD crisis could provide valuable insights into the dynamics of the conflict and the prospects for resolution.

2. Significance of the Study

Language is a fundamental tool for asserting power and influencing public opinion. Analyzing the language of power in the Renaissance Dam Crisis enables the identification of power dynamics, rhetorical strategies, and persuasive tactics used by Egypt and Ethiopia. This is crucial for comprehending how power is negotiated, legitimized, and contested in geopolitical conflicts. Cognitive analysis helps uncover the cognitive structures, cognitive biases, and belief systems that shape political discourse. Examining how language is employed in the

Renaissance Dam Crisis allows us to understand how individuals perceive and interpret the crisis, as well as the cognitive mechanisms that influence decision-making and public opinion formation.

3. Purpose of the Study

The purpose of a cognitive ideological study of the language of power between Egypt and Ethiopia on the Renaissance Dam crisis is to examine how Egypt and Ethiopia use language to construct their respective positions and interests in the conflict. In addition, this study aims to identify the cognitive and ideological processes that underlie this language use. Such a study would draw on a number of theoretical frameworks, including cognitive linguistics, critical discourse analysis, and ideological perspectives. It would also involve analyzing a corpus of texts related to the GERD crisis, such as statements from the ministry of foreign affairs of both countries, press releases, and news articles.

4. Research Questions

The research attempts to investigate the following questions.

- What are linguistic strategies employed to assert power in Egyptian and Ethiopian discourse regarding the Renaissance Dam Crisis?
- What are linguistic strategies employed to assert power regarding the Renaissance Dam Crisis?
- What are the cognitive processes involved in the production and reception of the language of power in the discourse on the Renaissance Dam Crisis between Egypt and Ethiopia, and how do these cognitive processes shape the interpretation of the crisis?
- What are the ideological frameworks and belief systems that inform the language of power used by Egypt and Ethiopia in the Renaissance Dam Crisis, and how do these ideologies shape communication strategies, values, and worldviews?
- How do the language of power, cognitive processes, and ideologies interact and influence each other in shaping the negotiation dynamics, power relations, and resolution approaches in the Renaissance Dam Crisis between Egypt and Ethiopia?
- What implications do the cognitive ideological dimensions of the language of power have for diplomatic efforts, conflict resolution strategies, and the overall understanding of the Renaissance Dam Crisis between Egypt and Ethiopia?

5. Data Collection

This study collects a corpus of statements related to the Renaissance Dam Crisis from various sources, including official statements, press releases, and interviews. The corpus consists of 16 statements, 8 statements from the Egyptian side and 8 statements from the Ethiopian side. The statements are sourced from reputable and prominent Egyptian and Ethiopian newspapers, as well as statements from key government officials involved in the crisis. The corpus includes the following sources:

Egypt's Minister of Foreign Affairs (2 statements)

Ethiopian Minister of Foreign Affairs (2 statements)

Egypt's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2 statements)

Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2 statements)

Egypt's Minister of Irrigation (1 statement)

Ethiopian Minister of Irrigation (1 statement)

Three statements each from prominent Egyptian newspapers:

Al Ahram - Al Gomhuria - Al Masry Al Youm

Three statements each from prominent Ethiopian newspapers:

The Ethiopian Herald - The Reporter - Adis Fortune

The data was collected between August 6 and August 17, 2023, and was analyzed using a cognitive ideological discourse analysis approach. The analysis is divided into three levels: linguistic, ideological and cognitive. Cognitive discourse analysis is a method of discourse analysis that examines the relationship between language and thought. It draws on insights from cognitive linguistics to understand how language is used to construct and reproduce social and political realities.

6. Methodology

A cognitive ideological analysis (CIA) approach is used to analyze the statements. CIA is a CDA methodology that focuses on the relationship between language, ideology, and cognition. within the framework of critical discourse analysis (CDA) as described by Van Dijk's article "Critical Discourse Analysis" (2001). Within that framework, the selected data are analyzed in terms of the cognitive, ideological, and linguistic levels employed to produce a cognitive persuasive discourse focusing on the strategies of mental representation in the selected data. To conduct a CIA, the key topics and themes that were discussed in the statements are identified. Then the language used to discuss these topics and themes is examined. Particular attention is paid to the use of emotive language, metaphors, and framing devices. I also examined the cognitive processes that were being evoked by the language used in the statements.

A cognitive ideological study of the language of power between Egypt and Ethiopia on the Renaissance Dam crisis could use a mixed-methods

approach, combining the linguistic analysis and cognitive ideological approach. Linguistic analysis focuses on the language used in the statements, such as the choice of words, the tone of the statements, and the use of rhetorical devices. In this case, the linguistic analysis shows that both sides of the dispute are using strong language to convey their positions. The Egyptian statements use words such as "threatens" and "defend" to convey the seriousness of the issue, while the Ethiopian statements use words such as "committed" and "strengthen" to convey their determination to complete the dam and maintain good relations with Egypt.

Ideological analysis, according to Van Dijk (2006:25) focuses on the ideas and beliefs that underpin the statements. In this case, the ideological analysis showed that both sides of the dispute are basing their positions on a number of ideological frameworks, such as state sovereignty, national security, and international law. The Egyptian statements are based on the belief that the Renaissance Dam is a threat to Egypt's national security and that Egypt has the right to defend its interests. The Ethiopian statements are based on the belief that Ethiopia has the right to develop its water resources and that the Renaissance Dam is essential for its economic development.

Cognitive analysis focuses on the assumptions and reasoning that are used in the statements. In this case, the cognitive analysis showed that both sides of the dispute are making a number of assumptions about the situation. The Egyptian statements are based on the assumption that the Renaissance Dam will reduce Egypt's access to Nile River water and that this will harm Egypt's economy and security. The Ethiopian statements are based on the assumption that the Renaissance Dam will not significantly harm Egypt and that Ethiopia can complete the dam peacefully and maintain good relations with Egypt.

The combination of linguistic, ideological, and cognitive analysis provides a comprehensive understanding of the statements and the positions of the two sides of the dispute. It is important to note that this is just one possible way to analyze the corpus of data. Other methods of analysis may be more appropriate depending on the specific research questions being asked.

7. Problem Statement/Hypothesis

Language plays an important role in shaping the dynamics of the GERD crisis. Egypt and Ethiopia use language to construct their respective positions and interests, to promote their own values and beliefs, and to shape public opinion and influence the outcome of

negotiations. However, the way that Egypt and Ethiopia use language can also fuel tensions and make it more difficult to reach a resolution. For example, both sides use language that is highly emotive and that demonizes the other side. Additionally, both sides use language that is framed in terms of national security interests. A cognitive ideological study of the language of power between Egypt and Ethiopia on the Renaissance Dam Crisis would reveal that both sides use language to construct their respective positions and interests as legitimate, and to delegitimize the other country's positions and interests. Additionally, the study would reveal that both sides use language to promote their own values and beliefs, and to delegitimize the other country's values and beliefs. Finally, the study would reveal that both sides use language to shape public opinion and influence the outcome of negotiations.

8. Ideology

According to Williams (1976:126), the word “ideology,” first appeared in English in 1796, as a direct translation of the new French word “ideologie” which had been proposed in that year by philosopher Destutt de Tracy to denote the “science of ideas.” A contentious argument in CDA has been how discourse may manifest or at least implicate the ideologies of the discourse participants. By restoring the focus upon discourse in society, CDA offers an occasion to subject ideology to new methods of investigation and to formulate an explicit ideology in discourse.

Van Dijk (2004:42) explains that ideology is primarily some kind of ideas, which is “belief systems.” This implies that ideology not only contains certain ideological practices, but it also includes a cognitive component that is able to account for the notions of belief. In addition, ideologies consist of social representations that define the social identity of a group. Secondly, based on the socio cognitive foundation of any group, ideologies are gradually acquired through life experiences. Fairclough (1992a) shows that ideology is an important feature in CDA as it is the key means through which social relations of power and domination are sustained. The function of ideologies is to establish, sustain, or change power relations in society.

For Fairclough (1992a), the concepts of ideologies are constructions of reality which are built into various dimensions of discursive practices. Through power relations implicit in discourse, ideology can appear. This makes the discourse a mode of producing, reproducing, or transforming social identities, social relations, and systems of knowledge and belief. Fairclough (1992a) makes three claims about ideology, based in part on

the French Marxist philosopher, Althusser. Fairclough (1992a) explains that ideology functions in discourse in the following points:

1- Ideology has a material basis in the social practices of institutions, as a form of social practice, discourse practices are material forms of ideology.

2- Ideology and control appear through dominant discourse in terms of what the Marxist theorist and activist Gramsci called “hegemony.”

