

Article

Analysis of Pragmatic Terms in Western Political Discourse Intended to Convey a Message to Iraq: US Ambassador's Speech as a Case Study

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Abstract: This study aims to analyze the pragmatic terms used in the U.S. ambassador's speech to identify how these items function to convey particular messages and to assess their impact on shaping Iraqi perceptions of U.S. policies and intentions. Its importance rests in the fact that it can demystify how pragmatic terms mold political communication in the specific framework of Western discourse oriented toward Iraq. Since the fine-grained use of language is being focused on, it can reveal underlying goals and plans that can change public opinions and political results. This study includes some theoretical studies and comments regarding the topic of analysis of pragmatic terms in Western political discourse intended to convey a message for Iraq. This study is qualitative. It analyzes U.S. Ambassador Alina Romanowski's speech about the proposed amendments to Iraq's Personal Status Law. It uses thematic analysis as a method for analyzing qualitative information that includes reading through a set of data and trying to find patterns within the meaning of the information to discover topics. Austin's and Searle's Speech Act Theory is applied to this study. The results clarified the fact of the Eastern pragmatic terms and their functions in conveying certain messages to Iraqi people.

Keywords: Pragmatic Terms, Political Discourse, Conveying Certain Messages

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1. Introduction

The political discourse in shaping international relations plays an important role in the process of relations between the countries. defines political discourse as representing the whole complex of relationships between a person, society, and the state in which verbal interaction occurs and, as a result, impacts the formation of the recipients' worldviews [1]. Widdowson (2007: 7) defines discourse as a term that "refers both to what a text producer meant by a text and what a text means to the receiver". It means, discourse could function to mean what the speaker intends while uttering, and how this uttering is interpreted by the listener. Furthermore, the text producers encode messages whereas the receivers attempt to decode them. This means that discourse combines both the producer and the receiver of the text socially and linguistically. Discourse Analysis (DA) is defined by McCarthy (2009: 10) as a concept that is "concerned with the relationship between language and the contexts of its use". It is about the sharing of ideas and opinions on political matters and policies. Done through speeches, debates, the media, and social media. Or any other means of communication. It is through political discourse that public opinion is built, policy decisions are made, and the participation of the public in the democratic process is encouraged. This is achieved through the exchange of ideas from different viewpoints to challenge existing dominant views and encourage civic

responsibility [2] that through political discourse, individuals engage in discussion and advocacy to address social ills and promote their political interests. It can take place in speeches, debates, social media talks, and academic journals or papers, which keeps people aware and involved in the political process. Think that the quality of political discourse depends on communication, respect for different opinions, and capacity for critical appraisal and evaluation of arguments [3]. It is about verbal and written exchanges and discussions within the political arena concerning what governments, political parties or even individual politicians pursue or hope to achieve.

Pragmatics throughout history is an integral part of language study due to interdisciplinary connecting philosophy, language studies, and psychology [4] notes that the most important researchers in this field are S. Pierce, R. Carnap and C. Morris who began to examine the relationship between signs and how they are used. Their analysis results that the concept of pragmatics must evolve into two sub-disciplines sociolinguistic and discourse analysis. The purpose of the study on pragmatics is to analyze context-dependent meaning of dioxies, with the spoken word as most important element in interpretation of sentences. Dioxies, according to [5], involves a phenomenon wherein linguistic expressions are context-interpretation dependent. Interpretation of dioxies also depends on time. When the now period is the context, it has to be explicitly stated in the sentence. So, words used would relate to the moment of speaking. According to [6], pragmatics in discourse analysis plays an imperative part in the development of successful strategies of political communication. Hence, speech sits at the crossroads of rhetoric, linguistics, and politics. Speech is the focus of interest in environments where social and political battles are waged. Indeed, conceptions about language along with pragmatics transform ordinary rhetoric into a verbal action steered by normative linguistic dimensions.

The following pragmatic terms are frequently used in Western political discourse. These terms are, according to [7], speech acts, Intentional Ambiguity, Illocutionary Acts, pragmatic markers, polemical Language, face-work, manipulative discourse, and contextualization. By using these terms in analyzing this research, it provides a comprehensive examination of how pragmatic elements shape political communication aimed at Iraq within Western discourse. These pragmatic terms are clarified under the theoretical framework and the analysis of the results.

