

Condemning in Biden's Tweets: A Pragmatic Analysis

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Abstract

This paper is mainly concerned with investigating the pragmatic perspective of condemning in Trump's tweets. From a pragmatic point of view, condemning has not been received enough attention. Accordingly, this study is an attempt to analyze condemning pragmatically through the elected model. Thus, it aims finding out the types of condemning are used in the American political contexts, identifying the functions of condemning in the selected data, shedding light on how impoliteness strategies are used for achieving those functions of condemning, and uncovering the rhetorical devices used. According to the aims listed above, it is hypothesized that: directive, attitudinal and expressive types of condemning which are used in American political contexts, expressive and regulative are functions of condemning, the condemner utilizes the impoliteness strategies by attacking a person's face positively, negatively, indirectly or sarcastically, and persuasion, repetition, symbol, simile, metaphor and dysphemism are rhetorical devices. The results of the analysis prove the first, second, third and fourth hypotheses.

Keywords: Condemning, Pragmatics, Tweets, Politics

1. Introduction

Condemning acts are frequent throughout political debates since each party intentionally condemns the adversary to demonstrate his righteousness. Thus, according to Searle (1967), they are classified as expressive speech acts that are related to the moral conduct of human being towards breaching a rule or a norm of behavior committed by a specific participant or an institutional policy (Kampf and Blum-Kulka, 2011:10).

Despite its important, the pragmatic strategies constituting the structure of this act have not been investigated, which means that the pragmatic aspects of condemning have not been given their due attention. To bridge this gap, the present study makes its appeal to tackle condemning from pragmatic angle. Thus, the present study specifies itself in study condemning and finding answers to the following questions: what the types of condemning are used in American political contexts, what are the functions of condemning that used in selected data, how are impoliteness strategies that utilized to achieve the act of condemning and what are the rhetorical devices that used in American political contexts (Al Naimi, Faisal, & Sobh, 2020).

Thus, it specifies itself with achieving the following aims: finding out the types of condemning are used in the American political contexts, identifying the functions of condemning in the selected data, and shedding light on how impoliteness strategies are used for achieving those functions of condemning. According to the aims listed above, it is

hypothesized that: directive, attitudinal and expressive types of condemning which are used in American political contexts, expressive and regulative are functions of condemning, the condemner utilizes the impoliteness strategies by attacking a person's face positively, negatively, indirectly or sarcastically, and persuasion, repetition, symbol, simile, metaphor and dysphemism are rhetorical devices. To achieve the aims of this study, the following procedures are followed: providing some theoretical framework for the concept of condemning and some related topics that are crucial to the aims of the study, collecting data, and applying an eclectic model for a pragmatic analysis (Aljazzazen & Schmuck, 2021; Bennouna, Amegouz, & Sekhari, 2020).

2. Condemning

As a first step to be able to recognize a condemning act, it's preferable to define it and what characteristics such a statement or action must have. It's important to talk about this in detail since condemning is almost as complex as it is common and crucial to daily lives. Wertheimer (1983:23) describes condemning as:

a suspect activity, a nasty business, and a dangerous game, fraught with risks and costs of diverse kinds.

Condemning presupposes the facticity of previous transgressive acts and show moral dissent from them. They can thus be defined as expressive speech acts (Searle 1976) that indicate concern with the moral dimension of human conduct, giving voice to the speaker's critical stance towards a breach of a rule, a norm or a code of behavior committed by a specific actor or entailed by an institutional policy (Kampf, 2016:3).

2.1. Types of Condemning

Following Wertheimer (1998:490), condemning can be classified as one of three different but related types: directive, attitudinal, and expressive.

2.1.1 Directive condemning

The act of condemning some agent to incur a punishment might be referred to as "directive condemning". Punishments, in the strict sense, represent a distinct class of penalties, those asked for and directed by the act condemning. Unlike punishments, other penalties do not serve to explain misbehavior or serve as an expression of condemning. Even though condemning often leads to punishment, it is not itself punishing and is completed without punitive consequences. Directive condemning is done out of hostility, which can happen when someone doesn't have the power or intention to punish (Wertheimer, 1998:490).

2.1.2 Attitudinal Condemning

The attitudinal type of condemning can be done through (inner or outer) linguistic acts that don't request punishments but instead express and (possibly) justify the aggressive condemning attitude that motivates directive condemning. Thus, one can have a condemnatory attitude without engaging in any overtly condemnatory behavior, if one simply wishes that the condemned suffer some unpleasant fate (Wertheimer, 1998:491).