Hegemony is a form of control through consensus, as contrasted with control based on coercion (force or threat of force). For Fairclough (1992a), hegemony operates through orders of discourse of a society and institutions such as education, media, business. Belsey (1980:5) shows that ideology is “inscribed in discourse, it is not a separate element which exists independently in some free-floating realm of ideas.... but a way of thinking, speaking, experiencing.” It is generally assumed in CDA that innocent and neutral form and substance of discourse appears on the surface, it is thoroughly charged with the biases, constraints, opinions and variable judgements.

Macdonell (1986:59) believes that all discourses are “ideologically positioned: none are neutral.” Ideology plays a crucial role in Van Dijk’s analytical method. He offers a schema of relations between ideology, society, cognition and discourse. Within social structures, social interaction takes place. This social interaction is presented in the form of text, which is then cognized according to the memory system. This system consists of two levels. First, short-term memory whereby strategies process or decoding and interpretation take place.

Second, long-term memory serves as holder of socio-cultural knowledge, which consists of knowledge of language, discourse, communication, groups existing in the form of scripts. Social attitudes reside within long-term memory. Each of these attitudes can represent an array of ideologies which combine to create one’s own personal ideology that conforms to one’s identity, goals, social position, values and resources (Van Dijk, 1991:44-45). In this respect, Van Dijk (1995c:248) elaborates:

Ideologies are basic frameworks of social cognition, shared by members of social groups, constituted by relevant selections of socio-cultural values, and organized by ideological schemata that represents self-definition of a group. Besides their social function of sustaining the interests of group, ideologies have the cognitive function of organizing the social representations, attitudes, knowledge, of the group, and

thus indirectly monitor the group-related practices, and hence also the text and talk of its members.

As one can understand from the previous quotation, Van Dijk (1995c) shows that ideologies have a cognitive function of systemizing the social representation and attitudes of the group in society. Thus, according to Van Dijk (1995c:243), “ideologies” can be viewed as “basic systems of fundamental social cognitions.” They form the socially shared, valued based framework, and they are used by members of social groups. Van Dijk (1995c:244) identifies seven characteristics of ideology. First, ideologies are cognitive and are based on belief systems. Although they are social, political, and related to groups, ideologies involve mental objects such as ideas, thoughts, beliefs, judgments and values. They are the abstract basis of the socially shared belief systems of any group.

Second, ideologies are social, that is they have been defined in sociological or some economic terms. They have been related to groups, or group conflicts, and hence to "social power and dominance as well as their legitimation." Van Dijk (1995:245), however, claims that dominant groups are not the only possessors of ideology, dominated groups also have their ideologies that control their self-identification.

Third, ideologies are socio-cognitive, that is, they are both cognitive, involving basic principles of perception, judgments, knowledge, and understanding and social values, shared by members of groups or institutions, and related to the socio-economic or political interests of these groups. Fourth, ideologies are not true or false, rather they represent the partisan, self serving truth of a social group. They are efficient frameworks of interpretation of such groups if they are able to further the interests of these groups.

Fifth, ideologies may have various degrees of complexity. They range from simple and basic propositions to complex and well-organized frameworks such as, the ideologies of democracies or socialism. Sixth, ideologies have contextual variable manifestations. Personal and contextual variation of ideological discourse may be due to the existence of several groups with several ideologies, general social norms or laws.

Lastly, ideologies are general and abstract. They are situation-independent. Their expressions may be locally produced and contextually constrained. It is important to mention that ideology can be also manipulated for the abuse of power since our mental representation and misrepresentation of the distribution of power in our society is governed and sustained by ideology.

Ideology is generally viewed as the set of shared values and beliefs established in a certain community, but not necessarily esteemed by all

the members of that community. Moreover, ideology is a social concept that controls the thinking of the different social groups whether ethnic, class or gender groups. It is also relative in the sense that what seems true for one group may appear false for the other. According to Thompson (1990:7), ideology is used in the critical sense to refer to “the ways in which meaning serves, in particular circumstances, to establish and sustain relations of power.”

In this sense, ideology is closely linked to power because when we rely on the ideologies set in our mind, we tend to naturalize things such as existing power relations believing that they are legitimate while they are not. Thompson (1990:56) suggests that “ideological phenomena are meaningful symbolic phenomena in so far as they serve, in particular social-historical circumstances, to establish and sustain relations of domination.”

8.1 Classification of Ideology

Thompson (1990:64) proposes five modes by which ideology can operate in discourse, naming them “modus operandi,” and classifying them as the following:

Unification: such ideological strategy, according to Thompson (1990:64), involves dissolving differences between individual and putting them in a collective unity that overcomes racial, religious, social, gender or political differences, such strategy can be employed by two ways. It can be achieved by *standardization* whose symbolic forms that are used to deliver the message (1990:64). The second way is achieved by the *symbolization of unity* which involves binding individuals together by producing symbols of unity and collective identity.

The second mode of operation, *legitimation* strategy, aims at representing relations of power and domination by three sub-branches. *Rationalization*, “whereby the producer of a symbolic form constructs a chain of reasoning which seeks to defend or justify a set of social relations or institutions, and thereby to persuade an audience,” Thompson (1990:61). The second sub-way is *universalization*, where certain concepts held by few individuals are represented as serving the interests of all. The third sub-way is *narrativization* which involves stories that “recount the past and treat the present as part of cherished tradition.” Thompson (1990:610). *Narrativization* involves reference to the traditions and history of the community to create a sense of belonging.

The third ideological mode of operation is *dissimulation*, whereby power is maintained by “being concealed, denied or obscured, or by being represented in a way which deflects attention from existing relations.”

(Thompson, 1990:62) One of the strategies used for activating this ideological mode is displacement which is a process where ‘a term customarily used to refer to one object or individual is used to refer to another.’ *Euphemization* is another strategy used to achieve *dissimulation*, where “actions, institutions or social relations are described or re-described in terms which elicit a positive valuation.” (Thomson 1990:62)

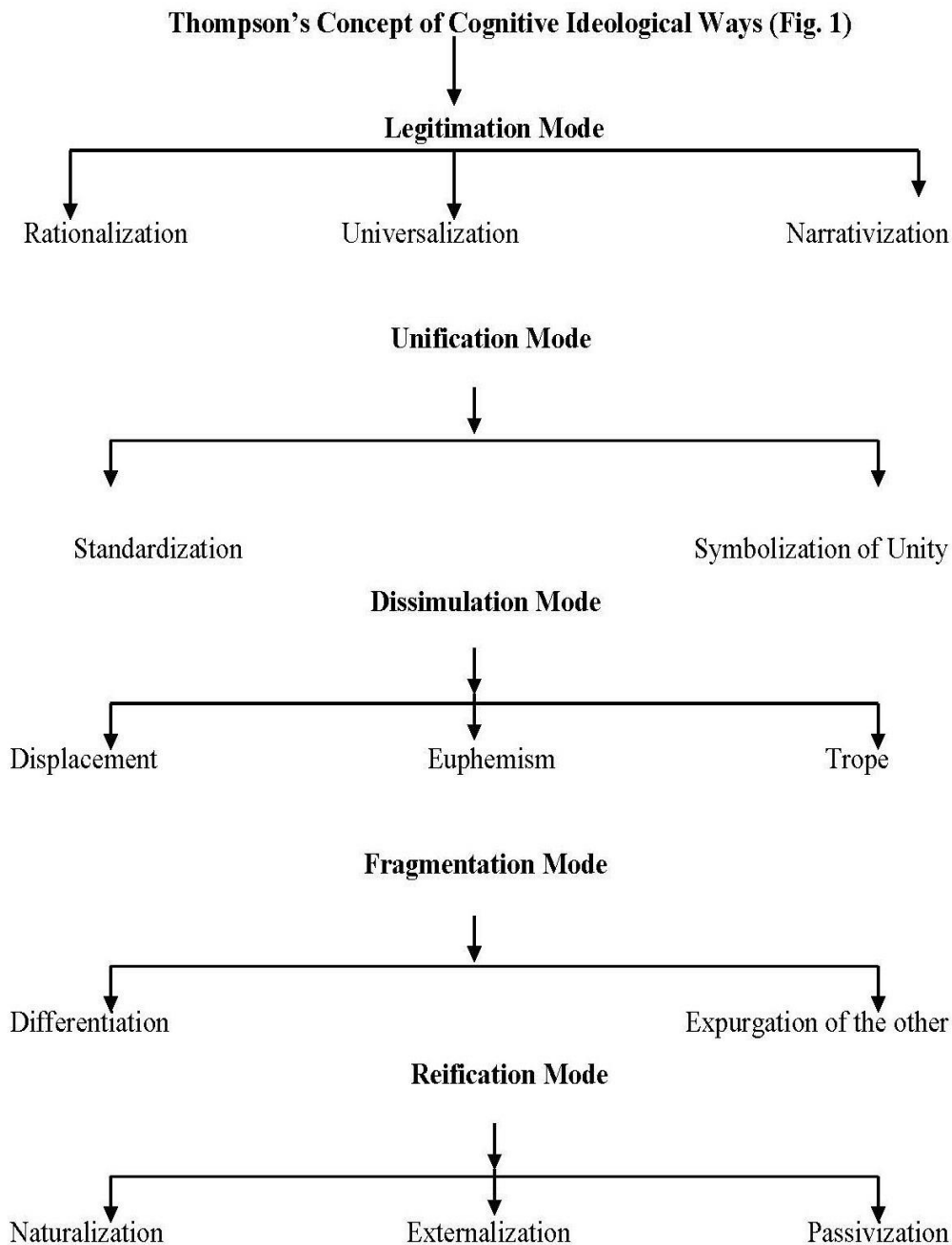
Tropes “figurative language” plays a great role in achieving *dissimulation*. Examples of tropes would be synecdoche (using a part to refer to the whole or vice versa) or metaphor. Each of these techniques is used to dissimulate social relations by different methods. One obvious example of the previous concepts is what Obama shows in his speeches. Obama employs this ideological approach of using the concrete to abstract metaphor by using the dynamic and concrete words and combines it with the concept of ideas. In contrast to *unification* mode, *fragmentation* maintains power relations. In this track, Thompson (1990:65) affirms the following:

Fragmentation is achieved not by unifying individuals in a collectivity, but by fragmenting those individuals and groups that might be capable of mounting effective challenge to the dominant group, or by orienting forces of potential opposition towards a target which is projected as evil, harmful or threatening.

Based upon the previous utterance, fragmentation is used when there are mounting challenges to the controlling group in society. Such strategy is employed by two ways, *differentiation*, which focuses on the differences and divisions between groups of potential power, thus preventing them from challenging existing relations or individuals of power. The other strategy in this mode is *expurgation* of the other, which involves constructing an evil and threatening enemy which calls individuals to unite together in order to challenge, resist and expurgate the threats and evil of that enemy.

Thompson (1990) observes that this strategy often overlaps with strategies of unification since it calls for uniting individuals in the face of the enemy creating a unified strategy. The last mode of ideological operation is *reification*. *Reification* establishes and sustains relations of domination by representing a transitory, historical state of affairs as if it were permanent, natural, outside of time” (Thompson 1990:65). There are different methods that refer to reification. First, *naturalization*, which occurs where a state of affairs may be treated as a natural event. Second, *externalization*, which portrays a state of affairs as permanent

unchanging. Third, *passivization*, which focuses the attention of the hearer or reader on certain themes at the expense of others.



In his agreement with Thompson's view of ideology, Van Dijk (2006:117) reviews the cognitive-socio function of ideology in discourse as ideologies organize and ground the social representations shared by members of groups. Secondly, they are the ultimate basis of the discourses and other social practices of the group members. Thirdly, they allow members to organize and coordinate their joint actions and

interactions in view of the goals and interest of the group as a whole. Finally, they function as part of the socio-cognitive interface between social structures of groups on the one hand, and their discourses on the other hand.

Therefore, some ideologies may function to legitimate domination, but also to articulate resistance in relationships of power. Van Dijk (2006) argues that the link between ideologies and discourse is indirect, because between ideologies and discourse, there is the presence of social cognitions, such as attitudes, opinions and knowledge, as well as personal cognitions, such as models.

Opinions are typically used, expressed, acquired and changed by discourse in communicative interactive contexts. It is important to mention that ideology is a concept that has to do with judgments, attitudes, and beliefs. It is a psychological framework that can be explained at various levels in discourse like the propositional, lexical and cognitive levels. The presence of ideology as an implied characteristic in language means that language can construct different views based upon shared beliefs and attitudes. What is related to ideology as a concept underlying the notion of shared beliefs and attitudes is the notion of racism in discourse. There have been various definitions of the word “power” suggested by Pennycook (2001). Pennycook (2001:91) summarizes the concept of power in discourse as:

- A) Power is not something owned or possessed, but rather something that operates throughout society.
- B) Power does not have some ultimate location or origin.
- C) Relation of power is not outside other relations but is part of them.
- D) Power is always linked to resistance where there is power, there is resistance.
- E) Power is not just repressive but is also productive.

Van Dijk (1993b:154) points out that power is the exercise of control by members of one group over another one. This exercise of power could take the form of controlling other’s social actions and mental cognition. Control of others’ actions is achieved through limiting the freedom of their actions, while control of cognition is employed by influencing others’ minds by applying persuasive techniques. Fairclough (1989:2) attempts to find a close relation between power as a mental representation and ideology by confirming the following:

The nature of the ideological assumptions embedded in particular conventions, and so the nature of those conventions themselves, depends on the power relations which underlie the conventions; and because they are

means of legitimizing existing social relations and differences of power.

Based on the previous statement, power, as understood in CDA, is neither a unitary force nor an exclusively political phenomenon. Power is woven throughout all our practices and ideas. It is exercised in every relationship, and it is not necessarily abusive social order, but relies on the ability of one person or group to coerce another person or group. Van Dijk (1997:17) classifies the notion of power into two types: the coercive power “use of force” and the mental power “controlling others’ minds.”

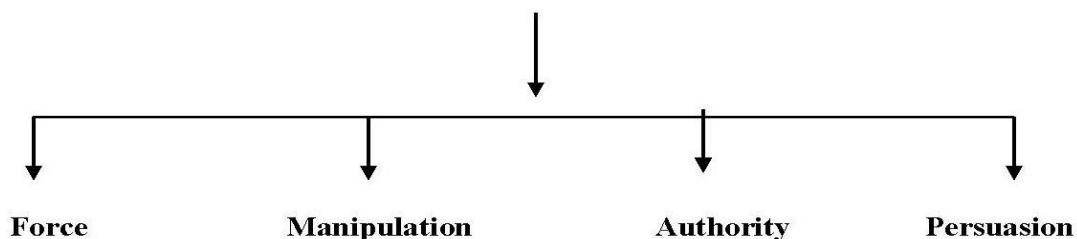
From the previous utterance, power can be used to produce pleasure, knowledge and discourse, and it can simply be more than as a negative notion. As Hodge and Kress (1993) clarify the notion of power in discourse, Bloor and Bloor (1995:233) argue that language and power are linked since “political or national power can be reflected in the language and language in turn can reinforce such power.” They explain that “the exertion of power by individuals with certain social roles in particular social situations is often revealed in the form of the language,” Bloor and Bloor (1995:234).

The use of language in everyday life contributes to the realization of goals. Language, as a power-related concept, provides conventional resource for influencing people attitudes and behaviour. Influence attempts may take the form of persuasion, argumentation, or use of threats, promises.

8.2 Classification of Power

Wrong (1995:22) develops the concept of power which should be based on the individual’s capacity, i.e., a person, who possesses the capacity to exercise any form of power and who is able in turn to produce an intended effect, is an example of a powerful person. Wrong (1995:22) distinguishes between different forms of power: force, manipulation, persuasion, and authority.

Wrong’s Concept of Power (Fig. 2)

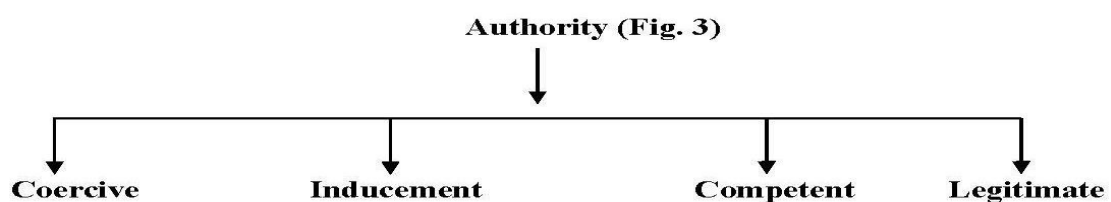


Force, however, is often employed not just to eliminate someone's capacity to act, but to establish in the mind the future credibility of the power holders' willingness and capability to use force. It would not be accurate to confine the term force to physical aspects, as there is also a form of conduct, often described as psychological or moral force. The psychological form of force and violence may have institutionalized forms like ritual ceremonies, and the pronouncement of curse. Damage to the psyche is surely as real as damage to the body. Psychological violence, in which the intended effect of the perpetrator is to inflict mental or emotional harm, is connected with physical violence and has the same effect or stronger than the physical one.

