

# A Study on “International Terrorism Discourse Turn” in Cyber Space: A Qualitative and Quantitative Combined Perspective

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**Keywords:** Cyberspace, Language Security, Discourse Turn, Quantitative Analysis, Qualitative Analysis, Terrorism, Chomsky, Non-Traditional Security, National Security, International Security.

**Abstract:** Polymorphic cyber space is an ecological enclave. Cyber space is a virtual yet objective entity which is characterized by borderless, decentralization, poly domain and so on. It stretches across three domains of physical domain, cyber domain and cognitive domain. This papers will adopt quantitative model analysis of the discourse and linguistic features , and has found that the discourse strategies have played a more decisive, imperceptible and influential role in global counter-terrorism campaign. This paper firmly holds that the discourse turn of international terrorism studies has turned up, especially under current complex global situations. Therefore, a cyberspace language security strategy based on bi-dimensional framework of technology and law should be an indispensable part of each and every country’s overall national security strategy with an aim to the realization of the overall national security.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Without the construction of the anti-terrorism discourse, the global anti-terrorism campaign may present different picture. Securitization and securitization removal remain the most dimensions and practices in the field of non-traditional security. Security is no longer regarded as a solid concept and category with fixed connotation and definite extension. language security is an increasingly prominent strategic item and field. With the spread of the global terrorism and the global war on terrorism, the language strategy has been playing an increasingly important role. It is no exaggeration to say that without a comprehensive, systematic and institutionalized language security strategy, there is no contemporary topic of terrorism, and thus the war on terrorism loses its legitimacy and rationality.

Language constructivism plays a new, subversive and even revolutionary role in Cyber Space. The mainstream discourse system and public opinion communication system in the traditional offline physical world are often controlled by the ruling group. The vast majority of news and information have been screened, re-selected and processed by the official censorship authorities. Therefore, it is difficult to appear and spread deviant news and

information. However, with the rapid development of cyber space, the power of network equalizing rights has been rapidly highlighted. Thus, the sub-groups and grassroots individuals who have been suppressed or marginalized in the past can quickly generate, publish, comment on or even control news, ideas and information that they want to manipulate with the gorgeous power of network technology. Make full use of the physical and political boundaries of the network and send compiled information to any corner of the planet where the network signal can reach in real time, thus opening the door to unlimited expansion of the audience and obtaining its public opinion influence or even some dominant power in the physical world. This is a real information power, a very threatening parallel power. The language security of cyber space will depend greatly on the perfection of cyber space public opinion mechanism itself and the perfection of controlling mechanism.

## 2 A REVIEW OF THE BASIC THEORY OF LANGUAGE SECURITY

First of all, the study of international relations and

international security has turned linguistically in the 20th century. Language is the product of society and is constructed by social reality at the same time. The discourse mechanism of cyber space influences, guides and shapes the thoughts, ideas, judgments, emotions and ideologies of the broad audience through various direct or indirect ways. "Sad Narrative" and "Evil Condemnation" have become the international language security narrative strategy standard technique and routine. As the saying goes, soldiers and horses have not moved, grain and grass first; the contemporary version should be revised to: soldiers and horses have not moved, public opinion first! The prelude to this war on terror is a full-time public opinion and language strategy. First, event rendering and effect amplification. After being attacked by terrorists, the United States, in the shortest possible time, carried out propaganda through various channels of propaganda, including the internet, television, newspapers, radio, and even the production of special propaganda materials for bundled propaganda.

Secondly, in the 21st century, international security and its research appear discourse turn. After several years of development, discourse turn presents an integrated trend. including a whole set of ideas, theories, analytical tools, analytical methods, data sets, narrative strategies, etc. Rational narrative is the premise and cushion of legitimacy action. Counter-terrorism also requires a reputation, so mobilizing huge economic and military resources

from home to overseas countries to carry out the war on terrorism and peripheral operations, all of which call for a reasonable basis and reason.

