

**A Cognitive Linguistic Analysis**  
**of**  
**Force Dynamics in Trump's Speeches**

د. عبدالله عاطف

مدرس لغويات وترجمة كلية الآداب

جامعة دمياط

**Abstract**

The focal point of paper attempts to investigate the impact of Force dynamics in Trump's speeches from a cognitive linguistic perspective. The researcher, from a cognitive linguistic perspective, relies upon Talmy's Theory of force dynamics in Trump's Speeches. Such theory is based upon two major facets: steady Steady-State Force-Dynamics and Shifting Force-Dynamics where there is conflict between agonist and antagonist to prevail and to be salient and stronger and to carry out his/her agenda. The researcher concludes that Trump has cognitively managed to prove that he is a powerful president that is characterized with determination, willingness, force, insistence, persistence. Thus, he is a highly qualified president in the Americans' eyes.

**Keywords**

Cognitive linguistics, cognitive semantics, force dynamics, Steady-State Force-Dynamics and Shifting Force-Dynamics

**Review of the Literature**

Croft & Cruse (2004) rightly claim that the force dynamic model reveals the notion of causation including a variety of forces and

participants in a certain event: a. I kicked the ball. Example (a) represents the prototypical causative type: an antagonist (the causer) forces an agonist (the causee – the ball) that tends towards rest to move. b. I held the ball. Example (b) extends the notion of causation to maintaining a rest state: the antagonist resists the agonist's tendency to move. c. I dropped the ball. Example (c) further extends to notion of causation to enablement: the antagonist acts in a way that allows the agonist to exert its tendency towards motion.

Croft & Cruse (2004) further demonstrate that different choices of verbs, whether transitive or intransitive, lead to different conceptualizations of the force-dynamic structure of the event:

a. The bowl was on the table.

b. The bowl stayed on the table.

(a) construes the situation as force dynamically neutral (being a static situation), but (b) construes the situation as having a force-dynamic value of resisting the effects of some (unspecified) force-applying process. The alternative transitive and intransitive constructions in (a–b) construe the event as externally caused or as self-contained (which allows [b] to be used if no external agent or force is manifest as well as when the speaker wishes only to construe the event as such):

a. She opened the door.

b. The door opened.

Hart (2011) has proposed that Talmy's Theory of Force-Dynamics represents a useful framework for the Cognitive Linguistic approach to Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). Using this analytical framework, then, Hart has identified some of the indicators of, and demonstrated the

ideological qualities of, force-dynamic conceptualizations in immigration discourse. By the same token, Takahashi (2012) offers a comprehensive description of English imperatives made from a Cognitive Linguistic perspective. Takahashi introduces a remarkable approach to the meaning and function of the English imperative by clarifying how imperative force (Force Exertion), is interpreted and calculated in context. He further indicates that Force Exertion can be made up of six separate parameters: Desire, Capability, Power, Cost, Benefit and Obligation).

Oakley (2019) attempts to establish a renewed connection between Cognitive Semantics and rhetorical theory at the level of patient textual analysis. He applies Talmy's (2000) system of Force Dynamics and Event Frames to two paragon rhetorical texts: the Preamble to President George W. Bush's *National Security Report* and Abraham Lincoln's *Second Inaugural Address*. However, Oakley provides a systematic overview of Talmy's force dynamic and event frame systems. He further reveals how these schematic patterns shape the logic and emotion of each argument. Almann & Al-Shehari (2019), on the other hand, investigate force dynamics as an approach to translation studies. They correctly argue that Force dynamics involve abstract experience (sensations such as pressure and pain) and tangible experience of muscular effort or motion.

### **Research Questions**

1. What is the impact of force dynamics in cognitive semantics on Trump's speeches?
2. To what extent do Talmy's Theory of force dynamics reflect Trump's power or weakness in speeches?
3. Which is rife in Trump's speeches agonist or antagonist in terms of Steady-State Force-Dynamics and Shifting Force-Dynamics?

## Theoretical Preliminaries

Talmy (2000, P. 214) demonstrates that The schematic core of the macro-event is expressed by a satellite. The satellite (in italics) expresses:

1. *the path in an event of motion*: The ball rolled *in*. The satellite *in* indicates that the ball entered something while rolling.
2. *the aspect in an event of temporal contouring* :They talked *on*. The satellite *on* indicates "they" continued in their process of talking.
3. *the changed property in an event of state change* :The candle blew *out*. The *out* indicates that the candle became extinguished as a result of something blowing on it.
4. *the correlation in an event of action correlating* :She sang *along*. The *along* indicates that "she" joined or accompanied another person, where her singing duplicated or complemented that person's own musical activity.
5. *the fulfillment or confirmation in an event of realization*: The police hunted the fugitive *down*. The *down* indicates that the police fulfilled their intention of capturing the fugitive, which was the goal of their engaging in the hunting activity.

## Conceptual Integration of Events

Talmy (2000, pp.214-216) indicates that the process of reconceptualization is based upon the conceptual integration or conflation of events (event integration). Moreover, conceptual integration is closely related to agentive causation. Such causation consists of a causal chain in which an agent's action initiates a succession of events that lead to a certain final event. The Agent volitionally performs the initiating action and has a scope of intention that extends over the whole sequence.

## The Framing Event (The Main Event)

Talmy (2000, pp.217-219) argues that the framing event constitutes a particular event schema that can be applied to several conceptual

domains from semantic and syntactic perspectives. These conceptual domains include an event of Motion (motion / stationariness) or location in space, an event of contouring in time (aspect), an event of change or constancy among states (change/stasis), an event of correlation among actions and an event of fulfillment or confirmation in the domain of realization. The framing event generally determines the overall spatial framework where a physical setting is involved. The framing event constitutes the central import or main point – or what will here be termed the upshot – relative to the whole macro-event. That is to say, it is the framing event that is asserted in a positive declarative sentence, that is denied under negation, that is demanded in an imperative, and that is asked about in an interrogative.

The framing event can act as an abstract structure conceptually imposed on the subordinate event acting as a "substrate". The semantic character of the framing event is more that of an abstract schema, while that of the subordinate event tends to be more substantive or perceptually palpable. For this reason, the content of the subordinate event is often more vivid than that of the framing event and thus might draw much or at times even more attention to itself; in this respect it might seem semantically more primary than the framing event.

### **The Co-Event**

Talmy (2000, P. 220) stresses that the subordinate event (co-event) is seen to fill in, elaborate, add to, or motivate the framing event. Generically, the co-event bears specific support relations to the framing event such as *precursion*, *Enablement*, *Cause*, *Manner*, *Concomitance*, *Purpose*, and *Constitutiveness*.

### **English as a Satellite-Framed Language**

Talmy (2000, pp.221-223) emphasizes that the core schema of macro-event is expressed by the main verb or by the satellite. The satellite to the verb – or simply the satellite, abbreviated Sat – is the grammatical category of any constituent other than a nominal or prepositional-phrase complement. The satellite can be either a bound affix or a free word. Although the core schema in English, as a satellite-framed language, is largely expressed by the satellite alone, it is also often expressed by the combination of a satellite plus a preposition, or sometimes by a preposition alone.

Ex. *The bottle floated out.*

This is a nonagentive sentence with a motion-type framing event. The satellite *out* expresses the core schema – here, the path – while the verb *float* expresses the co-event, which here bears the support relation of Manner to the framing event.

Ex. *I blew out the candle.*

This is an agentive sentence with a state-change type of framing event. The satellite *out* expresses the core schema of the framing event – transition to a new state, that of being extinguished – while the verb *blow* expresses the co-event, one with the relation of Cause to the framing event.

### **The Conceptual Structure of Four Motion-type macro-events**

Talmy (2000, pp.226-230) points out that the concept of motion is represented by the form Move or – when this results from an agentive chain – by the form A Move. Ex. *The bottle floated into the cave.*

Nonagentive- support relation: *Manner*

(the bottle MOVED in to the cave) WITH-THE-MANNER-OF (it floated)

Ex. *The bone pulled out of its socket.*

Support relation: *Cause*

(the bone MOVED out from its socket) WITH-THE-CAUSE-OF (something) pulled on it)

Ex. *I rolled the keg البيرة لحفظ البيرة out of the storeroom.*

Support relation: *Manner*

(I AMOVED the keg out of the storeroom) WITH-THE-MANNER-OF (I rolled it)

Ex. I kicked the ball into the box.