The importance of political discourse refers to its fundamental functioning in democracies and playing a crucial role in shaping public opinion, fostering social cohesion, and facilitating conflict resolution [8] denotes that foundation of democracy is a good aspect that highlights its importance. Healthy political discourse is essential for a well-functioning democracy. It enables citizens to engage in discussions, express diverse viewpoints, and hold elected representatives accountable [9]. indicates that this discourse is underpinned by principles like honesty, respect, and evidence-based arguments, which are vital for informed decision-making among the electorate and policymakers alike. Note that political discourse encourages participation from all societal segments, ensuring that various voices are heard. This inclusivity is crucial for reflecting the interests of different groups within society, thus enhancing democratic legitimacy. When citizens feel their opinions matter, they are more likely to engage in political processes [10] adds that political discourse can be a powerful tool for conflict transformation. By facilitating dialogue between opposing sides, it helps in negotiating differences and building consensus. This is particularly important in divided societies where language can either escalate tensions or promote peace. Historical examples, such as the negotiations during the Northern Ireland conflict, illustrate how careful political discourse can lead to peaceful resolutions. The frequency and nature of political discussions significantly impact public opinion and moral beliefs.

The research problem of this study is how to understand pragmatic terms in Western political discourse within the frame of Iraq. This involves what we consider an analysis of intentionality and implicate, as the language used by Western politicians may often convey hidden messages that are not actually directed to their literal interpretations. The other aim that the study pursues is related to pragmatic strategies that are effective in molding perceptions and driving political outcomes in the context of Iraq. The significance of this study rests in the fact that it can demystify how pragmatic terms mold political communication in the specific framework of Western discourse oriented towards Iraq. Since the fine-grained use of language is being focused on, it can reveal underlying goals and plans (bilateral and multilateral) which can change public opinions and political results, adding value to broader research in discourse analysis. Second, it can advise policymakers and political actors on effective communication strategies that would enable a more relevant dialogue with the Iraqi interlocutor.

The research objective is to analyze the pragmatic terms used in the U.S. ambassador's speech to identify how these items function to convey particular messages and to assess their impact on shaping Iraqi perceptions of U.S. policies and intentions. The research question is: How do pragmatic terms in the U.S. ambassador's speech convey specific messages and influence perceptions among Iraqi audiences regarding U.S. policies and intentions?

Literature Review: It includes a theoretical framework and empirical studies.

1. Theoretical Framework

It includes some theoretical studies and comments regarding the topic of analysis of pragmatic terms in Western political discourse intended to convey a message for Iraq: US Ambassador's speech as a case study. Defines pragmatics as it is generally the analysis method for the relationship between signs and their interpretation [11]. It has not always had the same meaning throughout history. Discourse analysis is somewhat newer; it is a branch of pragmatics. It can be one thing and yet many things; a tool and a discipline. Our language and thought influence, in one way or another, everything we do in life. There are many occasions when we become "the prisoners" of our minds. The matter is that we think one way and speak another. This issue has been the interest of research not only by philosophy and psychology but also by communication sciences. Manner of creating personal image, that is what the language people use is. This means of personal branding made another step closer to citizens out of politics. Truthfully, discourse does heavily manage a political brand. Words are power and power is within words. Everything said by a person can be turned against him. The problem here is the variance between what is said and what is meant to be said. This paper looks at intentions in discourse as a key pragmatic factor. Hence, the sentence is first looked at from its surface form meaning and later from its intended meaning.

The pragmatic terms in Western political discourse mainly aim to convey ambiguous messages to Iraqi people. These terms apparently have a peaceful and legal meaning, but they actually have a bad and harmful meaning. Drămnescu believes that the case provides a major perspective on political communication's entanglement. Pragmatics, as delineated in linguistics, underscores the context dependency of language in most cases where meaning is often brought about by social and political factors. The Western political discourse on Iraq could be intentionally loaded with ambiguous language use so that it serves purposes related to flexibility in interpreting policies or not making explicit commitments which would lead to reactions of censure. In effect, this ambiguity often seems to be a very diplomatic way of worded speech for Arroyo to convey messages, especially in a context like Iraq, which he argued was completely hostile. Second, it is quite likely that the bunch of vagueness handed down to political messaging may have sprung up doubt in trust and inspired skepticism in Iraqi audiences toward Western intentions.