2.1.3 Expressive Condemning

Precisely, only agents can be punished and suffer, so only agents can be condemned. Expressive condemning motivates intentions, personality characteristics, events, relationships, etc., towards bad and immoral actions. One may condemn and punish actions by condemning

and punishing (or making them liable to condemning and punishment) agents who perform, possess, or produce them and so on. As the result, the target objects of condemning and punishments are agents (Wertheimer, 1998:491).

2.2 Functions of Condemning

According to Bowden and Rooksby (2006) condemning has both a directing or regulative function and an expressive purpose, just like other moral judgments.

2.2.1 The Regulative Function

In order to condemn someone, one must believe that they have failed to meet at least the most essential expectations that one has of them (both as an individual and a member of society). It uses both "carrots" and "sticks" to try to get other to adopt these standards as the basis for others' participation in interpersonal and communal interaction.

Condemning is crucial to avoid moral drift and excuse-making that weaken relational expectations it was intended to maintain. "Anyone would have done the same" may be a comparison, not a lack of moral responsibility. Empathy that ties a wrongdoer's moral weakness with our fears that a person too might not be able to stand up for his moral convictions under duress becomes an excuse for refusing to perceive anything wrong with what is being done. Failure to uphold moral standards may undermine social life (Bowden and Rooksby, 2006:247).

2.2.2 The Expressive Function

In the same way that punishment conveys displeasure or lack of sympathy, condemning conveys anger, hatred or disgust. Not a withdraw, which would be a sign of fear, nor is it a state of disinterest, which would show sadness or despair. It is similar to declaring war, especially a holy war (Wertheimer, 1998:493).

By condemning, someone may express the expectations of others that the condemned has failed to meet and taking on the responsibility of making things right (whether or not she is capable of doing so). Condemning others is a way for people to express their disappointment, resentment, and anger, and condemnation practises help to form the meaning of these emotions. When people are condemned, they can feel forced to respond, resentful, angry, repentant, ashamed, or misunderstood (Bowden and Rooksby, 2006:247)

2.3 Felicity Conditions of condemning

In order to perform a felicitous act of condemning, the researcher determines the following conditions:

- a. Propositional content: represent the transgressive act in his/her speech.
- b. Preparatory condition: identify pervious action is done by as violating a norm or rule.
- c. Sincerity condition: sincerely comprehend it as having some negative effect and.
- d. Essential condition: employ a linguistic formula that counts as a condemning.

3. Impoliteness Strategies

Every society has its own distinct group of social norms, which can be thought of as more or less explicit guidelines that point to a particular way of behaving or a particular state of affairs. When an action is in equivalence with the norm, a positive assessment (politeness) performs whereas a negative assessment (impoliteness, rudeness) when action is opposed

(Fraser ,1990: 220).

To be impolite, either (1) "the speaker interconnects "face-attack" intentionally" or (2) "the addressee identifies or makes behaviour as purposefully or consciously face attacking," or (3) "both" are required (Culpeper, 2011:19).

According to Culpeper (2011), impoliteness can be classified into: (i) affective, (ii) coercive, and (iii) entertaining (Huang,2014 :150):-

i. Firstly, affective impoliteness refers to the type of impoliteness that shows the speaker's high emotional state, generally anger, toward the addressee or another third party for causing the speaker's unpleasant emotional state.

ii. Secondly, by coercive impoliteness is meant the type of impoliteness that attempts to shift the balance of power between the speaker and the person to whom the impoliteness is being directed in order for the speaker to gain, maintain, and reinforce the benefits of their position. Coercive impoliteness is often linked to a power imbalance and a conflict of interest. Such strategies are commonly used to gain control over others through the use of language.

iii. Finally, a type of impoliteness in which the speaker is exploitatively amused at the expense of a target.

Based on definitions of impoliteness, a model consisting of 5 super-strategies was presented (Culpeper, 2005):

3.1 Bald on Record Impoliteness

Culpeper (1996: 356) proposes that this strategy is to some extent distinct from Brown and Levinson's (1978, 1987) bald on record strategy. He refers to the utterances within this strategy bald on record impoliteness where there is a purpose on the part of the speaker to violate or attack the hearer's face.