Manipulation, according to Wrong (1995:28), is the concept of power holder concealing his intention to influence his listeners to follow his wishes. Such an exercise of power is unlikely to evoke resistance of power as a person is unaware of the effort to influence him. Yet, such apparently positive uses of manipulation have not escaped the suspicion that clings to this form of power, a suspicion aroused by the person's ignorance as to whether he has been manipulated and the manipulator's concealed purpose.

Manipulation may also occur where there is no social relation between the power holder and the power subject and the latter may not even be aware of the power holder's existence. This can take the form that power holder may exercise concealed control over the power subject through symbolic communications designed to make veiled suggestions, to limit or determine selectivity of the power subject. Many commercial advertising forms involve this kind of manipulation.

Manipulation has a more negative reputation than perhaps any other form of power, suggesting cunning and malign purpose on the part of the manipulator. It is a form of power that cannot be openly resisted by the power subject, since he is unaware of the power holder's intent. If the essence of persuasion, (see below), is the presentation of arguments, the essence of authority is the issuance of commands. Authority is the untested acceptance of other's judgment, whereas persuasion is the tested acceptance of other's judgment. In authority, there are sub-branches as the following:



Wrong (1995:41) explains that coercive authority means “for A to obtain B’s compliance by threatening him with force, B must be convinced of both A’s capability and willingness to use force against him.” Coercive authority is considered as the most effective form of power in extensiveness, comprehensiveness and intensity with the exception of the actual force. Coercive authority is potentially the most extensive form of power, because it requires bare minimum communication and mutual understanding between the power holder and power subject to compel the latter’s obedience.

Authority by inducement is the counterpart of coercive authority based on inducement, or the offering of rewards for compliance with a command rather than threatening deprivations. Authority by inducement employs positive sanctions to bring about obedience on the part of the power subject rather than the threat of negative sanctions. Authority by inducement resembles a reciprocal, implicitly egalitarian exchange relationship in which A promises B a reward or service in return for B’s performance of an action desired by A.

Competent authority is a power relation in which the subject obeys the directions of the authority as he believes in the authority’s superior competence or expertise to decide which actions will serve the subject interests and goals. The most common illustration of competent authority has been the physician-patient relationship. The authority of doctors’ orders may be taken as the prototype of competent authority. The doctor who says “stop drinking or you will be dead within a year” is not threatening to kill the patient should the patient refuse to comply. The doctor’s authority does not rest on the ability to impose any coercive sanctions, nor is the doctor appealing to moral obligation to be obeyed by the patient.

Legitimate authority is a power relation in which the power holder possesses an acknowledged right to command and the power subject has an acknowledged obligation to obey. The source rather than the content of any particular command endows it with legitimacy and induces willing compliance on the part of the power subject. The shared norms that constitute a legitimate authority relation are not shared exclusively by two parties. They are shared within a larger group or community to which both belong.

Two friends or lovers may create a set of reciprocal expectations in which one comes to take for granted a right to command and the other an obligation to obey, but such interpersonal relationship may not be of legitimate authority. Although it may be properly described as one of

personal authority, the authority of a parent over a child or master over a servant is a relation of legitimate authority because the norms of the larger society uphold it.

9. Data analysis

This section mainly deals with examples of both Egyptian and Ethiopian statements quoted from different newspapers. The analysis, which is divided into three main levels; linguistic, ideological, cognitive, will include a corpus of statements related to the Renaissance Dam Crisis from various sources, including official statements, press releases, and interviews. The corpus consists of 16 statements, 8 statements from the Egyptian side and 8 statements from the Ethiopian side. The statements are sourced from reputable and prominent Egyptian and Ethiopian newspapers, as well as statements from key government officials involved in the crisis. The corpus includes the following sources:

9.1 Egyptian Statement

"Egypt is prepared to take all necessary measures to protect its national security, including the use of military force."

Source: Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry, interviewed in the Egyptian newspaper Al-Ahram, August 6, 2023

Linguistic analysis

This statement is an example of the use of the language of security and threat by the Egyptian government. The use of the phrase "all necessary measures" suggests that Egypt is prepared to take any action necessary to protect its national security, including the use of military force. The use of the phrase "existential threat" is also highly inflammatory, as it suggests that the dam poses a serious and imminent danger to Egypt's very existence. On the Grammatical structures: The use of the present tense suggests that Egypt is ready to take action immediately. The use of the passive voice suggests that Egypt is the victim of aggression.

Cognitive analysis

The use of this language is likely to have a number of cognitive effects. First, it is likely to increase fear and anxiety among the Egyptian public. Second, it is likely to make the Ethiopian government appear more hostile and threatening. Third, it is likely to make it more difficult for the two countries to reach a peaceful resolution to the conflict. Emotional appeals: The use of the following language appeals to the emotions of the Egyptian public:

- The use of the phrase "existential threat" is designed to create a sense of fear and anxiety.
- The use of the phrase "all necessary measures" is designed to create a sense of resolve and determination.

- The use of the phrase "national security" activates a schema of Egypt as a vulnerable nation that needs to be protected.
- The use of the phrase "military force" activates a schema of Egypt as a powerful nation that is willing to use force to protect its interests.

Ideological analysis

This statement reflects the Egyptian government's perception of the dam as a threat to its power and dominance in the Nile basin. The use of the language of security and threat is an attempt to assert Egypt's right to control the Nile River and to prevent Ethiopia from challenging its dominance.

- Power and dominance: The use of the language of security and threat is an attempt to assert Egypt's power and dominance in the Nile basin.
- National identity: The use of the phrase "national security" is an attempt to reinforce Egyptian national identity and to rally public support for the government's position.

9.2 Ethiopian Statement:

"Ethiopia is ready to resolve the crisis with Egypt peacefully."

Source: Ethiopian Foreign Minister Workneh Gebeyehu, interviewed in the Ethiopian newspaper Addis Fortune, August 7, 2023

Linguistic analysis

This statement reaffirms Ethiopia's commitment to a peaceful resolution of the crisis. It suggests that Ethiopia is willing to negotiate with Egypt to find a mutually agreeable solution. Lexical choices: The use of the following words and phrases is particularly significant:

- (Ethiopia): This word identifies the speaker and asserts Ethiopia's agency and independence.
- (with Egypt): This phrase acknowledges Egypt's role in the conflict and expresses a willingness to work together to find a solution.
- (peacefully): This phrase emphasizes Ethiopia's commitment to a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

Grammatical structures: The use of the following grammatical structures is also significant:

- The use of the active voice suggests that Ethiopia is taking control of the situation and is committed to finding a solution.
- The use of the present tense suggests that Ethiopia is ready to take action immediately.

Cognitive analysis

The use of this language is likely to have a number of cognitive effects. First, it is likely to reduce fear and anxiety among the Ethiopian public by creating a sense of hope and optimism. Second, it is likely to make the Egyptian government appear more reasonable and cooperative. Third, it is likely to make it more likely that the two countries will be able to reach a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

Ideological analysis

This statement reflects the Ethiopian government's perception of the dam as a regional development project that will benefit all countries in the Nile basin. The use of the language of peace and cooperation is an attempt to reassure Egypt that Ethiopia is not trying to harm its interests.

The statement "Ethiopia is ready to resolve the crisis with Egypt peacefully" is a clear example of the use of language to construct power and legitimacy. The Ethiopian government is using the language of peace and cooperation to promote its image as a responsible member of the international community and to reassure Egypt that the dam will not harm its interests.

The statement is also significant because it is framed in terms of Ethiopia's agency and independence. The use of the phrase "Ethiopia is ready" suggests that Ethiopia is in control of the situation and is committed to finding a solution. The use of the phrase "with Egypt" acknowledges Egypt's role in the conflict, but it also emphasizes that Ethiopia is an equal partner in the negotiations.

Overall, the statement "Ethiopia is ready to resolve the crisis with Egypt peacefully" is a well-crafted and strategically ambiguous statement that serves a number of purposes. It is a statement of peace and cooperation, but it is also a statement of Ethiopia's agency and independence. It is a statement that is likely to resonate with both domestic and international audiences. The use of the word "crisis" in the statement is significant. It suggests that the situation is serious and urgent, but it also implies that a solution is possible. The use of the phrase "resolve the crisis" is also significant. It suggests that Ethiopia is committed to finding a lasting solution, rather than simply managing the conflict. The statement is framed in terms of Ethiopia's willingness to work with Egypt to find a solution. This is important because it acknowledges Egypt's concerns and suggests that Ethiopia is not simply trying to impose its own solution. Overall, the statement "Ethiopia is ready to resolve the crisis with Egypt peacefully" is a well-crafted and effective statement that is likely to achieve its desired objectives.

