

Linguistic Deviations in Donald Trump's Tweets: Critical Discourse Analysis

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Abstract

This study aims to investigate how the language of Twitter users deviates from the Standard English language. Besides, it considers how those linguistic deviations and flouting of basic rules of grammar, spelling, and punctuation could be made with intention as a way of destabilizing opponents. Other times, it could have been resulted from hasty fingers. However, leaving them uncorrected could be a trace of poor proofreading tweets. This paper examines Tweets posted by the 45th American president, Donald Trump, from a Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) perspective, adopted from Fairclough's Three-dimensional model. Hence, this paper delves deep into the president's tweets, during the election campaign and after taking office, by analyzing some linguistic deviations. The findings of the analyses have revealed that Trump's deliberate sloppiness of the basic rules of grammar, spelling, and punctuation rings true with his character. They are mainly a way of destabilizing his opponents. Instead of being ashamed, the US president looks proud of his slips; he hardly proofreads his words before pouring them into the Twittersphere.

Keywords: Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), linguistic deviations, Twitter, Donald

1. Introduction:

Critical Discourse Analysis (henceforth CDA) examines the political, social and economic power relations that lie in any spoken or written text. It mainly focuses on the social use of language. According to Van Dijk (2001a), an analyst should adopt an outer position so that social and political inequality could be identified; hence, it could be changed later. This paper aims at analyzing some of Donald Trump's tweets posted during his 2016 American presidential election campaign and after taking office through applying Fairclough's model. Fairclough (1989) has developed a three-dimensional framework, (henceforth 3D model), aiming at analyzing the text in relation to discursive practice and social practice by which this text is produced. Hence, CDA investigates the relationships among language, ideology, and power. According to Fairclough's model (1989), a discourse is comprised of three parts: "text", "interaction" and "social context". Each phase is related to another one in the analysis. To put it differently, although the textual, interpersonal and social levels of analysis are interrelated, each level requires a different method of analysis.

The 2016 American presidential election has been extraordinary for several reasons. It is the first time for a woman to be a candidate for the presidency. Moreover, the unanticipated victory of Donald Trump and the usage of Twitter as a quite new medium for campaigning have been historic. Although Trump's campaign was not taken seriously at the beginning by political analysts, opinion polls showed his rise to the top. Defeating his rival, Hillary Clinton who was the presumptive Democratic nominee, Trump turned to be the oldest and wealthiest US president despite the fact of losing the nationwide popular vote. Illegal immigration, jobs offshoring, the national debt, and Islamic terrorism hold a great deal of attention throughout his campaign for which he chose "Make America Great Again" to be the campaign slogan. Trump's campaign platform assures fighting terrorists abroad which requires U. S. military expansion, building a new wall, renegotiating U.S. foreign relations, and restricting immigration through strictly enforcing immigration laws.

Over time, media has played a crucial and an influential part in shaping public opinion. Politicians have used it to mobilize people and manipulate their minds. In the digital media and instant communication era, it is not very surprising that Trump uses such a microblogging platform as a communicative tool.

Twitter is a sort of blogging where short messages, due to the limited number of characters, could be conveyed. This content could be either concise phrases, brief comments, images, Gifs, or links. Having no moderators makes Twitter an ideal, unique, and free advertising tool for anyone in general and politicians in particular. For Trump, Twitter, in particular and social media in general, are the most effective ways of communicating with not only the Americans but the whole world as well with the absence of a moderator; it is not filtered as the traditional media is.

Trump's unprecedented usage of Twitter as a primary means of communication to shape voters' opinions and persuade them to give him the support he needs has developed political discourse. Although there are different approaches that could be applied to analyze such a new kind of discourse, Fairclough's approach is more convenient as it allows the application of both micro and macro analyses of the tweets.

2. Objectives of the Study

The paper explores the networked social space in respect of being a political discourse medium. It investigate the linguistic features of Trump's tweets, their surrounding discursive practices and the potential social implications as well.

Overall, this paper has the following objectives:

1. To explore how the standard linguistic rules, phonological, morphological and syntactic, of the English language are made excessively deviant in tweets.
2. To arrive at the causes behind the linguistic deviations of the selected tweets and their significance.
3. To look deeply into the language employed in the discourse of the tweets in order to identify the purpose, implicit and explicit message and implication of power behind the tweets.
4. To investigate how Twitter users communicate with the least possible characters to champion one's interest

3. Key Research Questions

1. What are the effects of the linguistic deviations on the conveyed message or on its communicated meaning?

2. What are the linguistic features that Trump uses to persuade people to support him and to reflect his own ideology?
3. How does Trump use Twitter to disseminate his ideologies and attract the attention of larger audiences?

4. Thesis Hypotheses

- The linguistic deviations resulted from the brief nature of the tweets affect the message which is conveyed.
- Trump uses the tweets as a persuasion tool to convey his ideologies and attack his opponents.

5. Theoretical Framework

This section aims at sketching an overview of the approach that is chosen for the application on the selected data.

There are different approaches to CDA. Although they have some aspects in common as they attempt to achieve the same end, some distinct elements distinguish each of them. This section discusses the most prominent approaches which greatly contribute to the field of CDA: Fairclough's 3D model, Van Dijk's socio-cognitive approach, and Wodak's historical-sociolinguistic approach.

Fairclough is considered one of the founders of the CDA field. He has been greatly influenced by poststructuralism, especially Foucault's and Bourdieu's thoughts, and non-Marxism. However, the linguistic aspect of his work is based on Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar (henceforth SFG) (Gee, 2004).

Fairclough (1995a) assumes that CDA is "an interdisciplinary" approach to study and analyze discourse. He (1989) considers discourse as a "social practice" as they, namely language and society, are closely interrelated. Thus, he argues that language should not be studied in isolation; it is an intrinsic constituent of society. It shapes and is shaped by social practices. Text should be analyzed in relation to the discursive practices and events as well as its social and cultural contexts. According to him, the relationship between language and society is dialectical. To put it differently, Fairclough considers discourse as "a particular form of social practice" in the center of which power and ideology

influence and interact with each other (p. 42). He (1995a) traces out the relation between language and power. Fairclough (1989) believes CDA tries to make a positive and constructive change in society, in particular, and in the whole world, in general; it tries to support the victimized group taking the lid off the dominants' cunning use of the language. For him, CDA suggests that several dimensions participate in establishing and maintaining power relations such as culture, economy, social practices, etc.