Finally, international security presents dual characteristics, integrating the multidimensional characteristics of physical and psychological dual attributes as the core. From the beginning, the non-traditional security items have both physical and institutional characteristics. Under objective circumstances, in order to effectively cooperate with the effectiveness and legitimacy of the use of military strategy, and in order to realize the prominence and rationality of non-military strategy, discourse strategy is systematically applied by the vast number of countries and international organizations.

### 3 A QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF TYPICAL SECURITY DISCOURSE

Based on the literature from CNKI, SCI and EI database, it can be found that the research on the topic focusing on "linguistic or discourse" features and those focusing on the "non - linguistic or non - discourse" is not balanced and symmetrical. The following tables and charts are the graphic representations of the relevant research:

Table 1: A publishing number distribution between topics between: "terrorism" and "terrorism linguistics or terrorism discourse".

Type/Number	terrorism	terrorism linguistics	terrorism discourse
Periodical	43800	53	73
Thesis	3186	204	102
Meeting	578	0	1
Newspaper	2636	1	0
Book	4280	0	0
	54480	258	176

Table 2: A high frequency distribution of key words on "terrorism" topics on disciplines.

Keywords	safety	security	Discourse analysis	Language analysis	Linguistic analysis	Legal analysis	Political analysis	Sociological analysis	Psychological analysis
Number of periodicals	306	2239	27	0	1	3	0	0	5

Table 3: The actual choice and usage of words on “terrorism discourse studies”.

Concrete Word Usage	Positive words (for praising and justifying)	Good right righteous just justice friend woe defense peace Protect protection maintain maintenance victim prosperity cherish Advancement development help aid assistance humane respect moral Rational reliable etc
	Negative Words (for criticizing and dehumanizing)	bad unrighteous unjust enemy foe attack war evil irrational Radical radicalism extreme extremism extremist extremism organizations extremism activities terror terrorist terrorism terrorism organizations terrorism activities terrorism behaviors terrorism crime anti-human absolute barbaric brutal bloody Discriminate attack slaughter etc

From the above data and related database, it can be easily found that the anti-terrorism states prefer to select positive and laudatory words and expressions to express and describe themselves while prefer to choose negative and derogatory words to express and describe the terrorists. And it can also be seen that both the counter-terrorism states and the terrorism organizations are inclined to choose and coin absolute and extreme expressions to attack and label their counterparts to realize the effects of moral advantage and demonization. The specific statistical features of terrorism discourse and the statistical model will be dealt with in a separate paper later.

#### 4 A QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS OF TYPICAL SECURITY DISCOURSE

It can be seen that, driven by the strategic needs of building a counter-terrorism framework, a country must carry out the overall planning of the propaganda language strategy, and a series of subsequent entity actions need the construction and maintenance of the public opinion field. The language security of a country is first reflected in the control and adjustment of public opinion right and leading power at home and abroad. When creating public opinion field, it needs a clear definition and guidance of a country's language security policy. The main processes are as follows: the establishment of terminology database, the construction of dangerous scene, the analysis of security situation, the creation of re-security public opinion field and the dynamic maintenance of security public opinion

mechanism. In the strategic planning and practice of international counter-terrorism language, the selection of negative vocabulary, demonizing opponents, self-empowerment and extreme logic have become the main strategies and means of national actors. For example, language security strategies play a vital and almost irreplaceable role in enemy creation and division. Human struggle has a long history, struggle is an absolute and extreme process of discourse and practice interaction. In the practice of global anti-terrorism discourse, the United States has adopted the following language security strategies: label strategy, emotional strategy, image management strategy, psychological penetration strategy and so on. The label strategy mainly uses negative qualitative words to label the target, which makes it demonized, devalued and dehumanized in the public domain. In counter-terrorism practice, terrorism, terrorists, terrorist organizations are the most typical label vocabulary. Islam and Muslims were successfully labelled enemies of the liberal Western world by defining certain Islamic groups and Muslim communities as undesirable and threatening others. Emotional strategy refers to the active adoption of inflammatory, emotional and demagoguery vocabulary, arousing the attention, empathy, sympathy and de-rationalization of the broad masses of people and countries at home and abroad who do not know the truth, so that they can make unconventional or even unconventional decisions and behaviors in the state of passion. The core of image management is to maintain the dual structure, that is, to take the dual opposites of good and evil as the center line, to do our best to shape us into the just side, to shape the other side into the evil side,

and to maintain and consolidate this image through different relay links.

