



International Journal of Philosophy, Linguistics, and Humanities

Journal Homepage: <https://ijmshe.com/index.php/ijplh>



Research Article

Language, Power, and Ideology in Vice President Sara Duterte's Impeachment Statement: A Critical Discourse Analysis

Zylene Rose D. Olbes^{1*}  | Maria Efrell Jee O. Punzalan²  | Life Gabriel F. Osumo³ 

¹ Central Mindanao Colleges, Kidapawan City, Philippines

² IPU New Zealand Tertiary Institute, Palmerston North, New Zealand

³ Professor, Central Mindanao Colleges, Kidapawan City, Philippines

Article Info

Article history:

Received: 20 February 2026

Revised: 19 March 2026

Accepted: 19 April 2026

Keywords:

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), Fairclough CDA, Political Framing, Language and Power, Philippine Politics

Abstract

This study examines the strategic role of language in constructing power, legitimacy, and political resistance through a Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) of Vice President Sara Zimmerman Duterte's public statement following her 2025 impeachment. Situated within a highly polarized democratic context, the research investigates how discourse functions not merely as communication but as a mechanism for shaping public perception and negotiating political authority, contributing to SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions. Anchored in Fairclough's three-dimensional CDA framework, van Dijk's socio-cognitive approach, and Framing Theory, the study provides a multi-layered analysis of linguistic and rhetorical patterns. The corpus comprises a publicly available live-streamed statement lasting 25 minutes and 50 seconds, which was fully transcribed and systematically coded using a thematic and functional coding procedure. Findings reveal that Duterte employs a strategic combination of hedging, repetition, code-switching, evaluative language, and intertextual references to manage risk, assert authority, and mobilize public support. These linguistic devices construct overlapping frames of legitimacy, resistance, and victimhood, positioning the impeachment as both a political challenge and a collective national concern. The analysis further demonstrates that her discourse reinforces ideological narratives aligned with public trust, moral authority, and political resilience while subtly delegitimizing opposing actors. By activating shared cognitive and cultural schemas, her statements shape audience interpretation and sustain political credibility amid institutional crisis. This study contributes to the growing body of research on political discourse in Southeast Asia by highlighting how language operates as a strategic resource in high-stakes political events. It also offers practical implications for discourse analysis, media literacy, and political communication, emphasizing the need for critical engagement with language in democratic processes.

Cite as: Olbes, Z. R., Punzalan, M. E. J., & Osumo, L. G. (2026). Language, Power, and Ideology in Vice President Sara Duterte's Impeachment Statement: A Critical Discourse Analysis. *International Journal of Philosophy, Linguistics, and Humanities*, 2(1), 1–23. <https://doi.org/10.70847/703602>

¹ Corresponding Author: Zylene Rose D. Olbes

* Corresponding Email: zolbes@cmc.edu.ph

1. Introduction

In contemporary politics, certain leaders maintain enduring public support even amid scandals and institutional crises, highlighting the power of perception over administrative performance. This phenomenon has been observed across democratic contexts, from advanced democracies such as the United States under Donald Trump to hybrid regimes like Hungary under Viktor Orbán (Bauer, 2024; Elamin, 2024). What renders this analytically significant is not only political loyalty but its resilience over time (Waller & Linklater, 2003; Poulsen, 2020). Unlike conventional leaders, who typically fluctuate with policy outcomes and governance performance, populist leaders often sustain stable support through affective identification, symbolic politics, and discursive constructions of resistance (Metz, 2026; Viviani, 2025). This stability underscores the critical role of language in shaping political legitimacy and maintaining authority.

In democratic systems, impeachment is formally intended to ensure accountability and uphold the rule of law. However, the Philippine experience suggests that it often becomes a politicized discursive struggle rather than a purely legal process (Tamase, 2024; Suharsono, 2025). Analyses of past impeachments, such as those of Joseph Estrada and Renato Corona, demonstrate that partisan alignment, media framing, and public perception significantly influenced outcomes, with survey-based studies indicating that a substantial proportion of public reactions reflected political predispositions rather than legal reasoning (Socrates, 2016; Linao, 2025). This interplay between perception and procedural justice illustrates how discourse shapes competing narratives of legitimacy, victimhood, and political survival.

The February 5, 2025, impeachment of Vice President Sara Zimmerman Duterte, supported by 240 lawmakers (approximately 77% of the House), marked an unprecedented political

rupture, as it was the first impeachment of a sitting vice president in the Philippines (Supreme Court of the Philippines, 2025). Allegations ranged from misuse of public funds to betrayal of public trust, sparking national debate, while constitutional ambiguities over procedural timelines intensified institutional tensions. Preliminary analyses of social media and news discourse indicate that partisan and affective framing dominated public conversation, though precise quantification requires systematic content analysis (Yergensen, 2024; Grover, 2025).

Despite extensive research on political dynasties highlighting their electoral advantages and entrenched networks, there remains a knowledge gap regarding how dynastic power is discursively constructed and legitimized through language, particularly during political crises (Khan, 2024). In the Philippine context, scholarly attention to the Duterte dynasty has largely focused on electoral strategies, governance outcomes, or patronage networks, leaving the linguistic and ideological mechanisms of authority underexplored (Eslit, 2025; Arugay & Encinas-Franco, 2024). This absence of critical discourse-oriented analysis limits understanding of how narratives of legacy, loyalty, and resistance normalize and sustain dynastic dominance within democratic institutions.

This study addresses this gap by analyzing Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment statement to examine how language constructs resistance, accountability, and political legitimacy amid institutional crisis. The main research objective is to explore how political discourse shapes public perception and reinforces power in a polarized democratic context. The study gains urgency from the unprecedented impeachment event and rising political polarization, underscoring the need to scrutinize language as a tool of political influence.

¹ Corresponding Author: Zylene Rose D. Olbes

*Corresponding Email: zolbes@cmc.edu.ph

To achieve these aims, the study employs Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), drawing on Fairclough's three-dimensional framework, van Dijk's socio-cognitive approach, and Framing Theory to investigate the interplay of language, power, and ideology. By doing so, it contributes to SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) through a deeper understanding of democratic accountability and political communication. The findings will be disseminated through peer-reviewed journals, conference presentations, and research briefs, supporting scholarly dialogue and promoting discourse literacy in political and media contexts.

Research Questions

This study investigates the language of resistance in Vice President Sara Duterte's public statements on her impeachment, focusing on how discourse constructs power, legitimacy, and political identity. By employing Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), the research aims to reveal the underlying ideological messages, rhetorical strategies, and communicative mechanisms that shape public perception and reinforce political authority. Specifically, the study addresses the following questions:

1. What theoretical insights emerge from a discourse analysis of Vice President Sara Duterte's public statements on her impeachment?
2. What discursive strategies and linguistic devices does Vice President Sara Duterte employ to construct resistance and respond to impeachment efforts?
3. Why are these specific rhetorical and linguistic techniques used, and how do they function in the broader context of political resistance and power negotiation?
4. How do her statements frame the impeachment issue in terms of political power, legitimacy, and personal or collective identity?

Theoretical Lens

This study is anchored in three interrelated theories that provide a robust framework for analyzing the language of resistance, political legitimacy, and identity construction in Vice President Sara Duterte's public statements: Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), van Dijk's Sociocognitive Approach to Discourse, and Framing Theory. These theories collectively allow the research to explore the intersection of language, power, and ideology in a politically charged context.

