

Donald Trump`s speech

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1. Background information

Who is Donald Trump?

Donald John Trump was born as the fourth of five children on 14th June 1946 in New York City. He is the son of the successful real estate developer Frederic Christ Trump and Mary MacLeod. He was elected to be the 45th



Figure 1: Donald Trump (Source: Zeit, 2022 March 3)

president of the United States and lead the

country from 2017 until 2021. Before his political career he was a real estate developer and businessman. He owned, managed and licensed his name to various hotels, casinos, resorts and residential properties around the world but mainly in New York City. In the beginning of the 21st century his private conglomerate, the Trump Organization, comprised over 500 companies involves in numerous businesses. Donald Trump was impeached twice by the U.S. House of Representatives. Once in 2019 for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress in connection with the Ukraine scandal. The second time was in 2021 for incitement of insurrection in connection with the storming of the United States Capitol by a violent mob of Trump supporters as Congress met in joint session to ceremonially count electoral college votes from the 2020 presidential election. Both impeachments ended in his acquittal by the U.S. Senate. In 2020 Donald Trump lost the election to former vice president Joe Biden (Dicker, 2017; Duignan, 2021).

Presidency of Donald Trump

Donald Trump`s first order, signed on his first day as president, directed that all “unwarranted economic and regulatory burdens” imposed by the ACA should be minimized pending the “prompt repeal” of that law. Five days later he directed the secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to begin planning for the construction of a wall along the country`s southern border. An executive order on ethics imposed a five-year ban on “lobbying activities” by former executive branch employees but weakened or removed some lobbying restrictions imposed by the Obama administration (Duignan, 2021).

Speeches by Donald Trump

Donald Trump is one of the most successful business leaders of the United States and worldwide. He has an enormous power over people and is highly influential. This led him to the top of all the most important public offices, the presidency of United States of America. Many authors writing about Donald Trump are convinced that what influenced

people the most is his style of speech. Many people began to sympathize arduously with his speech and became his followers. Therefore, we want to take a closer look at one of Trump's speeches (Gamez, 2017). The speech that will be analysed in this paper was given by Trump on 14th May 2020 at the Owens and Minor distribution center for coronavirus relief supplies in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Owens and Minor is a global healthcare solutions company integrating product manufacturing and delivery, home health supply, and perioperative services to support care through the hospital and into the home (Owens and Minor, 2022).

2. Source Texts

The first source text for this language analysis is Donald Trump's speech at PA Distribution Center for Coronavirus Relief Supplies (rev, 14th May 2020). As the transcript is 10 pages long, I decided to only use part of it for this project.

Donald Trump: (04:06)

But each of **you** has worked relentlessly to get the supplies to our **healthcare** warriors and all across the **hospitals** and specifically for this plant in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. As **you** know, the **pandemic** has inflicted profound hardship, especially in the areas that **you** serve. Within one heartbeat, America grieves for every life and every family, all of those that have been lost and all over the world, 186, as of this morning, 186 countries. What a horrible shame. And **we** thank God for the courage of those on the front lines and **you** make it possible for them. Just **as** the men and women of Allentown have done in every generation, I know it well, the workers in this facility have answered the call in America's hour of need. Donald Trump: (05:03)

Many of **you** are working long before dawn, get up and **you** go to work and long after midnight. I know your hours, I was talking to your people and your representatives they say ... I'm saying, what are the hours? They said, "**You** won't even believe it." I said, "But don't work those hours too, we're all working hard." **You**'re driving forklifts, staging pallets, packing, picking loading, and shipping all sorts of things all over these primarily three states. Since February, **you** have deployed an amazing 1.75 million and 95 **respirators** and **you** make them now yourselves. 3.4 million gowns, 80 million gloves and much more. And on behalf of **our** nation, I want to thank **you** because you're making America proud. **We** really do, **we** thank **you** very much. Thank **you** all.

[...]