This kind of impoliteness happens when the speaker does face-threatening acts (FTAs) to speech partners with the direct, clear, unambiguous, and concise intention of ruining the face of the hearer in situations whereas the hearer has not any power to utter impolite utterances. (Culpeper, 2005: 41)

3.2 Positive Impoliteness

As Culpeper (2003:1555) argues, these strategies are employed to damage the positive face wants of the addressee. Culpeper (1996:258) defines positive impoliteness "is the use of strategies design to damage the addressee's positive someone face who wants to be acknowledged as a part of the society". Positive face here refers to the desire from a person to be respected by others.

As Bousfield (2008:86) that Culpeper (1996) identifies the following as the output strategies of positive hate speech:

- a. If you don't acknowledge the other's presence, then you're ignoring them.
- b. Disqualify the other person from an activity.
- c. As an example, deny association or common ground with the other, avoid sitting together, or any number of other methods of distancing yourself from the other.
- d. Use improper identifiers, such as title and surname while referring to a close relationship or

nickname when referring to a distant relationship.

e. use jargon to confuse the other or a code known only to the group, but not the target, to get your point across.

3.3 Negative Impoliteness

Negative impoliteness is a strategy that aims to attack the participant's negative face, as explained by Culpeper (2005:41).

According to Culpeper (1996), there are some outputs of strategies of negative hate speech:

- a. Frighten - establish a perception that an activity harmful to someone will take place.
- b. Show your inferiority by lowering your voice and making sarcastic remarks.
- c. Invade the other person's space, either literally (by getting as close to them as the relationship allows) or figuratively (e.g., ask for or speak about information which is too intimate given the relationship).
- d. Connect the other person to the bad thing by using the pronouns "I and you."
- e. Document the other person's debt.

3.4 Off-Record Impoliteness

The speaker utilizes face threatening act as means of an implicature but in a way that someone the meaning clearly outweighs any others. The threat to the hearer's face expresses in an indirect way (Huang, 2007:212).

Mugford (2019:190) finds out that this strategy is used where the threat or damage to the person's face is conveyed indirectly by way of an implicature.

3.5 Sarcasm

Culpeper (1996:358) shows that this strategy of impoliteness or mock politeness is a super-strategy in its own right. Thus, the face threatening acts are performed by external awareness. Sarcasm is when a person says something but really means the opposite or something different than what they say. People use sarcasm as an alternative way to criticize other people in public, since this kind of actions can be inappropriate depending on the situation.

Furthermore, Sarcasm" is presumed as one of the main super-strategies of impoliteness. Haiman (1998: 21-2) demonstrates that sarcasm is an aggressive form of speech. The aggressiveness of the speaker can be aimed either towards the hearer or at a third party who is not present; or can be a universal perspective or attitude about an individual or an object (Bousfield, 2008: 213).

4. Pragmatics and Rhetorical Devices

As a first step in investigating the connections between modern discipline "pragmatics" and an ancient discipline "rhetoric," it is useful to define them. Richard and Schmidt (1985: 499) define rhetoric as:

the study of how effective writing achieves goals... (of) how to express oneself correctly and effectively in relation to the topic or speech, the audience, and the purpose of communication." While Yule (1996: 127) defines pragmatics as *"the study of intended speaker meaning."*

Since the time of Aristotle, the relationship between pragmatics and rhetoric is deeply rooted. Rhetoric has been the main source of thinking about how to persuade people. Booth (2004:31) says that the main goal of rhetoric is to find the best way to express an idea in a given situation and then change its expressions to fit different situations. This makes rhetoric a part of pragmatics, as Sadock (2006:318) says, the main area of pragmatics is how language works in a given situation based on a variety of contextual factors.

4.1 Persuasion Appeal

In rhetorical theory, Persuasion is a successful deliberate effort at influencing another's mental state through speech in a situation where the persuadee has some level of freedom (O'Keefe 2016: 4). There are three appeals of persuasion, (O'Reilly and Stooksbury, 2013: 34):

1. Ethos: is a term used to describe a speaker's credibility, character, and ability. Thus, he is attempting to present himself as a principled agent.
2. Pathos: the speaker's ability to create strong emotions in the listener.
3. Logos: a speaker's arguments and evidence.

4.2 Repetition

Fischer (1994:15) argues repetition as the act of repeating words, phrases and sentences in order to make emphasis its important. This means repetition occurs when words or phrases are repeated in specific texts to bring attention to particular idea.

