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**Summary**

This study intends to examine metaphors in the discourse of the American President Barack Obama with respect to the Arab Spring uprisings. The main aim is to indicate how metaphors are utilized by Obama in his political speeches as a powerful tool to manipulate the Arab people, and to convince them that it is inevitable to fight for freedom, change and democracy. The study then proceeds to manifest the significant ability of metaphor to evoke an evaluative judgment of particular elements of Obama's political discourse.

Hence, the primary purpose of this study is to examine how metaphors are used to give a clear insight into the way Obama's audience can conceptualize the Arab Spring issue. It also aims at showing how his ideology could affect the Arab people in order to accept his beliefs and viewpoints, which represent the US view. The study further seeks to demonstrate who is the villain, and who is the victim, and whether the Arab uprisings are justifiable or invalid. In this way, the study attempts to piece together a comprehensive and coherent picture of the situation in the Arab world.

Accordingly, several research questions are raised in an attempt to uncover these primary objectives:

1. Which types of metaphors occur in Obama's political speeches concerning the Arab Spring issue? What are the most common source domains he uses?
2. What are the probable purpose behind using these metaphors? What images does Obama try to picture?
3. How do the conceptual metaphors represented in Obama's speeches have influential rhetorical effect on his audience? What emotions does Obama seek to evoke?
4. Is Obama's choice of metaphors carried out according to particular ideologies?
5. What is the ideological role of metaphorical language in Obama's delineation of the Arab Spring issue?

To examine the metaphorical system used to cognitively depict the situation in the Arab revolted countries, the study adopts a CMA approach proposed by Charteris-Black (2004, 2005/2011). Such methodology is specifically chosen since it incorporates the work of two influential approaches: Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Cognitive Linguistics (CL). It is also based on the idea that the use of metaphors can help in conveying the hidden ideologies of the discourse addresser, which is a primary objective of the present study. Hence, certain metaphorical source domains are selected for the purpose of getting this objective, namely *Conflict, Journey, Building, Weather, Health and Illness, Personification, Game, light and Darkness,* as well as *Drama.*

The data explored in this study consist of a corpus of 13 important political speeches delivered by Obama on the Arab Spring issue. Such data are drawn from the period 2011-2014, and are all obtained from the White House official web site (whitehouse.gov). The rationale behind choosing this period is that it presents a full account of the uprisings: how they started, how they developed and how they ended in some countries.

The present study is divided into two parts:

Part one tackles a theoretical background concerning the study. It consists of three chapters. The first two chapters are concerned to review the previous studies conducted within the context of the relationship between metaphor and Cognitive Linguistics, as chapter one reveals. This is attained through reviewing various definitions of cognitive linguistics, conceptual metaphor, image schema, and source domain.

In a similar vein, the relationship between metaphor and political discourse is handled in chapter two, where there is a bundle of previous studies on such correlation. The chapter also traces the definitions of discourse analysis in general, and critical discourse analysis and political discourse in particular.

Additionally, chapter three is devoted to highlight the study's framework and methodology. It introduces the critical metaphor analysis framework on which the present study depends. This is followed by a brief discussion of Charteris-Black's (2004, 2005/2011) model of analysis as well as the selected source domains.

Part two of the study consists of two interrelated chapters (chapter four and chapter five). Chapter four deals with the analysis and discussion of the corpus in light of Charteris-Black's (2004, 2005/2011) approach of analyzing metaphor. The selected source domains are dealt with in order to show the effect of metaphor in revealing Obama's underlying ideologies.

Finally, chapter five is concerned with presenting the findings and results of the analysis carried out throughout chapter four, as well as conclusions and deductions out of the detected findings. It also highlights extended areas for further research.

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