*Support relation: Cause*

(I AMOVED the ball in to the box) WITH-THE-CAUSE-OF (I kicked it)

### **Temporal Contouring (Aspect) as The Framing Event**

Talmy (2000, pp.230-232) claims that temporal contouring is a linguistic aspect that is conceptualized as an event in its right. The general structure of a framing event can apply to a temporal contouring in either of two ways:

1. The degree of manifestation of an event:

This property refers to whether an event is fully manifested, is not manifested, or has some degree of partial manifestation, as well as to the situation in which this condition changes. Common examples of this degree-of-manifestation type of temporal contouring are 'starting', 'stopping', 'continuing', 'remaining', 'intensifying', and 'tapering off'. The

main cognitive basis may involve force dynamics – that is, the general and language-based conceptual system pertaining to force exertion, opposition, resistance, and overcoming. The particular application of force dynamics here may be that the temporal contouring event, as Antagonist, overcomes the so-conceived intrinsic temporal character of the substrate activity, as Agonist. By this interpretation, for example, a substrate activity conceptualized as having a basic tendency to continue on in a steady state can, by a process of temporal imposition, be overcome so as to yield a cessation or completion of that activity. Or some activity's basic tendency toward termination can be overcome to yield a continuation of the activity. Or an activity's basic tendency to occur once and then cease can be overcome to yield an iteration. Such an imposition to overcome an activity's natural temporal tendency can thus then be conceptualized as a distinct process, separable from an idealized version of the activity itself, and so be amenable to representation by a main verb.

### **Cognitive Semantic Realization**

Talmy (2000, pp.261-268) further demonstrates that cognitive semantic realization is one of the types of framing event. This cognitive semantic realization constitutes a variety of types: 1. In the first verbal pattern, the scope of intention is coextensive with this action. This intended action thus constitutes the entirety of the verb's reference. 2. In the second verbal pattern, the scope of intention extends beyond the action alone. It now further includes a goal and the intention that the action lead to this goal. The verb is lexicalized to represent only this extent of reference, and so it leaves moot whether or not the intention to attain the goal was fulfilled. 3. In the third verbal pattern, the verb is lexicalized to represent all of the preceding plus the implicature that the



intended goal was attained. 4. In the fourth verbal pattern, the verb refers to all of the preceding, except that it enhances the implicature, in effect, into an assertion that the intended goal was attained. Each different type of verb can enter into construction with a different type of semantically complementary satellite.

Ex.(1)

I kicked the hubcap./ I kicked the hubcap flat.

This sentence includes:

*Intrinsic-fulfillment verb*: action

*Further-event satellite*: the state change resulting from that action.

V: *kick* 'propel foot into impact with'

Sat: *flat*: 'thereby causing to become flat'

Ex.(2)

-The police hunted the fugitive for/\*in three days (but they didn't catch him)

-The police hunted the fugitive down in/\*for five days, (\*but *they didn't catch him*).

*Moot-fulfillment verb*: action + goal

*Fulfillment satellite*: fulfillment of that goal

V: *hunt* 'go about looking with the goal of thereby finding and capturing'

Sat: *down*: 'with fulfillment of the goal'

The referent of transitive *hunt* consists of an Agent's activity of going about looking, inquiring, tracking, and so on where the Agent has intended this activity, together with the Agent's further intention that this activity will lead to finding and capturing a particular animate entity. When used without a satellite, this verb is moot regarding the outcome. But the addition of the satellite *down* indicates that the additional intention was fulfilled that is, that the finding and capturing actually took place.

Ex.(3)

I washed the shirt (but it came out dirty)./I washed the shirt clean, (\*but it came out dirty).

*Implied-fulfillment verb*: action+ goal+ implicature of fulfillment of the goal

*Confirmation satellite*: confirmation of that implicature

V: *wash* 'immerse and agitate with the goal of cleansing

Thereby + the implicature of attaining that goal'

Sat: *clean*: 'with confirmation of the implicature of attaining

The goal of cleansing

This sentence *I washed the shirt* not only indicates that I intentionally immersed and agitated the shirt in liquid and had the further intention of getting it clean as a result, but with nothing more said, also implicates that the shirt in fact got clean. But this implicature can be defeated by adding the clause ... *but it came out dirty*. However, the addition of the satellite *clean*, as in *I washed the shirt clean*, certifies that the verb's original implicature has now extended beyond that status to become a claimed fact.

Ex.(4)

I drowned him (\*but he wasn't dead)./ \*I drowned him dead/to death.

*Attained-fulfillment verb*: action +goal + fulfillment of that goal

*Pleonastic satellite*: fulfillment of the goal (generally avoided in English)

V: *drown* 'submerge with the goal of killing

Thereby + attainment of that goal

Sat: *dead/ to death*: 'with the attainment of the goal of killing' English *drown* indicates that an Agent intentionally executes the action of submerging an animate entity in liquid, that the Agent further intends that this action will lead to the death of the animate entity, and that this death takes place. This verb, further, does not allow the addition of what would be a redundant satellite constituent such as *dead* or *to death*, as in *I drowned him \*dead/ \*to death*. A verb so conceived can be termed an *attained-fulfillment verb*.

### **Implied-Fulfillment Verb + Confirmation Satellite**

Talmy (2000, pp.265-267) argues that the confirmation type of realization is the third verbal pattern. In this type, the verb includes the same two components as in the moot-fulfillment type. These two components are an Agent's intended and executed action plus intention that this action lead to a certain desired result. In addition, the verb conveys a particular implicature (cognitive pragmatics): that the intention to bring about the result has been fulfilled. The evidence for the presence of such an implicature is simply that the normal reading of a sentence containing this type of verb, even unaccompanied by a satellite, is that the desired goal is achieved. A verb with this pattern of lexicalization can

more accurately be termed an implicated-fulfillment verb/IMPLIED-fulfillment verb.

In English, the satellites that indicate realization, either fulfillment or confirmation, are of two kinds.

1.(A state-change satellite):The satellite can explicitly name the verb's intended result- as *clean* does in relation to *wash*. This kind of satellite indicates fulfillment or confirmation of the verb's intended result by making an independent specification of arrival at the result.

2.The satellite can have a meaning not related (unless metaphorically) to the verb's intended result, as is the case with *down* in relation to *hunt* and *up* in relation to *call*. The satellite acts as an abstract marker of the realization factor per se, indicating realization of the verb's intended result, whatever that happens to be. Thus, this kind of satellite is cleaner evidence of realization as a conceptual category in its right.

### **Force dynamics**

Force dynamics are associated with cognitive linguistics in general and cognitive semantics in particular. Force dynamics, according to Talmy (2000, p. 409), encompass a variety of dimensions: the exertion of force, resistance to such a force, the overcoming of such resistance, blockage of such force and removal of such blockage. However, Talmy (2000, p. 410) argues that force dynamics are represented as a major conceptual system in which linguistic structures are in physical, psychological, social and inferential interaction.

### **Steady-State Force-Dynamic Patterns**

Talmy (2000, pp. 413-417) demonstrates that the force has an intrinsic tendency toward manifesting it. Such tendency is either towards motion (action) or towards rest (inaction). On the other hand, the *stronger* entity, in language, is able to manifest its tendency at the expense of its weaker opposer. In addition, the first force entity is the *salient one* in force dynamics, as focal attention (the focal force entity), whether this entity manifests its force tendency or, on the contrary, is overcome. As the second force entity can or cannot effectively overcome the first. The *Agonist* (Ago) represents the focal force entity, but the *Antagonist* (Ant) stands for the force element that opposes it.

Talmy (2000, P.409) formulates four basic steady-state force dynamic patterns that can be summarized as follows:

- 1) An agonist with an intrinsic tendency toward rest that is being opposed by a stronger antagonist, which overcomes its resistance and forces it to move. This pattern is considered a *causative* one involving the *extended causation* of motion. A ball, for instance, may tend toward rest, but it is forced to keep in motion by wind's greater power: The ball kept rolling because of the wind blowing on it.
- 2) A stronger agonist with an intrinsic tendency toward rest that is opposed by a weaker antagonist, which *fails to force it to move*. This type belongs to the '*despite*' category where the agonist's stability prevails despite the antagonist's force against it: The shed kept standing despite the gale wind blowing against it.
- 3) A stronger agonist has an intrinsic tendency toward motion that is realized as a result though there is an external force opposing it. This is the '*despite*' pattern since the antagonist endeavours to hinder the agonist's motion: The ball kept rolling despite the stiff grass.

4) A weaker agonist has a tendency toward motion that is not hindered, but rather effectively blocked by a stronger antagonist. Thus, the agonist is kept by the antagonist in place. This is a *causative* type, the extended causation of rest: The log kept lying on the incline because of the ridge there.

### Shifting Force-Dynamic Patterns

#### (1) Shift in State of Impingement

1. *Onset causation* especially *onset causation of motion*: a stronger antagonist comes into position against an agonist with an intrinsic tendency toward rest.