This kind of discourse reflects power relations and some of the challenges that cross-cultural communication people undergo in highly politicized contexts.

The main pragmatic terms are illocutionary speech acts; these designate utterances that act or do something- for instance, promising, threatening, or declaring. added that understanding the functioning of these acts in political discourse might expose intentions behind messages directed at Iraq [12]. Ambiguous language is a very common tool used by politicians for multiple interpretations since they might have strategic reasons to convey messages without commitment to any specific attitude [13]. Illocutionary Acts contain the intentional meaning in contexts of political statements; for example, a politician may make what sounds like a promise but is actually a call to action [14]. Pragmatic markers are items in a language that play an organizational role in discourse and also show the speaker's attitudes. They can also indicate certainty, doubt or politeness, which in turn influences the way in which messages are received by audiences [15].

Polemical language is controversial or argumentative language used to provoke a reaction or polarize opinions in relation to issues surrounding Iraq. Facework represents some strategies that politicians use to save their and their interlocutors' faces during interaction, especially in confrontational settings [16]. Manipulative discourse is the strategic use of language to influence public opinion or behavior, evident in political speeches seeking support for policies regarding Iraq. Contextualization is crucial for an analyst to understand how the context affects the interpretation of the messages in political discourse. By integrating these terms into analysis process, it can then completely examine how pragmatic elements shape political communication aimed at Iraq within Western discourse.

Studying pragmatic aspects in Western political discourse, especially in an address by a U.S. Ambassador to Iraq for message design, can be done using various theoretical frameworks. The most applicable theory is Speech Act Theory. It was developed by philosophers such as J.L. Austin and John Searle in 1970s. It highlights that language use is fundamentally performative. In this context, the ambassador's speech can be considered an intentional act with certain goals of output, like persuasion or getting to set up diplomatic relations. The theory sorts utterances into different categories such as assertive, directives, commissures, expressive, and declarations. It enables an analyst to understand properly how the words of the ambassador work within a diplomatic environment.

According to Hanks [17], types of speech acts include locutionary acts, where the actual utterance and its literal meaning are illocutionary acts. They are the intended meaning or the action performed by the utterance (e.g., requesting, promising). These are often effects or responses to an utterance (e.g., being persuaded, being frightened). According to Kock [18], assertions have a word-to-world 'direction-of-fit': their illocutionary point is that the word should fit the world. Directives and commissures have a world-to-word direction-of-fit: their illocutionary point is to make the world fit the word. Political arguments and practical argumentation are typically about directives or commissures and many of these one cannot sensibly try to reconstruct as assertive. Yet, strangely enough, many theorists of argumentation go on quite implicitly relating it to all about assertive, which only complicates matters.

2. Empirical Studies

The following empirical studies aim to clarify the content of this top [19] analyzes some of the speeches by former Spanish Prime Minister José María Aznar delivered in the Spanish parliament in 2003 justifying his support of USA and war threat against Iraq. Theoretical framework for the analysis is a multidisciplinary CDA approach relating discursive, cognitive, and sociopolitical aspects of parliamentary debates. He argues that speeches in parliament have to be defined not only in terms of textual properties but also contextual analysis. In addition to the analysis of usual properties of ideological-political discourse (positive self-presentation negative other-presentation, and rhetoric devices),

special political implicates are also given based on general and particular political knowledge as well as context models of Aznar's speeches. Some asides for what not to do include: Do not repeat information. Do not write loudly. Do not lose any information. Schedule sentences in a way that one follows directly from the other; do not use grammatical connectors. Do not end sentence fragments with semicolons unless semicolons are already used in the original text.

In the study "Are you ready to return as jihadi brides? How ISIS addresses Women from Western and Middle-Eastern Backgrounds: A Discourse Analysis" conducted by [20], it was noted that the veil has not only been interpreted differently by countries across the globe, but has also aroused a magnitude of curiosity often surrounding extremism. The veil has subsequently become a powerful symbol for social issues regarding national identity and integration within host societies. The main focus in these articles while scrutinizing them was on the level of lexical choice, pronominal use, metaphors, and absolutist reasoning. Thereafter, at the macro level, the current article compared and contrasted the discursive approaches used in these articles with each other to paint a clearer picture of the roles acted out for the female recruits and the power relations underscored in the discourse. The analysis revealed an emphasis in the English data on the roles of women as a member of a family and community.

