

**Gryshkova R. O.**

<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4547-4974>

Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University

## LINGUISTIC COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF DONALD TRUMP'S FIRST (2017) AND SECOND (2025) INAUGURATION SPEECHES

*The article is devoted to the comparative analysis of linguistic peculiarities of Donald Trump's first (2017) and second (2025) inauguration speeches. This research was conducted in order to investigate the linguistic devices employed in the US President's first and second inauguration speeches, to compare them and to clear out differences between the two. Both Donald Trump's inaugural addresses to the nation are considered as examples of a political discourse which is regarded as an expression of the entire complex of relationships between a person, society and the state, and thus influences the formation of the recipients' picture of the world. Discourse linguistic analysis is a tool for understanding the way language is used in communication. Linguistic comparative analysis makes it possible to compare the vocabulary, phonetics, grammar structures, stylistic devices and emotional influence of the first and second Donald Trump's inaugural addresses to the nation.*

*Having compared Donald Trump's first and second inauguration speeches a conclusion was made that both of them contain a lot of political and social vocabulary as well as gradations. As the second inaugural address to the nation is almost twice longer than the previous one its political and social lexicon is much richer. Phonetically both speeches have a lot of examples of alliteration. From the viewpoint of grammar the Future Simple tense is used in most sentences, and that is quite clear as the President outlines perspectives for the nearest four years of his staying in office. Adjectives in a superlative degree as well as the possessive pronoun "my" are used only in the second speech. The style of Donald Trump's utterance is a public one, rich in epithets, metaphors, comparisons, polysyndeton and parallel constructions. Differences between the two speeches are also cleared out and described.*

*Addressing his countrymen Donald Trump was aware that people throughout the world were listening to him and he made his speeches maximum comprehensive and appealing using standard lexicon, numerous appealing and short sentences.*

**Keywords:** *linguistic analysis, comparison, political discourse, inauguration speech, expressive means, vocabulary, grammar, syntax, style.*

**Statement of the problem.** Donald Trump was first elected President of the USA and sworn in 2017. His first inaugural address to the nation was analyzed worldwide by politicians, journalists, public leaders and his ordinary countrymen from different points of view in press, on the radio and TV. Being elected the president of the United States of America for the second time in November, 2024, *Donald Trump* gave his inaugural address to the nation on January, 20, 2025. It is his second cadence in the office and his second inauguration speech.

In this research both Donald Trump's inaugural addresses to the nation (2017, 2025) are considered as examples of a political discourse with all its specifics and peculiarities. They are going to be analyzed and compared in the context of linguistic

expressive means and their emotional impact on the audience.

Political discourse is an expression of the entire complex of relationships between a person, society and the state, and thus influences the formation of the recipients' picture of the world. Since political discourse is a complex communicative phenomenon that involves the speaker and addressee, context and situation, factors that may affect it are identified, such as the goal set by political leaders, political culture and the professional level of politicians. Discourse analysis is a powerful tool for understanding the way language is used in communication. It can be divided into four main types: critical discourse analysis, conversation analysis, interactional sociolinguistics, and narrative analysis. Among the most important characteristics



of political discourse is a comprehensive reflection of the interaction between the individual and society, orientation towards public consciousness, subjective correlation with the participants, focus on the future, political experience.

Language, politics and power are in a tight interconnection. David Graeber considers that for reaching the aim politicians should be able to solve political problems with the help of language as the language of political communication has a tremendous meaning in the process of ruling the country [9]. Modern political discourse has got its own specific characteristics reflecting social and political processes, culture and mentality of the people.

One of the most meaningful peculiarities of the political discourse is its obligatory addressing the power because politics as purposeful activity in the sphere of mutual relationships among different subjects of social life is directly connected with struggle for gaining and retaining power. That is why political discourse is a tool of fight for power among conflict parties and interests.

