Metadiscourse Functions in Political Speeches: A Study of Three Leaders' National Addresses

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Abstract—This study employs discourse analysis and corpus analysis to investigate the use of reflexive metadiscourse in national addresses delivered by three national leaders, one from Thailand, one from Myanmar, and one from Pakistan, during periods of democratic reform in their respective countries. The corpus of 129,460 running words was constructed by randomly selecting fifteen addresses from each of the leaders' national address pools. The corpus was analyzed and coded with tags to classify the metadiscourse functions employed by the speakers, and the taxonomy proposed by Ädel (2010) was adapted to serve as the framework for analysis. The search terms "I" and the inclusive "we," "you," "let me," and "let us" were used in screening non-reflexive sentences. The study found that sixteen metadiscourse functions from Ädel's (2010) taxonomy are present in the corpus, and that 314 (4.09%) of the 7,663 sentences in the corpus have reflexive metadiscourse functions. The study also found significant use of the 'elaborating' function, which signals the audience that the speaker is about to elaborate on the current topic and/or emphasize a particular aspect thereof. This function was previously considered an 'other speech act labelling' function.

Index Terms—metadiscourse, political discourse, national address, political communication, reflexivity

I. INTRODUCTION

Political communication can take many forms, including speeches, debates, press conferences, and various other forms of communication that are politically motivated and / or that promote a particular political stance (Chilton, 2004). Recognizing the importance of political communication, many scholars (Bayram, 2010; Chaiyasat & Sudajit-apa, 2017; De Castella et al., 2009; Lerman, 1985; Nur, 2015; Wang, 2010; Zupnik, 1994) have analyzed political leaders' communication with their audiences in order to better understand leaders' communication strategies.

In order to gain an audience's trust and support, a leader must be able to communicate effectively. Political discourse tends, however, to be complex and difficult for general audiences to follow (Chilton, 2004), and leaders must therefore be skilled in the use of communication strategies. One such strategy is the use of metadiscourse. Metadiscourse is often referred to as "discourse about discourse" (Ädel & Mauranen, 2010, p. 1; Hyland, 2005, p. 16), "text about text" (Ädel, 2006, p. 2), or "talk about talk" (Hyland, 2005, p. 16). In essence, the term refers to an author's intrusion in his / her ongoing discourse, both to guide and direct the audience and to build a rapport with them (Hyland, 2005). Because of its importance and diverse applications, metadiscourse has been the subject of numerous studies in various fields, namely in education (Crismore, 1983; Hyland, 2010; Hyland & Tse, 2004), advertising (Fuertes-Olivera et al., 2001), workplace communication (Ho, 2018; Hyland, 1998), and political discourse (Albalat-Mascarell & Carrió-Pastor, 2019; Esmer, 2017; Ilie, 2003). No research has been done, however, on the use of metadiscourse in the political communications of national leaders during periods of major reform in their countries. The current study seeks to fill that void in research by investigating the use of metadiscourse in national addresses delivered by three national leaders during such periods. The research questions in this study are:

(1) How are metadiscourse functions used in corpora of reform leaders' national addresses?
(2) How do reform leaders use metadiscourse in communicating with their audiences in national addresses?

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Metadiscourse

The term 'metadiscourse' was coined by Harris (1959) and refers to an author's attempt to guide an audience's perception of a text. According to Ädel and Mauranen (2010, p. 2), metadiscourse is divided into two main approaches, a "broad" approach or "interactive view" and a "narrow" approach or "reflexive view." Both approaches embrace the 'discourse about discourse' concept; they are, however, based on different fundamental theories and approach the concept of metadiscourse differently. The current study was designed based on the conceptualization and taxonomy proposed by Ädel (2010), which regard metadiscourse as "discourse about the evolving discourse" (Ädel, 2006, p. 2).

Ädel's (2010) taxonomy divides metadiscourse into two main categories: 'audience interaction,' which focuses on

engaging and interacting with an audience, and 'metatext,' which is discourse- or code-oriented. The 'audience interaction' category consists solely of 'references to audience'; the 'metatext' category is divided into three subcategories. The first subcategory is 'metalinguistic comments,' which consists of the metadiscourse functions 'repairing,' 'reformulating,' 'commenting on linguistic form / meaning,' 'clarifying,' and 'managing terminology.' The second subcategory is 'discourse organization,' which concerns the management of topics, phorics, and commenting on the situation. Functions related to topic management include 'introducing topic,' 'delimiting topic,' 'adding to topic,' 'concluding topic,' and 'marking asides'; functions that manage phorics include 'enumerating,' 'endophoric marking,' 'previewing,' 'reviewing,' and 'contextualizing comments on the situation.' The third subcategory is 'speech act labels,' which state the author's action or intention and consist of the metadiscourse functions 'arguing,' 'exemplifying,' and 'other speech act labelling.'

Ädel's (2010) taxonomy is based on a classroom setting in which the speaker may have co-communicators and engage in two-way communication. The current study, however, is based on a one-way monologic setting. Consequently, Adel's categories have been slightly modified for use in the current study. These modifications are explained in the research methodology section.

B. The Leaders, Their National Addresses, and Past Studies on the Leaders

The national leaders whose addresses are the subject of the current study include Prayut Chan-o-cha of Thailand, Thein Sein of Myanmar, and Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan. These leaders were selected on the basis of 1) being the most recent national leaders to lead their countries during a democratic reform period and 2) having their national addresses available through their state-owned media. Additionally, each leader had (or, in Prayut's case, still has) a "roadmap to democracy," including Thailand's "three-phase roadmap" (The Prime Minister's Office, 2017, p. 7), Myanmar's "seven-step roadmap" (New Light of Myanmar, 31 August 2003; as cited in Bowman, 2007, p. 2), and Pakistan's "four-phase roadmap to democracy" (MacKenzie, 2002, pp. 107-108). The following section provides a brief overview of each leader's political context and previous studies related to his political communications.