According to Fairclough (1989), CDA has three stages. Worded differently, for the sake of analysis, the 3D model suggests three dimensions: text, discursive practice, and social practice. "Text", which is the first dimension, "is a product rather than a process" (p. 24). The second dimension is "interaction". This process includes not only the text but also the production and interpretation of the text in relation to its context. Since the production and interpretation processes cannot be done disregarding their social origins, the third dimension, "context", is recognized. In other words, the second dimension considers the social influence of the discourse whereas the third one explores the institutional and societal contexts. In regard to those three dimensions, Fairclough proposes three stages of the CDA: description, interpretation, and explanation. The description stage is "identifying" the text features (p.26). As for the interpretation stage, it is considered "an insider's ... task" which is mentally done (p.167). The explanation stage is assigned to explore the dialectical relationship between social events and social context as both constitute and affect one another. However, it is worth noting that an analyst can start with any of the three stages since they are interdependent.

Fairclough (1989) believes that discourse has a great impact on society as it helps in forming and applying ideologies and beliefs. Such ideologies and beliefs are mainly used to gain, assume and exercise power in economics, politics and society. Since different people and groups have different beliefs and ideologies, they can be expressed through language. CDA tries to understand those beliefs and to identify how they are conveyed to the others. The more powerful group dominates the common people's minds and beliefs through the smart use of language so that it is not easy to resist such beliefs and ideologies.

Thus, even though there are various models to adopt for the analysis, as it has been previously mentioned, this study applies Fairclough's 3D model to

analyze Trump's tweets. The main reason behind choosing this model is because it analyzes the discourse accurately revealing the speaker's ideology. It considers not only the text but also the production and reception processes so that the content could be perceived from several perspectives and related to its historical and social contexts.

6. Literature Review

This section is divided in to two parts. The first part introduces some of the most prominent figures in the field of CDA, namely Van Dijk and Ruth Wodak. The second one reviews some contemporary works in the same domain of study. Those studies are various as they are based on different theoretical background to analyze quite miscellaneous data.

6.1. Prominent Scholars

Van Dijk is one of the prominent figures in the field of CDA. He (1988) believes that media plays a crucial role in implementing a politician's agenda and spreading his/her beliefs and ideologies. As for Van Dijk (2001b), CDA enables the analyst to investigate how the dominant people make use of their power and posts to have more control over the people and how they use language to achieve their ends and agendas. Accordingly, he has developed a socio-cognitive model which has been widely adopted. According to Van Dijk (2001b), CDA is not a branch of discourse but a "multidisciplinary" approach (p. 96). Through relating society, cognition, and discourse, Van Dijk's triangle approach asserts the importance of cognition in the process of discourse analysis. His approach mainly tries to explain how social structures could affect and be affected by discourse structures. It is crystal clear that the cognitive analysis is considered an aspect that remarkably distinguishes his framework.

It is obvious that Fairclough's model and Van Dijk's approach differ in the second dimension of analysis. Fairclough's model (1989, 1995a) suggests three dimensions of the analysis: text, discourse practice and sociocultural practice whereas Van Dijk's approach proposes three dimensions for the ideological analysis: discourse, sociocognition, and social analysis.

The field of CDA has been also influenced by the contribution of Ruth Wodak. She (2001) asserts that CDA aims at exploring and investigating the relationships of dominance, discrimination, and power which are enacted,

reproduced, and maintained in discourse whether those relations are opaque or transparent. Wodak et al. (2009) perceive that there is “a dialectical relationship between particular discursive events and the situations, institutions and social structures in which they are embedded” (p.8). Social practices shape discourse and at the same time are shaped by it. Wodak (2001) has developed the historical-sociolinguistic approach tries to combine as much historical information and social and political background where the discursive events are embedded. It aims at transcending the investigation of a text per se and integrating the historical, political, sociological, and psychological aspects in the process of analysis and explanation of a certain discursive event.

6.2. Related Studies

In this sub-section, some related studies are reviewed in order to identify the points of similarities to and differences from this paper to identify its major contributions. In addition, it draws a study framework through relating this study with other works in the same field.

Varnhagen et al. (2009) study a “new language” resulted from different types of electronic communication. They classify the types of this new language into three categories: shortcuts, pragmatic devices, and errors. The study reveals that unique spelling habits are among the most prevailing habits in the participants’ instant messaging. It concludes that the new language does have a harmful impact on the traditional written language as media and parents think. It also asserts that general spelling ability is not highly related to any type of the new language of instant messaging; it is correlated with true spelling errors.

Clarke and Grieve (2019) have provided a detailed description of the stylistic variation of Trump’s tweets posted between 2009 and 2018 based on a qualitative and quantitative analysis of grammatical co-occurrence patterns. They identify four forms of stylistic variations which have changed over time depending on his communicative goals. Prompting campaign, appealing to audiences, opposing Trump’s critics, destabilizing his adversaries are some of the key factors in the success of Trump during the 2016 American Presidential election campaign. The results also highlight the true value of managing a campaign on social media which turns to be a fundamental part of modern politics.

Tyrkkö and Frisk (2020) have examined Trump's use of nicknaming on Twitter. They apply a quantitative and qualitative analysis on the identified nicknames to highlight the strategies of self-promotion and power in Trump's tweet. Due to the rapid and instantaneous nature of Twitter, Trump has a great chance to disparage and discredit his opponents using nicknames as a part of his attacking policy. The research shows that these nicknames are more frequently given to males than females. Some of those nicknames are disappeared or replaced to better fit into Trump's agenda. The researcher goes further and says that Trump's use of Twitter is a culturally and historically remarkable phenomenon which might shape the political discourse in social media.

Ayomi (2021) explores the lexicogrammatical choices in some of Trump and Widodo's tweets. Applying SFG, the researcher studies stylistic variations and their implications in the SFG's three meta-functions. The paper reveals that while Trump's language is informal, Jokowi uses formal and academic language. It also highlights different appraisal policies that Trump uses to destabilize his opponents and defend himself against criticism. On the other hand, the Indonesian president uses more positive appraisal strategies while addressing his government during the COVID-19 pandemic. Trump uses more graders in his tweets to reinforce his messages and to show resentful manner and negativity. The researcher asserts that different lexicogrammatical choices could result in different styles and images in social media. Based on the above review of literature, it is crystal clear that chosen approach can highlight the speaker/writer true intentions. CDA tries to make a positive and constructive change in society, in particular, and in the whole world, in general. It tries to support the victimized group taking the lid off the dominants' cunning use of the language (Fairclough, 1989).