Conducted a study on the Socio-Pragmatic Functions of Inaugural Speech: A Critical Discourse Analysis Approach was the research undertaken [21]. An inaugural speech in its very nature as the first official address of a new president performs highly persuasive and ideological functions within a country's political arena. This study takes the critical discourse analysis (CDA) approach to the typical discursive features characterizing inaugural addresses. Accordingly, the second term Inaugural speeches by George Bush (2005) and the first term by Barack Obama (2009) were analyzed in order to investigate the potential ideologies signaled by these presidents' discursive strategies and rhetorical devices in expressing their political views. Results showed speakers to have a rich repertoire of discursive mechanisms, like positive self-presentation and negative other-presentation strategies, through which to influence their addressees. The findings also bore testimony to the complex interrelations that underlie language, power, and ideology.

Investigated language and Politics: Indirectness in Political Discourse. According to him, politicians, when discussing acts that may threaten face or touch on politically risky topics, avoid the obvious and use other means to promote and protect their careers directly [22]. In so doing, they also derive both political and interactional advantages over their political opponents. Such motivation for indirectness can also be accounted for in terms of politeness. This obliqueness in communication may be expressed through evasion, equivocations, innuendoes, metaphors, etc. Language as well as varying social conventions of the relevant culture as well as differing degrees of personal danger inherent in the sociopolitical situation in which politicians operate may also affect the degree of indirectness as well as the kind(s) of obliqueness employed.

Study is on linguistic and pragmatic devices in King Abdullah's speech: A political discourse analysis [23]. It takes an in-depth look at a speech delivered by King Abdullah of Jordan at Oxford University. The study is done based on political discourse analysis. The researcher begins by portraying the evolution of the notion of discourse and explaining characteristics of political discourse. He later goes on to deal with an analysis of the linguistic and pragmatic devices used in the speech. This paper has identified features used in the discourse; namely, first-person deixis, metaphor as a rhetoric figure, repetition, diction, and pragmatic use of language. Most importantly, the text analysis shows that the King's speech can be thought of as a political address whose structure is persuasive and powerful. The researcher has proven that the speech is rich in linguistic elements undoubtedly indispensable in the language of politics.

2. Materials and Methods

This study is qualitative. It analyzes the U.S. Ambassador Alina Romanowski's speech about the proposed amendments to Iraq's Personal Status Law [24]. This bases the approach on [25] definition of qualitative research, which is to offer deeper insights into real-world issues. The study uses the method of discourse analysis to examine the pragmatic terms in the ambassador's speech. Its objectives are therefore to decipher the real messages underlying that were meant for the Iraqi audience. The research further examines the speech acts in social and political contexts to see how language operates in diplomatic discourse toward broader Western political strategies. This design provides a way to read the rhetoric of the ambassador finely, which shows how complicated communication is in international relations. Some of the pragmatic terms that are found in Romanowski's speech (See appendix 1 at the end of this research) are anxiety, violence against women under the law, stirring up sectarianism among members of Iraqi society, the marriage of underage girls, spreading corruption against Iraqi society, and demanding women's freedom. They include hidden meanings. The above terms are discussed and analyzed in research findings of this study.

Research Tools depend on Romanowski's speech (2024), theoretical background, and previous studies. Research procedures, data collection, data analysis, and procedures are clarified as follows: This topic indicates analyzing the analysis of pragmatic terms in Western political discourse intended to convey a message to Iraq. The thematic analysis method is the most reasonable subjective information investigation strategy for this study. [26] define thematic analysis as a method for analyzing qualitative information that includes reading through a set of data and trying to find patterns within the meaning of the information to discover topics. Assert that thematic analysis can be connected to subjective data and focuses on recognizing patterns and subjects [27]. Conducting a thematic analysis for this research requires examining the pragmatic terms and their metaphoric meanings and any other qualitative data collected to become familiar with the content. After investigating the pragmatic terms that exist in Romanowski's speech, the researcher can evaluate her speech and consider its hidden meaning. Some speech acts such as language and metaphor are discussed and analyzed carefully. The analysis is supported with proof. Creating the report is another step when analyzing the analysis in this study by writing up the analysis and using vivid cases from the data to illustrate and support the subjects. However, after collecting and examining the data, a report can be written. Riger and Sigurvinsdottir show that a thematic analysis report includes a starting point, an approach, what comes about, and the result. When drafting this report, the researcher can give sufficient details for the readers to evaluate the findings.