Donald Trump: (07:17)

We make plenty of **ventilators**, which was very little in the country because most hospitals didn't need very many. And all of a sudden they said, **we** need hundreds of thousands of **ventilators**. **We** need kinds of numbers that **you** wouldn't believe. And **we** were mobilized and with Adam and with the Admiral and with all of these people and Jared, somewhere Jared is here, what they did is incredible.

We brought geniuses in from Silicon Valley. And all of a sudden, within a short period of time, we had 11 plants up making ventilators and you wouldn't believe what it is. And now we have so many, every state has more than they need.

Donald Trump: (08:25)

Over the past few months, the federal government has partnered with Owens & Minor and other distributors to launch the very successful and historic project Airbridge, which is really being thought of and spoken of in glowing terms. Nearly 150 flights have brought 95 million masks, 16 million gowns, and 921 million gloves to America. Can you believe that? 921 million gloves, it's not even conceivable. Guided by our team workers like you, distributed over 1 billion pieces of protective gear to places in need, a truly remarkable accomplishment. After meeting the immediate demand, we'll be transforming and transitioning from project Airbridge to seahift, where we're using big ships, giant ships. That's less expensive and they can carry a lot more. And we don't need the speed anymore because we're very stocked up.

The second source text is the transcript of Trump's Coronavirus Task Force press conference on July 30, 2020. In his speech he discussed the vaccine, the federal election and economic stimulus. As the transcript is rather long, I decided to shorten it and use the language-wise most important part of it (Rev, 30th July 2020).

President Donald Trump: (11:20)

It recognizes that prolonged lockdowns imposed a wide range of serious public health threats, including higher levels of suicide, drug overdoses, and other significant health harms resulting from the depression that we talked about. Social isolation, economic hardship, it's been very tough for those people that are put in a lockdown position for too long. It really has been a very tough and harmful situation for many people. The fact is that these harms are not measured daily here or abroad. It makes them, really, a very serious threat because people don't know exactly what they are and how bad they are. But I think they're very bad.

President Donald Trump: (12:04)

Going forward, we must continue to remain vigilant in shielding of the elderly and those with underlying conditions. Approximately half of all deaths have occurred in nursing homes and longterm care facilities, which is an incredible number and statistic if you think about it.

President Donald Trump: (12:21)

I also urge Americans to help us stop the spread of the virus. Practice good hygiene, socially distance, avoid large crowds, and wear a mask where distancing is not possible. It's a patriotic thing to do. If you are sick, isolate yourself, especially from high risk family members and friends. So important, isolate yourself from high risk family members and friends if you're not feeling well.

President Donald Trump: (12:49)

Together, we will defeat the virus and emerge from this safer and stronger than ever. Thanks to the robust federal action in partnership with state and local leaders, new cases of the virus are declining in 80% of the jurisdictions, which is an incredible number. And the overall test

positivity rate has declined by 8% since last week. Zero states have seen outbreaks get worse since yesterday. So zero states.

President Donald Trump: (13:19)

We're also continuing to make progress in the development of a vaccine. This is something so important. Also, therapeutics are on the front burner. We're having tremendous... I think. We'll let you know very soon. I think long before the end of the year. We're having tremendous success on therapeutics and tremendous success on vaccines, and we're ready to deliver them literally as soon as they are okayed.

President Donald Trump: (13:46)

This morning, my administration approved \$1 billion for Johnson & Johnson, who's been working very hard in the [inaudible 00:13:52] have something very special, to manufacture and distribute 100 million doses of a China virus vaccine as soon as one is available. And again, we think that's going to be soon and we think we're going to have the vaccines before the end of the year, maybe long before the end of the year.

President Donald Trump: (14:09)

Finally, today, I'm pleased to announce that the Department of Justice has issued \$35 million in grants to 73 organizations nationwide, providing assistance to human trafficking victims. A terrible thing. You think of human trafficking as being an ancient form of crime. It's not because of the internet. It's a very modern crime all over the world. Not just here, all over the world, human trafficking. It's usually in women or women and children. But it's, again, because of the internet. It's a terrible situation. Never been like this.