The main difference of political discourse from other kinds of discourse is its brightly expressed appeal to the system of values and beliefs that exists in a certain society. Valuable orientation dictates a broad usage of lexical units with assessing meaning as well as implementation of special stylistic devices which co-insides with the ideological program of the political figures where these units mark the system of political values such as freedom, choice, rights, democracy, etc.

Political discourse in its aural form is very special as being oriented for comprehension by ear it generally contains short standard words, emotional epithets and comparisons, vivid metaphors, addressing to the audience, appeals and promises. Short sentences and numerous repetitions make any public speech more understandable. To persuade people to believe in their ideas politicians rare use complicated subjective clauses, they prefer parallel constructions without any reason-consequences connections. The most powerful expressive means of any language are phonetics. The human voice can indicate subtle nuances of meaning that no other means can attain.

President's inauguration speech is usually considered as the program of actions and the strategy of the country's development for the nearest four years. Donald Trump's slogan "Make America great again!" expressed in his first addressing to the nation was repeated in his second inaugural speech.

#### **Analysis of recent researches and publications.**

As Ukrainian researcher N.Horbenko states,

classic works in discourse theory include those by M. Foucault, J. Butler, E. Said, E. Laclau, J. Derrida, A. Gramsci and P. Bourdieu. These authors studied discourse and analyzed how it shapes our social reality and affects power structures. In their works, they explored various aspects of discourse, such as its relationship with power, the structure of identity, language issues, and the definition of social norms and values. These authors' works are important for understanding how discourse affects our social reality and are classics in the field of discourse theory [8, p. 166–171].

Ukrainian scientists S. Sokolovska, I. Vilchynska, N. Shevchuk, L. Lukina, H. Vusyk and others study political discourse, its peculiarities, directions and development prospects. Our countrymen N.Lutianska, M. Kostenko, O. Semotiuk, and P. Makarevych are scholars who research political media discourse, its typological and structural-organizational features, significance, and prospects. These authors emphasize that the study of political media discourse is crucial in modern society, where information is a driving force. Media discourse is the primary form of political discourse, as it influences public opinion and helps shape the conceptual world view [5, p. 138]. O. Kovalyova in her research analyzed rhetorical techniques as tools for constructing political messages shaping public opinion [3, p. 59]; I. Volyanyuk examined discursive practices as means of constructing social reality [2, p. 88–89]. Aristotle's "Rhetoric" laid the foundation for understanding the art of persuasion, introducing such concepts as *ethos* (credibility), *pathos* (emotional appeal), and *logos* (logical argument), which remain central to political communication today [7].

Today researchers pay attention to historical and modern aspects of political linguistics. T.Vashchuk was preoccupied with political discourse as an object of linguistic research [1, p. 184], I.Koroliev tried to give definitions, describe structure and typology of discourse in modern linguistics [4, p. 287].

Ukrainian researcher O. Lenartovych states that "the intersection of language and politics represents a significant field of study, where the manipulation and utilization of language play a vital role in the exercise of political influence. Language's impact on politics extends from the use of persuasive rhetoric to the dissemination of political agendas, molding public discourse, and shaping perceptions. Discourse analysis provides a structured method for comprehending the utilization of language in political contexts. It involves a deep exploration of the structure and substance of political discourse, revealing

underlying power dynamics, ideological positions, and the construction of narratives [12, p. 40–51].

The author of this article has already published scientific works devoted to linguistic analysis, expressive means and stylistic devices of Donald Trump's and his predecessor Joe Biden's inauguration speeches but in this work we'd like to compare the two Donald Trump's addressing to his people in order to see if he has changed his views and attitudes towards the situation in the USA and in the world, and to evaluate if he himself has changed as a personality and a political leader of the country.

**Task statement.** Political discourse incorporates messages aimed at persuading the audience and affecting their comprehension of certain events, attitudes and beliefs. According to Vesnic-Alujevic (2011), persuasion has four interdependent elements including: the speaker, the audience, the message and the way the message is conveyed.