(a). Prayut Chan-O-Cha

Of the three leaders whose communications are the subject of the current study, Prayut is the most recent coup / post-coup leader. He became prime minister of Thailand in 2014, after leading a coup to overthrow the government led by prime minister Yingluck Shinawatra (Schaffar, 2018). Two days after the coup, Prayut broadcast his first nationally-televised address to inform both Thai citizens and an international audience of the situation in Thailand and of his plans for the country. This first address would become the first of a series of televised addresses delivered in a weekly program entitled "Returning Happiness to the People in the Country[1]." The broadcasts featured Prayut, speaking in Thai, with English subtitles at the bottom of the screen. Topics usually included recent events, the progress of the government, and advice for the audience regarding how to help improve their country and / or their personal circumstances. In addition to the English subtitles in the television broadcasts, complete transcripts of Prayut's speeches, both in the original Thai and in English translations thereof, were made available in the "PM's Weekly Address" section on the Royal Thai Government Website (Royal Thai Government, 2017). Prayut delivered a total of 182 addresses between May 2014 and December 2017 [2].

Although there have been previous studies of Prayut's national addresses, none has focused on metadiscourse or reflexivity. Two studies were related to the topic of discourse and communication, including a study by Chaiyasat and Sudajit-apa (2017) of Prayut's metaphorical analysis and terms related to democracy, and a study by Phanthaphoommee (2019) that used an appraisal framework to perform critical discourse analysis to gain insight into translation patterns and the expression of ideologies.

(b). Thein Sein

Myanmar was ruled by a military government from 1962 until 2011. In 2010, a general election was held and Thein Sein won[3] (Lidauer, 2012). He was again elected president by the Presidential Electoral College in 2011 and remained in office until 2016. During his tenure as president, Thein Sein initiated multiple reforms, including releasing political prisoners (Bünte & Dosch, 2015) and partially lifting media censorship (Brooten, 2013). During the last three years of his term, he began addressing the citizens of his nation on a monthly basis via the radio, which he saw as "still an effective channel of communication" (Thein Sein, 2013, p. 1). After each live broadcast, Thein Sein's address was broadcast four times a day for two consecutive days, and an English translation of the address was published in the state

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[1] The program was renamed "From the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy to Sustainable Development Goals" after the passing of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej. The content of the program also changed slightly, with the addition of exemplified applications of the king's philosophy of a sustainable economy.

[2] In his address on October 6, 2017, Prayut mentioned a conversation with United States president Donald Trump in which he told President Trump that an election would be held by the end of the following year. Via this mention, Prayut signaled the beginning of the final phase of Thailand's transition to democracy.

[3] As Thein Sein resigned from the military to compete in the general election, it was the view of some observers that he still maintained close ties with the military at the time of the election. Consequently, the fairness of the election was widely questioned (MacFarquhar, 2010). The first president of Myanmar who had no ties with the military was Htin Kyaw, who succeeded Thein Sein.

newspaper, "the New Light of Myanmar [4]." The broadcasts focused on current issues, the government's plans, and requests for citizens' cooperation in building a better future for the country. Thein Sein delivered a total of thirty-five addresses during the reform period, from January 2013 to November 2015. Although he played a critical role in Myanmar's national development, there are no known studies of Thein Sein's political communications.

(c). Pervez Musharraf

In 1999, Pervez Musharraf staged a bloodless coup that overthrew the government of Pakistan's prime minister, Nawaz Sharif. Musharraf assumed the title of president in August 2001 (Shah, 2002), then called for a general election in 2002. After winning the election, Musharraf transformed himself from a dictator who had named himself president to being, in fact, a legitimate president (Talbot, 2003), and served as president from 2001 until his resignation in 2007. During that time, he often appeared in various news media, and the talks and addresses he delivered are available in various collections [5] (Government of Pakistan, 2005; President of Pakistan, 2007). The topics of Musharraf's addresses are usually related to current issues in Pakistan and his government's plans for the future of the country. The collections of Musharraf's speeches from the government media sources that served as resources for the current study contain a total of twenty-three national addresses that were delivered during his two terms as president.

Musharraf was a crucial political figure in Pakistan and there are numerous studies related to many aspects of his tenure in power. A few studies are related to various aspects of his communications, such as his public image control (Khan et al., 2017), rhetorical devices (Aziz et al., 2021), metaphors (Khan & Abid, 2015), and pronoun choices (Khan & Malik, 2016). There is, however, no known study of Musharraf's metadiscourse use.

In sum, Prayut, Thein Sein, and Musharraf are all national leaders who either (in the case of Prayut) currently lead (or, in the case of Thein Sein and Musharraf) once led their respective countries during a period of a transition from military rule to democracy. All three leaders regularly communicate / communicated with both citizens of their own country and an international audience during the transition period, and all make / made official English translations of their addresses available to the public. The collection and analysis of the English translations of the addresses used in this study will be discussed in the following section.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A. Data Collection and Preparation

The official English translations of the national addresses delivered by each leader were collected from their respective government's media sources and placed in each leader's respective address pool. The researcher then divided the addresses in each leader's pool into groups of three intervals based on their respective time lines, to correspond to each leader's respective three-phase roadmap. Five addresses from each interval were then randomly selected. The selected addresses were normalized, unrelated text such as website information was removed, and the addresses were placed in the leaders' respective corpora for analysis. The final size of the corpus is 129,460 running words or 7,663 sentences, as shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1
THE SIZE OF THE CORPORA IN THIS STUDY

Phase	Address	Running Words			Sentences		
		TH	MM	PK	TH	MM	PK
Establishing Authority	Address 1	3,127	464	508	151	25	27
	Address 2	4,001	1,097	2,013	188	60	130
	Address 3	3,478	941	4,443	192	44	261
	Address 4	2,904	1,066	4,983	182	49	341
	Address 5	3,559	854	5,008	204	32	353
Reform and Development	Address 6	5,697	1,399	8,875	394	56	675
	Address 7	4,532	1,139	4,400	378	45	332
	Address 8	2,350	1,252	4,560	88	55	261
	Address 9	3,447	841	3,008	174	39	174
	Address 10	3,677	785	5,824	158	31	359

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[4] The newspaper changed its name to "The Global New Light of Myanmar" as of October 1, 2014.
[5] Musharraf's 1999 – 2004 speeches were available in the "Presidential Addresses" page of the Government of Pakistan website (Government of Pakistan, 2005); his 2005 – 2008 addresses were available in the "President of Pakistan" website (President of Pakistan, 2007). As the both of the website have been overwritten with new data, Musharraf's addresses were obtained by utilizing the Internet Archive (Internet Archive, 2019) to access the content of the website as it was at various points in Musharraf's tenure in office.