7. Data collection and methodology

This section gives a detailed discussion of how data is collected and what methodology is used in analyzing the collected data.

The selected tweets are compiled through Twitter's advanced search option manually. Only tweets were included in this paper but not their replies or comments. The data under study is Trump's 29 tweets which are posted either by himself or by his ads on his official account on Twitter during the 2016 election campaign and after taking office (from January 2016 till September

2019). These selected tweets are fully analyzed applying the selected approach, namely Fairclough's 3D model. They are analyzed to identify the linguistic deviations and the used ideology of the candidates. It is worth noting that this paper considers only the syntactic, phonological, and orthographical deviations.

Social media language has become recently the center of many studies in CDA. Being greatly influenced by Halliday's SFG, Fairclough (1995) believes that a text is multifunctional; it represents the outer world (ideational function) and it aims at establishing social relationships (interpersonal function). Fairclough's 3D framework (1989) is applied for the sake of the analysis as it focuses on both the linguistic aspect and the social one. He has developed a 3D model aiming at analyzing the text in relation to discursive practice and social practice by which it is produced. He (1995) states that the aim of this framework is:

... to map three separate forms of analysis onto one another: interrelated forms of analysis. analysis of (spoken or written) language texts, analysis of discourse practice (processes of text production, distribution and consumption) and analysis of discursive events as instances of sociocultural practice. (p. 2)

Thus, Fairclough's framework (1989) asserts that for every communicative event there are three dimensions: text, discursive practice, and social practice. The text could be visual, spoken, written or a combination of them. The discourse practices include both the consumption and production processes of the text. Fairclough (1989, 1992) suggests that in correspondence to those three levels of analysis, CDA has 3 stages: description, interpretation and explanation. A completely different method of analysis is required for each level, they are interrelated to one another, though.

8. Data Analysis

This section is developed on practical grounds of theoretical application.

The analysis follows the following steps. Firstly, a textual analysis of each tweet is done to identify bad diction and the syntactic, phonological and orthographical deviations. The tweets are classified into topics and ordered chronologically under these topics. Secondly, the tweets are analyzed according to the second dimension of the 3D model which is the process analysis to explore the way by which the discourse is enacted, reproduced, and maintained.

Thirdly, the tweets are analyzed at the social practice level to identify the potential consequences of that kind of discourse and the widespread of that new venue on political life in particular and the social one in general. The tweets are presented as screenshots, including the publication date and time, which are taken from the researcher personal Twitter account.

The collected tweets are chronologically enlisted in an appendix. They are presented as screenshots, including the publication date and time. The tweets are taken from the researcher's personal Twitter account.

8.1. Textual Analysis

The first dimension of Fairclough's model refers to the description of discourse, a "text". The textual analysis refers to the analysis of the language of a discourse, whether written or spoken. It mainly aims at detecting the cohesive, semantic and morphological elements in the studied text. When it comes to tweets, the term "text" sometimes points towards a 'linguistic unit', an image, GIF, links to audio or video, etc. which can be added to the tweet or the comment. Nevertheless, this study targets the linguistic deviations and Trump's underlying ideologies so only the text would be considered. At this level, the linguistic features such as the use of certain vocabulary, spelling, and grammatical structure of the whole tweets are considered.

Fairclough (1989) proposes that an analyst should perform a large-scale analysis in which the structure of the whole text is considered. Thus, despite the fact that tweets are separately originated, they are examined first as a whole. Despite the brief nature of having maximum 140 characters tweet, which has been doubled later to become 280, a Twitter user can easily perceive the lengthy peculiarity of Trump's tweets. This is, namely lengthy feature, due to the American president's tendency to express his thoughts and critical policy decisions on this new media venue. The lexical choice of Trump's tweets is quite simple. Such simplicity makes the tweets understandable to common users regardless of their educational, cultural, or political background. The syntactic structure of almost all the tweets is much the same. The sentence structure is declarative. Trump's tweets are marked with their bad grammar, misspelling and weird punctuation.

8.1.1. Vocabulary

Tweet 21: Democrats can't find a Smocking Gun tying the Trump campaign to Russia after James Comey's testimony. No Smocking Gun...No Collusion." @FoxNews That's because there was NO COLLUSION. So now the Dems go to a simple private transaction, wrongly call it a campaign contribution,... (Trump, 2018)

Tweet 29: To show you how dishonest the LameStream Media is, I used the word Liddle', not Liddle, in discribing Corrupt Congressman Liddle' Adam Schiff. Low ratings @CNN purposely took the hyphen out and said I spelled the word little wrong. A small but never ending situation with CNN (Trump, 2019)

The lexical choice of Trump's tweets is quite simple. However, the president direct communication with the world is marked by bad diction. For example, in tweet 29 which is mainly trying to attack one of his opponents, the congressman, Adam Schiff, he commits several mistakes: a spelling mistake, weird capitalization, and a wrong word choice. In this tweet, he, as usual, fails to use the correct word; he uses a "hyphen" instead of an "apostrophe". Accordingly, such a bad diction could be an identifying mark of poor proofreading.

Moreover, trying to undermine Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation, Trump has committed a confusing mistake, consider tweet 21. The usage of the phrase "Smocking Guns" has rapidly aroused a lot of questions. Twitter users try hard to find a plausible interpretation for this phrase. The weird capitalization and the repetition of this expression become a cause for concern. It has been claimed that this is not a typo; Trump here is trying to mock the Democrats. It could be also postulated that the repetition is mainly to get readers' attention and to emphasize his point.

8.1.2. Grammar

Tweet 14a: After having written many best selling books, and somewhat priding myself on my ability to write, it should be noted that the Fake News constantly likes to pour over my tweets looking for a mistake. I capitalize certain words only for emphasis, not b/c they should be capitalized! (Trump, 2018)

Tweet 14b: After having written many best selling books, and somewhat priding myself on my ability to write, it should be noted that the Fake News

constantly likes to pore over my tweets looking for a mistake. I capitalize certain words only for emphasis, not b/c they should be capitalized! (Trump, 2018)

Trump's tweets are also marked with their bad grammar. It could be said that the president pays little attention to the grammar of the language. Ironically, in tweet 14a which is mainly written to brag, Trump has committed a number of mistakes: grammatical, spelling, and punctuation. It is worth noting that after receiving hundreds of comments on those mistakes, only the spelling mistake has been corrected; the grammatical and punctuation ones are left without correction, as presented in tweet 14b.