Discourse is the most common human social phenomenon. Without discourse, there is no social culture. Through the use of language symbols, the exchange of ideas and information and the interaction in the actual scene, human beings constantly create meaning, understand the world, and through the basic category frame and species division logic, realize "narrative with words "," act with words" and "do with words ". Language world or discourse world and physical world or real world are not only one-way mirror relations, but two-way interactive coupling relations. Categorization is a basic way for human beings to understand the world. Wang Yin describes it as a mental process based on experience, subjective and objective interaction as the starting point, subjective generalization and classification of external events, which gives the world a certain structure. And make it from disorder to orderly rational activities. (Introduction to James Paul Gee discourse Analysis: theory and methods, 2000) "Existential threats" often appear as threats that challenge the identity of State actors themselves. Then according to the role orientation of the actor to the threat, and the role identity of the actor in the international community, deal with the "existential threat ". (Fang, 2015) The security of an objective fact requires a series of security steps and a series of security principles and mechanisms. The security of an event usually takes a series of processes: term creation, topic construction, orientation, meaning spreading, discourse mechanism, discourse right creation and integration practice. The following will analyze the normative path of security discourse through the facts of terrorist discourse.

First of all, in the fundamental sense, the use of the word is much better than the meaning and value contained in such vocabulary as "totalitarianism "and" liberation movement ", etc. The ambiguity and fuzziness of language itself are both its disadvantages and its advantages. The "terrorism" vocabulary is very refined to crush all the other comparable synonyms or similar vocabulary. What other words are more authoritative, persuasive and expressive in expressing the "terror" image than the "terror" vocabulary itself? This is also the shrewd and cunning of politicians' political vocabulary. Professor Wang Yin pointed out that people often use "event domain" as a unit to experience and understand the world and store it in the brain as a block of knowledge, which is completely in line with people's general cognitive law. (Wang, 2007)

Secondly, one or two terms alone is not enough to create a grand, inclusive, rigorous and thorough thematic narrative discourse framework. After completing the term creation, the next work is to complete the theme construction, that is, through the narrative discourse strategy, to complete the anti-terrorism discourse framework, so that it has a complete, unified and continuous narrative framework. By framing an interpretation framework, continuous discourse output and meaning production are carried out.

Thirdly, after finalizing the term and framing the subject, the most urgent thing is to identify and determine the meaning and object of the word. Next, meaning spreading, that is, using a series of language strategies, discourse skills, narrative strategies to pave the way for policy significance, interpretation and maintenance. Man is an organism that creates meaning. There may be multiple versions of human construction or display of self and life. Each version of construction is related to the special situation of a certain moment, thus forming a unique life story. (Amelia Libridgerifka Tuvo-Mashachitama Chilbo, 2008) P · Horton points out that there is a consensus that terrorists are mostly mentally normal, even those who are willing to sacrifice their lives for their own cause, not psychopaths. (David P · Horton)

Further, the structure of discourse mechanism is to form a set of stable discourse strategic concepts, discourse strategic tools and discourse strategic planning in continuous discourse practice. Although scattered, random and disordered discourse practice plays a certain role in a certain time and space in history, it is not conducive to the creation and maintenance of the standard of forming a systematic, stable and orderly discourse framework, so that it can not achieve the desired long-term strategic intention and goal. Therefore, it is necessary for discourse makers to construct a unified and coherent discourse strategy system with stable connotation and external characteristics from the perspective of theory.

Finally, the right to speak to create and integrate practice. The powerful charm and prestige of the right to speak swept through all the classical theories of international politics and international relations, and the language and its surrounding carriers realized the magnificent turn from behind the scenes to the front of the scene on the stage of human history. Moreover, through a series of integrated discourse practice, discourse power can be maintained, protected and optimized.

## 5 CONCLUSION

To summarize, the discourse turn of international terrorism studies has appeared. Therefore, a cyberspace language security strategy based on bi-dimensional framework of technology and law should be established for the holistic national security.

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