Phase	Address	Running Words			Sentences		
		TH	*MM*	*PK*	*TH*	*MM*	*PK*
Return to Democracy	Address 11	4,734	1,070	7,196	225	56	565
	Address 12	2,094	1,295	1,736	111	62	83
	Address 13	2,688	1,006	2,000	144	48	103
	Address 14	2,745	1,244	3,881	119	51	203
	Address 15	4,393	1,138	2,008	256	59	120
Total		53,426	15,591	60,443	2,964	712	3,987
Average		3,561.33	1,039.40	4,029.53	197.60	47.47	265.80

Remarks: TH = Prayut, MM = Thein Sein, PK = Musharraf

From Table 1, it can be seen that Thein Sein's corpus is significantly smaller than those of either of the other two leaders. The results are therefore reported in a normalized frequency of occurrences per 100 sentences to ensure data comparability among the corpora, and per 1,000 words for comparison with previous studies.

B. Data Analysis

The current study employs a modified version of Ädel's (2010) taxonomy to analyze the data. The current study is based on one-way monologic communication from author to audience, while Ädel's (2010) taxonomy was constructed to analyze two-way communication in a classroom setting. The functions in Ädel's (2010) taxonomy that require a co-communicator, including "managing comprehension / channel" and "managing audience discipline," were therefore removed from the current study's analysis framework. Ädel's "commenting on linguistic form / meaning" function was also removed for the purposes of the current study as it is unlikely that a national leader addressing a broad national / international audience would explain or elaborate on specific terms from a linguistic perspective. The modified analysis framework used in the current study is summarized below in Table 2.

TABLE 2
THE MODIFIED METADISCOURSE TAXONOMY USED IN THE CURRENT STUDY

Type	Category	Metadiscourse Function	Definition
Metatext	Metalinguistic Comments	Repairing	suggests the correction of previously mentioned information
		Reformulating	introduces alternative or synonymous information
		Clarifying	states, claims, or declares information to prevent the audience from misunderstanding
		Managing Terminology	provides a definition of a term
	Discourse Organization	Introducing Topic	introduces a new topic
		Delimiting Topic	states the scope or boundary of the topic
		Adding to Topic	signals an addition to the current topic
		Concluding Topic	closes a topic
		Marking Asides	opens or closes a topic sidetrack
		Enumerating	states the order relationship of the information
		Endophoric Marking	points to a specific location in the discourse
		Previewing	points forward in the discourse
		Reviewing	points backward in the discourse
		Contextualizing	comments on the situation while retaining the thread of the ongoing topic
	Speech Act Labeling	Arguing	labels a speech act as an argument
		Exemplifying	labels a speech act as providing an example for the audience
		Other Speech Act Labeling	labels a speech act other than arguing or exemplifying
Audience Interaction	References to Audience	Anticipating the Audience's Response	states a prediction of the audience's behavior upon receiving new information
		Managing the Message	emphasizes the core information or core message that the author wants the audience to retain from the discourse
		Imagining Scenario	requests that the audience see or consider something from a specific perspective

Using the adapted Ädel (2010) taxonomy, the researcher coded the metadiscourse occurrences using a tag code for each subcategory. The AntConc Program (Anthony, 2019) was used to search the terms 'I,' 'we,' 'you,' and their other grammatical forms to screen for sentences containing author reflexivity. The results were further analyzed using discourse analysis to search for additional viewpoints or context-specific features. To ensure data validity, two language experts with working proficiency in English were consulted before the data was coded with metadiscourse function codes.

In addition to classifying sentences per the modified Ädel's (2010) taxonomy, the researcher also utilized Searle's (1977) speech acts framework to classify sentences as representative, directive, commissive, expressive, or declaration

speech acts in order to identify any additional speech act patterns that might occur in the genre. The researcher found that one of the patterns previously reported as "other speech act labelling' in Ädel (2010) is frequently found in the current data. The pattern is used to signal the audience of an upcoming long and elaborate explanation, is referred to as 'elaborating,' and is a sub-function in the current study's 'speech act labelling' category.

IV. RESULTS

A. Overall Results

A surprising finding of the study is that the use of metadiscourse in the data is less frequent than anticipated. Despite the complex nature of political discourse, the leaders are apparently more concerned with organizing ideas than with facilitating the audience's understanding of the content and / or establishing and maintaining audience engagement. In the three corpora combined, only 317 from 7,663 sentences were found to have metadiscourse functions. The average use of metadiscourse is 0.22 occurrences per 100 sentences, with the overall use as shown in Figure 1.
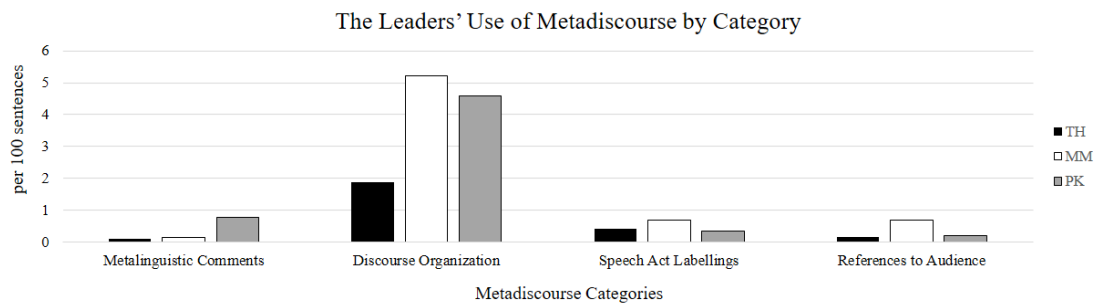