[...]

Speaker 1: (15:31)

Two quick questions. Thank you, Mr. President. First of all, you said that voting by mail is an invitation to fraud. Could you lay out and tell us exactly where the evidence is right now that mail-in ballots in Nevada and other states will lead to widespread fraud?

President Donald Trump: (15:45)

Well, if you read, even The Washington Post had a terrible story on a mail-in, and The New York Times, and many newspapers have had terrible stories. You see them all over the internet. They've had some just horrible stories on mail-in ballots. You look at Arizona, you don't even have-

President Donald Trump: (16:03)

... mail-in ballots. You look at Arizona, you don't even have to have ... as you know, they have a provision where they don't have to check signatures. You sign it, and you could have a totally different signature. It's okay. It won't be approved. They have the right to go seven days after the election for approval, so you're not even going to know who won the state of Nevada.

Speaker 2: (16:19)


I just wanted to point out **we** did call Nevada’s Secretary of State’s Office Election Division, and the **spokeswoman** there said that that simply isn’t true, Mr. President. And that Nevada will continue to check **ballot signatures** against **voter registration cards**. It’s done at the county level.

3. Vocabulary

This chapter takes a closer look at the use of vocabulary in Trump’s speech. More specifically, it will focus on the use of medical jargon as well as political jargon. I chose these two fields because Donald Trump is talking about a health topic in his speech, but in a political setting. Furthermore, health and politics are important topics in the English classroom and analysing these can help students extend their vocabulary range.

The use of **political jargon** and **medical jargon** in Trump’s speeches is inevitable. The audience is expected to be familiar with the terms and phrases. However, students in foreign language classes may have issues understanding the terms and concepts behind the phrases. The two tables below show examples of political jargon and medical jargon from the text and relates them to possible definitions, videos, and multimodal methods.

Political jargon	Definitions, videos, multimodal methods
Federal government	“(in the US) the system of government as defined in the Constitution which is based on the separation of powers among three branches: the executive branch, the legislative branch and the judicial branch. This system provides a series of checks and balances because each branch is able to limit the power of the others” (Oxford Learner’s Dictionary, n.d.).
Department of Justice	United 4 Social Change: Department of Justice: Justice for All? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NVXQrJn5YMg

Mail-in ballots	<p>= voting in an election via mail.</p> <p>Registered voters receive a <i>mail ballot</i>, which is sent to their address before Election Day and mailed back by the voter or deposited at a voting location or secure dropbox by a certain time on Election Day.</p> <p>(Collins Dictionary, n.d.)</p>
Voter registration cards	 <p><i>Figure 2: Voter registration card Texas (Source: VoteTexas, n.d.)</i></p>
spokeswoman	<p>= noun / a woman who is chosen to speak officially for a group or organization</p> <p>e.g. <i>A spokeswoman at the White House has squelched rumors about the president`s ill-health.</i></p> <p>(Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.)</p>

4. Teaching potential

Vocabulary

I have chosen to work on medical and political jargon with my students. Students would have to search for words belonging to these jargons and highlight them. The next step is to find possible definitions, collocations, explanatory photos or videos. I do not want to the students to learn a vocabulary list by heart. However, they should be able to understand topic-related terms and use them appropriately in spoken and written language. This should be done individually. As a next step the students can compare their findings with a partner to deepen their understanding of the words and finally try to use these words in spoken communication.

5. Going beyond the texts

In order to go beyond the texts, in this case Donald Trump`s speeches, I would like my students to write, prepare, and then give a short speech in front of the class. Preferably the speech is about a health topic, but they could also choose a different topic. Nevertheless, it is important that they use topic-related vocabulary properly. Due to the deep involvement of the students with the texts, they should know how specific pronouns can be used to have an impact on the audience and how to use rhetorical figures. I am aware that this activity is very challenging. It should not be graded, because students might feel too pressured. It is supposed to be a fun activity, in which students are allowed to try out new things and use language creatively and effectively.

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