8.1.3. Misspelling

Tweet 2: Ted Cruz is totally unelectable, if he even gets to run (born in Canada). Will loose big to Hillary. Polls show I beat Hillary easily! WIN! (Trump, 2016)

Tweet 4: All of the phony T.V. commercials against me are bought and payed for by SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS, the bandits that tell your pols what to do (Trump, 2016)

Tweet 6: Hillary Clinton is not qualified to be president because her judgement has been proven to be so bad! Would be four more years of stupidity! (Trump, 2016)

Tweet 8a: If Russia, or some other entity, was hacking, why did the White House waite so long to act? Why did they only complain after Hillary lost? (Trump, 2016)

Tweet 9: Thr coverage about me in the @nytimes and the @washingtonpost gas been so false and angry that the times actually apologized to its..... (Trump, 2017)

Tweet 11: Great Tax Cut rollout today. The lobbyists are storming Capital Hill, but the Republicans will hold strong and do what is right for America! (Trump, 2017)

Tweet 15: The failing @nytimes wrote a Fake piece today implying that because White House Council Don McGahn was giving hours of testimony to the Special Council, he must be a John Dean type "RAT." But I allowed him and all others to testify - I didn't have to. I have nothing to hide... (Trump, 2018)

Tweet 16: The Failing New York Times wrote a story that made it seem like the White House Council had TURNED on the President, when in fact it is just

the opposite - & the two Fake reporters knew this. This is why the Fake News Media has become the Enemy of the People. So bad for America! (Trump, 2018)

Tweet 17: Disgraced and discredited Bob Mueller and his whole group of Angry Democrat Thugs spent over 30 hours with the White House Council, only with my approval, for purposes of transparency. Anybody needing that much time when they know there is no Russian Collusion is just someone.... (Trump, 2018)

It could be argued that misspellings are either made with intention or resulted from hasty, clumsy fingers. The president's misspellings, sometimes, seem truly unintended for example, loose*, instead of lose, payed* instead of paid, judgement*, instead of judgment, waite*, instead of wait, but his mistake has been corrected later, thr*, instead of the, gas*, instead of has, Capital Hill*, instead of Capitol Hill, council*, which is repeated 4 times, instead of counsel, etc, as presented respectively in tweets 2, 6, 8a, 9, 11, 15, 16, 17 which are considered a kind of typo.

Tweet 20: ...children from parents, as did Bush etc., because that is the policy and law. I tried to keep them together but the problem is, when you do that, vast numbers of additional people storm the Border. So with Obama seperation is fine, but with Trump it's not. Fake 60 Minutes! (Trump, 2018)

Tweet 23: Little @DonnyDeutsch, whose show, like his previous shoebiz tries, is a disaster, has been saying that I had been a friend of his. This is false. He, & separately @ErinBurnett, used to BEG me to be on episodes of the Apprentice (both were bad), but that was it. Hardly knew him,.. (Trump, 2019)

Tweet 28a: Has anyone noticed that the top shows on @foxnews and cable ratings are those that are Fair (or great) to your favorite President, me! Congratulations to @seanhannity for being the number one shoe on Cable Television! (Trump, 2019)

Tweet 28b: Has anyone noticed that the top shows on @foxnews and cable ratings are those that are Fair (or great) to your favorite President, me! Congratulations to @seanhannity for being the number one show on Cable Television! (Trump, 2019)

Tweet 29: To show y ou how dishonest the LameStream Media is, I used the word Liddle', not Liddle, in discribing Corrupt Congressman Liddle' Adam Schiff. Low ratings @CNN purposely took the hyphen out and said I spelled the word little wrong. A small but never ending situation with CNN (Trump, 2019)

Trump has weaponized Twitter; it is not only used to communicate with the public but also to attack others. Trump has largely used Twitter to deliver assaulting messages about his political opponents, organizations, media, etc. For example, trying to attack previous administrations, Trump makes spelling mistakes, as presented in tweet 20 in which he misspells the word “separation”. He also misspells the word “show” when he launches an attack against Donny Deutsch, a host of a political show on Saturday nights, as presented in tweet 23. Instead of “showbiz”, he has written “shoebiz”. The same word has been misspelled on another tweet mainly written for self-glorification, as appeared in tweet 28a. This time after receiving hundreds of comments on this repeated misspelling, only latter has been corrected, as presented in tweet 28b. However, people’s comments on the misspelling are kept as evidence in addition to a screenshot of the original tweet. Another misspelling is realized on a tweet, analyzed above, which is basically written to condemn the media, namely CNN, and the congressman, Adam Schiff; Trump has misspelled the gerund “describing”, as presented in tweet 29. Thus, this tweet marks not only the president’s bad diction but also his careless, unchecked spelling. These deviations seem to be intentional with ideological implications.

Tweet 1: The dying @NRO National Review has totally given up the fight against Barrack Obama. They have been losing for years. I will beat Hillary! (Trump, 2016)

Tweet 3: Just another desperate move by the man who should have easily beaten Barrack Obama. (2/2) (Trump, 2016)

Tweet 13a: Great to have our incredible First Lady back home in the White House. Melanie is feeling and doing really well. Thank you for all of your prayers and best wishes! (Trump, 2018)

Tweet 13b: Great to have our incredible First Lady back home in the White House. Melania is feeling and doing really well. Thank you for all of your prayers and best wishes! (Trump, 2018)

Tweet 18a: “Barrack Obama talked a lot about hope, but Donald Trump delivered the American Dream. All the economic indicators, what’s happening overseas, Donald Trump has proven to be far more successful than Barrack Obama. President Trump is delivering the American Dream.” Jason Chaffetz (Trump, 2018)

Tweet 18b: “Barack Obama talked a lot about hope, but Donald Trump delivered the American Dream. All the economic indicators, what’s happening

overseas, Donald Trump has proven to be far more successful than Barack Obama. President Trump is delivering the American Dream.” Jason Chaffetz (Trump, 2018)

Tweet 19: So funny to see little Adam Schitt (D-CA) talking about the fact that Acting Attorney General Matt Whitaker was not approved by the Senate, but not mentioning the fact that Bob Mueller (who is highly conflicted) was not approved by the Senate! (Trump, 2018)

Tweet 22: “We simply cannot allow people to pour into the United States undetected, undocumented, unchecked...” Barrack Obama, 2005. I voted, when I was a Senator, to build a barrier to try to prevent illegal immigrants from coming in...” Hillary Clinton, 2015. (Trump, 2019)