9.3 Egyptian Statement

"Ethiopia does not want to reach a fair and equitable agreement on the Renaissance Dam."

Source: Egyptian Foreign Ministry statement, published in the Egyptian newspaper Al-Gomhuria, August 8, 2023

Linguistic Analysis

This statement accuses Ethiopia of being intransigent and unwilling to compromise in negotiations. It suggests that Ethiopia is not interested in finding a mutually agreeable solution to the crisis.

Lexical choices: The use of the following words and phrases is particularly significant:

- (Ethiopia does not want): This phrase asserts that Ethiopia is deliberately choosing not to reach a fair and equitable agreement.
- (to reach a fair and equitable agreement): This phrase sets a high standard for what a successful agreement would look like.
- (the Renaissance Dam): This phrase highlights the importance of the dam to Ethiopia and the stakes involved in the negotiations.
- Grammatical structures: The use of the following grammatical structures is also significant:
 - The use of the negative voice suggests that Ethiopia is actively preventing an agreement from being reached.
 - The use of the present tense suggests that this is Ethiopia's current position, and that it is unlikely to change anytime soon.

Cognitive analysis

The use of this language is likely to have a number of cognitive effects. First, it is likely to increase anger and resentment among the Egyptian public. Second, it is likely to make the Ethiopian government appear more unreasonable and intransigent. Third, it is likely to make it more difficult for the two countries to reach a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

Ideological analysis

This statement reflects the Egyptian government's perception of Ethiopia as a threat to its national security. The accusation that Ethiopia does not want to reach a fair and equitable agreement is an attempt to justify Egypt's own hardline stance in the negotiations. The statement "*Ethiopia does not want to reach a fair and equitable agreement on the Renaissance Dam*" is a clear example of the use of language to construct power and legitimacy. The Egyptian government is using the language of blame and accusation to demonize Ethiopia and to justify its own actions.

The statement is also significant because it is framed in terms of Egypt's moral superiority. The use of the phrase "fair and equitable agreement" suggests that Egypt is the only party that is interested in a just and peaceful solution. The use of the phrase "the Renaissance Dam" also highlights the importance of the dam to Egypt and the stakes involved in the negotiations. Overall, the statement "*Ethiopia does not want to reach a fair and equitable agreement on the Renaissance Dam*" is a well-crafted and effective statement that is likely to achieve its desired objectives. It is a statement that is likely to resonate with the Egyptian public and to put pressure on the Ethiopian government.

9.4 Ethiopian Statement

"Egypt does not respect Ethiopia's right to development."

Source: Ethiopian Foreign Ministry statement, published in the Ethiopian newspaper The Reporter, August 9, 2023

Linguistic analysis

This statement accuses Egypt of trying to prevent Ethiopia from developing its water resources. It suggests that Egypt is putting its own interests ahead of the interests of the region. The statement is grammatically simple, but it is carefully worded to achieve its desired effect. The use of the following words and phrases is particularly significant:

(Egypt): This word identifies the target of the accusation.

(does not respect Ethiopia's right to development): This phrase accuses Egypt of violating Ethiopia's fundamental rights.

The use of the negative voice suggests that Egypt is actively preventing Ethiopia from developing its water resources. The use of the present tense suggests that this is Egypt's current position, and that it is unlikely to change anytime soon.

Cognitive analysis

The use of this language is likely to have a number of cognitive effects on the reader. First, it is likely to increase anger and resentment among the Ethiopian public. Second, it is likely to make the Egyptian government appear more unreasonable and imperialistic. Third, it is likely to make it more difficult for the two countries to reach a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

Ideological analysis

This statement reflects the Ethiopian government's perception of Egypt as a threat to its development and sovereignty. The accusation that Egypt does not respect Ethiopia's right to development is an attempt to justify Ethiopia's own actions and to rally public support for its position in the negotiations.

The statement is also significant because it is framed in terms of Ethiopia's moral superiority. The use of the phrase "Ethiopia's right to development" suggests that Ethiopia is simply trying to develop its natural resources and that Egypt is trying to prevent it from doing so.

The previous statement is a well-crafted and effective statement that is likely to achieve its desired objectives. It is a statement that is likely to resonate with the Ethiopian public and to put pressure on the Egyptian government.

9.5 Egyptian Statement

"The Renaissance Dam is an existential threat to Egypt."

Source: Egyptian Minister of Irrigation Mohamed Abdel Ati, interviewed in the Egyptian newspaper Al-Watan, August 10, 2023

The statement (The Renaissance Dam is an existential threat to Egypt) is a powerful one, both linguistically, ideologically, and cognitively. Linguistically, the statement uses strong language to create a sense of urgency and danger. The word (dam) is evocative of a large and powerful structure, while the word (renaissance) suggests that the dam is a symbol of Ethiopia's growing power and ambition. The phrase (constitutes an existential threat) is even more alarming, as it suggests that the dam could pose a threat to Egypt's very existence.

Ideologically, the statement reflects Egypt's deep-seated concerns about the Nile River. Egypt is a desert country, and the Nile is its only major source of water. The Renaissance Dam is being built upstream of Egypt, and Egypt fears that the dam will reduce its water supply. This would have a devastating impact on Egypt's agriculture, economy, and society as a whole.

Cognitively, the statement plays on Egypt's fears of insecurity and vulnerability. Egypt has a long history of conflict with its neighbors, and it is surrounded by countries that are much larger and more populous. The Renaissance Dam exacerbates Egypt's sense of insecurity, as it gives Ethiopia the ability to control Egypt's water supply.

Overall, the statement is a powerful and effective one. It uses strong language, ideology, and cognitive biases to create a sense of urgency, danger, and insecurity. This statement is likely to resonate with Egyptian audiences, and it could be used to justify further military action against Ethiopia.

9.6 Ethiopian Statement

"The dam benefits all countries in the region."

Source: Ethiopian Minister of Water and Energy Habtamu Itfa, interviewed in the Ethiopian newspaper Addis Standard, August 11, 2023

This statement frames the Renaissance Dam as a regional development project that will benefit all countries in the Nile basin. It suggests that the dam is not just a project for Ethiopia's benefit, but that it will also benefit Egypt and other countries in the region.

These are just a few examples of the many ways in which the Egyptian and Ethiopian media are framing the Renaissance Dam Crisis. The different framing of the crisis reflects the different interests and perspectives of the two countries. Egypt is concerned about the potential impact of the dam on its water security, while Ethiopia is focused on the potential benefits of the dam for its own development. The statement (The dam benefits all countries in the region) is a powerful one, both linguistically, ideologically, and cognitively.

Linguistically, the statement uses positive language to create a sense of harmony and cooperation. The word (dam) is associated with water, which is a vital resource for all countries in the region. The word (benefit) suggests that the dam will have a positive impact on all countries involved.

Ideologically, the statement reflects Ethiopia's desire to be a good neighbor and a regional leader. Ethiopia is the upstream country on the Nile River, and it has a responsibility to manage the river's resources in a way that benefits all countries involved. The Renaissance Dam is a symbol of Ethiopia's commitment to regional cooperation and development.

Cognitively, the statement appeals to the shared interests of all countries in the region. All countries in the region need water to survive and thrive. The Renaissance Dam will provide all countries with access to more water, which can be used to improve agriculture, generate electricity, and create jobs.

Overall, the statement "*The dam benefits all countries in the region.*" is a powerful and effective one. It uses positive language, ideology, and cognitive biases to create a sense of harmony, cooperation, and shared interests. This statement is likely to resonate with audiences in all countries in the region, and it could be used to promote regional cooperation and development.

It is important to note that there are different perspectives on the Renaissance Dam. Some people believe that the dam will benefit all countries in the region, while others believe that it will harm some countries more than others. The linguistic, ideological, and cognitive analysis of the statement above is based on the perspective of the Ethiopian government.

9.7 Egyptian Statement

"Egypt is keen to reach a fair and equitable agreement on the Renaissance Dam, but Ethiopia is intransigent and refuses to make any concessions."

Source: Egyptian Foreign Ministry statement in Al-Ahram, August 12, 2023

Linguistic analysis:

The statement uses strong language to create a sense of urgency and imbalance. The word (keen) suggests that Egypt is eager to reach an agreement, while the word (intransigent) suggests that Ethiopia is being stubborn and unreasonable. The phrase (refuses to make any concessions) is even more alarming, as it suggests that Ethiopia is not willing to compromise.

Ideological analysis:

The statement reflects Egypt's position on the Renaissance Dam. Egypt believes that the dam poses a threat to its water security, and it has been demanding a fair and equitable agreement that would protect Egypt's interests. The statement also reflects Egypt's frustration with Ethiopia's refusal to compromise.