Figure 1 The Overall Metadiscourse Distribution by Category

It can be seen in Figure 1 that most metadiscourse found falls into the 'discourse organization' category, and that the frequency of use of other categories is significantly lower. It is also clear that each leader employs a different degree of intervention to support or guide his audiences, with Prayut doing so notably less frequently than the other leaders in this study. The detailed use of the metadiscourse functions is shown in Table 3.

TABLE 3
FREQUENCY OF METADISCOURSE USE BY THE LEADERS

Category	Metadiscourse Function	Raw Frequency			Normalized Frequency (per 100 sentences)			
		TH	MM	PK	TH	MM	PK	Average
Metalinguistic Comments	Repairing			1			0.02	0.007
	Reformulating			14			0.35	0.12
	Clarifying	2	1	16	0.07	0.14	0.40	0.20
	Managing Terminology	1			0.03			0.01
Discourse Organization	Introducing Topic	28	16	117	0.94	2.25	2.93	2.04
	Delimiting Topic			16			0.40	0.13
	Adding to Topic		2	2		0.28	0.05	0.11
	Concluding Topic	2	8	9	0.07	1.12	0.22	0.47
	Marking Asides							
	Enumerating	12	1	17	0.40	0.15	0.42	0.32
	Endophoric Marking	4	1		0.13	0.15		0.09
	Previewing	1		1	0.03		0.02	0.02
	Reviewing	8	9	21	0.27	1.26	0.52	0.68
	Contextualizing	1		1	0.03		0.02	0.02
Speech Act Labeling	Arguing							
	Exemplifying	6		6	0.20		0.15	0.17
	Elaborating	6	5	8	0.20	0.70	0.20	0.37
References to Audience	Anticipating the Audience's Response	1		2	0.03		0.05	0.03
	Managing the Message	4	5	6	0.13	0.70	0.15	0.33
	Imagining Scenario							
Average		3.61	2.28	11.28	0.12	0.32	0.28	0.22
Total		76	48	237	2.56	6.74	5.94	5.08

As can be seen in Table 3, three functions—'marking asides,' 'arguing,' and 'imagining scenario'—were not found in the current data. It can also be seen that Prayut's frequency of use of metadiscourse functions is approximately half that of the other two leaders, and that Musharraf makes the most diverse use of metadiscourse functions. To ensure the reliability of the data, the researcher will report the categories with averaged normalized frequency of higher than 0.11 per 100 sentences, which is half of the average frequency of occurrence in this study. The categories not meeting this requirement will be discussed later in this section.

B. Metalinguistic Comments

'Metalinguistic comments' is one of the least used categories in this study. Of the 7,663 sentences, only thirty-five are found to contain this function. The average frequency of use of this category is 0.34 occurrences per 100 sentences. The distribution of the leaders' use is shown in Figure 2. Only the 'reformulating' and 'clarifying' functions have sufficient data for analysis.
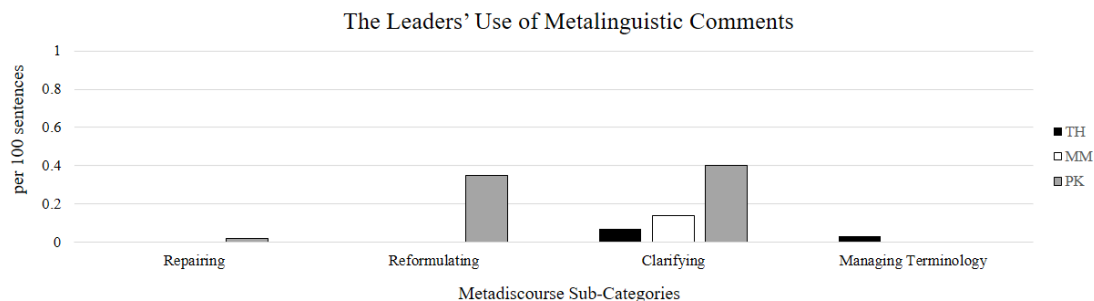
Figure 2 The Leaders' Use of Metalinguistic Comments

'Reformulating' is one function that is exclusive to Musharraf. In his corpus, the function has an average normalized frequency of 0.12 per 100 sentences and is found fourteen times. Musharraf uses the function not only to simplify the content, but also to introduce another term that contains his evaluated value, in order to engage the audience. Examples of such usage are shown in excerpts 1 and 2:

(1) … If then it happens, democracy will derail. We will be standing where we were, **i.e.** at square one. (PK-6)

(2) You must have watched on TV about Micro Finance Bank, **but I call it** prosperity bank. (PK-4)

In the first excerpt, the abbreviation 'i.e.' is used to introduce the simplified idea, the evaluated value 'at square one.' The second excerpt's reformulation is similar; however, a personal stance 'but I call it' is used to introduce the term 'prosperity bank.' If the audience shares Musharraf's stance, his rapport with them may be strengthened.

'Clarifying' is the only function used by all the leaders in this category. It is found nineteen times across the leaders' corpora with an average frequency of use of 0.20 occurrences per 100 sentences. The 'clarifying' function is typically used to stress important points while eliminating possible misunderstandings. However, it can also be used defensively, as shown in excerpt 3.