Tweet 25a: North Korea fired off some small weapons, which disturbed some of my people, and others, but not me. I have confidence that Chairman Kim will keep his promise to me, & also smiled when he called Swampman Joe Bidan a low IQ individual, & worse. Perhaps that’s sending me a signal? (Trump, 2019)

Tweet 25b: North Korea fired off some small weapons, which disturbed some of my people, and others, but not me. I have confidence that Chairman Kim will keep his promise to me, & also smiled when he called Swampman Joe Biden a low IQ individual, & worse. Perhaps that’s sending me a signal? (Trump, 2019)

Tweet 27: “Nearly one million more blacks and two million more Hispanics are employed than when Barrack Obama left office, and minorities account for more than half of all new jobs created during the Trump Presidency. Unemployment among black women has hovered near 5% for the last six.... (Trump, 2019)

Trump sometimes deliberately misspells a person's name as a way of attacking and belittling, as the case in misspelling Barrack* instead of Barack, consider tweets 1, 3, 18a, 22, 27, “Schitt” instead of Schiff, as presented in tweet 19, and “Bidan” instead of Biden, as in tweet 25a. In other words, such tweets mainly target his opponents; they seem as a kind of insult on their own. Astonishingly, he sometimes misspells his allies’ names and even his wife, Melania, as in the tweet 13a, in which he was welcoming her back to White House; later this mistake has been rectified, as presented in tweet 13b.

Tweet 24: Democrat Senator Mark Warner is acting and talking like he is in total control of the Senate Intelligence Committee. Their is nothing bipartisan about him. He should not be allowed to take “command” of that Committee. Too important! Remember when he spoke to the Russian jokester? (Trump,

2019)

Tweet 26:We don't have a Tariff problem (we are reigning in bad and/or unfair players), we have a Fed problem. They don't have a clue! (Trump, 2019)

Trump also sometimes fails to use the correct homophones. According to Macmillan Dictionary (2020), a *homophone* is "a word that sounds the same as another word but has its own spelling, meaning, and origin" (n.d). For example, in tweet 24, Trump should have used the homophone "there"; not "their" the possessive form. In addition, the use of "reigning in", in tweet 26, is not correct; what he should use here is the homophone "reining in". Even after receiving hundreds of comments on this mistake, it has been left as a trace of the bad spelling and unproofread tweets.

8.1.4.Punctuation

Tweet 4: All of the phony T.V. commercials against me are bought and payed for by SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS, the bandits that tell your pols what to do (Trump, 2016)

Tweet 5: Wow, Lyin' Ted Cruz really went wacko today. Made all sorts of crazy charges. Can't function under pressure - not very presidential. Sad! (Trump, 2016)

Tweet 7: Just watched recap of #CrookedHillary's speech. Very short and lies. She is the only one fear-mongering! (Trump, 2016)

Tweet 10: I love the White House, one of the most beautiful buildings (homes) I have ever seen. But Fake News said I called it a dump - TOTALLY UNTRUE (Trump, 2017)

Tweet 12: We need the Wall for the safety and security of our country. We need the Wall to help stop the massive inflow of drugs from Mexico, now rated the number one most dangerous country in the world. If there is no Wall, there is no Deal! (Trump, 2018)

Tweet 17: Disgraced and discredited Bob Mueller and his whole group of Angry Democrat Thugs spent over 30 hours with the White House Council, only with my approval, for purposes of transparency. Anybody needing that much time when they know there is no Russian Collusion is just someone.... (Trump, 2018)

Trump's use of bizarre punctuation raises a lot of questions. He sometimes uses parentheses to explain something that is apparently obvious, as presented in tweet 10, in which he uses the parenthetical word homes after saying buildings.

Incorrect capitalization could be Trump's way of attacking others or adding much prominence and emphasis to the tweets. This weird capitalization habit could be identified as a writing style that Trump himself adopts. Such a technique has been employed in "Crooked Hillary", as demonstrated by tweet 7, and "Lyin' Ted", as demonstrated by tweet 5. Furthermore, in tweet 4, Trump uses capitalization of the whole phrase "special interest groups" to combat commercials campaigns launched against him by other candidates using more traditional media venues. In tweet 17, he also capitalizes the phrase "angry democrat thugs" in addition to the words "council" which is misspelled and "collusion". Trump here attacks Bob Mueller and his investigation of Russian interference in the 2016 American presidential election denying any collusion between his team and Russia. Trump accuses Mueller of political bias and conflict of interest and that his investigators are democrats. Thus, it could be argued that such capitalization is considered a way of attacking his opponents. Moreover, Trump's mysterious habit of capitalizing the word "wall" as in tweet 12 raises a question. The word is not typically capitalized, Trump, though, capitalizes it to draw more attention and place emphasis on this word. Trump believes that Americans have the right to stop the flow of immigration to their country. Accordingly, he proposes building a boundary wall separating America and Mexico since the stoppage of illegal immigration to America is the ideal solution to the acts of terrorism. Trump's practice of discrimination and favoritism led to racism. The attribution of a proper noun feature to this noun, i.e. wall, has perplexed some analysts and lexicographers. Trump himself once admits that "I capitalize certain words only for emphasis, not b/c they should be capitalized!" (tweet 14 a&b).

It could be concluded that the consistency of this uncommon style is clearly a mark of deliberateness either to imply criticism or to show importance.

8.2. Process Analysis

The second dimension of Fairclough's model is the process analysis, which, in addition to the social practice analysis, mainly distinguishes his approach from other approaches. In this stage, an analyst tries to figure out how a text is produced, used, and received in a social context. According to Fairclough (1989), a text is produced and interpreted through discursive practices which greatly contribute to structuring the social world and shaping the social

identities. Thus, the analysis, in this stage, is concerned with the process of production and reception of the selected tweets in a particular context.

Tweets are widely circulated on various social media platforms. Tweets could be found on Twitter, the platform where they are originated, and incorporated in posts or articles that appear on newspapers or other social media platforms. Hence, Twitter makes Trump's messages accessible to Twitter users and all the social media users as well. However some messages are not available anymore. They are edited or deleted from Trump's personal account, which is one of the inconveniences faced by the researcher, still they could be found in online archives or through screenshots. Twitter makes it easier for its users to post at any time and from any device as the application is setup on. Hence, Trump can post and retweet whenever he wants. One of Twitter criteria is not to curtail one's freedom of speech; Trump makes full use of Twitter and considers it to be his campaign platform.