Fairclough's CDA framework (2013) serves as the primary lens through which the study examines the text and context of Duterte's public statements. CDA posits that discourse both shapes and is shaped by social structures, functioning as a medium through which power relations are enacted and contested. In the context of this study, Fairclough's three-dimensional model—comprising textual analysis, discursive practice, and social practice was applied to analyze how Duterte constructs resistance against impeachment, negotiates political accountability, and reinforces her legitimacy. Textual analysis will focus on the linguistic features, including rhetorical devices and lexical choices, while discursive practice will examine the production, dissemination, and reception of her statements. The social practice dimension situates these discursive strategies within the broader socio-political landscape of the Philippines, highlighting how language both reflects and reproduces dynastic power and political polarization.

Complementing Fairclough, *Van Dijk's (2009)* socio-cognitive theory emphasizes the roles of cognition, ideology, and mental models in the interpretation of discourse. According to van Dijk, public statements not only convey information but also shape and reinforce audiences' social representations of political actors. This theory will guide the study in exploring how Duterte's statements influence

¹ Corresponding Author: Zylene Rose D. Olbes

*Corresponding Email: zolbes@cmc.edu.ph

public perception, mobilize support, and reinforce identity narratives, particularly in the polarized environment surrounding her impeachment. By linking linguistic choices to underlying ideological schemas, the study can uncover how discourse functions to maintain authority, legitimize resistance, and manipulate social interpretations of power and accountability.

Framing Theory by Chong and Druckman (2007) provides an additional lens to understand how Duterte structures her discourse to highlight certain interpretations while downplaying others. In political communication, framing is a strategic process where specific aspects of an issue are emphasized to guide audience understanding and response.

This study applies the framing analysis to investigate how Duterte frames her impeachment in terms of victimhood, legitimacy, resistance, or political survival. By examining these frames, the research will reveal the rhetorical and ideological strategies employed to influence public opinion and manage her political identity.

Together, these three theoretical perspectives enable a multilayered analysis: Fairclough provides a structural and sociopolitical lens for analyzing power in discourse; van Dijk offers insights into the cognitive and ideological dimensions shaping audience reception; and Framing Theory highlights strategic rhetorical choices that guide interpretation.

In the study, these theories will be operationalized through a systematic CDA methodology that links textual patterns to social meaning, ideological reproduction, and public perception.

This approach ensures that the analysis not only describes linguistic features but also interprets how language functions as a tool of political resistance, legitimacy-building, and identity

construction within the unique context of the Duterte political dynasty and Philippine democratic institutions.

Literature Reviews and Studies

This review synthesizes theoretical and empirical work on political discourse, rhetorical strategies, and language use in high-stakes political contexts. It is organized thematically to reflect the key questions guiding the study of Vice President Sara Duterte's public statements on her impeachment.

Discursive Strategies and Linguistic Devices in Political Resistance

Previous studies have demonstrated that politicians employ a variety of discursive strategies to resist criticism and maintain authority. Strategies such as deflection, negation, metaphorical framing, and intertextual referencing are commonly used to reshape contentious issues (Hertog & McLeod, 2001; Lakoff, 2004). Linguistic devices, including repetition, modality, hedging, and evaluative language, function to assert credibility, manage face, and negotiate power relationships (Carter & McCarthy, 2006). In Southeast Asian political contexts, research indicates that leaders often integrate personalistic appeals, moral positioning, and populist rhetoric to reinforce solidarity with constituents and frame opposition as illegitimate (Chilton, 2004; Demir & Barton, 2023). These findings provide a lens through which Vice President Duterte's statements can be analyzed for their use of rhetorical and linguistic tools to construct resistance against impeachment proceedings.

Functions and Purposes of Rhetorical and Linguistic Techniques

The use of specific rhetorical and linguistic techniques in political discourse serves multiple functions. First, they legitimize the speaker's position while undermining opponents' credibility (Thompson, 2013). Second, they mobilize support by appealing to collective

¹ Corresponding Author: Zylene Rose D. Olbes

*Corresponding Email: zolbes@cmc.edu.ph

identity or shared values, creating a sense of in-group solidarity and political loyalty (Reisigl, 2014; Wodak, 2024). Third, such techniques mitigate risk by managing personal image and controlling the narrative in politically sensitive contexts (Fairclough, 2013). In the context of impeachment discourse, linguistic strategies serve as tools of resistance and negotiation, enabling political actors like Vice President Duterte to assert authority, challenge accusations, and strategically position themselves within broader power structures.

Framing Political Power, Legitimacy, and Identity

Framing analysis underscores how language shapes public understanding of political events. Research indicates that politicians frame issues by constructing moral narratives, emphasizing procedural fairness, and highlighting personal or collective identity (Entman, 1993; Van Leeuwen, 2008). In impeachment contexts, framing is particularly salient: statements may depict the process as unjust or partisan, thereby defending legitimacy and rallying public sympathy. Politicians also use framing to assert agency and control over political outcomes, aligning personal narratives with broader political ideologies. Vice President Duterte's public statements are likely to perform similar functions, negotiating her role and authority within the political arena while reinforcing both her personal and collective political identity.

Empirical Studies on Political Resistance Discourse

Several empirical studies provide insight into the discursive construction of political resistance. For example, Talbot (2019) examined how public figures in Southeast Asia employ metaphor, narrative, and emotive language to challenge institutional authority. Similarly, recent analyses of Philippine political discourse highlight the interplay of populist rhetoric, identity politics, and strategic framing in shaping public perception during crises such as impeachment (Talamayan, 2025; Ragragio,

2025). These studies suggest that Vice President Duterte's discourse can be understood as a strategic negotiation of power, employing rhetorical and linguistic devices to assert resilience, influence audience perception, and frame political legitimacy.

Synthesis

Recent scholarship underscores the strategic role of political discourse in negotiating power, asserting legitimacy, and constructing political identity. Theoretical frameworks, particularly Fairclough's three-dimensional CDA (Fairclough, 2023; Wodak, 2024; Meyer, 2024) and van Dijk's socio-cognitive approach (van Dijk, 2009), emphasize that language in political contexts functions ideologically, reflecting struggles over authority, moral authority, and social meaning. Framing Theory further highlights how discursive constructions shape public interpretation of political events (Entman, 2007; Chong & Druckman, 2007).

Empirical studies within Southeast Asia have shown that politicians employ a range of discursive strategies—including metaphor, repetition, hedging, evaluative language, and moral appeals—to manage public perception, resist criticism, and sustain influence (Nguyen, 2025; Pham, 2024; Lim, 2020; Tan, 2024). These linguistic techniques perform multiple functions: legitimizing the speaker's authority, delegitimizing opponents, reinforcing collective or national identity, and mobilizing political support.

For example, a CDA study of Malaysian parliamentary debates demonstrated how repeated intertextual references and strategic hedging constructed moral authority while mitigating accountability risks (Rahman et al., 2026). Similarly, analyses of Filipino political discourse revealed that evaluative and affective language plays a central role in shaping public interpretation during periods of institutional uncertainty (Raza & Naz, 2025; Villanueva, 2024).

¹ Corresponding Author: Zylene Rose D. Olbes

*Corresponding Email: zolbes@cmc.edu.ph

While existing literature effectively documents the linguistic strategies employed by politicians, critical gaps remain. Most studies are context-specific and focus on routine legislative or electoral communication, providing limited insight into crisis-driven discourse, such as impeachment statements. Moreover, few studies examine how dynastic politicians, particularly in the Philippines, strategically construct legitimacy and resistance through language during moments of institutional conflict. There is also a lack of systematic attention to how framing intersects with cognitive and cultural schemas, which mediate audience perception and ideological reinforcement (Lim, 2020; Rahman et al., 2026).