In this article we are going to compare the first and the second Donald Trump's inauguration speeches in order to find their common features and differences from the viewpoint of linguistics. So the tasks of the work are:

- to define the composition of each speech and their duration (the speaker);
- to find and describe common linguistic features and differences of both inaugural addresses to the nation in order to state changes of the audience (the audience);
- to clear out the linguistic means which can help the President persuade Americans to believe the main ideas of the speeches and the ways he is going to realize them (the message);
- to compare linguistic means used by Donald Trump to express the emotional influence of his first and second inauguration speech (the way the message is conveyed).

**Outlines of the main material of the study.**

Assessing the first and the second Donald Trump's inauguration speeches from the viewpoint of their duration it is necessary to mention that the second speech lasted for more than thirty minutes while the first one only eighteen minutes. Consequently the 2025 inauguration speech contains more ideas, more sentences and words, more linguistic means to make the audience believe in what they hear. But the composition of both speeches remains the same: addressing to the former presidents and famous leaders of American state, followed by the promise "to rebuild our country and restore its promise for all of our people" (2017) [13] and "from this day forward, our country will flourish and be respected

again all over the world" (2025) [14]. The first speech consists of twenty nine parts, devoted to various spheres of life, while the second addressing contains thirty two parts dedicated to the critic of his predecessor for his fails, analysis of the current situation in the country, and promises to make the life of people better. Besides in both speeches Donald Trump tries to convince his countrymen that he is one of them, and tries to attract the audience's attention to his personal values and beliefs, his readiness to serve his country: "The oath of office I take today is an oath of allegiance to all Americans" [13] and "I will ... put America first. I look forward to working with you in the years to come" [14].

These are so called 'outer' frames of each speech; concerning the 'inside' content of these narrations, they are slightly different.

Phonetically both speeches do not differ as understanding that it is the human voice which can indicate subtle nuances of meaning that no other means can attain, Donald Trump delivered his speeches confidently and utterly comprehensive, strongly believing in his mission as a '*peacemaker and unifier*' for his country and the whole world. **God** is mentioned in both speeches but in the second one the President thanks him for saving his life after "an assassin's bullet ripped through my ear". "I was saved by **God** to make America great again" he added. Numerous addressing the listeners illustrates the appealing character of his speech, the device which makes any aural speech very emotional and provokes listeners to trust it.

Both speeches contain dates which are usually not so easy for comprehension by ear as for most people it is easier to see the numerals than to hear them: "January 20-th, 2017, will be remembered as the day the people became the rulers of this nation again" [13], "For American citizens, Jan. 20. 2025, is Liberation Day", "... by invoking the Alien Enemies Act of 1798, I will...", "Like in 2017, we will again build ...", "...in our 250-year history "[14]. Gradations: "today's ceremony, every four years, for many decades, that is in the past, we are looking only to the future" (2017) [13] and "right now, from this day forward, America will soon be greater...", "first...", "...all of this will change starting today...", "from this moment on...", "over the past eight years...", "just a few months ago", "today", "tomorrow" (2025)[14] help structuring the speech according to some inner logics.

As a vivid example of the political discourse both speeches contain a lot of political, social and economic vocabulary: *sovereignty, safety, scales of*

*justice, administration, hope, prosperity, safety and peace for citizens of every race, religion, color and creed, weaponization, establishment power, popular vote, to defeat inflation, crisis, integrity, competency and loyalty of America's government, the External Revenue Service, Department of Government Efficiency and many others. That is quite clear as the inaugural speeches embrace all spheres of public life.*

At the same time in both speeches there are no complicated, difficult for understanding special terms or word combinations which could potentially make them less comprehensive.