8.2.1. The Process of Production

As one of Twitter significant features, it shows the exact time of publication of the tweet and the used device. A careful examination of the selected tweets shows that most of Trump's tweets are posted in the early hours of the morning. This justifies that most of his tweets are originally written by Trump himself and there was no ample time for being edited or proofread by his aids before posting them.

Unlike any other social media platforms, Twitter has a unique mechanism, the concept of followers, which makes it less personal. This feature has greatly contributed to the tweets replication and reproduction. Hence, users can access to whatsoever posted on the accounts of those who they follow. This replication contributes to trending certain topics. Accordingly, it could be argued that the repetition and the replication of Trump's linguistic deviations might have a profound effect on language and the coming generations' use of social media in the long term.

It is a convenient medium for promoting one's ideas and ideologies. Trump has largely used Twitter as a modern, affordable venue to deliver assaulting messages about his political opponents, organizations, media, etc. Carrying out a series of attacks on Twitter, Trump has made loads of spelling,

syntactic, orthographical mistakes. Though the lexical choice of Trump's tweets is quite simple, they are marked by careless and wrong diction. Trump, also, is baffled by homophones. Thus, it is rather difficult for a software spelling checker to determine which homophone should be used in a certain context while excluding the other one; it falls on the writer's shoulders to employ the correct spelling. Even though such kind of mistake could happen, it is considered an alarming indication if it is constantly repeated; it is definitely clear evidence of poor proofreading.

Despite the length restriction of its messages, Twitter allows for instantaneous interactions and communication. This character number limit could be a good justification for the quick, impulsive and brief nature of Twitter.

8.2.2. The Process of Reception

Twitter also allows its users to take screenshots and repost them on other platforms. In other words, tweets are considered a vehicle for social communication and interaction. It licenses its users to (re)tweet, read, comment, and replicate tweets on various social media venues which is a great indicator of exposure. Even after receiving hundreds of comments on his mistakes, only the spelling mistakes have got some attention; the grammatical ones are left without any correction. They have been left as a trace of the bad spelling and unproofread tweets. It perfectly matches with his persona. Instead of being ashamed, the president appears somehow proud of his slops. One could deduce from his negligence for the comments that he is illusioned by having an absolute mastery of the language, and they are not mistakes at all.

The new sphere has given equal access to the public; it allows them to contribute to political discourse which was not possible before through traditional venues.

The simple nature of Twitter and hence the simplicity of the tweets production and reception processes contribute to the popularity of Twitter as an arena for political discourse.

8.3. Social practice analysis

The third dimension of Fairclough's model is the social practice, which could also be referred to as "power behind discourse" since it incorporates the conditions, namely the socio-historical ones, that govern the production and reception processes. The social, historical, cultural aspects are investigated in this process. The institutional and societal contexts play a crucial part in exploring the hidden power, ideology, and language as well (Fairclough, 1989). He believes that language is socially constructive and socially formed as well. There is a fixed relationship between ideology and language since the word choice may have ideological significance (Fairclough, 1995).

Twitter is an effective communication medium for political leaders, politicians, and ordinary people. The influence of social media in general and Twitter in particular has become greater and more dominant since the 2016 American Presidential election which in turn resulted in the conventional media loss of its dominance. Candidates can use it to express their stances, attack other opponents, shape public opinion, mobilize, etc. Unlike other social media platforms on which content is mainly based on the users' preferences, Twitter provides its users with the most recent updates specifically the political ones as politics requires a constantly updated source of information and incidents. The thing that considerably justifies Trump's choice of Twitter as a platform for his campaign and even after taking office since it fosters more engaged voters and press coverage.

As a Republican, Trump joined the 2016 presidential race, although Trump's presidential ambitions were not taken seriously in the beginning, and surprisingly he defeated the other candidates in the primary election. Some argue that he won the election because he represents the public opinion and considers his country's interest more important than any other nation. Not as any other candidates who mainly criticized because of their political positions, Trump's way of expressing his own stance and his orations have received heavy criticism.

It is one's character, knowledge, education, and sociological background that inevitably shape a person's attitude. It was expected that after taking office or with the help of his advisor, the president's sloppiness nature would be diminished. Trump's tweets in particular, and his speeches and orations in

general, have become controversial. In other words, his discourse arouses controversy concerning his competence of being the leader of one of the greatest power of the world. Not only considering as embarrassing mistakes, the repetition and the amount of them raise worries.

Tweet 10: I love the White House, one of the most beautiful buildings (homes) I have ever seen. But Fake News said I called it a dump - TOTALLY UNTRUE (Trump, 2017)

Tweet 15: The failing @nytimes wrote a Fake piece today implying that because White House Council Don McGahn was giving hours of testimony to the Special Council, he must be a John Dean type "RAT." But I allowed him and all others to testify - I didn't have to. I have nothing to hide... (Trump, 2018)

Tweet 16: The Failing New York Times wrote a story that made it seem like the White House Council had TURNED on the President, when in fact it is just the opposite - & the two Fake reporters knew this. This is why the Fake News Media has become the Enemy of the People. So bad for America! (Trump, 2018)

Being a businessman greatly affects Trump's character and, in turn, it affects his behavior and attitude. The American president Trump, unlike other predecessor presidents, does not have either military or political experience; his experience mainly in business and entrepreneurship which inevitably affects how he leads the States. It has been argued that this is the main reason that he pays little or even no attention to the basic rules of engagements and the political language. Furthermore, being a businessman has taught him to try hard to maintain control of their name and reputation. He capitalizes the adjectives fake and failing that he attributes to different news outlets and TV shows, as shown in tweet 10, 15, and 16. He accuses major news organizations and outlets of promulgating fake news and trying hard to stop him to disseminate the real stories. Attacking them, Trump appears as an honest person who would like to share the whole story with the American people.

Accordingly, after doing a thorough analysis applying Fairclough's 3D model, it could be proved that the three dimensions are interdependent. To put it differently, a comprehensive analysis could not be done based on only one dimension; the three independent dimensions should be mutually explored.