3. Results

The research question is: How do pragmatic terms in the U.S. ambassador's speech convey specific messages and influence perceptions among Iraqi audiences regarding U.S. policies and intentions? To answer this research question, it is necessary to study and understand these pragmatic terms and analyze these specific messages that impact on the perceptions among Iraqi people and their culture concerning American policy and intentions.

Alina Romanowski's speech includes certain pragmatic terms of Western political discourse. She has her beliefs, policy, and her hidden goals. In general, her speech apparently aims to convey a legal message to Iraqi people, but she actually means the opposite. She indirectly intends to corrupt Iraqi people and object their Islamic instructions and culture. By analyzing her pragmatic terms that are found in her speech (See appendix 1 at the end of this research), the factual insights are clarified. The pragmatic term 'anxiety' is used in her first statement. She says: "The United States expressed concern on Tuesday over the proposed amendments to Iraq's Personal Status Law, warning that these changes could undermine the rights of women and children" (Alina Romanowski's speech, 2024).

When Romanowski stated her above sentence, she used several layers of terms within the pragmatic context of Western political discourse aimed at Iraq. Indeed, the use of 'concern' is a choice for a strategy word that signifies the protective nature of the position while at that very instance it fits the U.S. as a benevolent actor concerned with human rights. This attaches, in microcosm form, to the general depiction in Western diplomacy of acting as a guardian of quite a few and diversified values, e.g., women's and children's rights. But the impression reads much more intricate; in warning about the amendments, Romanowski actually challenges indirectly the sovereignty of Iraq and its cultural practices. The phrase 'could undermine' registers some doubt and potentiality that may be very much unsettling to many Iraqis about their legislative autonomy. This rhetorical strategy not only accommodates for a legal message to be delivered but also chips at local cultural norms, suggesting that vulnerable groups can only appear to be protected if the ways of the West are adhered to. Thus, while the ambassador's speech seems on the surface to be only an expression of concern for the Iraqi citizens, much deeper it may actually be bound up with hidden agendas that seek to push forward the legal and cultural frontiers of Iraq more in favor of Western ideological frontiers. The term 'concerns' represents a metaphoric meaning. It is mainly used in the Western political speeches toward other weak or strong countries. It is metaphoric. Romanowski says something, but she means a harmful thing [28], 'metaphor in discourse analysis' is defined as verbal expressions containing a construction that evokes an analogy negotiated in the discourse community. With metaphor, the qualities of one thing are figuratively carried over to another. A metaphor is a comparison between two things that are otherwise unrelated.

In Van Dijk's framework on political discourse and hidden meaning, the pragmatic term "anxiety" is used as a strategic appeal through which the speaker manages to influence public perception and, subsequently, public behavior. As Rheault (2016) notes, 'anxiety' in political speeches has a special importance in politics since emotion is tied to decision-making under uncertainty; a feature of democratic institutions. This aligns with the hidden meaning of Romanowski's speech regarding the expression of 'concern'. It manages the emotional response and underlines how political discourse can mold cognitive interpretations to bring an audience to share the views of the speaker's agenda, and hence see a sense of urgency plus vulnerability. This agrees with Austin's and Searle's Speech Act Theory that language use is fundamentally performative. The utterance of the ambassador in this case can be treated as an intentional act (with certain output goals) like persuasion or fostering of diplomatic relations.

'Violence against women' under the law is another pragmatic term that is used by the American ambassador Alina Romanowski's speech when she was in Iraq. She accused Iraqi citizens that the Iraqi men practice violence against woman under the law. She tries to convince Iraqis to change the laws that do not give the women their complete freedom. Regarding this pragmatic term 'violence against woman'. She said: "We are concerned about proposed amendments to the Iraqi Personal Status Law that could undermine the rights of women and children. We urge Iraqis to engage in a civic dialogue in full respect of both freedoms of religion or belief and the rights of women and children". Ambassador Romanowski's remarks on the proposed amendments to the Iraqi Personal Status Law that was written by [29] hit key women rights versus cultural traditions issues in Iraq. She wants her assertion of concern for women and children, along with an appeal for civic dialogue, to be looked at through Speech Act Theory. An approach, used to examine how utterances perform various functions beyond just communication, could enhance this transformation further[30]. Her statement voices the concern of amendments that might undermine the rights of women and children. She stresses that there should be no fast moves, and even after passing this law, Iraqis should engage in a civil dialogue that respects religious freedoms and human rights, including women's rights. After her delivering her speech, many people disagreed with her. They expressed their point of views such as Iraqi men and women have the freedom to adhere to their personal status