The next point of both speeches we'd like to draw attention to is the use of positive and negative words. While in his first addressing to the nation Donald Trump used very few negative constructions (*"The establishment protected itself, but not the citizens of our country", "Their victories have not been your victories", "unrealized potential"*) [13] as if he did not want to offend his predecessor Barak Obama, in his second speech he openly criticized Joe Biden and his administration with such words and sentences: *"dangerous criminals illegally entered our country", "government has given unlimited funding to the defense of foreign borders", "any service members who were unjustly expelled from..."*. Saying *"Our sovereignty will be reclaimed. Our safety will be restored. The scales of justice will be rebalanced"* [14] President Trump shows that these spheres were neglected when Joe Biden was in the office. These examples confirm that now Mr. Trump feels more confident in his power to really avoid his predecessor's mistakes in both home and foreign policy.

Having analyzed Donald Trump's inauguration speeches from the viewpoint of grammar we'd like to stress that both of them are mostly written with the use of the Future Simple tense. The structure *"We will + verb"* is repeated twenty one times in 2017 and eighty five times in 2025. It installs confidence of American people in the fact that *"we will get the job done"*. Some Perfect tense constructions especially in contractive forms: *"we've enriched, we've defended, infrastructure has fallen, the wealth, strength and confidence of our country have dissipated, etc."* [13] and *"people of North Carolina who've been treated so badly", "I've heard your voices in the campaign"* [14] make the speeches more emotionally colored.

A special attention is paid to the usage of personal pronouns *"I"* and *"we"* in before the elections speeches and in the American presidents' inaugural addresses to the people. Excessive usage of the pronoun *"I"* tells the listeners about somebody's

individualism, concentration on his own personality, high self esteem. Broad usage of the pronoun *"we"* demonstrates the desire of the president to feel one of his people, and unite the nation around himself. He identifies himself with the citizens of the country underlining the priority of the people's choice.

It is necessary to mention that if in the first inaugural address Donald Trump used *"I"* only three times, in his second speech it is used thirty seven times. It shows that President Trump feels more confident now and firmly believes in his ability to *"make America great again"*. Moreover he did not use the possessive pronoun *"my"* in his first appeal to the nation. But in the second appeal he not only used it twelve times – he repeated: *"my administration, my actions, my hope, my remain, my message, my cabinet, under my leadership, etc"* trying to convince the audience that whatever is going to be in the future it will be possible thanks to him. At the same time he positions himself as a representative of the great nation constantly using the pronoun *"our"* complimenting his countrymen with adjectives in a superlative degree while speaking about the American people and the perspectives for the future. *"The greatest and most consequential election", "... we have the largest amount of oil and gas of any country on Earth", "we will build the strongest military the world has ever seen", "My proudest legacy will be that of peacemaker and unifier", "America will reclaim its rightful place as the greatest, most powerful individuals, most respected nation on earth", "... history's greatest civilization", "Our American ancestors turned a small group of colonies ... into a mighty republic of the most extraordinary citizens on Earth"* [14].

One more feature that differs the first and the second Donald Trump's speeches is the fact of mentioning many geographical names in 2025 inaugural address: *"North Carolina, Los Angeles, Pennsylvania, Mexico, the Gulf of Mexico, the Gulf of America, Mount McKinley, Panama Canal, China, the planet Mars"*. To the glory of his native country the President underlines:

*"From New York to Los Angeles, from Philadelphia to Phoenix, from Chicago to Miami, from Houston to right here in Washington, D.C., our country was forged and built by the generations of patriots who gave everything they had for our rights and our freedom. They were farmers, and soldiers, cowboys and factory workers, steel workers and coal miners, police officers and pioneers who pushed onward, marched forward and let no obstacle defeat their spirit or their pride. Together they laid down the railroads, raised up the skyscrapers, built great highways, won*

*two world wars, defeated fascism and communism, and triumphed over every single challenge that they faced” [14].*

Stylistically as examples of a political discourse both Donald Trump’s speeches are rich in such devices as epithets (*a horrible betrayal*), metaphors (*our country will flourish*), comparisons (*like never before*), repetitions (*We will stand bravely. We will live proudly. We will dream boldly*), etc. It is clear the longer the speech is, the more devices are used.