9. Conclusion and Findings

In short, in the era of technology and the widespread of social media, it is not surprising that Trump does not depend on traditional media and resorts to Twitter as his own printing press and political platform. Due to the increasing use of Twitter for political purposes, many studies have been conducted to explore its implication as a political communication domain. Tweets could be a research object to find out how they could be an ideological carrier despite their brevity. The researcher applies the CDA approach following Fairclough's 3D model to analyze the selected data to identify the linguistic deviations present in Trump's tweets and to consider their potential implications. The research questions are answered. Concerning the first question, what are the effects of the linguistic deviations on the conveyed message or its communicated meaning? The paper shows that the linguistic deviations have a profound effect on the conveyed message. For example, the usage of strange collocations such as "Smocking Guns", bad grammar, misspellings, and incorrect punctuation marks have rapidly aroused a lot of questions. Accordingly, the circulation of these tweets has increased.

As for the second question, what are the linguistic features that Trump uses to persuade people to support him and to reflect his own ideology? The paper finds that incorrect capitalization could be one of Trump's ways of attacking others such as Crooked Hillary and Lying Ted. It also adds much prominence and emphasis to the tweets e.g. wall. The word is not typically capitalized; nevertheless, Trump always capitalizes it to draw more attention and place emphasis on this word. Trump believes that Americans have the right to stop the flow of immigration to their country. Accordingly, he proposes building a boundary wall separating America and Mexico since the stoppage of illegal immigration to America is the ideal solution to the acts of terrorism. Trump's practice of discrimination and favoritism led to racism. Moreover, the deliberate misspelling mistakes of his opponents' names is a way of attacking and belittling them. The repetition of the misspelling in general name misspelling in particular could be referred to as intentional, purposeful stylistic choices, not mere typos.

The last question which is how does Trump use Twitter to disseminate his ideologies and attract the attention of larger audiences? is answered as well. The linguistic deviations in Trump's tweets are widely circulated on various social

media platforms, not only on Twitter. This circulation contributes to trending certain topics. In other words, Twitter licenses its users to retweet, comment, and replicate those tweets on various social media venues which is a great indicator of exposure. It provides a more sense of equal accessibility to the public; it enables them to take part in political discourse, a thing that was not quite possible before. Accordingly, it could be argued that the repetition and the replication of Trump's linguistic deviations help him express his thoughts and beliefs, establish his policies and achieve his agenda.

Trump has received criticism not because of his political stance, but rather because of his way of expressing such a stance linguistically besides his oratorical prowess. His tweets create lots of controversies and big questions over his appropriateness and competence to take office. No one is perfect; nevertheless, some faults are far more embarrassing and even catastrophic than others. Quantity, repetition, and absurdity of the mistakes really matter. Thus, worries and concerns of the lexicographers and analysts are aroused. It is crystal clear that Trump's tweets are hardly proofread before he launches them on Twittersphere; accuracy always matters.

Trump, sometimes, overrides the boundaries of the English Language which perfectly matches his persona, rings true with his character, and makes an impression that he is the master of the language. Despite the claims that he is an effective communicator even when not following the English standards, in the long run, it could profoundly affect the language.

Due to the impetuous nature of the president, throughout his life, and after taking office, Trump has not learned to check his own words before pouring them out into the internet. Moreover, Trump's indifference to criticism and comments that he received on his sloppiness rings true with his character. Accordingly, the consistency of posting tweets with weird capitalization and syntactic and phonological deviations, and hardly edited them, could be proof that those tweets are all written by Trump himself.

Despite what has been discussed above, it is worth noting that Trump has made a noticeable change in the nature of communication. Twitter has become an indispensable sphere of communication. The American president manages to fully make use of such a platform to assume full authority and power. Trump exercises not only great domination over Twitter but the media in general which gets totally obsessed with his controversial tweets. Accordingly, his style might affect the coming generations' use of social media.


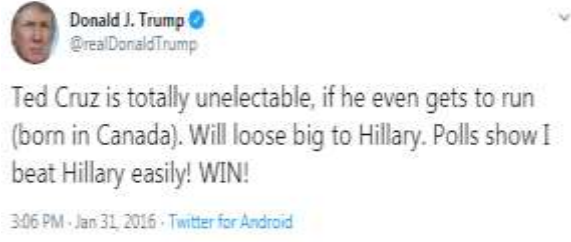
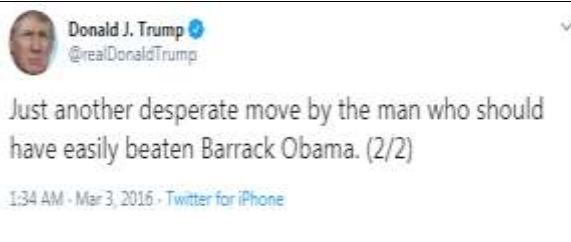

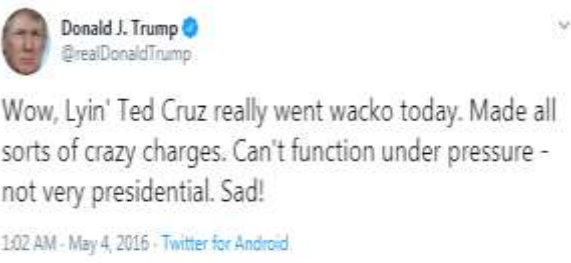
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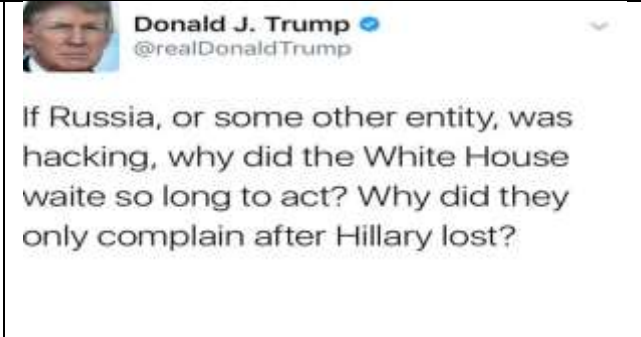


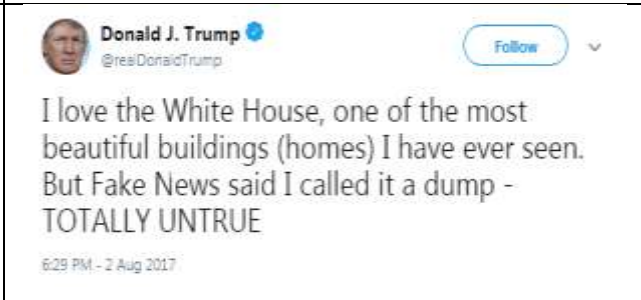
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Appendix