Cognitive analysis:

The statement plays on Egypt's fears of insecurity and vulnerability. Egypt is a desert country, and the Nile is its only major source of water. The Renaissance Dam is being built upstream of Egypt, and Egypt fears that the dam will reduce its water supply. This would have a devastating impact on Egypt's agriculture, economy, and society as a whole.

Overall, the statement is a powerful and effective one. It uses strong language, ideology, and cognitive biases to create a sense of urgency, danger, and insecurity. This statement is likely to resonate with Egyptian audiences, and it could be used to justify further military action against Ethiopia.

9.8 Ethiopian Statement

"Ethiopia is committed to a peaceful solution and to respecting the rights of all downstream countries."

Source: Ethiopian Foreign Ministry statement in The Ethiopian Herald, August 13, 2023

The Ethiopian Foreign Ministry statement in The Ethiopian Herald on August 13, 2023 is a powerful one, both linguistically, ideologically, and cognitively. Linguistically, the statement uses positive language to create a sense of peace and cooperation. The word (peaceful) suggests that

Ethiopia is committed to a peaceful resolution of the conflict. The word (rights) suggests that Ethiopia respects the rights of all countries involved. Ideologically, the statement reflects Ethiopia's desire to be a good neighbor and a regional leader. Ethiopia is the upstream country on the Nile River, and it has a responsibility to manage the river's resources in a way that benefits all countries involved. The statement also reflects Ethiopia's commitment to international law and norms.

Cognitively, the statement appeals to the shared interests of all countries in the region. All countries in the region need water to survive and thrive. The statement suggests that a peaceful solution is the best way to ensure that all countries have access to the water they need.

Overall, the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry statement is a powerful and effective one. It uses positive language, ideology, and cognitive biases to create a sense of peace, cooperation, and shared interests. This statement is likely to resonate with audiences in all countries in the region, and it could be used to promote regional cooperation and development. It is important to note that there are different perspectives on the Renaissance Dam. Some people believe that the dam is a necessary development project that will benefit all countries in the region, while others believe that it is a threat to Egypt's water security. The linguistic, ideological, and cognitive analysis of the statement above is based on the perspective of the Ethiopian government.

9.9 Egyptian Statement

"The Renaissance Dam threatens Egypt's national security, and Egypt is prepared to defend its rights by all necessary means."

Source: Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry in an interview with Al-Arabiya, August 14, 2023

Linguistic Analysis

The statement is grammatically correct and consists of two main clauses: The first clause states that the Renaissance Dam threatens Egypt's national security.

The second clause states that Egypt is prepared to defend its rights by all necessary means.

The statement uses strong language to convey the message that the dam is a serious threat to Egypt. The word "threatens" is a strong verb that suggests that the dam poses a danger to Egypt's security. The word "rights" is also a strong word that suggests that Egypt has a legitimate claim to the Nile River.

Ideological Analysis

The statement is based on the ideological framework of state sovereignty, which emphasizes the importance of protecting a country's borders and interests. The statement is also based on the ideological framework of national security, which emphasizes the importance of protecting a country from external threats.

The statement is also a reflection of the Egyptian government's position on the Renaissance Dam. The Egyptian government believes that the dam is a threat to Egypt's national security and that Egypt has the right to defend its interests.

Cognitive Analysis

The statement is based on a number of assumptions, including:

The dam will reduce Egypt's access to Nile River water.

Reduced access to Nile River water will harm Egypt's economy and security.

Egypt has a right to defend its interests in the Nile River.

The statement implies that Egypt is prepared to take action, including military action, to protect its interests. The statement is a clear and concise expression of the Egyptian government's position on the Renaissance Dam. The statement is based on strong language and ideological frameworks, and it is supported by a number of assumptions. The statement is also a reflection of the Egyptian government's willingness to take action to protect its interests.

9.10 Ethiopian Statement

"Ethiopia is committed to completing the dam peacefully and wants to strengthen cooperation with Egypt."

Source: Ethiopian Foreign Minister Workneh Gebeyehu in an interview with Reuters, August 15, 2023

Linguistic Analysis

The statement is grammatically correct and consists of two main clauses:

- The first clause states that Ethiopia is committed to completing the dam peacefully.
- The second clause states that Ethiopia wants to strengthen cooperation with Egypt.

The statement uses strong language to convey the message that Ethiopia is committed to completing the dam and that it wants to maintain good relations with Egypt. The word "committed" suggests that Ethiopia is determined to finish the dam, even if it faces challenges. The word "strengthen" suggests that Ethiopia wants to make its relationship with Egypt even stronger.

Ideological Analysis

The statement is based on the ideological framework of Pan-Africanism, which emphasizes the importance of African unity and cooperation. The statement is also based on the ideological framework of economic development, which emphasizes the importance of economic growth and prosperity.

The statement is also a reflection of the Ethiopian government's position on the Renaissance Dam. The Ethiopian government believes that the dam is essential for its economic development and that it is committed to completing it peacefully. The Ethiopian government also believes that it is important to maintain good relations with Egypt.

Cognitive Analysis

The statement is based on several assumptions, including:

The Renaissance Dam is essential for Ethiopia's economic development.

Ethiopia can complete the dam peacefully.

Ethiopia and Egypt can maintain good relations even if they have different views on the dam.

The statement implies that Ethiopia is prepared to work with Egypt to resolve any differences that they may have over the dam. The statement is a clear and concise expression of the Ethiopian government's position on the Renaissance Dam. The statement is based on strong language and ideological frameworks, and it is supported by a number of assumptions. The statement is also a reflection of the Ethiopian government's willingness to work with Egypt to resolve any differences that they may have over the dam.

Statements from newspapers (Egyptian and Ethiopian)

9.11 Egyptian Statement

"Egypt warns Ethiopia against the consequences of proceeding with the filling of the Renaissance Dam without a binding agreement."

Source: Al-Ahram, August 12, 2023

Linguistic Analysis

The statement is grammatically correct and consists of three main clauses:

- The first clause states that Egypt is warning Ethiopia.
- The second clause states that Ethiopia is proceeding with the filling of the Renaissance Dam.
- The third clause states that Egypt is warning Ethiopia of the consequences of doing so without a binding agreement.

The statement uses strong language to convey the message that Egypt is serious about the consequences of Ethiopia's actions. The word "warns" suggests that Egypt is giving Ethiopia a serious warning. The word

"consequences" suggests that there will be negative consequences if Ethiopia does not heed Egypt's warning.

Ideological Analysis

The statement is based on the ideological framework of state sovereignty, which emphasizes the importance of protecting a country's borders and interests. The statement is also based on the ideological framework of national security, which emphasizes the importance of protecting a country from external threats.

The statement is also a reflection of the Egyptian government's position on the Renaissance Dam. The Egyptian government believes that the dam is a threat to its national security and that Ethiopia's actions are a violation of Egypt's sovereignty.

Cognitive Analysis

The statement is based on a number of assumptions, including:

- Ethiopia's actions are a violation of Egypt's sovereignty.
- Ethiopia's actions will have negative consequences for Egypt.
- Egypt is prepared to take action to protect its interests.

The statement explains that Egypt is prepared to take action, including military action, to protect its interests. This statement is a clear and concise expression of the Egyptian government's position on the Renaissance Dam. The statement is based on strong language and ideological frameworks, and it is supported by a number of assumptions. The statement is also a reflection of the Egyptian government's willingness to take action to protect its interests.

This statement warns Ethiopia of the consequences of proceeding with the filling of the Renaissance Dam without a binding agreement. It uses the phrase "binding agreement" to suggest that Egypt will not accept any agreement that does not protect its interests. The statement also uses the word "consequences" to create a sense of urgency and fear.

9.12 Ethiopian Statement

"Ethiopia remains committed to finding a peaceful and negotiated solution to the Renaissance Dam crisis."

Source: The Ethiopian Herald, August 13, 2023

Linguistic analysis

One of the most striking features of the statement is its use of passive voice. The phrase "Ethiopia remains committed" implies that Ethiopia is the subject of the sentence, but the actor who is responsible for Ethiopia's commitment to peace is not specified. This passive voice construction can be used to avoid naming the specific people or groups who are responsible for Ethiopia's commitment to peace, which may be useful in a

diplomatic context where it is important to avoid giving offense to any party.

Another feature of the statement is its use of the word "peaceful." This word is often used to evoke positive emotions and associations, such as harmony, cooperation, and understanding. By using this word, Ethiopia is positioning itself as a peace-loving nation that is committed to resolving the Renaissance Dam crisis through peaceful means.