2. Materials and Methods

2.1 Research Design

This study adopts a qualitative research design grounded in Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), allowing for an in-depth exploration of how language functions to construct power, legitimacy, and political resistance (Fairclough, 2023). CDA emphasizes the interplay between textual features and the social, political, and ideological contexts in which discourse occurs (Mullet, 2018). Within this framework, language is both a medium and a mechanism through which political actors negotiate authority, shape public perception, and reinforce ideological positions (Parkin, 1984; Gal, 1989). By applying CDA, this research examines how Vice President Sara Duterte's public statements during her impeachment proceedings articulate resistance, manage accountability, and sustain political legitimacy amid a highly polarized political environment.

2.2 Analytical Framework

The study is guided by Fairclough's three-dimensional model of CDA, integrating textual, discursive, and socio-political analyses. At the textual level, the analysis focuses on lexical choices, syntactic structures, and

Building on these gaps, this study positions Vice President Sara Duterte's public statement as a site for investigating how language negotiates power, constructs resistance, and shapes public perception under conditions of political crisis. By employing a rigorous CDA framework combined with socio-cognitive and framing perspectives, the research addresses limitations in prior studies by providing empirically grounded, discourse-centered analysis of an unprecedented political event, the impeachment of a sitting vice president, thereby contributing to both Southeast Asian political discourse scholarship and the broader understanding of language, power, and ideology in high-stakes political contexts.

rhetoical strategies in Duterte's statements, identifying patterns of framing, mitigation, and identity negotiation. At the discursive practice level, the research examines how the statements are produced, disseminated, and interpreted by media outlets and the public. At the level of socio-political practice, the study situates the discourse within broader institutional and ideological structures, revealing how language reflects and shapes power relations. This framework ensures that the analysis connects linguistic features to broader questions of authority, resistance, and legitimacy, providing a comprehensive understanding of political discourse.

2.3 Corpus and Validation

The primary corpus consists of Vice President Duterte's live-streamed media appearance on February 7, 2025, two days after her impeachment by the House of Representatives. This appearance, viewed by over 92,000 people, addressed allegations including betrayal of public trust, constitutional violations, bribery, graft, corruption, and other high crimes following a resolution fast-tracked by 215 lawmakers. This video serves as the principal

¹ Corresponding Author: Zylene Rose D. Olbes

*Corresponding Email: zolbes@cmc.edu.ph

instrument for analysis, providing authentic and verifiable data that capture Duterte's linguistic and rhetorical strategies in real time. By focusing on this publicly accessible live-stream, the study avoids ethical concerns related to consent or privacy. Statements unrelated to the impeachment or drawn from unverifiable sources were excluded, ensuring that the dataset remains focused, reliable, and directly relevant to the research objectives.

2.4 Coding and Analytical Process

This study adopts a critical case study design, specifically a discourse event analysis, focusing on a single but highly consequential political text: Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment statement. While limited to one speech, the selection is intentional, as it represents a critical political moment with high discursive density, allowing for an in-depth examination of how language constructs legitimacy, resistance, and authority within a polarized democratic context. Rather than aiming for statistical generalizability, the study prioritizes analytical depth and theoretical transferability, consistent with qualitative discourse-analytic research.

Data coding followed a systematic and iterative process. The live-stream transcript was first reviewed in its entirety to identify recurring themes, discursive patterns, and linguistic markers related to resistance, legitimacy, and identity construction. Open coding was then employed to label specific text segments based on clearly defined discursive strategies. In this study, framing is operationalized as the selection and emphasis of particular interpretations of events to shape audience perception; resistance refers to linguistic strategies that challenge, deflect, or recontextualize accusations and institutional authority; and legitimacy construction involves discursive efforts to justify authority, credibility, and moral standing. Additional coding categories included attribution of responsibility, mitigation (e.g., hedging), evaluative language, and rhetorical emphasis.

Subsequently, axial coding was conducted to organize these initial codes into broader analytical categories aligned with Fairclough's three-dimensional CDA framework: (1) textual features (lexical choices, syntax, rhetorical devices), (2) discursive practices (production, framing, intertextuality), and (3) socio-political context (ideology, power relations, and institutional dynamics). This layered approach enabled a more nuanced interpretation of how micro-level linguistic features connect to macro-level political meanings.

To enhance analytical rigor, coding was cross-validated through collaborative review, in which categories and interpretations were examined and refined until consensus was reached. In addition, a reflexive approach was maintained throughout the analysis, with the researchers critically examining their own assumptions, positionality, and potential biases in interpreting politically sensitive discourse. This combination of systematic coding, collaborative validation, and reflexivity strengthens the credibility, transparency, and trustworthiness of the findings.

2.5 Analytical Procedure

The analysis proceeded in three sequential stages. First, textual analysis identified key linguistic features, including lexical choices, modality, deixis, and evaluative language, as well as rhetorical strategies used to assert authority, frame the impeachment, and defend political legitimacy. Second, discursive practice analysis considered how Duterte's statements were produced and disseminated through media channels and received by the public, examining how these processes influenced the impact and interpretation of her discourse. Third, the analysis of socio-political practice contextualized the findings within the broader political and ideological environment, highlighting how language functions as a strategic tool for negotiating power, asserting legitimacy, and managing accountability.

¹ Corresponding Author: Zylene Rose D. Olbes

*Corresponding Email: zolbes@cmc.edu.ph

Through these stages, the study integrates textual, discursive, and socio-political dimensions, offering a comprehensive understanding of how discourse shapes political narratives. By examining Vice President Duterte's live-streamed statements, the research illuminates the strategic use of language in constructing resistance, framing political controversies, and consolidating authority within contemporary Philippine politics.

2.6 Ethical Practice

This study adheres to strict ethical practices by ensuring that no human participants are directly involved, as the analysis relies exclusively on publicly available statements issued by Vice President Sara Duterte. By using credible,

verifiable sources such as press briefings and established news agencies, the study safeguards authenticity and reliability while avoiding potential risks to privacy, consent, or harm. All data are treated with respect and academic integrity, with careful attention to accurately representing the original statements without misinterpretation or manipulation. Furthermore, proper attribution and citation are consistently applied to acknowledge sources, maintaining transparency and accountability in research reporting. These ethical measures align with accepted scholarly standards, ensuring that the study upholds both the rigor and integrity expected in qualitative and discourse-based research.

3. Results and Discussion

Table 1. Theoretical Insights Emergent from Duterte's Discourse.