As for the style of Donald Trump’s both inaugural addresses to the nation it was written in the press that his first speech “*is remembered for its populism and defiance*”. The second address has not been criticized so openly, his opponents are supposedly waiting for the President’s next steps in accomplishing his promises.

**Emotional impact.** Numerous addressing to the listeners with the words “*we, the citizens of America, together, we are one nation, we assembled here today, we will + verb... etc.*” illustrates the appealing character of his speech, the device which makes any aural speech very emotional and provokes listeners to trust every word in it. The pronoun “our” being used twelve times shows that the President positions himself as one of American people whom he really trusts. Addressing his countrymen Donald Trump was aware that people throughout the world were listening to him and he made his speech maximum comprehensive and appealing. Both his speeches were many times interrupted with applause which can be considered as a support of the newly elected President on the part of those present at the procedure that appeared to be very impressive.

**Conclusions.** Comparative linguistic analysis of Donald Trump’s first (2017) and second (2025) inaugural addresses to the nation shows that both of them were bright, appealing and full of sense. The first one consists of twenty nine parts and lasted for eighteen minutes while the second speech contains thirty two parts and was almost twice longer. In our opinion it shows that being elected President for the second time Donald Trump felt more confident in his ability to change America for better because now he has a support of all strata of American society.

Donald Trump’s both inaugural addresses are built with the usage of different linguistic means and

stylistic devices which help to make them bright, appealing and multi-promising. They have much in common as well as many differences.

**Common features:** Donald Trump’s both inauguration speeches are highly emotionally and positively colored; they are full of promises “to make America great again” and the President’s belief in the alluring future; critical attitude to what was done before and confidence in his ability to change the situation in the country for better; God is mentioned in both speeches: the President relies on his support and thanks him for his help. Grammar of both speeches is rather simple: the Future Indefinite Tense is mostly used and in some cases – the Perfect tenses. Possessive pronouns “our” and “your” predominate. Different parts of both speeches are connected logically not grammatically or by means of syntax. Short sentences characteristic for both inaugural addresses are connected with the help of parallel construction; no reason-consequences are found. From the viewpoint of style it is necessary to mention that both speeches are built with the help of numerous epithets, metaphors, repetitions, comparisons and other stylistic devices.

**Differences:** the first Trump’s inauguration speech in 2017 is almost twice shorter than the second one in 2025. In the first speech there are no pronouns “my” while in the second addressing there are twelve of them. There are no adjectives in a superlative degree in the speech of 2017. While in the first inaugural address the personal pronoun “I” was used by Donald Trump only three times, in his second address he used it thirty seven times which demonstrates the President’s full confidence in his ability to accomplish all his promises to the people. A glimpse into America’s glorious history with mentioning plenty of geographical names is found only in the 2025 speech. While in 2017 Donald Trump positioned himself as a personality who can “make America great again” in the 2025 inaugural address he called himself “a peacemaker and unifier” having repeated it twice.

The inaugural address of 2017 was later characterized as an example of “populism and defiance”; the speech of 2025 is still waiting for its public characteristic, though in our opinion it was not less popular than the previous one.

#### Bibliography:

1. Ващук Т. М. Політичний дискурс як об’єкт лінгвістичного дослідження. *Вісник Житомирського державного університету імені Івана Франка*. 2007. № 33. С.182–185.
2. Воляннюк І. Дискурсивні практики у політичній комунікації. *Соціальні науки*. 2022. №29 (2). С. 88–101.
3. Ковальова О. Риторичні прийоми в політичному дискурсі. *Риторика і комунікація*. 2020. № 18 (3). С. 50–65.