The statement also uses the phrase "negotiated solution." This phrase suggests that Ethiopia is willing to compromise and work with the other parties involved in the crisis to find a mutually agreeable solution. This is in contrast to a military solution, which would be more likely to lead to violence and conflict.

Ideological Analysis

The statement "Ethiopia remains committed to finding a peaceful and negotiated solution to the Renaissance Dam crisis" is also ideologically significant. It reflects Ethiopia's commitment to the principles of diplomacy, international cooperation, and peaceful conflict resolution. These principles are important to Ethiopia because they allow it to pursue its national interests in a way that is both effective and sustainable.

The statement also reflects Ethiopia's belief that the Renaissance Dam is in the best interests of all of the countries in the Nile Basin. Ethiopia believes that the dam will provide a number of benefits to the region, including increased access to electricity, improved water management, and reduced flooding. By emphasizing its commitment to a peaceful and negotiated solution, Ethiopia is signaling its willingness to work with the other countries in the Nile Basin to ensure that everyone benefits from the Renaissance Dam.

Cognitive Analysis

The statement "Ethiopia remains committed to finding a peaceful and negotiated solution to the Renaissance Dam crisis" can also be analyzed from a cognitive perspective. This means examining the way in which the statement is likely to be processed and interpreted by people who hear or read it.

One of the key cognitive aspects of the statement is its focus on the future. The phrase "remains committed" suggests that Ethiopia's commitment to peace is not new, but rather something that has been consistent over time. This can help to build trust and confidence in Ethiopia's intentions and make it more likely that the other parties involved in the crisis will be willing to engage in negotiations.

Another important cognitive aspect of the statement is its emphasis on the process of finding a solution. The phrase "finding a solution" suggests that Ethiopia is open to exploring different options and finding a solution that works for all parties involved. This can help to reduce the likelihood of conflict and polarization and create a more conducive environment for negotiations.

Overall, the statement "Ethiopia remains committed to finding a peaceful and negotiated solution to the Renaissance Dam crisis" is a complex and nuanced one that can be analyzed from a number of different perspectives. The statement reflects Ethiopia's commitment to diplomacy, international cooperation, and peaceful conflict resolution. It also emphasizes Ethiopia's belief that the Renaissance Dam is in the best interests of all of the countries in the Nile Basin and its willingness to work with the other countries in the region to find a mutually agreeable solution.

Egyptian Statement

"Egypt will not accept any agreement that does not protect its water security."

Source: Al-Gomhuria, August 14, 2023

This statement emphasizes Egypt's determination to protect its water security. It uses the phrase "does not protect its water security" to suggest that Egypt is not willing to make any concessions on this issue. The statement also uses the word "will not" to create a sense of finality and resolve.

Linguistic Analysis

The statement is grammatically correct and consists of two main clauses:

- The first clause states that Egypt will not accept any agreement.
- The second clause states that the agreement must protect Egypt's water security.

The statement uses strong language to convey the message that Egypt is serious about protecting its water security. The word "will not accept" suggests that Egypt is determined to reject any agreement that does not meet its needs. The word "security" suggests that Egypt's water security is a vital issue.

Ideological Analysis

The statement is based on the ideological framework of state sovereignty, which emphasizes the importance of protecting a country's borders and interests. The statement is also based on the ideological framework of national security, which emphasizes the importance of protecting a country from external threats.

The statement is also a reflection of the Egyptian government's position on the Renaissance Dam. The Egyptian government believes that the dam is a threat to its water security and that it will not accept any agreement that does not protect its interests.

Cognitive Analysis

The statement is based on a number of assumptions, including:

- Egypt's water security is a vital issue.
- The Renaissance Dam is a threat to Egypt's water security.
- Egypt will not accept any agreement that does not protect its water security.

The statement also implies that Egypt is prepared to take action, including military action, to protect its water security. The statement is a clear and concise expression of the Egyptian government's position on the Renaissance Dam. The statement is based on strong language and ideological frameworks, and it is supported by a number of assumptions. The statement is also a reflection of the Egyptian government's willingness to take action to protect its interests.

9.13 Ethiopian Statement

"Ethiopia asserts its sovereign right to develop its water resources."

Source: The Reporter, August 15, 2023

Linguistic Analysis

The statement is grammatically correct and consists of two main clauses:

- The first clause states that Ethiopia asserts its sovereign right.
- The second clause states that Ethiopia's sovereign right is to develop its water resources.

The statement uses strong language to convey the message that Ethiopia is determined to develop its water resources, even if it faces opposition from other countries. The word "asserts" suggests that Ethiopia is confidently stating its right. The word "sovereign" suggests that Ethiopia has the right to make its own decisions about how to develop its water resources.

Ideological Analysis

The statement is based on the ideological framework of state sovereignty, which emphasizes the importance of protecting a country's borders and interests. The statement is also based on the ideological framework of economic development, which emphasizes the importance of economic growth and prosperity.

The statement is also a reflection of the Ethiopian government's position on the Renaissance Dam. The Ethiopian government believes that the dam is essential for its economic development and that it has the right to

develop its water resources. The Ethiopian government also believes that its right to develop its water resources is a sovereign right that cannot be infringed upon by other countries.

Cognitive Analysis

The statement is based on a number of assumptions, including:

- Ethiopia has the right to develop its water resources.
- The Renaissance Dam is essential for Ethiopia's economic development.
- Ethiopia's right to develop its water resources is a sovereign right that cannot be infringed upon by other countries.

The statement also shows that Ethiopia is prepared to take action to protect its sovereign right to develop its water resources. The statement is a clear and concise expression of the Ethiopian government's position on the Renaissance Dam. The statement is based on strong language and ideological frameworks, and it is supported by a number of assumptions. The statement is also a reflection of the Ethiopian government's willingness to take action to protect its interests.

The statement was published in the Ethiopian newspaper *The Reporter* on August 15, 2023. It came in response to the statement made by Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry on August 14, 2023, in which he said that the Renaissance Dam threatens Egypt's national security, and that Egypt is prepared to defend its rights by all necessary means.

9.14 Egyptian Statement

"Egypt calls on the international community to intervene to stop the filling of the Renaissance Dam."

Source: *Al-Masry Al-Youm*, August 16, 2023

Linguistic Analysis

The statement is grammatically correct and consists of two main clauses:

- The first clause states that Egypt is calling on the international community.
- The second clause states that Egypt is calling on the international community to stop the filling of the Renaissance Dam.

The statement uses strong language to convey the message that Egypt is serious about the issue of the Renaissance Dam. The word "calls on" suggests that Egypt is making a formal request. The word "stop" suggests that Egypt is demanding that the filling of the dam be halted.

Ideological Analysis

The statement is based on the ideological framework of international law, which emphasizes the importance of respecting the rights of all countries. The statement is also based on the ideological framework of human

rights, which emphasizes the importance of protecting the rights of all people.

The statement is also a reflection of the Egyptian government's position on the Renaissance Dam. The Egyptian government believes that the dam is a threat to its water security and that it is illegal for Ethiopia to fill the dam without an agreement with Egypt and Sudan.

Cognitive Analysis

The statement is based on a number of assumptions, including:

- The filling of the Renaissance Dam is illegal.
- The Renaissance Dam is a threat to Egypt's water security.
- The international community has a responsibility to intervene to protect Egypt's rights.

The statement also implies that Egypt is prepared to take action, including legal action, to protect its rights. The statement is a clear and concise expression of the Egyptian government's position on the Renaissance Dam. The statement is based on strong language and ideological frameworks, and it is supported by a number of assumptions. The statement is also a reflection of the Egyptian government's willingness to take action to protect its interests.

The statement which was published in the Egyptian newspaper Al-Masry Al-Youm on August 16, 2023 came in response to the announcement by Ethiopia that it would begin the second phase of filling the Renaissance Dam.

Analysis: This statement calls on the international community to intervene to stop the filling of the Renaissance Dam. It uses the word "intervene" to suggest that Egypt is willing to take the issue to the international stage if necessary. The statement also uses the phrase "stop the filling of the Renaissance Dam" to emphasize Egypt's determination to prevent Ethiopia from completing the project.

9.15 Ethiopian Statement

"Ethiopia remains committed to working with the international community."

Source: Addis Fortune, August 17, 2023

Linguistic Analysis

The statement is grammatically correct and consists of two main clauses:

- The first clause states that Ethiopia is committed to working with the international community.
- The second clause states that Ethiopia remains committed to working with the international community.

The statement uses strong language to convey the message that Ethiopia is serious about working with the international community. The word "committed" suggests that Ethiopia is determined to work with the international community, even if it faces challenges. The word "remains" suggests that Ethiopia's commitment to working with the international community is ongoing.