2. *Onset causation of rest*: a stronger antagonist comes into impingement against an agonist that tends toward motion and moves, and thus stops it.

3. *Cessation of impingement* (onset letting of motion): A stronger antagonist that *blocks* an agonist with a tendency toward *motion* now disengages and releases the agonist to manifest its tendency.

#### 2) Shift in Balance of Strength

There is a corresponding balance-shift pattern in sentences. The antagonist and agonist can continue in mutual impingement, but the *balance of forces* can shift through the weakening or strengthening of one of the entities.

#### 3) The Relation of Agency to the Force-Dynamic Patterns

An agent intends an occurrence of a particular *physical event* like vase's breaking. This agent is involved in initiating a causal sequence that leads to that event, a vase's breaking. This causal sequence begins with a *volitional act by the agent* to move certain parts or all of his *body*. This in turn leads to a vase breaking as an intended event: I broke the vase.

### Sample Analysis (1)

"Today's ceremony, however, has very special meaning. Because today we are not merely transferring power from one administration to another, or from one party to another – but we are transferring power from Washington, D.C. and giving it back to you, the People".

(Inaugural Address Transcript, January 20th, 2017)

There is some kind of Event integration of transferring power including semantic & syntactic properties. The schematic core of such event type is expressed by a satellite constituting a certain preposition that expresses:

#### *1. the aspect in an event of temporal contouring*

The satellite *back* indicates that Trump's Administration has managed to give power back to American people for four years (presidential period).

#### *2. the fulfillment or confirmation in an event of realization.*

The satellite *back* indicates that AA (American Administration) fulfilled their intention of giving power back to people, which was the goal of engaging in the activity of presidential elections.

#### Conceptual Integration of Events

This process of reconceptualization involves the conceptual integration or conflation of events and will here be termed event integration. Such conceptual integration is closely related to agentive causation. Such causation consists of a causal chain in which an agent's action initiates a succession of events that lead to the final event under consideration. The Agent (Trump) has volitionally performed the

initiating action, namely standing as a candidate for presidential elections and has a scope of intention that extends over the whole sequence.

The framing event, Inaugural Address, constitutes a particular event schema: ministers, proponents, journalists, reporters etc. The Inaugural address generally determines the overall spatial framework where The White House as a physical setting is involved. Trump's success as a presidential candidate of the USA can be termed the upshot – relative to the whole macro-event. The framing event, Inaugural Address, can act as an abstract structure conceptually imposed on the subordinate event, Trump's success as a presidential candidate, acting as a "substrate". The semantic character of the framing event is more that of an abstract schema, while that of the subordinate event tends to be more substantive or perceptually palpable. For this reason, the content of the subordinate event is often more vivid than that of the framing event and thus might draw much or at times even more attention to itself; in this respect it might seem semantically more primary than the framing event. Nevertheless, the framing event frames, shapes, provides the upshot, transferring power to people.

The co-event, Trump's success as a presidential candidate and transferring power to the people, can be seen to fill in, elaborate, add to, or motivate the framing event, Inaugural Address. Generically, the co-event bears a support relation to the framing event through a certain set of specific relations: *precursion, Enablement, Cause and Concomitance*. However, Trump's election as a presidential candidate is represented as precursion, enablement, cause and concomitance of giving power to the people.

The macro-event, victory speech, as a cognitive unit constitutes the core schema that is expressed by the two main verbs (*transfer* and *give*)



and the satellite (three prepositions), from, *back* and *to* respectively to stress that power is no longer transferred to Wahington, D.C., but to American People. Thus, English is a satellite-framed language. Hence, both framing verbs (transfer and give back) are employed to refer to the core schema in such inaugural address.

Inaugural address is represented as a macro-event including a certain conceptual structure. Such conceptual structure is based upon cause as a support relation:

We are transferring power from Washington, D.C. and giving it back to the People.

(We AMOVED the power to the American People) WITH-THE-CAUSE-OF (we AMOVED power from Washington, D.C. )

Temporal contouring is a linguistic aspect, where such aspect is conceptualized as a framing event in its right. The main cognitive basis of the text, under study, involves language-based conceptual system pertaining to force exertion, resistance, and overcoming. The particular application of force dynamics here may be that the temporal contouring event, as Trump, the Antagonist, overcomes Washington, D.C., the Agonist that had power in the past. By this interpretation, Washington's sovereignty, as a substrate activity, is conceptualized as having a basic tendency to continue on in a steady state can, by a process of temporal imposition (next four years), be overcome by Trump's Inaugural address so as to yield a cessation that activity.

A further cognitive basis for the agentive form of such impositional process might be an individual's own developmental experience of the political exercise of agency. In particular, this could involve Trump's experience of marshaling proponents' efforts to effect a desired pattern in

an activity, as by transferring power from Washington, D.C. to the American People. The linguistic facts are that aspect is frequently expressed as the main lexical verb, *transfer* and *give back*.

The inaugural address is adopted to indicate some kind of State Change, alternation of power, as the Framing Event. Thus, Trump has won presidential elections. Trump's election as an American president reveals an event of Cognitive Semantic realization. Such event of realization is one of types of the Inaugural address as a framing event. The event of realization is fulfilled and confirmed through Trump's giving power back to the American People.

#### Types of Cognitive Semantic Realization

The scope of the Agent's intention extends at least over the performance of this action, ceremony itself.

1. In the first verbal pattern, the scope of intention, including Trump's taking power from parties and administrations and giving it back to American People, is coextensive with the action of ceremony.

2. In the second verbal pattern, the action of ceremony leads to a specific goal including Trump's emphasis of success as an elected president on the one hand and his emphasis of giving power back to American People on the other hand. The verbs (*transfer* and *give back*) are lexicalized to reveal that both of intention and goal are attained.

3. In the third verbal pattern, such verbs (*transfer* and *give back*) enhance the implicature, in effect, into an assertion that the intended goals are attained.

The referent of transitive *transfer* consists of an Agent's activity of going about determining, planning, enabling, and intending where the

Agent, Trump, has intended this activity. In addition, the verb *transfer*, based upon cognitive pragmatics, conveys a particular implicature: that the intention to bring about the result has been fulfilled. The evidence for the presence of such an implicature is simply that the normal reading of a sentence containing this type of verb, even unaccompanied by a satellite, is that the desired goal (power is transferred to American People) is achieved. A verb with this pattern of lexicalization can more accurately be termed an implicated-fulfillment verb/IMPLIED-fulfillment verb.

In English, the state-change satellites *back* & *to* indicate realization, either fulfillment or confirmation. The satellites can explicitly name the verb's intended result- as *give back to* does in relation to *transfer*. This kind of satellite indicates fulfillment or confirmation of the verb's intended result by making an independent specification of arrival at the result. The implicature is associated with the IMPLIED-fulfillment type of verb. This might correlate in part with strength of the Agent's intention for a further result in which Trump stresses that he is representative of American People that has absolute power.

Cognitive semantics, that is the core of study, is closely related to force dynamics. Force dynamics show how entities (Washington, D.C. Administration and People Administration) interact with respect to force, include the exertion of force, resistance to such a force, the overcoming of such resistance, blockage of such force and removal of such blockage.

#### Steady-State Force-Dynamic Patterns

Trump's constant force has an intrinsic tendency toward manifesting it. Such tendency is towards motion (action) transferring power from Washington, D.C. and giving it back to the People. The *stronger* entity (the president Trump), in language, is able to manifest its

tendency at the expense of its weaker opposer (Washington, D.C.) To this point, there is difference of roles between the two force-exerting entities. The first force entity (Trump, a representative of People) is the *salient one* in force dynamics, as focal attention (the focal force entity), manifesting its force tendency. As the second force entity (Washington, D.C.) cannot effectively overcome the first. The *Agonist* (Ago) represents the focal force entity, but the *Antagonist* (Ant) stands for the force element that opposes it.

Antagonist's power: (Washington, D.C. Administration)

Agonist's power : (People Administration)

Trump has exerted his force enhanced by Americans' support to resist and overcome Washington Power to be transferred into People. Hence, such Washington power has been blocked. Trump's force dynamics are physical (the verb transfer), psychological, social in which he has had intention and determination to be voted as a presidency candidate for the American people.

The causative involves 'letting', 'hindering', 'and helping'. Trump, has let people to take power from Washington, D.C. A stronger agonist (Trump) has an intrinsic tendency toward motion and liberty that is realized as a result though there is an external force opposing it (Washington, D.C.).

