Antonio Reyes

Voice in Political Discourse: Castro, Chávez, Bush and their Strategic Use of Language. London: Continuum, 2011. 192 pp. (Cloth US\$140.00)

Antonio Reyes draws on complementary interdisciplinary methodologies to introduce a diverse academic audience to three roles enacted by international politicians. Specifically, he explores the triangular relationship between narrator, interlocutor, and character as evoked in the political discourses of Fidel Castro, Hugo Chávez, and George W. Bush following the September 11 attacks in the United States. Reyes utilizes a sociolinguistic approach that explores Bakhtin's notion of voicing and concepts of dialogism and heteroglossia, Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), and functional grammar. Two chapters that introduce the study and theoretical framework are followed by three analytical chapters, a comparative chapter, and a conclusion. The book also includes an appendix with the coding used.

The introductory chapter presents the overall argument, which "looks at the nature of political discourse to decode the roles politicians adopt by evoking specific voices to achieve their political goals" (p. 1). These political goals set up mis/alignments with social actors while also having a hegemonic effect enabling politicians to maintain power. This chapter offers a clear overview of the case-study approach by providing an explanation of the methodologies. Of particular use are the brief definitions for each of the roles evoked by the politicians. These definitions emerge from previous scholarship in sociolinguistics. The "narrator" gives objective information about the present from which he is removed. The "interlocutor" utilizes questions, vocatives, and second-person personal pronouns that create the allusion of a conversation and a sense of connection to social actors. The "character" is a "ventriloquist" (a word Reyes uses in later chapters) who evokes other voices (for instance Jesus in the speeches of Chávez) with whom he sets up an alignment and also calls on public memory. Reyes then moves on to provide a justification of the data from which his analysis is derived.

Contextualizing his data, Reyes explains the role of the United States as a global hegemonic power. Readers can infer here that international political leaders' perspectives on terrorism differ slightly, and this is later confirmed in the analysis. For instance, given that the United States is a hegemonic global power that has had a history of involvement in Latin America, Castro constructs it as a terrorist country of sorts. While the justification for the data is clear, the historical context situating these discourses could have been more thorough. Reyes's research approach is more social-scientific than rhetorical; a more ample historical context would have been useful given the

overall concepts of power and ideology that he claims are of interest to this study.

Chapter 2, "Language and Politics," calls on linguistic anthropology to formulate an argument for analyzing speeches in Spanish and to explain how this methodology reveals the triangulation of the three roles. As a trained rhetorician, I found the lack of engagement with existing work on rhetorical criticism puzzling, particularly since Reyes claims that his work is interdisciplinary. In the discipline of rhetorical studies, narrative, ideological, and Marxist criticisms are among the approaches that have been historically used to analyze political speeches. I list these particular approaches (there are many more) because they reflect the theoretical constructs mentioned by Reyes. However, to alleviate other rhetoricians' concerns, Reyes addresses Aristotle's notions of ethos, pathos, and logos and argues that these modes of persuasion are similar to the roles of narrator, interlocutor, and character but do not specifically correlate with the linguistic features or choices in the speeches he examines. Although an Aristotelian approach to analyzing political speeches is now considered antiquated, the distinction that Reyes makes is helpful in understanding how his framework differs from a rhetorical approach.

The next four chapters provide more detailed explanation and linguistic examples of how the politicians' speeches evoke the three roles that are the book's focus. Reyes indicates that they are not mutually exclusive, but can occur simultaneously in the same speech. To assist readers in understanding their distinctions and yet relatedness, Reyes puts certain quotes in bold and underlines others. Additionally, he includes figures that show the coding he used to reveal the patterning of the three roles throughout the speeches. Chapter 5, which focuses on the interlocutor's role, is particularly successful at providing ample and more extended examples.

In his comparative chapter, Reyes proposes that regardless of audience, politicians evoke these three roles. He makes his case by randomly selecting excerpts from each speech. Although he successfully challenges the academic community to look carefully at non-English political discourses, there is a missed opportunity that could unveil other roles unique to cultural context and their implications. Perhaps this is not within the scope of the book, but it could be an area for future study. Other than this, the book is a useful and interesting case-study approach to analyzing international political discourses.

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