Ideological Analysis

The statement is based on the ideological framework of multilateralism, which emphasizes the importance of cooperation between countries. The statement is also based on the ideological framework of international law, which emphasizes the importance of respecting the rights of all countries. The statement is also a reflection of the Ethiopian government's position on the Renaissance Dam. The Ethiopian government believes that the dam is a major infrastructure project that will benefit Ethiopia and the entire region. The Ethiopian government also believes that it is important to work with the international community to ensure that the dam is filled and operated in a way that is fair and equitable to all stakeholders.

Cognitive Analysis

The statement is based on a number of assumptions, including:

- Working with the international community is important for Ethiopia's development.
- The international community is interested in working with Ethiopia.
- Ethiopia can work with the international community to resolve any differences that it may have with other countries.

Such statement implies that Ethiopia is willing to compromise and work with the international community to find mutually beneficial solutions. This statement was published in the Ethiopian newspaper Addis Fortune on August 17, 2023. It came in response to the statement made by Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry on August 16, 2023, in which he called on the international community to intervene to stop the filling of the Renaissance Dam.

The statement is a clear and concise expression of the Ethiopian government's position on the Renaissance Dam and its commitment to working with the international community. The statement is based on strong language and ideological frameworks, and it is supported by a number of assumptions. The statement is also a reflection of the Ethiopian government's willingness to work with the international community to resolve any differences that it may have with other countries.

This statement reaffirms Ethiopia's commitment to working with the international community. It uses the word "remains" to suggest that Ethiopia has been committed to working with the international community from the beginning. The statement also uses the phrase "working with the international community" to emphasize Ethiopia's willingness to find a solution that is acceptable to all parties involved.

10. Discussion

Linguistic Analysis

The linguistic analysis of the corpus reveals a number of interesting findings. First, both sides of the dispute are using strong language to convey their positions. The Egyptian statements use words such as "threatens" and "defend" to convey the seriousness of the issue, while the Ethiopian statements use words such as "committed" and "strengthen" to convey their determination to complete the dam and maintain good relations with Egypt.

Second, the Egyptian statements are more focused on the security implications of the Renaissance Dam, while the Ethiopian statements are more focused on the economic benefits of the dam. This suggests that the two sides have different priorities and perspectives on the issue.

Third, both sides of the dispute are using rhetorical devices to persuade their audiences. For example, the Egyptian statements use the threat of military action to deter Ethiopia from filling the dam, while the Ethiopian statements use the language of cooperation and dialogue to reassure Egypt that there is no need for conflict.

Cognitive Analysis

The cognitive analysis of the corpus reveals a number of assumptions that both sides of the dispute are making. The Egyptian statements are based on the assumption that the Renaissance Dam will reduce Egypt's access to Nile River water and that this will harm Egypt's economy and security. The Ethiopian statements are based on the assumption that the Renaissance Dam will not significantly harm Egypt and that Ethiopia can complete the dam peacefully and maintain good relations with Egypt.

It is important to note that these assumptions are not necessarily accurate. Both sides of the dispute may be overstating the risks or benefits of the dam. More research is needed to determine the true impact of the dam on both Egypt and Ethiopia.

Ideological Analysis

The ideological analysis of the corpus reveals that both sides of the dispute are basing their positions on a number of ideological frameworks. The Egyptian statements are based on the ideological frameworks of state sovereignty and national security. The Ethiopian statements are based on

the ideological frameworks of state sovereignty and economic development.

The ideological framework of state sovereignty emphasizes the importance of protecting a country's borders and interests. The ideological framework of national security emphasizes the importance of protecting a country from external threats. The ideological framework of economic development emphasizes the importance of economic growth and prosperity.

These ideological frameworks are important because they shape the way that both sides of the dispute view the issue. The Egyptian government sees the Renaissance Dam as a threat to its national security, while the Ethiopian government sees the dam as essential for its economic development. This clash of ideologies makes it difficult for the two sides to reach an agreement on the dam.

The cognitive ideological study of the language of power is an evolving field that presents numerous avenues for further research and analysis. Future studies can explore the influence of cultural, historical, and ideological factors on diplomatic discourse. Additionally, comparative studies between different crises and regions can provide valuable insights into the universality or context-specific nature of the language of power.

11. Conclusion

The analysis of the data reveals a number of key findings. First, the Egyptian and Ethiopian governments use different language to frame the Renaissance Dam Crisis. Egypt uses language to frame the dam as a threat to its national security and to justify its use of military force. Ethiopia, on the other hand, uses language to frame the dam as a regional development project and to assert its right to develop its water resources.

Second, the Egyptian and Ethiopian governments use a number of specific linguistic strategies to construct power and legitimacy. For example, Egypt frequently uses the language of security and threat to justify its actions. Ethiopia, on the other hand, frequently uses the language of development and sovereignty to assert its rights.

Third, the language used by the Egyptian and Ethiopian governments is shaping the way that the two countries and the rest of the world think about the Renaissance Dam Crisis. The Egyptian government's framing of the dam as a threat to its national security is contributing to a climate of tension and mistrust between Egypt and Ethiopia. The Ethiopian government's framing of the dam as a regional development project is contributing to a sense of optimism and hope for the future of the Nile basin.

The findings of this study have a number of implications for understanding the Renaissance Dam Crisis and the broader relationship between Egypt and Ethiopia. First, the study shows that the language used by the two governments is not simply neutral descriptions of reality, but rather strategic attempts to construct power and legitimacy. Second, the study shows that the language used by the two governments is shaping the way that the two countries and the rest of the world think about the conflict.

The study also has a number of implications for policymakers. First, the study suggests that it is important to be aware of the ideological and discursive dimensions of the Renaissance Dam Crisis. Second, the study suggests that policymakers should be careful about the language they use to talk about the conflict. The language used by policymakers can shape the way that the conflict is perceived and understood by the

The analysis of Egyptian statements reveals the utilization of various rhetorical strategies to assert their power and protect their interests in the Renaissance Dam crisis. The language used often emphasizes the historical significance of the Nile River to Egypt, portraying it as an existential issue. Through the use of emotive language and historical references, Egypt seeks to mobilize international support and portray Ethiopia as a threat to regional stability.

The underlying messages and narratives in Egyptian statements revolve around water security, national sovereignty, and the preservation of historical rights. Egypt emphasizes its dependency on the Nile River for agriculture, drinking water, and economic stability. By framing the Renaissance Dam as a potential threat to its water security, Egypt aims to rally international support and pressure Ethiopia to address its concerns.

The language of power used by Egypt in its statements reflects a defensive stance aimed at safeguarding its interests and maintaining regional stability. By portraying itself as the rightful guardian of the Nile River, Egypt seeks to influence the negotiation process and ensure its water security concerns are adequately addressed. Understanding the underlying messages and narratives in Egyptian statements is crucial for comprehending its position in the Renaissance Dam crisis.

Ethiopian statements employ a different set of rhetorical strategies to assert their position and counter Egyptian claims in the Renaissance Dam crisis. The language used often highlights Ethiopia's right to development and the importance of the dam for its economic growth and energy security. Ethiopia seeks to position itself as a responsible actor, emphasizing its commitment to regional cooperation and equitable resource sharing.

The underlying messages and narratives in Ethiopian statements revolve around development, sovereignty, and equitable utilization of the Nile River. Ethiopia portrays the Renaissance Dam as a symbol of progress and national pride, emphasizing its potential to uplift millions of its citizens out of poverty. By framing its actions as driven by national interests and legitimate aspirations, Ethiopia aims to counter Egypt's narrative and garner international support.

The language of power used by Ethiopia in its statements reflects a proactive stance aimed at asserting its right to development and challenging historical narratives surrounding the Nile River. By presenting the Renaissance Dam as a catalyst for regional cooperation and economic growth, Ethiopia aims to reshape the discourse and rebalance power dynamics in the Renaissance Dam crisis. Understanding the underlying messages and narratives in Ethiopian statements is crucial for comprehending its position in the ongoing negotiations.

Comparing the language and rhetorical strategies used by Egypt and Ethiopia reveals both similarities and differences. Both countries employ historical narratives and emphasize their national interests, although with different emphases. Egypt focuses on water security and historical rights, while Ethiopia highlights development and national pride. These similarities and differences in language and rhetoric shape the negotiation process and influence diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The language of power used by both Egypt and Ethiopia has a significant impact on the negotiations and diplomatic relations surrounding the Renaissance Dam crisis. The rhetoric employed by each country influences the perception of international actors, shapes public opinion, and affects the willingness to compromise. Understanding the implications of their language and rhetoric is crucial for mediating the conflict and finding a mutually beneficial solution.

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