(3) But **I want to state it clearly** that these figures should not be doubted by anybody. **Let me say it clearly** that these figures stand verified by the World Bank, ADB, DFID and UNDP and poverty centre Pakistan, which is a sub-organization of the UN, is UK based. These are their figures. (PK-11)

Prior to excerpt 3, Musharraf first expresses his stance toward poverty in Pakistan, then presents information to support his stance. As a defensive measure, he states a first clarification that the figures he presents should not be doubted, and a second clarification to cite the sources of his information in order to prove the credibility and integrity of his figures.

The leaders' overall low frequency of use of metalinguistic functions is surprising given the generally complex nature of political discourse and the fact that the success of the three leaders' planned reforms will depend on their fellow citizens' understanding and acceptance of the reforms.

C. Discourse Organization

'Discourse organization' is the most frequently used category in this study, with 277 occurrences across the leaders' corpora, a mean of 3.87 occurrences per 100 sentences. A high frequency of use of the category was anticipated, as national addresses typically comprise a sequence of topics through which the author must carefully guide his audience. The distributions of the functions are shown in Figure 3 (below) and Figure 4, with Figure 3 showing the sub-functions that manage the topics, and Figure 4 showing the sub-functions that manage the phorics and 'commenting on the situation.'

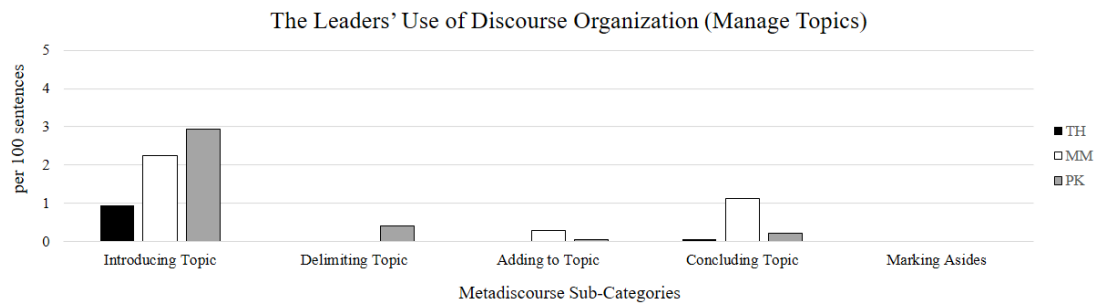The Leaders' Use of Discourse Organization (Manage Topics)

Figure 3 The Leaders' Use of Discourse Organization (Manage Topics)

It can be seen in Figure 3 that the most frequently used sub-function is 'introducing topic.' It is understandable that the 'delimiting topic,' 'adding to topic,' and 'marking asides' functions are used less frequently, due to their usage limitations; such functions will be used only when the author wants to state the scope of the topic, add information to the existing topic, or add a topic sidetrack.

The 'introducing topic' function is found in 161 sentences, with 2.04 occurrences per 100 sentences. This high frequency of use is due to the author's requirement to introduce each new topic to the audience. The author may choose to present the new topic in a personal way by using 'I' as in excerpt 4, or in an inclusive way by using 'we' or its object form, "us," as shown in excerpt 5.

(4) Now, **I would like to speak a little on** the areas of focus: Economic Revival. (PK-6)

(5) **Let us now turn to** politics and democracy. (PK-7)

In excerpt 4, Musharraf explicitly introduces his next topic. In excerpt 5, he uses '[l]et us now turn to' not only to introduce a new topic, but also to signal the audience, without using the 'concluding topic' function, that the old topic has ended and that the focus will now be shifted. However, it should be noted that the frequency of use of 'inclusive expression' is significantly lower than that of 'personalize expression' (7.14% for Prayut, 0% for Thein Sein, 26.49% for Musharraf) and may affect the audience's understanding.

"Delimiting topic" is another function that is used almost solely by Musharraf. It occurs at a frequency of 0.40 occurrences per 100 sentences in his corpus and 0.13 per 100 sentences across the three corpora. The function limits the focus of the topic, and Musharraf uses the function when he mentions a new topic or keyword that the audience may be interested in, as exemplified in excerpt 6.

(6) In addition, the government has also announced a farmers package. **I do not want to go into its details**. So we are fully seized with efforts for improving the lot of our brothers and sisters living in rural areas. (PK-7)

In excerpt 6, Musharraf mentions 'a farmer's package.' To keep his audience on track, he makes use of the 'delimiting topic' function to specify his focus, and the 'adding to topic' function is used to signal the audience of upcoming new information related to the ongoing topic. The frequency of use of this function in this study is unexpectedly low, with only four occurrences across the corpora and an average of only 0.11 occurrences per 100 sentences. The results in this study found that the function may be used when the author spontaneously adds new information, as shown in excerpts 7 and 8.

(7) The government is also working with state governments to ensure data concerning landless families is collected and the families resettled according to township development plans. However, **I would like to add that** we will take appropriate action against those that illegally enter and occupy land. (MM-8)

(8) The Electoral College for reserved seats will be union councilors of the Tehsil. Municipal administration will be in all the Tehsil and the latter will have their writ to the entire area of the Tehsil including the villages. **This I want to explain a little more**. … (PK-4)

In excerpt 7, Thein Sein would like to introduce his government's policies into the ongoing discourse. The use in excerpt 8, however, signals the speaker's intention to explain in detail rather than shifting the focus back to the main topic. It may be worth noting that the low frequency of occurrence of this function may be due to its spontaneous nature, which is not likely to occur in scripted communications such as national addresses.

'Concluding topic' is used to signal the closure of an ongoing topic. The function is found nineteen times in the corpus, with 0.47 occurrences per 100 sentences. In the current data, there are two variations of this function. One is 'closing the topic,' the other is 'closing the address,' as exemplified in excerpts 9 and 10.