4.3 Simile

According to Fadaee (2011:22), the word "simile" means "resemblance and likenesses" in Latin, hence the technical definition of a simile is "the comparison of two items with some similarities." Simile is a figure of speech that is often used in poetry, novels, movies, and plays. Authors employ it when drawing parallels between two unrelated concepts, whether they are people, places, ideas, or things by using words "like or "as.

4.4 Symbol

Wimsatt (1974, p. 34) defines a symbol as "any object to which a value beyond its apparent value is attached." That is, a rhetorician might use an object to make a point about something else. For example, a cartoon elephant could represent feelings about a father, freedom, or God.

4.5 Metaphor

Deutch (1962: 73) defines metaphor as " Language that implies a relationship in which similarity is a significant feature between two things and so change our apprehension of either or both," while Lakoff and Johnson (1980:55) define metaphor as " the understanding or experiencing of one thing or one concept in terms of another where there is some similarity.

4.6 Dysphemism

A phrase that is insulting to either the person being talked to or the topic being talked about, or to both. A dysphemism is a marked form that shows how the speaker thinks or feels about the listener or group (web source)

5. Methods of the analysis

The tweets which are selected to be the data of the study are analyzed from a pragmatic perspective. These tweets are analyzed in accordance with an eclectic model. Qualitative

methods include describing types of characteristics of the characters and events without comparing these events in term of measurements amounts (Thomas, 2003:1). After the data is collected, a qualitative analysis is done by examining the tweets through the eclectic model which is presented in figure 1 .

5.1. The Model of Analysis

The study's eclectic model will be used to analyse the selected tweets pragmatically (see Figure 1). For the sake of clarity, the text's condemning function is first provided for each text. Secondly, the same text is examined in accordance with Culpeper's impoliteness strategies (1996). Third, the text is examined in terms of rhetorical pragmatics and rhetorical devices, such as persuasive appeals (ethos, pathos, and logos), repetition (full repetition, parallelism, and chiasmus), and symbol.

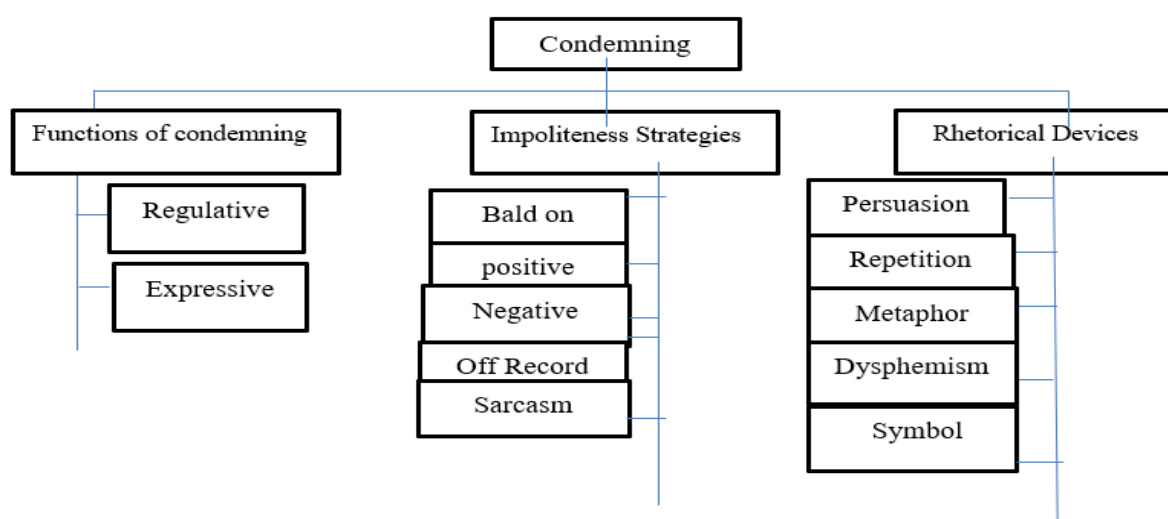


Figure (1) *The model of the study*

Extract No.1

We are in the midst of a crisis with the coronavirus. We need to lead the way with science — not Donald Trump’s record of hysteria, xenophobia, and fearmongering. He is the worst possible person to lead our country through a global health emergency.

1. Function of Condemning

Trump fails to meet the country's most basic expectations for the purpose of controlling Covid 19. Thus, Biden uses the regulative function in condemning him.