Observed Patterns	Linguistic / Discursive Devices	Examples from Corpus	Function	Theoretical Link
Appeal to moral authority and faith	Religious references, evaluative language	<i>"God save the Philippines"</i>	Positions herself as morally grounded, legitimizing her political stance	Fairclough CDA (social dimension), Framing Theory (victimhood/legitimacy framing)
Gratitude and solidarity with public	Repetition, inclusive pronouns	<i>"Taus pusong pasasalamat sa mga kababayan na patuloy na nagdarasal sumusuporta Nagtitiwala"</i>	Reinforces collective identity, encourages support and trust	Van Dijk (mental models, social representation)
Emphasis on preparation and legality	Lexical precision, hedging, modality	<i>"Uh started Preparing the moment Uh France Castro announced the impeachment plans"</i>	Constructs competence and authority, pre-emptively counters criticism	CDA (textual + discursive practice), Framing Theory (resistance frame)

¹ Corresponding Author: Zylene Rose D. Olbes

* Corresponding Email: zolbes@cmc.edu.ph

Minimization of threat / distancing	Hedging, refusal to answer sensitive questions	<i>"I do not want to answer that question"</i>	Protects image, maintains strategic ambiguity	CDA (textual and social practice), van Dijk (cognitive strategy for managing audience perception)
-------------------------------------	--	--	---	---

Table 1 demonstrates that Vice President Sara Duterte's discourse operates not merely as a vehicle for expressing political stance but as a strategic site for the reproduction of power, ideological positioning, and identity construction, consistent with Fairclough's (2013) three-dimensional model of Critical Discourse Analysis. Rather than treating her statements as neutral or persuasive rhetoric, a closer linguistic examination reveals how specific lexical and structural choices function to legitimize authority while reframing institutional accountability.

Consider the following extended extract from the transcript:

"God save the Philippines. Manalig kayo dahil sa taong bayan ang tagumpay. Hindi ito laban ng iilan lamang—ito ay laban nating lahat para sa ating kinabukasan."

A line-by-line analysis reveals multiple layers of ideological work. The invocation *"God save the Philippines"* foregrounds religious lexicalization, elevating the discourse from a political issue to a moral and almost sacred struggle. This aligns with Fairclough's notion of naturalization, where ideological meanings are presented as common sense, thereby discouraging critique. By invoking divine authority, the speaker symbolically displaces institutional judgment (i.e., impeachment) and repositions legitimacy within a moral-religious framework.

The phrase *"Manalig kayo"* (have faith) further reinforces this shift by directing the audience toward affective compliance rather than rational evaluation. From van Dijk's (2009) socio-cognitive perspective, such language activates shared mental schemas of faith, trust, and moral righteousness, which can override critical engagement with the legal basis of the impeachment. This suggests that the discourse here does not merely reflect belief but also guides cognition, shaping how audiences interpret political events.

The clause *"hindi ito laban ng iilan lamang—ito ay laban nating lahat"* illustrates a strategic use of inclusive pronouns (*"nating lahat"*), constructing a collective identity that collapses the distinction between the political actor and the public. This pronoun shift is ideologically significant: it transforms a personal legal-political issue into a collective national struggle, thereby redistributing responsibility and aligning the speaker with *"the people"* while implicitly positioning critics or institutional actors as the excluded *"other."* Such binary construction reflects van Dijk's concept of ideological polarization (us vs. them), even when the *"them"* remains implicit.

Furthermore, the framing of the situation as *"laban para sa ating kinabukasan"* (a struggle for our future) exemplifies temporal and aspirational framing, which redirects attention away from present allegations toward a projected collective future. In terms of Framing Theory (Chong & Druckman, 2007), this selectively emphasizes hope and unity while backgrounding issues of accountability, thus guiding audience interpretation toward emotional alignment rather than institutional critique.

¹ Corresponding Author: Zylene Rose D. Olbes

*Corresponding Email: zolbes@cmc.edu.ph

While these discursive strategies effectively construct legitimacy and mobilize support, a critical perspective raises important questions. The reliance on religious and collectivist language may obscure the procedural and legal dimensions of impeachment, thereby reframing accountability as persecution or a moral struggle. This aligns with Fairclough's concept of ideological mystification, where discourse masks power relations and limits the space for critical scrutiny.

Moreover, the construction of a unified "people" through inclusive pronouns can be seen as a discursive normalization of authority, where dissenting voices are implicitly marginalized.

Rather than simply reinforcing legitimacy, the discourse may reproduce existing power structures by aligning authority with moral righteousness and collective identity, making opposition appear not just as a challenge to a political figure but also to the nation itself.

In this sense, Duterte's discourse does not merely resist institutional processes; it rearticulates the terms of legitimacy, shifting it from constitutional mechanisms to affective, moral, and populist grounds.

This demonstrates how political language operates as a form of symbolic power, capable of reshaping public perception while simultaneously constraining critical engagement.

Table 2. Discursive Strategies & Linguistic Devices.

Observed Patterns	Linguistic / Discursive Devices	Examples from Corpus	Function	Theoretical Link
<i>Hedging / Limiting commitment</i>	<i>Hedging phrases, disclaimers</i>	<i>"Wala pa tayo doon" / "I do not want to answer that question"</i>	<i>Limits exposure, avoids direct confrontation, controls narrative</i>	<i>CDA (textual and discursive), van Dijk (managing audience interpretation)</i>
<i>Repetition for emphasis</i>	<i>Lexical repetition</i>	<i>"Patuloy na nagdarasal, sumusuporta, nagtitiwala"</i>	<i>Strengthens solidarity and mobilizes public support</i>	<i>Framing Theory (emphasis and salience), CDA (textual)</i>
<i>Code-switching / Multilingual address</i>	<i>Use of Arabic and local languages</i>	<i>"Mga kababayan asalamwalaykum warak matullahi wa barakato, Madayaw Maayong adlaw"</i>	<i>Signals inclusivity, appeals to diverse audience groups</i>	<i>Van Dijk (social representation), CDA (discursive practice)</i>
<i>Intertextual references / authority signaling</i>	<i>References to lawyers, political figures, and prior events</i>	<i>"We leave it to the lawyers" / "Former President is welcome to give advice"</i>	<i>Conveys preparation, legitimacy, and external validation</i>	<i>CDA (textual-discursive), Framing Theory (resistance, authority)</i>

¹ Corresponding Author: Zylene Rose D. Olbes

*Corresponding Email: zolbes@cmc.edu.ph

<i>Modality and evaluative judgments</i>	<i>Modals (kailangan), hedges, evaluative adjectives</i>	<i>“Kailangan malaman yung surveys and numbers”</i>	<i>Shows prudence, strategic decision-making</i>	<i>Van Dijk (cognition, ideological schema), CDA (textual)</i>
--	--	---	--	--

Table 2 demonstrates that Duterte’s discourse is not merely composed of rhetorical strategies such as hedging, repetition, code-switching, intertextuality, and evaluative language, but that these linguistic choices function as mechanisms for reproducing power and ideological positioning. From a Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) perspective, these features operate at the intersection of text, discourse practice, and sociopolitical context (Fairclough, 2006).

A closer examination of hedging expressions, such as “*I do not want to answer that question*” and “*Wala pa tayo doon*”, reveals more than simple avoidance. At the textual level, these utterances function as epistemic control devices, limiting the scope of permissible discourse. Through Fairclough’s lens, such mitigation strategies enable the speaker to regulate the communicative event by selectively withholding information, thereby maintaining asymmetrical power relations between speaker and audience. From van Dijk’s socio-cognitive perspective, these statements shape audience mental models by normalizing non-disclosure as prudence rather than evasion, subtly reframing accountability as premature or unnecessary.

Repetition, particularly in the sequence “*patuloy na nagdarasal, sumusuporta, nagtitiwala*”, operates not only as emphasis but as ideological reinforcement. The lexical pattern foregrounds collective action and shared belief, constructing an imagined community aligned with the speaker. The absence of opposing voices within this construction reflects what van Dijk (2009) identifies as positive self-presentation, where in-group solidarity is amplified while dissent is backgrounded. This repetition also contributes to what Fairclough terms naturalization, wherein repeated associations between leadership and

public trust become taken-for-granted truths rather than contestable claims.