Shifting Force-Dynamic Patterns, on the other hand, including Shift in State of Impingement in which The Antagonist's Power (Washington, D.C. Administration) that blocks the agonist's power (people) with a tendency toward motion now disengages and releases the agonist to manifest its tendency. This is the pattern of onset letting of motion. Hence, the category of causing is seen to depend on a notion of

either the start or the continuation of impingement, but the present 'letting' patterns involve the cessation of impingement.

### The Relation of Agency to the Force-Dynamic Patterns

"We are transferring power from Washington, D.C. and giving it back to you, the People".

We are giving power to the people.

↓

↓

The Agent

The Final Event

An agent (Trump and Advocates) intends an occurrence of an event like transferring power to People. This agent is involved in initiating a causal sequence that leads to that event, power's transfer. This causal sequence begins with a volitional act by the agent to move certain parts or all his body. This in turn leads to power's transfer as an intended event. The cognitive agent (Trump) intends that a certain event (Power Transfer) will occur and that it will result from his / her action, an act of volition through democratic elections to be chosen as presidency candidate of the USA. Such act of volition is represented as a sub event that will cause a certain whole-body or body-part motion in the case where the intended outcome is in the physical realm.

To recap, three levels of initiation can be distinguished: First, the agent's original conceiving of an intention can identify a goal (successful presidency Candidate) and the steps that can lead to the event (Power Transfer). Second, the volitional act can be regarded as the sub event that initiates the full causal sequence of sub events (the process and stages of presidency elections). Third, the bodily motion can be regarded as the sub event that initiates the physical portion of this causal sequence.

As the event frame consists of the sequence of occurrent causal sub events beginning with the agent's volitional act (presidency candidate) and ending with the agent's goal, which is encompassed within the scope of intention (to win as an American president and power transfer). Talmy (2000, pp. 433-434) stresses that 'exertion' as a psychological force dynamic plays vital part in cognitive analysis. If that entity (Trump) were considered only for his physical body, without the psychological component (determination and intention to be an elected American President), he would be viewed as a force-dynamically weaker agonist. The man as a stronger agonist, according to the psychological component, can transfer the power to the American people. Such psychological component can be employed to cause greater strength in the physical agonist and set its force tendency:

#### Types of Causation in Cognitive semantics

- 1) The overcoming of resistance versus the removal of blockage: Washington's Power has been overcome and transferred into People's power.
- 2) The scope of intention on the part of a sentient entity including Agent causation, with intention.
- 3) Knowledge of outcome: Once Trump wins presidency elections, he will be an elected American president having the authority to transfer power from Washington to people who elect him as a president.

#### The Basic Causative Situation

Talmy (2000, pp. 480-481) denotes that the basic causative situation consists of three main components: a simple event (presidency elections), something that immediately causes the event (Trump elected as an American president), and the causal relation between the two "result

from" (power transfer from Washington to People). The caused event functions as the figure and the causing event as the ground of the whole situation; the causal relation is "result from".

#### Agency

We are transferring power from Washington, D.C.

This surface sentence We are giving power to the people manifests an agentive situation whereby the components make up this situation. In the sentence *I killed the snail by doing something to it* there is an equal degree of semantic relation between the referents of We and transfer & give and the power. The power cannot be transferred and given to people by itself, and Trump does something – for example, applying to be presidency candidate. The appropriateness of the main verbs transfer & give (i.e., the correctness with which it refers to the actual situation) is necessity since unless there are democratic elections, the words transfer & give cannot appropriately be used.

#### Caused Agency

Talmy (2000, pp. 531-539) defines agency as a cognitive event that can be caused. Accordingly, the semantic factors pertaining to both cognitive events (intention to be a presidency candidate and winning such presidency elections) and their causation (power transfer from Washington to People) can be analyzed. Such semantic analysis of causation can be applied to mental events. Both volition and intention are represented as mental events and major components of agency alike. In short, Talmy (2000, pp. 531-532) points out that the semantic organization of agency contains intention, volition, and body parts.

#### Sample (2)

"As a mark of solemn respect for the victims of the coronavirus pandemic, by the authority vested in me as President of the United States by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, I hereby order that the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff at the White House and upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions until sunset, May 24, 2020".

(Proclamation on Honoring the Victims of the Novel Coronavirus Pandemic, May 22, 2020)

The framing event, Trump's solace to the victims of the coronavirus pandemic, constitutes a particular event schema in which a flag is at half-mast at the White House and upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions until sunset, three days. Such framing event can be seen to schematize a variety of domains from semantic and syntactic perspectives:

1. An event of Motion, flying a flag at half-mast and location in space, the White House and upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions.
2. An event of contouring in time (aspect): until sunset, May 24, 2020
3. An event of change: a flag is lowered to the middle of its pole.



4. An event of fulfillment or confirmation in the domain of realization, a presidential decision ( I order).

The framing event, Trump's solace to the victims of the coronavirus pandemic determines the overall temporal framework and thereby determines the aspect of the sentence that expresses the macro-event, flying the American flag at half-mast. It also generally determines the overall spatial framework where a physical setting is involved including the White House and other major American buildings. The framing event constitutes the upshot, flying the American flag at half-mast three days. That is to say, it is the framing event that is asserted in an imperative through a positive declarative sentence (I order that the flag ....).

The framing event, consolation of corona virus victims, can act as an abstract structure conceptually imposed on the subordinate event, flying national flag, acting as a "substrate". The semantic character of the framing event is more that of an abstract schema, while that of the subordinate event tends to be more substantive or perceptually palpable. For this reason, the content of the subordinate event is often more vivid than that of the framing event and thus might draw much or at times even more attention to itself; in this respect it, flying a country flag, might seem semantically more primary than the framing event, solace to the Corona victims. Nevertheless, it is the framing event that frames, shapes, provides the upshot.

The subordinate event, putting flag at half-mast, can be seen to elaborate the framing event, mourning the victims of the coronavirus pandemic. Generically, the co-event bears support relations to the framing event. Hence, the co-event, flying American flag at its half-mast, represents *Concomitance* of Trump's solace to American victims.

Cognitive semantic realization of Trump's intention including solemn respect for and solace to corona virus victims is confirmed: 1. The scope of intention is coextensive with an intended action constituting the entirety of the verb's reference, *order* and *fly at half-mast*. 2. The Agent's action includes a goal and the intention that the action, flying American flag at half-staff, leads to this goal, a mark of Trump's solemn respect for corona victims. 3. The verb is lexicalized to represent the implicature that the intended goal, solace to American victims, is attained. 4. The verbs, *order* and *fly*, enhances the implicature, in effect, into an assertion that the intended goal was attained.

The text constitutes *Fulfillment satellite*: fulfillment of that goal. V: *fly* 'go about moving with the goal of thereby solemn respect and consolation'. Sat: *at*: 'with fulfillment of the goal'. The referent of transitive *fly* consists of an Agent's activity of going about moving inanimate entity down, and so on where the Agent has intended this activity, together with the Agent's further intention that this activity will lead to solace to American victims' relatives. When used without a satellite, this verb is moot regarding the outcome. But the addition of the satellite *at* indicates that the additional intention was fulfilled.

The Agent's scope of intention, Trump's solemn respect for the victims of the coronavirus pandemic, extends beyond the execution of this action, flying American flag at half-staff, alone. The Agent further intends that the action lead to a particular result, honoring the victims of the Novel Coronavirus Pandemic. With this verbal pattern (*fly*), the addition of a satellite *at* indicates that this intention to bring about a particular goal, sharing American victims' relatives' affliction, has in fact been fulfilled and the goal achieved. Here, the meaning of the satellite's addition is not independent of the meaning of the verb but is sensitive to

the internal structure of that semantic complex and complements it. A satellite of this type will be termed a fulfillment satellite (fly at).

In the confirmation type of realization, the verb *fly at* includes an Agent's intended and executed action plus his further intention that this action, American flag is at half-mast at main government buildings, lead to a certain desired result, sharing American victims' relatives' scourge. In addition, the verb conveys a particular implicature (cognitive pragmatics): that the intention to bring about the result has been fulfilled. The evidence for the presence of such an implicature is simply that the normal reading of a sentence containing this type of verb, even unaccompanied by a satellite, is that the desired goal is achieved. A verb with this pattern of lexicalization can more accurately be termed an implicated-fulfillment verb/implied-fulfillment verb.

The cognitive implicature associated with the implied-fulfillment type of verb might correlate in part with different strength of the American president's intention, derived from the Constitution and the laws of the USA. for a further result. In this sentence *I hereby order that the flag of the United States of America shall be flown at half-staff*, the verb (order) show increasing degree of implicature of the fulfillment of an intention to fly the flag at half-staff.

