




Discourse Analysis of the Eleventh President's Speeches in International Organizations (Causes and Actions)

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

While the definitions of articulation, master signifier, and chain of equivalence are accurate, the paper would improve with an illustrative example from Rouhani's speeches to show these concepts in action.

The article states that constructive engagement functioned as the "central signifier," but the authors should explicitly explain how it links to other signifiers in a chain of equivalence, using discourse-analytic terminology.

The article effectively discusses Rouhani's WAVE initiative but misses the opportunity to explore the antagonistic construction of "the Other" (e.g., ISIS or Western actors). This would deepen the application of Laclau and Mouffe's theory.

The differentiation between Iranian and Western definitions of terrorism is important. However, the concept of "floating signifiers" could be better applied to this section to highlight the contestation over the term "terrorism."

The reliance on secondary sources to interpret Rouhani's speeches is appropriate, but primary source analysis (e.g., full-text coding of original speeches) should be more visible or referenced to bolster validity.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The authors assert that this study “fills a significant gap in the literature,” yet there is no clear section explaining the methods used (e.g., coding strategy, corpus size, selection criteria). A methodology section is strongly recommended.

There is a rich use of quotations from speeches, but the process by which these quotes were selected or prioritized is unclear. Were they drawn from a specific number of UN addresses or across all international speeches between 2013–2017?

The authors argue that Rouhani reframed the nuclear crisis as “fabricated.” This presents an ideal opportunity to examine this as a form of “dislocation” in Laclau and Mouffe’s terms—but the concept is not invoked here.

Although several authors are cited regarding Iran’s foreign policy discourse (e.g., Akbarzadeh & Conduit, 2016), more critical engagement with existing discourse-analytic literature on Iranian political speech would contextualize the contribution more robustly.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision: Accepted.

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