(9) With a view to ending conflict, **I have explained to you** at great length the three areas causing confusion in our minds. Making rules, regulations and issuing ordinances is easy but their implementation is difficult. (PK-5)

(10) **I would like to conclude** by recapping again that I will do my very best to achieve peace, promote economic development and build a better future for our young generations. (MM-14)

In excerpt 9, Musharraf signals the approach of the conclusion of the current topic with the phrase 'I have explained to you…' before making a clear summary statement that closes the topic. In excerpt 10, Thein Sein concludes not only his ongoing topic but also his address as a whole by affirming his actions, an act which also functions to 'manage the message.' It should be noted that the significantly lower frequency of use of the 'concluding topic' function may have

been the result of the leaders using the 'introducing topics' function to close topics indirectly rather than explicitly. It is possible that closing a topic indirectly rather than directly may make it more difficult for the audience to follow the transition to the new topic.
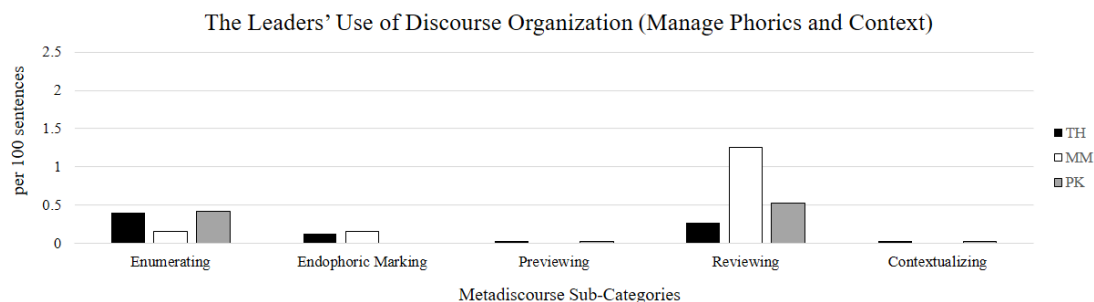

Figure 4 The Leaders' Use of Discourse Organization (Manage Phorics and Context)

From Figure 4, it can be seen that only the 'enumerating' and 'reviewing' functions are frequently used by all three leaders. Again, this was to be anticipated, given the nature of national addresses. The author has to tell the audience of their relationship via 'enumerating,' and 'reviewing' is used to remind the audience of past or related data so that they can better understand or relate to the ideas being currently presented. Due to data insufficiency only 'enumerating' and 'reviewing' will be reported.

The 'enumerating' function is found thirty times in the corpus, with 0.32 occurrences per 100 sentences. The function is used to tell the number of topics or tell the order of the topics that the author is addressing, as shown in excerpts 11 and 12.

> (11) Now the question is what we have to do in future? **We have to do two things**, **first** to bring about provincial harmony and the **second** to bring about religious and sectarian harmony in the society. (PK-8)
> (12) In the coming years **we would like to focus on four areas** for the revival of the economy.
>   (a) Revitalising the agriculture sector.
>   (b) Promoting small and medium scale industries.
>   (c) Encouraging oil and gas exploration and development.
>   (d) Developing information technology and software. (PK-3)

In excerpt 11, Musharraf tells his audience what the country has to do. He first tells the number of items, then tells each item in order. The order may also be shown in alphanumeric list format as shown in excerpt 12, in which Musharraf tells the number of topics before listing them with an alphanumeric list.

The 'reviewing' function is found thirty-eight times in the corpus, with 0.68 occurrences per 100 sentences. In the current data, the 'reviewing' function may be used to remind the audience of information from a specific date and time or to remind the audience of the author's past actions, as shown in excerpts 13 and 14.

> (13) **You may recall that in my speech of October 17 last year** I had given a 7-point agenda. Its sixth point was Devolution of Power to the Grassroots Level. (PK-4)
> (14) I would also like to address the international community, particularly the United States, on this occasion. **As I said before on a number of occasions**, Pakistan rejects and condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestation. (PK-5)

Unlike in excerpt 13, in which Musharraf only tells the audience to recall related information, in excerpt 14, he asks his audience to recall their memories of his previous actions, which may also enhance his image and credibility should the audience find those memories pleasing. It should also be noted that 'reviewing sub-category' function may overlap with the 'endophoric marking sub-category' function if the information the author reminds the audience of is a previously-spoken part in the same address.

D. Speech Act Labels

The 'metadiscourse of speech act labels' category is used to state an action of the author. The category is found thirty-one times across the corpus, with 0.48 occurrences per 100 sentences. A pattern previously labelled as 'other speech act labelling' in Ädel (2010) is also found in the current data and is reported as a separate 'elaborating' function. Due to the limited data, as shown in Figure 5, only 'exemplifying' and 'elaborating' will be reported.

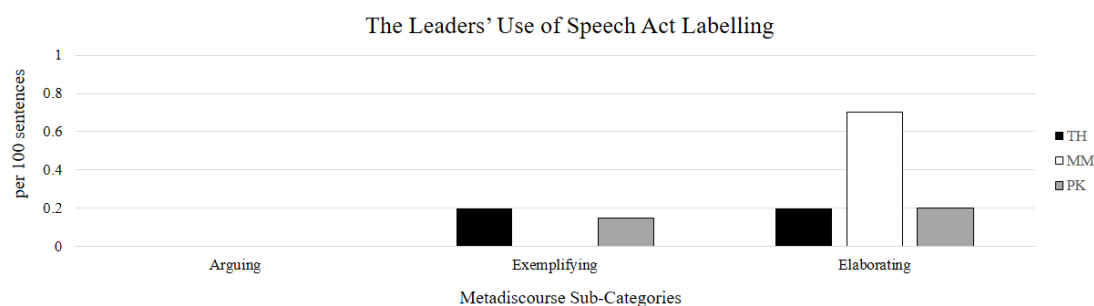The Leaders' Use of Speech Act Labelling

Figure 5 The Leaders' Use of Speech Act Labels

The absence of the 'arguing' category in the data is likely due to the monologic nature of national addresses, since arguing is an action where the author states his intention to argue against a proposition made by another party. 'Exemplifying' is used to signal the author's intention to provide an example in support of the ongoing topic. The function is found twelve times in the corpus, with 0.12 occurrences per 100 sentences. An example is shown in excerpt 15.