In schematic terms, the English imperative is a construction with which the speaker exerts certain degree of force in the deictic setting toward the addressee, who will be thereby engaged in a certain situation in a hypothetical situation. In prototypical terms, the English imperative is a construction with which the speaker (Trump) as causer-agent exerts some high force toward the addressee, who as causee-agent will thereby perform an action in a hypothetical setting in which *the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff at the White House and upon all public*

*buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions until sunset, May 24, 2020.*

Every imperative utterance comprises six parameters – i.e. how much the speaker (Trump) wants the propositional content (the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff) to be realized (DESIRE), the relative power/social status as President of the United States by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America (POWER), the speaker's assessment of the addressee's capability to perform the action (CAPABILITY), the burden of the action imposed upon the addressee (COST), and who will primarily benefit from the action and to what extent (BENEFIT), as well as how strongly the White House and upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions are obliged to comply (OBLIGATION). On the other hand, the modal 'shall', in terms of legal English, is used to indicate obligation to the subject of the sentence (Trump). It should not be confused with future 'shall'. The modal verb 'must' cannot be used in this sense.

### **Sample (3)**

"Consistent with this policy, I have suspended and limited the entry of aliens recently present in certain foreign jurisdictions where significant COVID-19 outbreaks have occurred. These jurisdictions include the People's Republic of China (excluding the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau), the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Schengen Area, the United Kingdom (excluding overseas territories

outside of Europe), and the Republic of Ireland". (Proclamations, May 24, 2020)

The framing event (the main event) constitutes a particular event schema (fighting the spread of COVID-19), that can be applied to several different conceptual domains. At present, the framing event can be seen to schematize many domains – a finding based on their comparable semantic and syntactic treatment across language. An event of Motion (from motion to stationariness), aliens in infected countries are prevented to enter the USA. As Conceptual Integration of the event of restricting the entry of foreigners from specific countries is strongly associated with agentive causation. Such cognitive causation consists of a causal chain in which an agent's action initiates a succession of events that lead to the final event under consideration. The Agent, Trump, has volitionally performed the initiating action and has a scope of intention, hindering a deadly virus infection, that extends over the whole sequence.

The framing event, preventing the entry of aliens in American land, constitutes a particular event schema that can be applied to several conceptual domains. An event of aliens' Motion to America is suspended and limited. Such event of aliens' preventions correlates with action of fighting Covid-19 infection in the USA. The framing event, preventing particular foreigners' admittance, determines at least the overall temporal presidential decision for the sake of surmounting this deadly virus. Such framing event also specifies the overall spatial framework where a physical setting (China, Iran and Ireland) is involved. The framing event constitutes the central import or main point – or what will here be termed the upshot – relative to the whole macro-event. That is to say, it is the framing event that is asserted in a positive declarative sentence (*I have suspended and limited the entry of aliens...*).

The event of temporal contouring is the second type of framing event. Temporal contouring is a linguistic aspect, where such aspect is conceptualized as an event in its right. Such temporal contouring is closely related to the degree of manifestation of an event. Verbs *suspend* and *limit* can be employed to indicate that the event in question is fully manifested. Both verbs reflect a common example of this degree-of-manifestation type of temporal contouring, 'stopping'. A cognitive basis for the agentive form of such impositional processes might be Trump's developmental experience of the exercise of agency. In particular, this could involve one's experience of marshaling his efforts and authorities to effect a desired pattern in an activity, as by slowing down or even suspending the entry of foreigners (I have suspended and limited the entry of aliens ...).

Fulfillment and confirmation lead to cognitive semantic realization of the framing event, prohibiting the entry of aliens (I have suspended and limited the entry of aliens ...). The scope of intention, striving deadly virus, is coextensive with this action, preventing the entry of foreigners. This intended action thus constitutes the entirety of the verb's reference, *suspend* and *limit*. The cognitive implicature, in this text, is apparent that the intended goal, preventing the spread of Covid-19, is attained. In addition, the verbs *suspend*, and *limit* conveys a particular implicature (cognitive pragmatics): that the intention to bring about the result has been fulfilled, Covid-19 infection is controlled. Verbs with this pattern of lexicalization are termed an implicated-fulfillment verb/implied-fulfillment verb.

The referent of transitive *suspend*, and *limit* consists of an Agent's activity of going about scrutinizing, investigating, and tracking where the Agent, Trump, has intended this activity, restricting the entry of

foreigners, together with his further intention that this activity will lead to finding and striving for control of Covid-19 infection.

Agonist

Antagonist

↓

↓

Trump

Aliens

Trump exerts his presidential force dynamics to block Aliens' tendency toward motion (moving to The American Lands) where COVID-19 has occurred. Trump's force dynamics are physical (the verbs suspend & limit), psychological, social in which he has had intention and determination to stop foreigners' flow to the American Lands. In cognitive terms, Trump (Agonist) has DESIRE & POWER as a president of the USA whereas such Aliens are supposed to have CAPABILITY to perform the action in which they should not move to America. Furthermore, there is some kind of OBLIGATION in which Aliens are forced to comply the President's orders.

#### Steady-State Force-Dynamic Patterns

Trump has a temporary tendency toward action manifesting his force dynamics as a president "*I have suspended and limited the entry of aliens recently*". Trump, the president, definitely represents the *stronger* entity, in language, who is able to manifest his tendency at the expense of its weaker opposer (aliens). The first force entity (Trump) is the *salient one* in force dynamics, as focal attention (the focal force entity), whether this entity manifests its force tendency. As the second force entity (aliens) cannot effectively overcome the first. The *Agonist* (Ago) represents the focal force entity, but the *Antagonist* (Ant) stands for the force element that opposes it.

A stronger agonist (Trump) with an intrinsic tendency toward rest (temporary proscription of entry) that is opposed by a weaker antagonist (aliens), which *fails to force it to move* (allow them to enter the USA). This type belongs to the '*despite*' category where the agonist's stability prevails despite the antagonist's force against it: *The shed kept standing despite the gale wind blowing against it.*

### Shifting Force-Dynamic Patterns

#### (1) Shift in State of Impingement

The stronger antagonist (*aliens*) comes into impingement against an agonist (the US Administration) that tends toward motion and entry of the USA, and thus temporarily stops it. This is the pattern of *onset causation of rest*. Hence, *the category of causing* is seen to depend on a notion of either the start or the continuation of impingement, but the present '*letting*' patterns involve the *cessation of impingement*.

#### (2) Shift in Balance of Strength

There is a corresponding balance-shift pattern in sentences. The antagonist and agonist have continued in mutual impingement, but the *balance of forces* has shifted through the weakening aliens or strengthening the US administration of one of the entities for the national security.

#### (3) The Relation of Agency to the Force-Dynamic Patterns

An agent, Trump, intends an occurrence of a particular *physical event* like preventing the entry of aliens temporarily. The agent has a volitional act in which he moves certain parts or all of his *body*. This in turn leads to a temporary embargo of the entry as an intended event:

I have suspended and limited the entry of aliens recently"



↓

↓

Agent

The Final event

A Standard English causative construction like *I have suspended and limited the entry of aliens recently* refers to the *initiator agent*, "I" and to the final sub event, "the entry suspended & limited". In the same manner, 'Exertion' as a psychological force dynamic plays vital part in cognitive analysis. Trump resisted the pressure of the crowd to enter the USA without restrictions. The man (Trump) is a *sentient* entity. If that entity (man) were considered only for his physical body, without the psychological component, he would be viewed as a force-dynamically weaker agonist. The man as a stronger agonist, according to the psychological component, is able to withstand the crowd. Such psychological component can be employed to cause greater strength in the physical agonist and set its force tendency through certain jurisdictions.

One of the Types of Causation in Cognitive semantics is the overcoming of resistance versus the removal of blockage: "I have suspended and limited the entry of aliens recently present in certain foreign jurisdictions"

(I suspended and limited with jurisdictions.)

(Enabling causation), (agent causation).

Causality is expressed only at the moment of interaction between two events: the entry of aliens and jurisdictions.

Agency

This surface sentence *I have suspended and limited the entry of aliens recently* manifests an agentive situation whereby the components

make up this situation. In the sentence there is an equal degree of semantic relation between the referents of *I* and *suspend & limit*. The appropriateness of the main verb *suspend & limit* (i.e., the correctness with which it refers to the actual situation) is necessity since if the rationale behind making such decision is permanent, the words *suspend & limit* cannot appropriately be used; the verb *prevent* will be used instead.

#### Sample (4)

"For many decades, we have enriched foreign industry at the expense of American industry; subsidized the armies of other countries while allowing for the very sad depletion of our military; we've defended other nation's borders while refusing to defend our own; and spent trillions of dollars overseas while America's infrastructure has fallen into disrepair and decay".