4. Корольов І. Р. Поняття дискурсу в сучасному мовознавстві: визначення, структура, типологія. *Studia Linguistica: Зб. наук. праць КНУ ім. Тараса Шевченка*. К.: Видав.-поліграф. центр «Київський університет», 2012. № 6. С. 285–305.
5. Лютянська Н. І. Мас-медійний дискурс: типологічні та структурно-організаційні особливості. *Філологічні науки*. 2004. № 2. Р. 136–141.
6. Шарапановська Ю. В. Теоретичні засади аналізу політичного дискурсу. *Молодий вчений*. 2016. № 4. С. 428–431.
7. Aristotle. Rhetoric. 4th century BCE. URL: <https://www.amazon.com/Rhetoric-Aristotle/dp/1629100188> (date of access: 13.01.2026).
8. Horbenko N. Yu. Political discourse: definition, features and functions. – *Актуальні проблеми філософії та соціології*. 2018. с.166–171.
9. Graber D. Political Languages. Handbook of Political Communication. London. 2011. № 14. Р. 1–30.
10. Graeber D. The Democracy Project: A History, a Crisis, a Movement. New York: Spiegel & Grau. 2013.
11. Harris Z. Discourse Analysis. Papers on Syntax. *Synthese Language Library*. 2014. № 8. Р. 31–39.
12. Lenartovych O. Keywords, symbolic words, precedent units in British-Ukrainian political discourse. *Vernadskiy Taurida National university*. р.40–51 Том 35 (74) № 4 2024. Частина 1.
13. Trump D. URL: <http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/full-text-president-donald-trumps-inauguration-speech/story?id=44915821>
14. Trump D. URL: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/remarks/2025/01/the-inaugural-address/>

#### **Гришкова Р. О. ЛІНГВІСТИЧНИЙ ПОРІВНЯЛЬНИЙ АНАЛІЗ ПЕРШОЇ (2017) ТА ДРУГОЇ (2025) ІНАВГУРАЦІЙНИХ ПРОМОВ ДОНАЛЬДА ТРАМПА**

*Статтю присвячено компаративному аналізу лінгвістичних особливостей першої (2017 р.) та другої (2025 р.) інавгураційної промови Дональда Трампа. Дослідження проведено для виявлення лінгвістичних засобів, вжитих у першому та другому зверненні до нації з нагоди прийняття присяги новообраним президентом Сполучених Штатів, для порівняння та визначення відмінностей. Обидві промови розцінюються як приклади політичного дискурсу, що розглядається як вираження всього комплексу відносин між особистістю, суспільством та державою і таким чином впливом на формування картини світу у слухачів. Лінгвістичний аналіз політичного дискурсу сприймається як інструмент для розуміння ролі мови в комунікації. Лінгвістичний порівняльний аналіз уможливорює співставлення лексики, фонетичних особливостей, граматичних структур, стилістичних засобів та емоційного впливу першого та другого звернення президента Дональда Трампа до нації.*

*У результаті порівняння інавгураційних промов було зроблено висновки, що обидві промови містять багато політичної, соціальної та економічної лексики та градації. Промова 2025 року майже вдвічі довше у порівнянні зі зверненням до нації 2017 року. Фонетично обидві промови оформлені з багаторазовим використанням алітерації. З точки зору граматики кожна промова витримана з переважним використанням майбутнього часу, що цілком зрозуміло, оскільки звернення до нації спрямоване на майбутнє. Стилiстично обидві промови містять епітети, метафори, метонімію, повтори; речення короткі, пов'язані між собою паралельно, причинно-наслідковий зв'язок відсутній.*

*Звертаючись до своїх співвітчизників, Дональд Трамп розумів, що його промови слухатимуть по всьому світу, тому свідомо зробив своє звернення максимально простим для сприйняття, використавши короткі речення, стандартну лексику, прості словосполучення.*

**Ключові слова:** лінгвістичний аналіз, порівняння, політичний дискурс, інавгураційна промова, засоби виразності, словниковий запас, граматики, синтаксис, стиль.

Дата першого надходження статті до видання: 24.01.2026

Дата прийняття статті до друку після рецензування: 23.02.2026

Дата публікації (оприлюднення) статті: 24.04.2026