2. Impoliteness strategies

In this tweet, Biden uses Sarcasm impoliteness strategy for the purpose of condemning the president Trump. According to this strategy, Biden intends to condemn Trump’s ability and attack his face sarcastically. Furthermore, Biden uses positive impoliteness strategy to attach Trump’s Negative face to make people sure that Trump didn’t deal with crisis very well and scientifically.

3. Rhetorical devices

a. Persuasion

Biden gives reasons for his condemning Trump to fulfill what is called logic as in the utterance "*We need to lead the way with science — not Donald Trump’s record of hysteria,*

xenophobia, and fear-mongering".

b. Repetition

Biden repeats the phrase "to lead" for the purpose of emphasizing the idea that the United States need a person believes in science rather than Trump.

c. Dysphemism

Biden intentionally uses the word "worst" in order to express his bad impression about him and condemns him.

Extract No. 2

Vladimir Putin doesn't want me to be President. He doesn't want me to be our nominee. If you're wondering why — it's because I'm the only person in this field who's ever gone toe-to-toe with him.

1. Function of Condemning

Biden condemns Putin not only because he fails to keep some expectation but instead of this, he employs condemning as a way to express his anger and hatred against Putin. Hence, he uses expressive function in order to shape these feelings.

2. Impoliteness strategies

The strategy of impoliteness that is utilized by Joe Biden in this situation is Negative Impoliteness. It realized by explicitly associate Putin with a negative aspect. Furthermore, He employs the Off Record strategy of impoliteness when he condemns Trump in indirect way.

6. Rhetorical devices

a. Persuasion

Biden gives reasons for his condemning Trump to fulfill what is called logic as in the utterance " *it's because I'm the only person in this field who's ever gone toe-to-toe with him.* "

b. Repetition

Biden keeps repeating the full sentence " *Vladimir Putin doesn't want me to be President. He doesn't want me to be our nominee* " to condemn Putin and emphasizes the idea that Putin wants Trump to be the president instead of him.

c. Metaphor

The metaphorical expression "*toe to toe* "is employed by Joe Biden to compare himself with being in direct confrontation or opposition

d. Symbol

The word " field" symbolizes the world of politics.

Extract No.3

"I pledge to be a president who seeks not to divide, but to unify. Who doesn't see red and blue states, but a united states. And who will work with all my heart to win the confidence of the whole people"

1. Function of Condemning

Trump fails to sustain the unity of United State. Instead, he divides people and spread racism and hatred between them. In this respect, Biden employs the regulative function in condemning him.

2. Impoliteness strategies

The strategy of impoliteness that is utilized by the vice-president Joe Biden in this situation is Off Record. Thus, in this strategy Biden attempts to accuse or damage Trump's face in an indirect way. He may try to prove that trump can't be able to run the country and especially he divides the notion as red and blue states and planting distinction between them instead of unite them.

3. Rhetorical devices

a. Persuasion

He uses the ethos appeal in "*I pledge to be a president*" to show how he is a responsible one and can fulfill what he commits himself to do.

b. Repetition

Biden's speech is structured in a form of parallelism. Parallelism is found between the two sentences:

"who seeks not to divide, but to unify, Who doesn't see red and blue states, but a united states" to emphasis the idea of distinction for the president Trump.

c. Metaphor

The metaphorical expression "*with all my heart*" is employed by Joe Biden to show that to earn people's trust, he will work sincerity and honestly.

d. Symbol

The symbols that exist in Biden's speech are two. First, the word "red" symbolizes the Republican Party. Second, the word "blue" symbolizes Democratic Party.

Extract No.4

"More than 330,000 Americans have died from COVID-39 — and Donald Trump has given up on trying to get the virus under control. He may have quit on you, but I promise I never will."

1. Function of Condemning

Trump fails to meet the most essential of expectations which is crucial to face Covid 19. In this regard, Biden employs the regulative function in condemning him.

2. Impoliteness strategies

The strategy of impoliteness that is utilized by the vice-president Joe Biden in this situation is Positive impoliteness. Thus, in this strategy Biden attempts to accuse or damage Trump's positive face. Biden accused Trump of "giving up" in the fight against the virus and said he should not attack medical personnel who are treating its victims.

3. Rhetorical devices

a. Persuasion

Giving facts is what Biden follows as an attempt to persuade people in order to condemn Trump. Thus, Biden uses the logical appeal as a persuasive device.

b. Metaphor

The metaphorical expression "he may quit on it" is employed by Joe Biden to compare between Trump gives up and retired the person from his job.