Screenshots of Trump's selected tweets


	Original tweet	Edited one
Tweet 1: January 22, 2016	 <p>Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump</p> <p>The dying @NRO National Review has totally given up the fight against Barrack Obama. They have been losing for years. I will beat Hillary!</p> <p>10:47 PM · Jan 22, 2016 · Twitter for Android</p>	
Tweet 2: January 31, 2016	 <p>Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump</p> <p>Ted Cruz is totally unelectable, if he even gets to run (born in Canada). Will loose big to Hillary. Polls show I beat Hillary easily! WIN!</p> <p>3:06 PM · Jan 31, 2016 · Twitter for Android</p>	
Tweet 3: March 3, 2016	 <p>Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump</p> <p>Just another desperate move by the man who should have easily beaten Barrack Obama. (2/2)</p> <p>1:34 AM · Mar 3, 2016 · Twitter for iPhone</p>	
Tweet 4: March 7, 2016	 <p>Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump</p> <p>All of the phony T.V. commercials against me are bought and payed for by SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS, the bandits that tell your pols what to do</p> <p>4:54 AM · Mar 7, 2016 · Twitter for Android</p>	
Tweet 5: May 4, 2016	 <p>Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump</p> <p>Wow, Lyin' Ted Cruz really went wacko today. Made all sorts of crazy charges. Can't function under pressure - not very presidential. Sad!</p> <p>1:02 AM · May 4, 2016 · Twitter for Android</p>	

<p>Tweet 6: May 22, 2016</p>		
<p>Tweet 7: August 25, 2016</p>		
<p>Tweet 8 (a&b): December 15, 2016</p>		
<p>Tweet 9: January 28, 2017</p>		
<p>Tweet 10: August 2, 2017</p>		

<p>Tweet 11: November 2, 2017</p>	 <p>Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump Follow</p> <p>Great Tax Cut rollout today. The lobbyists are storming Capital Hill, but the Republicans will hold strong and do what is right for America!</p> <p>5:05 PM - 2 Nov 2017</p>	
<p>Tweet 12: January 18, 2018</p>	 <p>Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump Follow</p> <p>We need the Wall for the safety and security of our country. We need the Wall to help stop the massive inflow of drugs from Mexico, now rated the number one most dangerous country in the world. If there is no Wall, there is no Deal!</p> <p>5:16 AM - 18 Jan 2018</p>	
<p>Tweet 13 (a&b): May 19, 2018</p>	 <p>Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · 2m</p> <p>Great to have our incredible First Lady back home in the White House. Melanie is feeling and doing really well. Thank you for all of your prayers and best wishes!</p>	 <p>Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump Follow</p> <p>Great to have our incredible First Lady back home in the White House. Melania is feeling and doing really well. Thank you for all of your prayers and best wishes!</p> <p>11:37 AM - 19 May 2018</p>
<p>Tweet 14 (a&b) July 3, 2018</p>	 <p>Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump</p> <p>After having written many best selling books, and somewhat priding myself on my ability to write, it should be noted that the Fake News constantly likes to pour over my tweets looking for a mistake. I capitalize certain words only for emphasis, not b/c they should be capitalized!</p>	 <p>Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump Follow</p> <p>After having written many best selling books, and somewhat priding myself on my ability to write, it should be noted that the Fake News constantly likes to pore over my tweets looking for a mistake. I capitalize certain words only for emphasis, not b/c they should be capitalized!</p> <p>4:13 PM - 3 Jul 2018</p> <p>13,539 Retweets 80,615 Likes</p>

<p>Tweet 15: August 19, 2018</p>		
<p>Tweet 16: August 19, 2018</p>		
<p>Tweet 17: August 20, 2018</p>		
<p>Tweet 18 (a&b): Septemper 9, 2018</p>		

<p>Tweet 19: November 18, 2018</p>		
<p>Tweet 20: November 26, 2018</p>		
<p>Tweet 21: December 10, 2018</p>		
<p>Tweet 22: January 6, 2019</p>		
<p>Tweet 23: January 9, 2019</p>		

<p>Tweet 24: May 25, 2019</p>		
<p>Tweet 25 (a&b): May 25, 2019</p>		
<p>Tweet 26: August 30, 2019</p>		
<p>Tweet 27: July 11, 2019</p>		

<p>Tweet 28 (a&b): August 31, 2019</p>		
<p>Tweet 29: Sep 27, 2019</p>		

Abbreviations and acronyms

CDA: Critical Discourse Analysis

SFG: Systemic Functional Grammar

3D model: Three dimensional model

Glossary

Tweet: may contain photos, GIFs, videos, links, and text.

Retweet: Tweet that users share publicly with their followers

Hashtag: written with a # symbol—is used to index keywords or topics on Twitter

الأخطاء اللغوية في تغريدات دونالد ترامب: تحليل الخطاب النقدي

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المستخلص:

تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى التحقق من مدى انحراف لغة مستخدمي تويتر عن اللغة الإنجليزية القياسية. كما إنها تدرس كيف يمكن للانحرافات اللغوية وعدم اتباع القواعد الأساسية - كقواعد النحو والتَّهَجِّي وعلامات الترقيم - أن تكون طريقة لمهاجمة المعارضين. وفي أحيان أخرى، يمكن أن تكون ناتجة عن التسرع في الكتابة. ومع ذلك، فإن تركها دون تصحيح قد يكون دليلاً على سوء التدقيق والمراجعة للتغريدات. وفي هذا الصدد، تفحص هذه الورقة البحثية التغريدات التي نشرها الرئيس الأمريكي الخامس والأربعون (دونالد ترامب) من منظور تحليل الخطاب النقدي (CDA)، باستخدام نموذج Fairclough ثلاثي الأبعاد. ومن هنا تتعمق هذه الدراسة في تغريدات الرئيس، خلال الحملة الانتخابية وبعد توليه المنصب، من خلال تحليل بعض الانحرافات اللغوية. وقد كشفت نتائج التحليلات أن إهمال ترامب المتعمد للقواعد الأساسية لقواعد النحو والتَّهَجِّي وعلامات الترقيم يتوافق مع شخصيته؛ هي أساساً وسيلة لمهاجمة خصومه. وبدلاً من أن يشعر بالخجل، يبدو الرئيس الأمريكي فخوراً بزلاته. بالكاد يصحح كلماته قبل أن ينشرها في تويتر.

الكلمات الدالة: تحليل الخطاب النقدي، إنحرافات لغوية، تويتر، دونالد ترامب