according to their religious beliefs. Every individual has freedom of thought, conscience and belief. Islam is the official religion of the state, and it is a basic source of legislation. It is not permissible to enact a law that conflicts with the established principles of Islam. This agrees with Obeng's study that investigated language and Politics [31]. His study clarified that using language plays a big role in persuading other people that the speaker is right and has useful suggestions.

The dual focus is on trying to balance traditional values with modern human rights considerations. Her statement is just like advice; it means something good for the Iraqi people, but in fact, she intends to corrupt them. She did not use metaphoric statements. She claims that the potential negative impact of the amendments could lead to practices such as child marriage and reduced legal protections for women, but her statement leads to the corruption of the Iraqi people. This does not align with assertive speech acts. Concerning the directive acts, By urging Iraqis to engage in dialogue Romanowski performs a directive act, suggesting that she intends to influence behavior and encourage public discourse on these amendments. This implies an expectation that Iraqi society should consider broader implications for women's rights. Her accusation is completely incorrect. It is not for the sake of the Iraqi people. She intends to transfer her policy and implement her evil intentions. Van Dijk [19] indicates that Western political discourse tries to implicate and legitimization of the corruption in Iraq to implement certain policy.

4. Discussion

The expression of concern is an expressive act of empathy toward the possible victims associated with such legal changes. It is a verbal message of support for women and children whose rights are on a way of compromise. While the Romanowski statement seems to call for peace and dialogue, critics say it might unconsciously shake Iraqi traditions and culture. The way she is making her message up could also be read or seen as if she is imposing Western values versus purporting the respect of human rights. Indeed, this coincides with the worries expressed by several Iraqi parliamentarians: in reality, they argue that such actions threaten their local practices and way of self-governance. It is in the Ambassador Romanowski's statement that one can see a complex interplay of speech acts flagging major societal issues in Iraq. Used to articulate a concern for women's rights while calling for discussion, she uses assertive, directive, and expressive functions. Questions are raised, however, on the interpretation of her intention with regard to cultural sensitivity and the risk for perceived foreign influence on Iraqi custom. This illustrates its ability to at once help bring about a spoken discourse and provoke resistance in other culturally textured contexts such as Iraq when viewed through Speech Act Theory.

5. Conclusion

The pragmatic term 'Stimulating sectarianism among members of Iraqi society' is considered the most important term that Alena Romanowski tried to propose it as a law. She said "Human Rights Watch warned of the potential "catastrophic consequences" if the law is passed, noting that the Iraqi parliament is working on amendments that would allow religious authorities to govern matters of marriage and inheritance instead of state law". Language use is considered an important element of speech acts in political discourse. The American ambassador Alena tried hard to convince Iraqi people of applying what she proposed, but many people who are in charge opposed her suggestions. The proposed law, currently being discussed in the Iraqi parliament, has faced significant opposition from various segments of society, including legal experts, lawyers, and women's rights activists. On Saturday, the Iraq Polling Team (IPT) conducted an online survey involving over 60,000 participants, both inside and outside Iraq. The majority strongly opposed the ongoing attempt to amend the law. Consequently, the above-mentioned pragmatic terms in Western political discourse aimed to convey certain

messages to the Iraqi people. They care about corrupting Iraqi traditions and culture to propose their authority in the country. This situation agrees with Austin's and Searle's Speech Act Theory. It denotes to the importance of using language use in the political discourse. In this context, the American ambassador's speech Alena can be considered an intentional act with certain goals of output, like persuasion or getting to set up diplomatic relations. The theory sorts utterances into different categories such as assertive, directives, and expressive. It enables an analyst to understand properly how the words of the ambassador work within a diplomatic environment. Finally, this study recommends other researchers to conduct more studies concerning the same topic in other countries.

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