The strategic use of pronouns and implied collectivities further strengthens this dynamic. Although not always explicit, the recurrent invocation of inclusive language (e.g., “tayo”) constructs a unified in-group identity, implicitly contrasted with an unarticulated but oppositional “they.” This binary aligns with van Dijk’s ideological square—emphasizing “our” good qualities while de-emphasizing or omitting those of the out-group. Such polarization simplifies complex political realities into morally charged narratives of loyalty versus opposition.

Code-switching and multilingual greetings (e.g., Arabic, Cebuano, Filipino) extend beyond inclusivity and function as symbolic capital (Bourdieu, 1991), as noted in Asgarova’s (2025) study. While these linguistic shifts appear to democratize communication, they also strategically position the speaker as culturally competent and nationally representative. However, from a critical standpoint, this inclusivity may also broaden affective appeal while diffusing scrutiny, allowing emotional resonance to coexist with limited substantive engagement with the allegations.

Intertextual references to legal processes and political institutions contribute to the construction of institutional legitimacy. By invoking formal procedures and aligning her discourse with legalistic frameworks, Duterte positions herself within the domain of procedural correctness and authority. Yet, this alignment warrants critical interrogation. Rather than clarifying accountability, such references may function to recontextualize the impeachment as a procedural or technical issue,

¹ Corresponding Author: Zylene Rose D. Olbes

* Corresponding Email: zolbes@cmc.edu.ph

thereby shifting attention away from substantive ethical concerns.

Importantly, while these strategies collectively construct an image of resilience, legitimacy, and public alignment, they also raise critical questions about ideological effects. The discourse appears to reframe accountability as political persecution, normalize selective disclosure, and reinforce existing power structures through affective and symbolic means. In this sense, the language does not merely

respond to crisis but actively reconstitutes the terms through which the crisis is understood.

This interpretation aligns with CDA scholarship, emphasizing that political discourse often operates through subtle mechanisms of ideological manipulation and cognitive framing (van Dijk, 2009; Fairclough, 2006). Thus, Duterte's discourse can be understood not only as a strategic communication response but also as a site where power is negotiated, legitimized, and potentially obscured.

Table 3. Functions of Rhetorical & Linguistic Techniques.

Observed Patterns	Linguistic / Discursive Devices	Examples from Corpus	Function	Theoretical Link
Managing risk and vulnerability	Hedging, refusal to answer, ambiguity	<i>"I do not want to answer that question"</i>	Protects personal image, mitigates political risk	CDA (textual/social practice), van Dijk (audience mental modeling)
Mobilizing public support	Repetition, inclusive pronouns, emotive language	<i>"Patuloy na sumusuporta, nagdarasal, nagtitiwala"</i>	Encourages solidarity, collective identity, loyalty	Framing Theory (emphasis on collective alignment), CDA (ideology)
Legitimizing authority	References to legality, procedural steps	<i>"Preparations... lawyers doing their work for impeachment"</i>	Projects competence and legitimacy	CDA (textual + social), van Dijk (cognitive legitimation)
Constructing resilience & victimhood	Evaluative adjectives, narrative framing	<i>"God save the Philippines" / "patuloy ang trabaho namin"</i>	Frames impeachment as unjust but surmountable; strengthens public sympathy	Framing Theory (victimhood, resistance), CDA (social practice)
Identity negotiation	Personal anecdotes, relational references	<i>"Si former President... welcome to give advice"</i>	Reinforces personal and political identity as competent, connected, inclusive	CDA (social practice), van Dijk (audience interpretation)

¹ Corresponding Author: Zylene Rose D. Olbes

* Corresponding Email: zolbes@cmc.edu.ph

Table 3 demonstrates that the identified rhetorical and linguistic strategies function not merely as surface-level stylistic devices but as discursive mechanisms for negotiating power, managing accountability, and shaping ideological positioning. A closer examination of lexical choices and pronoun usage reveals how these strategies operate at a deeper level within the discourse.

For instance, Duterte's use of hedging expressions (e.g., "perhaps," "it seems," "we will clarify") mitigates direct responsibility while maintaining an appearance of transparency. From a Faircloughian perspective, such modality choices reflect an attempt to control the degree of commitment to truth claims, thereby reducing vulnerability to criticism while preserving institutional authority. Simultaneously, refusal strategies function as discursive boundaries that restrict access to sensitive information, reinforcing asymmetrical power relations between the speaker and the public.

Pronoun usage further illustrates ideological positioning. The strategic deployment of inclusive pronouns such as "we" and "our" constructs a sense of collective identity, aligning Duterte with the public and diffusing individual accountability. In contrast, the implicit or explicit construction of "they" (e.g., political opponents or accusers) creates a dichotomy that frames the impeachment as adversarial.

Van Dijk's socio-cognitive framework explains this as the activation of ingroup-outgroup polarization, where positive self-representation ("we are resilient, prepared") is juxtaposed with negative other-representation ("they are politically unjust"), thereby shaping audience cognition and reinforcing ideological bias.

Repetition and evaluative language also operate beyond persuasion at the surface level. Recurrent lexical items such as "trust," "service," and "mandate" serve to normalize

authority by embedding it within familiar democratic values. However, this repetition may simultaneously function to naturalize legitimacy without substantive justification, raising critical questions about whether discourse substitutes for accountability. Intertextual references to legal procedures (e.g., investigations, constitutional processes) further construct an image of procedural compliance, yet their selective invocation may obscure unresolved issues or redirect attention away from substantive allegations.

From the perspective of Framing Theory, Duterte's discourse constructs the impeachment as a politically motivated challenge rather than a neutral institutional mechanism. This is achieved through lexical framing that emphasizes resilience ("we remain strong"), preparedness ("we are ready to face this"), and public alignment ("the people know the truth"). While such framing mobilizes support, it also risks redefining accountability as persecution, thereby reshaping the interpretive framework through which the audience evaluates the event.

Critically, Fairclough's socio-political dimension suggests that this discourse contributes to the reproduction of power structures by legitimizing authority through language while marginalizing dissent.

The discourse does not merely defend against accusations; it recontextualizes them in ways that sustain hierarchical dominance. This aligns with Wodak's (2024) argument that political discourse often operates through the normalization of ideological assumptions, making power relations appear natural and uncontested.

However, a counter-interpretation is necessary. While these strategies may be effective in maintaining political credibility, they may also function to conceal accountability and limit critical scrutiny. The use of ambiguity, collective framing, and selective referencing can obscure

¹ Corresponding Author: Zylene Rose D. Olbes

*Corresponding Email: zolbes@cmc.edu.ph

responsibility and shift focus from institutional processes to personal or emotional narratives.

In this sense, the discourse may not only negotiate power but also redefine the boundaries of democratic accountability, raising concerns about how language can be used to legitimize authority while simultaneously constraining

transparency. Thus, Duterte's linguistic choices should not be viewed solely as adaptive communication strategies but as ideologically loaded practices that shape perception, reproduce power, and potentially normalize contested forms of political authority within a polarized democratic context.

Table 4. Framing Impeachment in Political Power, Legitimacy & Identity.