Extract No.5

Today, the House passed the No Ban Act because no one should be discriminated against or singled out based on the faith they practice. I will end President Trump's Muslim Ban on day one and sign this bill into law.

1. Function of Condemning

It is expected that Trump will treat Muslims fairly, but instead, he discriminates against based on the faith they practice. Thus, Biden employs regulative function of condemning.

2. Impoliteness strategies

To perform his condemning towards Trump, Biden tries to attack Trump's positive face. He condemns Trump by saying that he bans people from six Muslim-majority countries from entering the USA and slamming the door on refugees. Thus, the researcher determines Trump's utterance as Negative impoliteness.

3. Rhetorical Devices

a. Persuasive Appeals

In his speech, Biden is trying to appear as a principled one and how he has the authority to perform what he commits himself to do. Thus, the ethos appeal is achieved. Additionally, he makes use of the logos appeal since he is presenting facts.

b. symbol

Biden mentions the word "house" in his tweet. This word is not mentioned arbitrarily, rather it symbolizes Chamber of Deputies.

6. The Results

The findings of the analysis of Biden's Tweets are summarized in the following tables:

Table (1) The results of Biden's Tweets

No	Function	Fr.	Pr.	Impoliteness Strategies	Fr.	Pr.	Rhetorical Devices	Fr.	Pr.		
1	Regulative	4	80%	positive	2	33.33%	Logos	3	60%		
							Persuasion	Ethos	2	40%	33.33%
								Pathos	0	0	
								Full	2	66.66%	
2	Expressive	1	20%	Negative	1	16.66%	Repetition	Par.	1	33.33%	20%
								Ch.	0	0	
3				Off Record	2	33.33%	Metaphor	3	20%		
4				Sarcasm	1	16.66%	Symbol	3	20%		
5							Simile	0	0		
							Dysphemism	1	6.66%		
Total		5	100%		6	99.97%		15	99.99%		

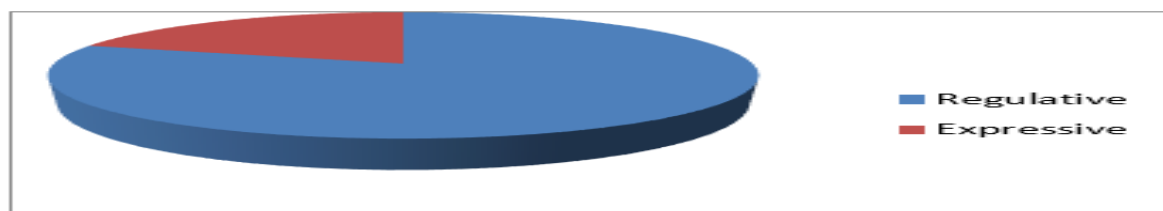


Figure (2) The rate of the functions of condemning

As shown in the figure (2) above, regulative function receives the higher percentage than the other function which is (80%) while expressive function has (20%). So, it may be illustrated that Biden Condemns Trump purposely because he fails to meet some expectations rather than in order to express his hate and anger towards him.