(Inaugural Address Transcript, January 20th, 2017)

The event integration includes enriching foreign industry, subsidizing the armies of other countries, defending other nations' borders and spending trillions of dollars. Such conceptual integration is related to agentive causation. Such causation consists of a causal chain, depleting American army, refusing to defend US borders and destroying America's infrastructure in which an agent's action initiates a succession of events that lead to the final event under consideration. The Agent, American government, has volitionally performed the initiating action and has a scope of intention that extends over the whole sequence.

The subordinate event (The Co-Event) can be held to perform functions of support in relation to the framing event. In these supporting functions, the subordinate event can be seen to motivate the framing

event. Generically, the co-event bears a support relations *to* the framing event including *precursion, Cause, Concomitance*. Impoverishing American industry is the precursion of enriching foreign industry, impoverishing American military is the concomitance of subsidizing foreign armies, impoverishing America's infrastructure is the precursion of spending trillions of dollars overseas and defending other nations' borders is the cause of Neglecting American borders.

Cognitive semantic realization of the framing event, the successive American administrations' intention of destroying all walks of American life, is fulfilled and confirmed. The scope of intention is coextensive with this action. This intended action thus constitutes the entirety of the verb's reference: *enrich, subsidize, defend, refuse, spend* and *fall into*.

Agonist

Antagonist

↓

↓

American Industry

Foreign Industry

American Military

Armies of other countries

National borders

other nation's borders

America's infrastructure

overseas

Steady-State Force-Dynamic Patterns

A weaker agonist (American Industry, American Military, National borders and America's Infrastructure) has a tendency toward motion that is not hindered, but rather effectively blocked by a stronger antagonist (foreign industry, armies of other countries, other nation's borders and overseas). Thus, the agonist is kept by the antagonist in place. This is a *causative* type, the extended causation of rest: *The log kept lying on the incline because of the ridge there*.

Trump reveals that American industry exerts its effort to be enriched, but it is resisted and overcome by foreign industry that is enhanced by the US government itself. The same happens for the generals of US army attempt to be subsidized, but their efforts are no avail as the armies of other countries managed to be subsidized by the US government instead. The US borders need to be defended by the US government, but other nation's borders are defended instead as well. The Ministry of Industry exerts lots of efforts to get lots of funding, but such efforts are blocked by the overseas that got trillions of dollars from the US government.

Trump exerts his presidential force dynamics to resist and overcome the US government's tendency toward paying attention to the other nation's interests and focusing upon the US interests. Trump used “We” to tell the audience that it is “we”, not the other else, who did something which implies his credibility. He uses pronoun "we" as a subject the clause to touch the audience's emotions.

Trump cognitively attempts to urge the US government to apply Shifting Force-Dynamic Patterns including Shift in State of Impingement in which the Antagonist' s Power (Foreign industry, other armies, other nation's borders & other nation's infrastructure) that blocks the agonist's power (American industry, The US army, The US borders & America's infrastructure) with a tendency toward motion now disengages and releases the agonist to manifest its tendency. This is called the pattern of onset letting of motion.

#### The Relation of Agency to the Force-Dynamic Patterns

The Agent



The Final Event



- We have enriched foreign industry.
- We subsidized the armies of other countries
- We have defended other nation's borders
- We have spent trillions of dollars overseas

An agent (The US government as a symbol of the Americans including Trump) intends an occurrence of an event like enriching foreign industry, subsidizing the armies of other countries, defending other nation's borders and spending trillions of dollars overseas. This agent is involved in initiating a causal sequence that leads to such events. The cognitive agent (the US government) intends that a certain event: 1. neglecting the American industry will occur and that it will result from enriching foreign industry. 2. the very sad depletion of the US military will occur and that it will result from subsidizing the armies of other countries. 3. refusing to defend the US borders will occur and that it will result from defending other nation's borders. 4. America's infrastructure in disrepair and decay will occur and that it will result from spending trillions of dollars overseas.

Exertion, as a psychological force dynamic, plays vital part in cognitive analysis. If that entity (the US government) were considered only for Americans' physical body, without the psychological component, it would be viewed as a force-dynamically weaker agonist. According to causation in cognitive semantics, there is the overcoming of resistance versus the removal of blockage. Thus, foreign industry, the armies of other countries, other nation's borders and overseas have overcome American industry, American army, American borders, and America's infrastructure, respectively. Hence, there is the scope of intention on the part of a sentient entity including Agent causation, with intention. As

knowledge of outcome, the US government cognitively leads the USA into some kind of weakness of force dynamics in national industry, military forces, borders and infrastructure.

### Sample Analysis (5)

"Telehealth allows patients to connect remotely with medical professionals. Because of advances in smartphones and remote diagnostic testing capabilities, its use recently started to increase. But more comprehensive telehealth adoption was limited due in part to issues with internet access, HIPAA requirements, State licensing laws, provider liability, quality standards, and reimbursement arrangements."

(Deregulation Sparks Dramatic Telehealth Increase During the COVID-19 Response, April 28, 2020)

Antagonist (Conventional Means of health)

Telehealth

Agonist (Patients)

Steady-State Force-Dynamic Patterns

Patients (Agonists) have exerted their force enhanced by Telehealth to resist and overcome Conventional Means of health (Antagonists). Patients' force dynamics are physical, psychological, social in which they have had intention and determination to connect remotely with medical professionals. The *stronger* entity (patients) has a constant force, derived from Telehealth, and such force has a major tendency toward manifesting it. Thus, patients as a stronger entity, in language, are able to manifest their tendency toward connecting remotely with medical professionals at the expense of their weaker opposer (traditional Conventional Means of health). A stronger agonist (patients) has an

intrinsic tendency toward motion (connecting remotely with medical professionals) that is realized as a result though there is an external force (traditional Conventional Means of health) opposing it.

### Shifting Force-Dynamic Patterns

Shifting Force-Dynamic Patterns including Shift in State of Impingement in which Conventional Means of health (Antagonists) that block the agonist's power (patients) with a tendency toward motion and communication now disengages and releases the agonist to manifest its tendency. This is the pattern of onset letting of motion. Hence, the category of causing is seen to depend on a notion of either the start or the continuation of impingement, but the present 'letting' patterns involve the cessation of impingement (Telehealth allows patients...).

### The Relation of Agency to the Force-Dynamic Patterns

"Telehealth allows patients to connect remotely with medical professionals.

Telehealth allows patients to connect remotely.

↓

↓

The Agent

The Final Event

An agent (Telehealth) is involved in initiating a causal sequence that leads to that event, patients' ability of connecting remotely with medical professionals. This causal sequence begins with a volitional act by cancelling Conventional Means of health. This in turn leads to connection remotely with medical professionals as an intended event.

### Types of Causation in Cognitive semantics

1)The overcoming of resistance versus the removal of blockage: Conventional Means of health have been overcome and replaced by Telehealth.

2)Knowledge of outcome: Once conventional means of health are replaced by Telehealth; patients will be able to connect remotely with medical professionals.

### The Basic Causative Situation

The basic causative situation consists of three main components: a simple event (cancelling conventional means of health), something that immediately causes the event (Telehealth), and the causal relation between the two "result from" (patients' connecting remotely with medical professionals). The caused event functions as the figure and the causing event as the ground of the whole situation; the causal relation is "result from".

### Sample (6)

"Data show that telehealth utilization is increasing because of new flexibilities for the provision of Medicare telehealth services and potentially because of HHS's policy change that allows providers to use popular video platforms to connect with patients".

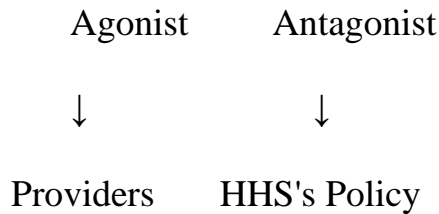
(Deregulation Sparks Dramatic Telehealth Increase During the COVID-19 Response, April 28, 2020)

WhiteHouse.gov

New flexible procedures and HHS's policy are adopted to let providers to use popular video platforms to connect with patients. Thus, patients have overcome blockage of more telehealth utilization. The basic



causative situation consists of a simple event (the increase of telehealth utilization), something that immediately causes the event (new flexible provision of Medical Telehealth services), and the causal relation between the two "because of". The caused event functions as the figure and the causing event as the ground of the whole situation; the causal relation is "because of".



Shifting Force-Dynamic Patterns, including Shift in State of Impingement, are apparent in which the Antagonist's Power (HHS) that blocks the agonist's power (providers) with a tendency toward motion & communication with patients now releases such providers to manifest their tendency. This is the pattern of onset letting of motion. Hence, the HHS can be represented as the cessation of impingement & the use of letting pattern in which providers are allowed to connect with patients. Providers managed to remove HHS' blockage of communicating with patient people.