Observed Patterns	Linguistic / Discursive Devices	Examples from Corpus	Function	Theoretical Link
Legitimacy framing	Repetition, inclusive pronouns	<i>"Manalig kayo dahil sa taong bayan ang tagumpay"</i>	Positions authority as derived from public trust, not partisan power	Framing Theory (legitimacy frame), CDA (social practice)
Resistance / preparedness framing	Lexical specificity, hedging	<i>"Started Preparing the moment France Castro announced the impeachment plans"</i>	Shows resilience and competence, reducing perceived threat	CDA (textual/discursive), van Dijk (mental model shaping)
Victimhood framing	Evaluative adjectives, narrative positioning	<i>"Napakahalaga na manalig lang sila dahil sa taong bayan"</i>	Portrays impeachment as politically motivated attack, generating public sympathy	Framing Theory (victimhood frame), CDA (ideological reproduction)
Identity construction (personal & collective)	Anecdotes, relational references, inclusive pronouns	<i>"Nagpapasalamat po sa buong INC at sambayanan"</i>	Reinforces personal credibility and collective solidarity with citizens	CDA (social practice), van Dijk (audience cognition)
Delegitimizing opposition	Hedging, refusal, disclaimers	<i>"I do not want to answer that question"</i>	Signals control over narrative, subtly questions opponents' credibility	Framing Theory (strategic framing), CDA (textual-discursive)

Table 4 demonstrates that Duterte's framing of the impeachment is not merely descriptive but constitutes a strategic discursive construction of

power, legitimacy, and resistance. While statements such as *"manalig kayo dahil sa taong bayan ang tagumpay"* appear to invoke public

¹ Corresponding Author: Zylene Rose D. Olbes

*Corresponding Email: zolbes@cmc.edu.ph

trust, a closer linguistic analysis reveals how legitimacy is recontextualized from institutional authority to populist validation. The lexical choice “*taong bayan*” (the people) functions as a symbolic anchor of authority, effectively displacing formal legal mechanisms and repositioning legitimacy within the domain of mass support. This shift reflects a classic populist dichotomy in which institutional processes are backgrounded while the “will of the people” is foregrounded as the ultimate source of political truth.

At the level of pronoun usage and implied subject positioning, the discourse constructs an implicit “*we versus they*” binary. Although not always explicitly stated, references to collective struggle and shared belief subtly align Duterte with the public (“we”), while critics and institutional actors are relegated to an implied opposing group (“they”). From van Dijk’s socio-cognitive perspective, this polarization functions as an ideological strategy that shapes audience cognition by reinforcing in-group solidarity and delegitimizing out-groups. Such binary constructions simplify complex political realities, making them more cognitively accessible while simultaneously narrowing interpretive possibilities.

Resistance, meanwhile, is discursively framed through references to preparedness, legal awareness, and composure. However, rather than signaling transparency, these linguistic choices may function to pre-empt criticism and neutralize accountability. The emphasis on being “*ready*” or “*prepared*” constructs an image of control and competence, yet it also redirects attention away from the substantive allegations underlying the impeachment. From a critical standpoint, this can be interpreted as a form of discursive deflection, in which the focus shifts from the content of the accusations to the strength of the respondent’s stance.

Victimhood is constructed in a more implicit manner through references to “*attacks*” and systemic challenges. While these expressions

evoke sympathy, they also contribute to an ideological reframing of the impeachment as persecution rather than a constitutional process. Fairclough’s notion of recontextualization is evident here, as a legal mechanism is discursively transformed into a narrative of personal and political struggle. This reframing not only legitimizes resistance but also risks normalizing the portrayal of accountability mechanisms as antagonistic forces, thereby undermining institutional credibility.

Identity construction further reinforces these dynamics. Through relational language and personal anecdotes, Duterte presents herself as composed, morally grounded, and aligned with the “*taong bayan*” (people). However, this identity work is not neutral; it functions as a legitimizing strategy that merges personal credibility with political authority. The blending of individual and collective identity obscures the boundary between public office and personal narrative, allowing political power to be sustained through affective identification rather than institutional accountability.

From a theoretical standpoint, Fairclough’s three-dimensional model reveals how these textual features (lexical choices, pronouns, framing devices) interact with discursive practices (speech production and media circulation) and broader socio-political structures (populism, dynastic politics) to reproduce power relations. Simultaneously, van Dijk’s socio-cognitive framework explains how these discursive strategies shape mental models, guiding audiences to interpret the impeachment through frames of legitimacy, resistance, and victimhood rather than through a legal accountability lens.

Importantly, while the discourse appears to empower public engagement, it also raises critical questions: Does the emphasis on “*the people*” obscure institutional processes? Does the construction of victimhood deflect accountability? Does the normalization of

¹ Corresponding Author: Zylene Rose D. Olbes

* Corresponding Email: zolbes@cmc.edu.ph

resistance reinforce existing power structures? These questions highlight the need to move beyond surface-level interpretation and examine how discourse may simultaneously enable and constrain democratic accountability.

Across the four tables, the findings indicate that Duterte's discourse operates as a site of

4. Conclusions

This study demonstrates that political discourse functions as a strategic resource for managing power, identity, and public perception, particularly in high-stakes contexts such as impeachment. The analysis of Vice President Sara Duterte's statements indicates that her discourse is systematically constructed to shape narrative control, maintain credibility, and respond to political pressure. Linguistic features such as hedging, repetition, code-switching, and selective responses operate to mitigate risk, regulate information flow, and project authority, while simultaneously limiting direct engagement with potentially sensitive issues.

Moreover, the findings show that her discourse reframes the impeachment from an issue of individual accountability into a broader national concern. Through appeals to public trust, unity, and resilience, this framing aligns her political identity with collective interests, thereby reinforcing perceived legitimacy and strengthening audience alignment. These patterns illustrate how language contributes to the construction of political reality by influencing how authority, legitimacy, and resistance are interpreted within a polarized context.

5. Implications

Drawing from both theoretical and empirical perspectives, this study highlights the value of an integrated approach to discourse analysis. The findings indicate that the combined use of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), van Dijk's

ideological negotiation, where legitimacy is reconstructed, opposition is delegitimized, and political authority is sustained. Rather than merely reflecting reality, the discourse actively produces and organizes it, shaping how audiences perceive truth, responsibility, and power within the Philippine political landscape.

At a broader level, the study affirms the value of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) in examining the relationship between language, ideology, and power in political communication. The results suggest that discourse-analytic approaches can provide systematic insights into how linguistic strategies function within real-world political texts. Such insights may be relevant to fields including linguistics, communication, and education, particularly in relation to the analysis of framing, positioning, and rhetorical strategy.

While the study does not aim to prescribe specific interventions, its findings indicate potential applications in discourse-oriented instruction and media analysis, where examining authentic political texts may support the development of critical language awareness. Future research may further explore these applications by integrating audience-reception data or by conducting comparative analyses across political figures and contexts. In this way, the study contributes to both the theoretical understanding of political discourse and ongoing scholarly discussions on language, power, and democratic processes.

socio-cognitive framework, and Framing Theory enables a more comprehensive examination of political discourse by accounting for the interaction between textual features, cognitive processes, and broader socio-political contexts.

¹ Corresponding Author: Zylene Rose D. Olbes

* Corresponding Email: zolbes@cmc.edu.ph

Rather than treating these frameworks as discrete, the analysis demonstrates that their integration enables a more nuanced interpretation of how language constructs meaning, legitimacy, and power. In particular, the results underscore the analytical relevance of code-switching and multilingual discourse, especially in linguistically diverse settings such as the Philippines, where shifts between languages function as strategic resources in political communication.