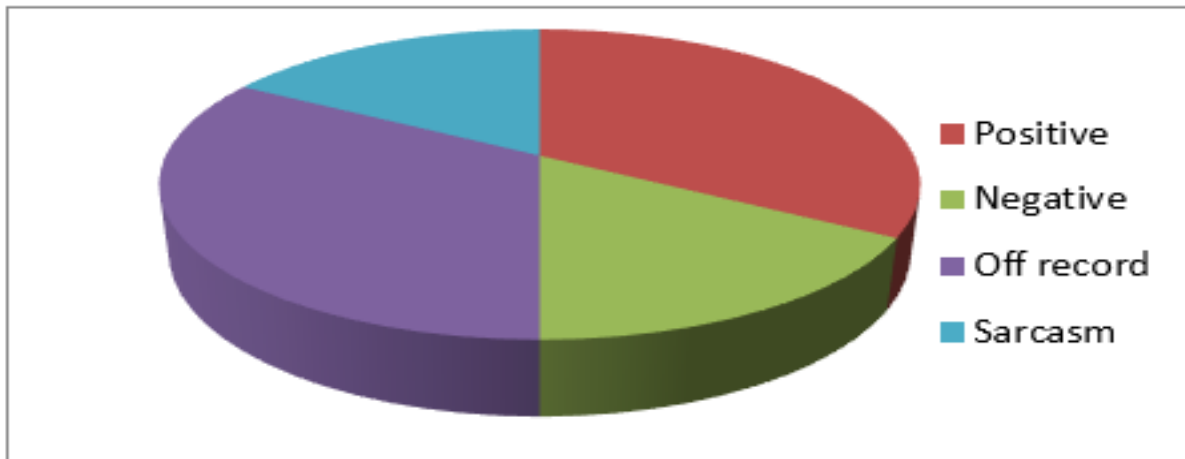


Figure (3) *The rate of impoliteness strategies*

As can be seen in the figure (3), Biden makes equal use of both positive and off record impoliteness strategy where they are amounted (33.33%). on the other hand, he also makes equal use of both negative and sarcasm strategy which are amounted (16.66%).

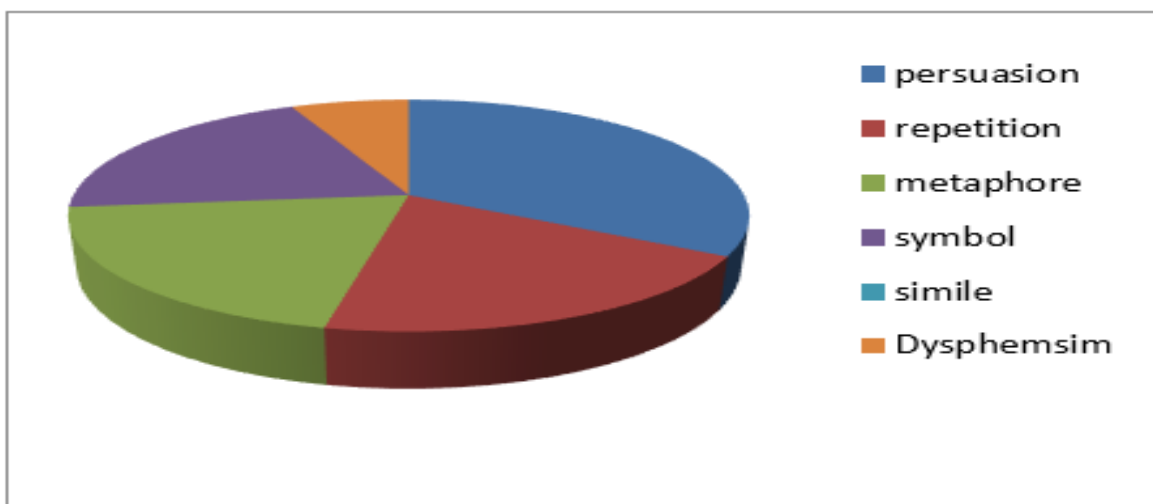


Figure (4) *The rate of rhetorical devices*

Finally, pragma-rhetorical devices as seen in figure (4) persuasion is the most frequently employed by Biden, making (33.33%). Repletion, metaphor and symbol have the same percentage (20%). This indicates that Biden is always repeated his speech using metaphorical expression or symbol to emphasize something. Furthermore, dysphemism receives the low percentage; it's amounted (6.66) .

7. Conclusions

Depending on the analysis conducted in chapter four of the present study, the researcher concludes the following:

- 1) 1. Condemning can be classified into different types which are directive, attitudinal and expressive condemning. Therefore, the results of selected data has verified the first hypothesis, which reads: directive, attitudinal and expressive types of condemning which are used in Biden's Tweets.
- 2) 2. The analysis of the data has shown that there are two functions are employed in the American political contexts. These functions are regulative and expressive condemning, and this is validating the third hypothesis postulated in the current study, which reads: Expressive and regulative are functions of condemning.
- 3) 3. in the respect of impoliteness strategies, the condemner uses bald on record, negative, positive, off record, and sarcasm impoliteness strategies and this is verified the third hypothesis which reads: The condemner utilizes the impoliteness strategies by attacking a person's face positively, negatively, indirectly or sarcastically
- 4) 4. Through the analysis of the data, the fourth hypothesis which reads: Persuasion, repetition, symbol, simile, metaphor and dysphemism are rhetorical devices used in Biden's tweets has also been verified.
- 5) 5. The eclectic model of this study proves to be useful in conducting a pragmatic analysis of condemning.

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