### Sample (7)

"Despite the major challenges posed by COVID-19, the United States is in a strong position to recover as the public health threat recedes". (An In-Depth Look at COVID-19's Early Effects on Consumer Spending and GDP, April 29, 2020)

Antagonist: COVID-19 Challenges

Agonist: the US administration

The Agonist (Trump's administration) exerted its force dynamics and managed to resist the Antagonist's spread (COVID-19).

### Steady-State Force-Dynamic Patterns

The US administration's force dynamics have an intrinsic tendency toward manifesting them. Such tendency is towards motion (action) and resistance of major challenges posed by COVID-19. Trump's administration is represented as the *stronger* entity "the United States is in a strong position", in language, is able to manifest its tendency at the expense of its weaker opposer (COVID-19). To this point, there is difference of roles between the two force-exerting entities. The first force entity is the *salient one* (Trump's administration) in force dynamics, as focal attention (the focal force entity), this entity manifests its force tendency. As the second force entity (COVID-19) cannot effectively overcome the first. The *Agonist* (Ago) represents the focal force entity, but the *Antagonist* (Ant) stands for the force element that opposes it.

Talmy (2000, 409) points out that the causative involves 'hindering' as a cognitive linguistic term in which the US Administration has hindered the spread of COVID-19. A stronger agonist (the US Administration) has an intrinsic tendency toward motion that is realized as a result though there is an external force opposing it (COVID-19). This is the '*despite*' pattern since the antagonist endeavours to hinder the agonist's motion: The ball kept rolling despite the stiff grass.

The Public health threat has a tendency toward (motion) increase, but such tendency shifts to decrease. Such decrease is caused by the American government determination to resist the major challenges. The major challenges posed by COVID-19 (Antagonist) have tendency

toward increase but the US administration (Agonist) has overcome such tendency namely increase and shifted to decrease.

### Shifting Force-Dynamic Patterns

#### (1) Shift in State of Impingement

Trump's administration has shifted Force-Dynamic Patterns that people might think that the strong agonist is COVID-19 whereas the weak antagonist is the US administration. Trump has forced COVID-19 toward rest "the public health threat recedes".

#### 2) Shift in Balance of Strength

There is a corresponding balance-shift pattern in sentences. The antagonist and agonist can continue in mutual impingement, but the *balance of forces* can shift through the weakening (COVID-19) or strengthening (Trump's administration) of one of the entities.

### Sample (8)

"COVID-19 has also led to a whole-of-government response to bridge the current gap between a historically strong economy and the coming economic recovery. Federal policies that support workers and job creators should help limit negative effects on the economy in the second quarter as States restart their economies and let their residents return safely to work".

(An In-Depth Look at COVID-19's Early Effects on Consumer Spending and GDP, April 29, 2020)

### Steady-State Force-Dynamic Patterns

Trump's dynamic force has an intrinsic tendency toward showing it. Such tendency is towards motion (action) in which "*Federal policies*

*should help limit negative effects on the economy in the second quarter as States restart their economies and let their residents return safely to work".* Hence, the *stronger* entity (Trump), in language, is able to manifest its tendency at the expense of its weaker opposer (COVID-19).

There is difference of roles between the two force-exerting entities. The first force entity (Trump) is the *salient one* in force dynamics, as focal attention (the focal force entity), this entity manifests its force tendency. As the second force (COVID-19) entity cannot effectively overcome the first. The *Agonist* (Ago) represents the focal force entity, but the *Antagonist* (Ant) stands for the force element that opposes it. The causative involves 'helping': "Federal policies that support workers and job creators should help limit negative effects on the economy in the second quarter".

### Shifting Force-Dynamic Patterns

#### (1) Shift in State of Impingement

Agonist: Economy

Antagonist: COVID-19

The pattern involves a stronger antagonist (COVID-19) that comes into position against an agonist (economy) with an intrinsic tendency toward rest and weakness "*the current gap between a historically strong economy and the coming economic recovery*". Thus, COVID-19 causes the economy to change from a state of rest to one of action "*States restart their economies and let their residents return safely to work*". This pattern is classified as causative. This is called *onset causation*, in particular, *onset causation of motion*.

#### (2) Shift in Balance of Strength

Accordingly, there is apparent mutual impingement between the antagonist (COVID-19) and agonist (economy), but the *balance of forces* eventually has shifted through the weakening the antagonist and strengthening national economy. In similar fashion, force and resistance play a role in the construal of semantic domains. (Should) alludes to the presence of resistance from COVID-19 causing recession on the one hand and it forces the reader/ listener to the conclusion that (There are horrible effects of COVID-19 on the economy) is true on the other. Trump (Agonist) is plenipotentiary to force Federal government to decrease negative effects of COVID-19 (Antagonist) on national economy: *Federal policies that support workers and job creators should help limit negative effects on the economy in the second quarter as States restart their economies and let their residents return safely to work.*

COVID-19	Trump
↓	↓
Antagonist	Agonist

The Antagonist (COVID-19), that has a tendency toward motion increasing detriment of the American economy, is resisted by the Agonist (Trump) that exploits his presidential dynamics to force Federal government to block or at least limit the Antagonist's Tendency toward motion and harm.

### Sample (9)

"We must protect our borders from the ravages of other countries making our products, stealing our companies, and destroying our jobs".

(Inaugural Address Transcript, January 20th, 2017)

Agonist

Antagonist

↓

We

↓

other countries

Modal (must), as a syntactic category, can be employed for the expression of force dynamics.

Force and resistance definitely play a vital part in the construal of semantic domains. (must) indicates the presence of resistance from other countries (Antagonist) that plan to steal American companies gripping destroying jobs. Trump (Agonist), the president, uses his force dynamics to oblige the US government to fight other countries that damage American economy. The Antagonist (other countries), that has a tendency toward motion destroying the American economy, is resisted by the Agonist (Trump) that exploits his presidential dynamics to force the US government to block the Antagonist's Tendency toward motion.

### Sample (10)

"I will fight for you with every breath in my body- and I will never, ever let you down".

(Inaugural Address Transcript, January 20th, 2017)

Trump

American People

↓

↓

Agonist (Ago)

Antagonist (Ant)

Trump's force has an apparent tendency toward manifesting it. He (the stronger entity), in language (*I will never, ever let you down*), is able to manifest his tendency at the expense of American people (weaker entity). The president's force entity is the salient one in force dynamics as focal attention and such entity conveys its force tendency. On the other

hand, the causative involves 'letting' (*I will never, ever let you down*) and 'helping' (*I will fight for you with every breath in my body*).

Concerning the basic steady-steady force dynamics: The president as a stronger agonist, with a pivotal tendency toward rest and stability, is opposed by American people as a weaker antagonist who fail to force Trump to down. This type belongs to the 'despite' category where the agonist's stability prevails despite the antagonist's force against it. Trump stresses initiatory Agent's act of volition (*I will fight for you with every breath in my body- and I will never, ever let you down*) that activates bodily motion. Eventually, 'exertion' in this context, as a psychological force dynamic plays a vital part in cognitive analysis.

### Sample (11)

"We will no longer accept politicians who are all talk and no action – constantly complaining but never doing anything about it. The time for empty talk is over. Now arrives the hour of action".

(Inaugural Address Transcript, January 20th, 2017)

We	Politicians
↓	↓
Agonist	Antagonist

According to force dynamics including Steady-State Force-Dynamic Patterns in cognitive semantics, Politicians' force dynamics have tendency toward inaction (*...who are all talk... constantly complaining... never doing anything*) whereas Trump's force dynamics have tendency towards action motion (*The time for empty talk is over. Now arrives the hour of action*).

Trump, the president, is represented as the stronger entity in language manifesting his tendency at the expense of his weaker opposer (politicians). Accordingly, there is difference of roles between the two force-exerting entities. Trump is the salient dynamic force as focal attention (the focal force entity) in which he shows his cognitive attitude. As politicians, the second force entity, cannot effectively overcome the first. A stronger agonist (Trump) has an intrinsic tendency toward motion and action that is realized as a result though there is an external force (politicians) opposing it. This is the '*despite*' pattern since the antagonist (politicians) endeavours to hinder the agonist's motion.

### Shifting Force-Dynamic Patterns

#### (1) Shift in State of Impingement

The president Trump's administration, a stronger agonist comes into position against politicians, an antagonist, with an intrinsic tendency toward rest (*politicians who are all talk and no action*). Thus, Trump causes politicians to change from a state of '*empty talk*' to '*the hour of action*'. This pattern is classified as causative. This is called *onset causation*, in particular, *onset causation of motion*.