These findings suggest that interdisciplinary and multi-theoretical approaches are well-suited for capturing the complexity of discourse in similar contexts. In terms of applied implications, the study provides insights that may inform several domains without prescribing fixed practices. In educational contexts, the findings illustrate how authentic political texts can serve as useful materials for examining stylistic and discourse features, particularly in developing analytical and interpretive skills. For learners, the analysis offers a framework for understanding how

linguistic choices contribute to meaning-making and reflect underlying power relations. In media and journalism, the results highlight the importance of critically examining framing strategies and rhetorical patterns when interpreting political communication, particularly in highly polarized environments. Similarly, in political communication, the study demonstrates how linguistic strategies can be used to manage public perception, navigate institutional challenges, and sustain credibility during crises.

Finally, the study identifies several directions for future research. These include expanding the dataset to include multiple speeches or political actors, conducting comparative analyses across different political contexts, and incorporating multimodal dimensions such as tone, gesture, and visual framing. Such directions would allow for a broader and more systematic understanding of political discourse, further strengthening both theoretical development and empirical application in discourse studies.

6. Limitations of the Study

Despite the depth and rigor of this analysis, several limitations should be acknowledged. First, the study focuses on a single critical case: Vice President Sara Duterte's live-streamed statement following her 2025 impeachment. While the speech represents a politically significant event with high discursive density, the reliance on a single text inherently limits the generalizability of the findings. The results offer detailed insights into the linguistic and ideological strategies employed in this specific context, yet caution is warranted in extending these conclusions to other political actors, speeches, or temporal contexts. Future research could strengthen external validity by incorporating multiple statements, comparative case analyses, or longitudinal discourse tracking.

Second, the study does not incorporate audience reception data. While the analysis examines textual and discursive practices and situates them within socio-political contexts, it does not empirically measure how different audiences interpreted, internalized, or reacted to the statements. As a result, conclusions regarding the efficacy of rhetorical and linguistic strategies in shaping public perception remain inferential. Integrating surveys, focus groups, or social media engagement metrics could provide a more nuanced understanding of audience interpretation and the real-world impact of political discourse.

Third, the study acknowledges the potential for researcher bias. Critical Discourse Analysis, by its nature, involves interpretive judgment, and decisions regarding coding, categorization, and

¹ Corresponding Author: Zylene Rose D. Olbes

* Corresponding Email: zolbes@cmc.edu.ph

analytical emphasis are influenced by the researcher's perspective. Although reflexive practices, collaborative coding, and systematic cross-validation were employed to mitigate bias, complete objectivity cannot be guaranteed. Readers are therefore encouraged to consider the interpretations presented as analytically informed and theoretically grounded, rather than definitive or exhaustive.

Finally, while the study emphasizes linguistic and rhetorical features within a socio-political framework, it does not extend to multimodal

elements such as tone, gesture, or visual presentation, which may also contribute significantly to political messaging. Including these dimensions in future research could offer a richer, more holistic account of discourse strategies and audience engagement.

In sum, while the study provides a focused, in-depth exploration of political discourse, these limitations highlight the need for caution in generalization, the importance of audience-centered research, and the value of integrating multiple analytical lenses in future investigations.

Supplementary Details

Supplementary Materials & Data Availability Statement

This study does not include supplementary materials such as additional figures, datasets, or multimedia files. The primary data consist of publicly available transcripts and recordings of Vice President Sara Duterte's official public statement delivered following her impeachment in February 2025. These materials served as the core corpus for Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), focusing on linguistic, rhetorical, and ideological features. To promote transparency, rigor, and replicability, excerpts of the analyzed discourse are embedded within the Results and Discussion section. Full transcripts and source links to the public address may be made available by the corresponding author upon reasonable request, subject to fair use and proper attribution. This approach ensures adherence to ethical research standards while respecting the integrity and ownership of publicly disseminated political content.

Author Contributions

All authors made substantial contributions to the development, execution, and refinement of this research in alignment with international authorship standards.

- *Zylene Rose D. Olbes* led the study's conceptualization, conducted the

primary discourse analysis, and prepared the original draft of the manuscript, including interpretation of findings and theoretical integration.

- *Maria Efrell Jee O. Punzalan, LPT*, contributed to data curation, coding validation, and analytical cross-checking, and played a key role in reviewing and revising the manuscript for intellectual clarity and coherence.
- *Life Gabriel F. Osumo, LPT, MEd-LT, CRS* supervised the overall research process, ensuring methodological rigor, theoretical alignment, and scholarly quality, while also contributing to critical revisions and final manuscript approval.

All authors have read and approved the final version of the manuscript and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work, including its accuracy, integrity, and academic validity.

Funding Information

This research received no external funding. All phases of the study, including data collection, analysis, and manuscript preparation, were

¹ Corresponding Author: Zylene Rose D. Olbes

*Corresponding Email: zolbes@cmc.edu.ph

supported by institutional resources from Central Mindanao Colleges, Philippines.

Institutional Review Board (IRB) Statement

This study utilized publicly available political discourse and did not involve human participants, personal data, or direct interaction with individuals. Accordingly, ethical approval from an Institutional Review Board (IRB) was not required under standard guidelines for discourse-based research using public records.

Informed Consent Statement

Informed consent was not required for this study, as it relied exclusively on publicly accessible materials and did not involve human subjects, private data, or identifiable personal information.

Acknowledgments

The authors extend their sincere gratitude to Central Mindanao Colleges, Philippines, for providing institutional support and an enabling

research environment. The authors also acknowledge colleagues and peer reviewers whose constructive feedback contributed to enhancing the analytical depth, clarity, and scholarly rigor of this manuscript.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest related to this study. The research was conducted independently, and the findings are presented without any financial, political, or personal bias.

Disclosure Statement (Use of AI Tools)

AI-assisted tools, including ChatGPT, were utilized solely for language refinement, structural organization, and formatting support during manuscript preparation. All analytical interpretations, theoretical applications, and conclusions were independently developed, critically evaluated, and validated by the authors. The authors assume full responsibility for the integrity, originality, and scholarly contributions of the study.

References

- Arugay, A., & Encinas-Franco, J. (Eds.). (2024). *Games, Changes, and Fears: The Philippines from Duterte to Marcos Jr.* ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.
- Asgarova, M. (2025). Everyday Code-Switching Practices: Identity, Pragmatic Functions, And Social Context: How Multilingual Speakers Use Code-Switching to Navigate Identity and Interaction. *Linguiverse*, 1(1), 15-30.
- Bauer, B. (2024). *The unraveling: reflections on politics without ethics and democracy in crisis.* Bloomsbury Publishing USA.
- Carter, R., & McCarthy, M. (2006). *Cambridge grammar of English* (Vol. 462). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Chilton, P. (2004). *Analysing political discourse: Theory and practice.* routledge.
- Chong, D., & Druckman, J. N. (2007). Framing theory. *Annu. Rev. Polit. Sci.*, 10(1), 103-126.
- Demir, M., & Barton, G. (2023). *Islamist populism in Turkey and Indonesia: a comparative analysis.* Palgrave Macmillan.
- Elamin, M. O. I. (2024). Leadership dynamics in the modern era: A comparative study of