> (15) These slanderers and defamers will only hinder efficiency in our work and can even prevent us from performing duties. **<u>Let me raise an example about my own case</u>**. (TH-3)

In excerpt 15, Prayut first mentions the negative impact that slanderers and defamers have on the government's work before presenting a personal example to facilitate his audience's understanding. Similar use is also present in the other two leaders' corpora. Examples may also be given after a discourse marker, in which case they would not be considered reflexive metadiscourse expressions, as exemplified in excerpt 16.

> (16) Some people are careless in the way they make money. When it comes easy, they spend it easily as well and may need to break the law in order to find more money, **<u>such as</u>** by robbery or others. (TH-11)

In this excerpt, the author's example followed the marker 'such as.' Since no prior discursive expression is present, the expression is not considered a metadiscourse expression. Similar cases are often found in Thein Sein's data.

'Elaborating' is a new category that frequently occurs in the current data. It is used to signal the audience of an upcoming detailed explanation. The sub-category is found nineteen times across the corpora, with 0.37 occurrences per 100 sentences. An example of its usage is shown in excerpt 17.

> (17) In this month's radio speech, **<u>I want to emphasize</u>** the peace process which is directly related to the long term plan to realize national reconciliation. (MM-6)

In excerpt 17, Thein Sein states his intention to make the peace process the primary focus of his address. 'Elaborating' can also be achieved by using similar expressions such as 'I would like to reiterate' to state the author's intention to explain at length.

E. References to Audience

There are eighteen occurrences of the 'references to audience' function, 0.35 occurrences per 100 sentences. Due to the monologic communication setting, most of the functions of this category do not have sufficient data and the only sub-category with sufficient data is 'managing the message' as shown in Figure 6.

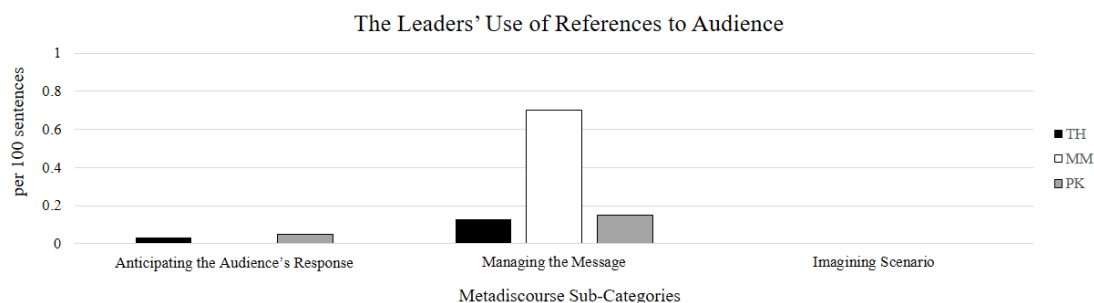The Leaders' Use of References to Audience

Figure 6 The Leaders' Use of References to Audience

'Managing the message' metadiscourse functions are found in the corpora of all three leaders, a total of fifteen times, 0.33 occurrences per 100 sentences. The function is used to emphasize the main idea of the topic and is often the most important message of the whole address. An example of such use is shown in excerpt 18.

> (18) In conclusion, **<u>I would like to note that</u>** I will try to do everything I can during the remainder of my term to achieve lasting peace, … (MM-6)

In excerpt 18, Thein Sein closes the current address as he does all of his addresses, by stating his commitment to

improving his country. While the 'managing the message' function plays a significant role in emphasizing the main idea or telling what the audience should know at the end of the talk, the current result is surprising in two respects. First, its occurrences are infrequent and its use is limited in both Prayut and Musharraf's corpora. Second, the function is often used to reaffirm the author's commitment rather than to summarize and / or state the key idea of the talk. While a rhetorical result is achieved, this use of the function may contribute to the complexity of political communication, as the audience's focus is shifted at the last moment away from the main idea of the talk.

F. Sub-Categories With Insufficient Data

There are two types of functions with insufficient data in this study. The first type includes functions that are present in the current data but do not have sufficient data to support analysis. These sub-categories include 'repairing,' 'managing terminology,' 'endophoric marking,' 'previewing,' 'contextualizing,' and 'anticipating the audience's response.' None of these functions has any additional pragmatic use.

The functions of the second type have no occurrences in the current corpus, but may potentially be found in a larger data set. These functions include 'marking asides,' 'arguing,' and 'imagining scenario.' The functions of this type all have sentences that perform similar functions, but are not expressed as metadiscourse expressions, as shown in excerpts 19 – 21.

> (19) And now I would like to share a prayer that I wrote for myself: O Allah! I promise my nation sincerity, honesty, integrity and unflinching loyalty. Give me the vision to see and perceive the truth from the false… (PK-2)
>
> (20) In support of my argument, I give you some figures. Time and again, I have told you that number of motorcycles has increased from 85,000 to 800,000. (PK-11)
>
> (21) … This was the easiest course for me. My image will be enhanced. But is it in national interest? Think about this. (PK-6)

In excerpt 19, what Musharraf does constitute, in fact, a sidetrack, as this prayer comes at the end of the address, after the scripted component of the address has been delivered. This excerpt thus demonstrates that topic sidetracks can, in fact, occur in national addresses. However, as Musharraf does not explicitly name a topic but instead proceeds directly to his prayer, this expression falls into the 'other speech act labelling with insufficient data' category. Excerpts 20 and 21 are similar, as Musharraf has already carried out his actions before stating them. In excerpt 20, he has already finished his argument without using metadiscourse before stating the relationship between the upcoming data and the previous data. In excerpt 21, Musharraf tells his audience about the imaginary state before using the directive 'think about this' to urge the audience to reflect on the idea. Although excerpt 21 involves an imaginary scenario, it lacks author reflexivity and is therefore not considered an instance of metadiscourse use.

V. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

In this section, the researcher discusses metadiscourse use in national addresses, followed by a comparison of metadiscourse use in the political genre versus its use in other genres.

A. Metadiscourse Use in National Addresses

Based on the current data, it is evident that metadiscourse is used to organize ideas in national addresses. However, the use of metadiscourse to support the audience's comprehension of an address and to establish / maintain a rapport with the audience is notably less frequent. The leaders' uses of metadiscourse are similar to one another in some ways and different in others, depending on the authors' communication strategies, as shown in Table 4.

TABLE 4
THE LEADERS' FREQUENTLY USED METADISCOURSE BY CATEGORIES

Metadiscourse Category	TH		MM		PK	
Metalinguistic Comments	1.	Clarifying	1.	Clarifying	1.	Clarifying
					2.	Reformulating
Discourse Organization	1.	Introducing Topic	1.	Introducing Topic	1.	Introducing Topic
	2.	Enumerating	2.	Reviewing	2.	Reviewing
	3.	Reviewing	3.	Concluding Topic	3.	Enumerating
	4.	Endophoric Marking	4.	Adding to Topic	4.	Delimiting Topic
	5.	Concluding Topic	5.	Enumerating	5.	Concluding Topic
					6.	Adding to Topic
Speech Act Labels	1.	Elaborating	1.	Elaborating	1.	Elaborating
	2.	Exemplifying			2.	Exemplifying
References to Audience	1.	Managing the Message	1.	Managing the Message	1.	Managing the Message

In Table 4 it can be seen that the most frequently used functions are generally those that are related to the organization of ideas, specifically 'introducing topic' and 'enumerating.' Other types of frequently-appearing functions are 'elaborating,' 'clarifying,' and 'managing the message,' which facilitate the audience's understanding of an address. Other functions not shown in Table 4 are mostly those related to the authors' respective chosen communication strategies. It should be noted that the relatively little emphasis in the current data on trying to support or engage an

audience may contribute to the common perception that political discourse is complex and boring, and may suggest that metadiscourse may be underutilized in political communications.

B. Comparison With Other Genres

Although there were other studies of metadiscourse use in specific genres prior to the current study, few were carried out using reflexive metadiscourse. Only two studies (Tjioe, 2014; Zhu, 2018) were carried out 1) using Ädel's (2010) framework and 2) gathering data from one-way, author-to-audience communications. A comparison of the results of this study with those of studies of other genres is shown in Table 5.

TABLE 5
METADISCOURSE COMPARISON AMONG GENRES

Genre	Metalinguistic Comments	Discourse Organization	Speech Act Labelling	References to Audience	per 1,000 words
Research Articles (Tjioe, 2014)	16.70%	63.64%	13.64%	6.06%	0.37
Commencement Speech (Zhu, 2018)	12.30%	27.50%	29.90%	30.30%	0.23
National Addresses (This study)	9.69%	76.73%	8.59%	4.99%	0.28

From Table 5 it can be seen that the pattern of metadiscourse use in the Research Article genre is quite similar to that in the National Addresses genre, which is the focus of the current study. In both genres, the highest frequency of metadiscourse use is in the 'discourse organization' category, followed by, in the same order, the 'metalinguistic comments,' 'speech act labelling,' and 'references to audience' categories. Neither genre makes much use of either the 'speech act labelling' function or the 'references to audience' function. In contrast, in the Commencement Speech genre, both the 'speech act labelling' function and the 'reference to audience' function are used quite frequently. These differences between metadiscourse use in the Research Articles and National Addresses genres on the one hand and metadiscourse use in the Commencement Speech genre on the other hand are likely closely related to differences in the purposes of the texts in these genres. A primary function of both Research Article texts and National Address texts is to deliver factual information to an audience. Texts in both genres typically comprise a series of subtopics that must be carefully organized if they are to be well understood by the audience. A high frequency of use of the 'discourse organization' function is therefore to be expected in these genres. In contrast, the primary function of Commencement Speech texts is to congratulate, encourage, challenge, etc. an audience consisting primarily of graduating students. The high frequency of use of both the 'speech act labelling' function, for example, "I congratulate you," "I encourage you," "I challenge you," and the 'references to audience' functions are therefore to be expected.

C. Conclusion

In summary, the study employs an adapted version of the taxonomy proposed by Ädel (2010) to analyze the use of metadiscourse in a corpus of national addresses delivered by three national leaders during periods of democratic reform in their respective countries. The researcher also analyzes to search for additional metadiscourse functions that may be exclusive to the political genre and identified an additional function, 'elaborating,' which was previously included in the 'other speech act labelling' category. The study found that the leaders' use of metadiscourse depends on their respective communication strategies. 'Discourse organization' functions are used most frequently, followed by 'speech act labelling' and 'metalinguistic comments' functions. 'References to audience' is the least frequently used category.

In addition to their basic functions, there are cases where metadiscourse also plays a rhetorical role, to engage or persuade the audience. These include 'reformulation' being used to introduce evaluated terms, and 'clarification' being used as a defensive tactic. The current study also found that metadiscourse is underutilized in the current data, despite the data being national addresses delivered in a context of a reform period, in which the author is seeking cooperation from his audience. The results report a significantly high frequency of the 'discourse organization' function, which organizes the ideas. However, the use of other categories that support the audience's engagement or understanding is surprisingly infrequent. This fact may contribute to the general perception of political discourse as being complex and boring.

As the current study focuses solely on metadiscourse use in national addresses that were delivered in a very specific context, that of national reform, it might well be worth re-examining metadiscourse use in the political communication genre using data from other contexts (e.g., election rally addresses) and a larger data set.

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