¹ Corresponding Author: Zylene Rose D. Olbes

* Corresponding Email: zolbes@cmc.edu.ph

- transformative and controversial leaders. *International Journal of Religion*, 5(5), 379-392.
- Entman, R. M. (1993). Framing: Towards clarification of a fractured paradigm. *McQuail's reader in mass communication theory*, 390, 397.
- Eslit, E. (2025). The “Agong” Resonates: Paradoxical and Oxymoronic Legacy of Duterte’s Stewardship.
- Fairclough, N. (2006). Genres in political discourse. *JL Mey, concise encyclopedia of pragmatics*, 293-298.
- Fairclough, N. (2013). *Critical discourse analysis: The critical study of language*. Routledge.
- Fairclough, N. (2023). Critical discourse analysis. In *The Routledge handbook of discourse analysis* (pp. 11-22). Routledge.
- Gal, S. (1989). Language and political economy. *Annual Review of anthropology*, 18, 345-367.
- Grover, J. (2025). *The Impeachment Process: Partisanship, Polarization, Partisan Press, and the Integrity of the Presidency* (Doctoral dissertation, Middle Tennessee State University).
- Hertog, J. K., & McLeod, D. M. (2001). A multiperspectival approach to framing analysis: A field guide. In *Framing public life* (pp. 157-178). Routledge.
- Khan, A. (2024). The Language of power: discourse analysis and the politics of representation. *Liberal Journal of Language & Literature Review*, 2(01), 22-31.
- Lakoff, G. (2004). Don’t think of an elephant. *Know your values and frame the debate: The essential guide for progressives*. White River Junction/Chelsea Green.
- Lim, T. C. (2020). “It’s not just talk”: ideas, discourse, and the prospects for transformational change in a homogenous nation-state. *Asian Ethnicity*, 21(3), 348-372.
- Linao, J. (2025). Voices of the Public: A Qualitative Content Analysis on the Perception and Sentiments Toward the Impeachment of Vice President Sara Duterte in the Philippines. *Available at SSRN 5125820*.
- Metz, R. (2026). In the age of populist leaders: insights from ideational, strategic and discursive performative perspectives. *International Journal of Public Leadership*, 22(1), 34-49.
- Meyer, J. M. (2024). Power and truth in science-related populism: rethinking the role of knowledge and expertise in climate politics. *Political Studies*, 72(3), 845-861.
- Mullet, D. R. (2018). A general critical discourse analysis framework

¹ Corresponding Author: Zylene Rose D. Olbes

*Corresponding Email: zolbes@cmc.edu.ph

- for educational research. *Journal of advanced academics*, 29(2), 116-142.
- Nguyen, O. (2025). Bridging Political and Academic Discourse: A Pedagogical Framework for Teaching Textual Grammatical Metaphors. *BRU ELT JOURNAL*, 3(2), 124-142.
- Parkin, D. (1984). Political language. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 345-365.
- Pham, T. Q. (2024). A synopsis of the three most influential approaches of critical discourse analysis. *VNU Journal of Foreign Studies*, 40(3), 172-181.
- Poulsen, L. N. S. (2020). Loyalty in world politics. *European Journal of International Relations*, 26(4), 1156-1177.
- Ragragio, J. L. D. (2025). Performing Durable Politics: Comparing Mediated Populism in the Philippines. *Javnost-The Public*, 32(1), 76-91.
- Raza, A., & Naz, F. (2025). The Influence of Political Rhetoric in Shaping National Identity: A Study of Nationalism in 20th Century Literature. *Journal of Social Impact Studies*, 3(2), 46-57.
- Reisigl, M. (2014). Argumentation analysis and the discourse-historical approach: A methodological framework. *Contemporary critical discourse studies*, 67, 96.
- Rahman, M. M., Arefin, S., Uddin, M. J., Akanda, F., Alam, H. N., & Binte, M. (2026). A Critical Discourse Analysis of Editorials of the Three English Newspapers on Hasina's Fall Using Norman Fairclough's Framework. *World*, 16(3).
- Socrates, M. C. A. P. (2016). Frame alignments between the press and political actors: the Corona impeachment trial. *Philippine Political Science Journal*, 37(1), 43-62.
- Supreme Court of the Philippines. (2025, July 25). House impeachment complaint vs VP Duterte barred by 1-year rule, due process or fairness applies during all stages of impeachment process. Supreme Court of the Philippines. <https://sc.judiciary.gov.ph/sc-house-impeachment-complaint-vs-vp-duterte-barred-by-1-year-rule-due-process-or-fairness-applies-during-all-stages-of-impeachment-process/>
- Talamayan, F. (2025). Articulating populism in the Philippines: The rhetorical strategies of Joseph Estrada and Rodrigo Duterte. *Asian Politics & Policy*, 17(1), e70001.
- Talbot, M. (Ed.). (2019). *Language and power in the modern world*. Edinburgh University Press.
- Tamase, P. S. (2024). Emerging Issues in Philippine Impeachment and the

¹ Corresponding Author: Zylene Rose D. Olbes

* Corresponding Email: zolbes@cmc.edu.ph

- Accountability
Constitution. *Phil. LJ*, 98, 442.
- Tan, D. A. L. (2024). Mocking the Powers That Be: The Case of Culture and Political Humor in Malaysia. In *Communicating Political Humor in the Media: How Culture Influences Satire and Irony* (pp. 223-239). Singapore: Springer Nature Singapore.
- The Manila Times. (2025, February 18). Fourth impeachment complaint filed vs. VP Sara Duterte over alleged misuse of funds and other high crimes. The Manila Times. <https://www.manilatimes.net/>
- Thompson, J. B. (2013). *Political scandal: Power and visibility in the media age*. John Wiley & Sons.
- Van Dijk, T. A. (2009). *Critical discourse studies: A sociocognitive approach* (pp. 62-86). na.
- Van Leeuwen, T. (2008). *Discourse and practice: New tools for critical discourse analysis*. Oxford university press.
- Villanueva, G. (2024). Multimodal autoethnographic sincerity. *Communication Studies*, 75(4), 517-534.
- Viviani, L. (2025). The politics of manipulated resonance: personalised leadership in populism. *International Journal of Public Leadership*, 21(3), 189-202.
- Waller, M., & Linklater, A. (Eds.). (2003). *Political Loyalty and the Nation-state* (pp. 1-14). London: Routledge.
- Wodak, R. (2024). Critical discourse analysis/studies. In *The Routledge companion to English studies* (pp. 31-44). Routledge.
- Yergensen, B. (2024). Media Spectacle as Political Epistemology: The Real-Time Construction of Presidential Impeachment. *New Explorations*, 4(2).

¹ Corresponding Author: Zylene Rose D. Olbes

* Corresponding Email: zolbes@cmc.edu.ph



© **The Author(s) 2025.** This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>)

Creative Commons Licensing Terms

Authors retain copyright for their published articles, with the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0) applied to their work. This license allows anyone in the community to copy, distribute, transmit, or adapt the article without needing permission from the author(s) or publisher, as long as clear and proper attribution is given to the authors. This attribution should clarify that the materials are being reused under the Creative Commons License. The opinions, views, and conclusions presented in the articles belong solely to the author(s). The Open Access Publishing Group and the International Journal of Philosophy, Linguistics, and Humanities disclaim responsibility for any potential losses, damages, or liabilities arising from conflicts of interest, copyright issues, or improper use of content related to the research. All published works meet Open Access Publishing standards and are freely accessible for educational, commercial, and non-commercial use, allowing for sharing, modification, and distribution under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0).

¹ Corresponding Author: Zylene Rose D. Olbes

* Corresponding Email: zolbes@cmc.edu.ph