#### (2) Shift in Balance of Strength

There is a corresponding balance-shift pattern in sentences. Trump (agonist) and politicians (antagonist) are in mutual impingement, but the *balance of forces* shifts through the weakening of one of the entities (politicians). In a similar vein, Trump's exertion is represented as a psychological force dynamic in cognitive analysis. He cognitively seeks practical & tangible solutions for his country. He wants fight politician's empty talk since it is the 'hour of action'. Trump is a sentient entity. If that entity were considered merely for his physical body, without the



psychological component, he would be viewed as a force-dynamically weaker agonist. The man as a *stronger agonist*, according to the *psychological component*, is able to withstand the crowd. Such psychological component can be employed to cause greater strength in the *physical agonist* and set its force tendency.

### Sample (12)

"Our enemies are getting stronger and stronger by the way ،and we as a country are getting weaker".

(Transcript of Trump's Announcement Speech June 16th, 2015)

#### Steady-State Force-Dynamic Patterns

Trump cognitively indicates that enemies have exerted their forces and overcome the USA since his country (the sole superpower of the world) has become weak. Generally speaking, enemies have a remarkable tendency toward manifesting force. Such tendency is towards motion (action) at the expense of its weaker opposer (the USA). To this point, there is a variety of the two force-exerting entities. The first force entity is the *salient one* (the USA) in force dynamics, as focal attention (the focal force entity) and this force-exerting entity is overcome. As the second force entity (enemies) can effectively overcome the first. The USA (Ago) represents the focal force entity, but the enemies (Ant) stands for the force element that opposes it. A weaker agonist (The USA) has a tendency toward motion that is rather effectively averted by a stronger antagonist (enemies). Thus, the agonist is kept by the antagonist in place. This is a *causative* type, the extended causation of rest: The log kept lying on the incline because of the ridge there.

#### Shifting Force-Dynamic Patterns

## (1) Shift in State of Impingement

The stronger antagonist (*enemies*) comes into impingement against an agonist (the USA) that tends toward motion and moves, and thus stops it. This is the pattern of *onset causation of rest*:

The water's dripping on it made the fire dies down.



## (2) Shift in Balance of Strength

The antagonist (*enemies*) and agonist (The USA) can continue in mutual impingement, but the *balance of forces* can shift through the weakening (we as a country are getting weaker) or strengthening (our enemies are getting stronger and stronger) of one of the entities.

**Sample (13)**

"We need a leader that can bring back our jobs, can bring back our manufacturing, can bring back our military, can take care of our vets".

(Transcript of Trump's Announcement Speech June 16th, 2015)

Trump indicates that Americans need a strong person who is able to remove external and internal barriers that block progress in walks of life including industry, military, medicine, etc. The object (a leader) can be identified with the locus of potency. Trump introduces himself as a spokesman of the electorate and a president who has force dynamics to help the USA.

The subject (we) is the head of the profiled portion of the action chain or the participant that is farthest upstream with respect to the energy flow, whereas the object (a leader) is the tail of the profiled portion of the

action chain (Langacker 1990; 1991: 310). Force dynamics is a fundamental notion which underlies grammatical categories, such as modal verbs like *can* in English, and which structures the meanings of many lexical items. The notion has proved useful for analyzing sentence structure and grammatical notions such as ‘subject’ and ‘object’.

Can VP → [physical / psychological]

A leader can bring back jobs

A leader can bring back manufacturing

A leader can bring back military

A leader can take care of vets.

Both the psychological force factor and physical one are combined in all sentences above. There is a full force-dynamic complex: that Trump wants to accomplish a variety of things (conceivable as a force like *tendency toward that act*) and remove all barriers opposing that tendency. According to basic steady-state force dynamic patterns: A stronger agonist (Trump, the President) has an intrinsic tendency toward motion that is realized as a result though there is an external force opposing it. In all of indications of force opposition, the subject (a leader) of the modal represents the agonist, while the *antagonist* is usually only implicit in the *referent situation*, without explicit mention. Semantically the modals including *can*, in their usage, the agonist's interaction is psychological rather than physical.

Modals as a syntactic category for the expression of Force Dynamics

The previous sentence reveals core force – dynamic reference by the modals in their basic ("deontic") usage. *Can* in the context indicates that subject (Trump, a leader) has a tendency toward the action (leaving

the house) expressed by the following verb (leave). Such *tendency* can be *opposed*.

## Conclusion

As steady-state force dynamic patterns Trump appears, in all speeches under study, as a strong agonist who does enjoy all absolute presidential force dynamics in which:

- 1.He stresses that the only president that has given power back to people.
- 2.He exploits his force dynamics to fight COVID-19 through the use of Telehealth that allows patients to connect remotely with medical professionals.
- 3.He indicates the strength of the USA in the face of COVID-19.
- 4.He is side by side with people who have lost their jobs through forcing the US government to limit negative effects of the economy and the victims of the Coronavirus and has temporarily proscribed the entry of foreigners.
- 5.He has promised to enrich the American industry, subsidize the American army and spend trillions of dollars American infrastructure.
6. He has used his force dynamics for action rather than talk like other politicians.
- 7.He has made the USA stronger and provided all walks of life.

The explicit agonist, in sample (5), is patient people but the implicit agonist is Trump's administration that has provided such people with telehealth to overcome the barriers of conventional means of health like connecting remotely with medical professionals. In a similar vein,

Trump, in sample (6), is the true agonist who has enhanced the providers through a variety of facilities such as using popular video platforms to connect with patients". In sample (8): the agonist's force is by the virtue of Trump's administration.

---

No. of Sample	Force-Dynamic Pattern	Agonist	Antagonist
1	Steady-State Force-Dynamic	Trump (The stronger entity)	Washington, D.C. (Weaker Opposer)
3	Steady-State Force-Dynamic	Trump	Aliens
4	Steady-State Force-Dynamic	American industry, American Military, National borders , America's infrastructure	Foreign Industry, Armies of other countries, other nation's borders, overseas
5	Steady-State Force-Dynamic	Patient People (The Stronger entity)	Conventional Means of Health (Weaker opposer)
6	Steady-State Force-Dynamic	Providers	HHS's Policy

7	Steady-State Force-Dynamic	The US administration (Trump)	COVID-19
8	Steady-State Force-Dynamic	Trump (The stronger entity)	COVID-19 (The weaker opposer)
9	Steady-State Force-Dynamic	Trump	Other countries
11	Steady-State Force-Dynamic	Trump (a stronger agonist)	Politicians
12	Steady-State Force-Dynamic	The USA (weaker)	Enemies (stronger)
13	Steady-State Force-Dynamic	Trump (stronger)	External Forces

The third type of steady force-dynamics is the rifest in samples under study where the stronger agonist (Trump)'s tendency toward motion of making the USA greater is not blocked by weak antagonists (Washington, D.C., Conventional Means of Health, COVID-19, Aliens, Foreign Industry, Armies of other countries, other nation's borders, overseas,

Politicians, enemies, external forces.

Trump, even in shifting force-dynamic patterns, is explicitly a weak agonist, but he eventually turned the table on opposers for the sake of the USA i.e.

1-The Antagonist's power (Washington, D.C.) has disengaged the Agonist (Trump).

2-The Antagonists (Conventional Means of Health) have released the Agonist (Patient people) to use telehealth.

3-The strong agonist (COVID-19) has become a weak agonist whereas the weak antagonist (Trump's administration) has become stronger.

4- The stronger antagonist (aliens) has disengaged the agonist (Trump's administration) etc. As the Relation of Agency to the Force-Dynamic Patterns Trump, the agonist, cognitively makes decisions to lead to a certain final event.



---

## References

- Almanna, A. & Al-Shehari, K. (2019). *The Arabic-English Translator as Photographer. A Linguistic Account*. Routledge
- Croft, W. & Cruse, A. (2004). *Cognitive Linguistics*. Cambridge University Press.
- Hart, C. (2011). *Force-interactive patterns in immigration discourse: A Cognitive Linguistic approach to CDA*. *Discourse & Society* 22 (3), 269-286.
- Hasan, H. (2019). *Image Schemata and Force Dynamic Analysis of Conflict in Anthony Burgess' Nineteen Eighty-Five: A Rhetorical Cognitive Approach*
- Johnson, M. (1987). *The Body in the Mind: The Bodily Basis of Meaning, Imagination, and Reading*. University of Chicago Press.
- Langacker, Ronald W. (1999). *Grammar and Conceptualization*. Berlin & New York: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Langacker, Ronald W. (2007). *Cognitive Grammar*. In Geeraerts, D. & Cuyckens, H. (2007) (edited)'s *The Oxford Handbook of Cognitive Linguistics*. Oxford University Press.

Oakley, T. (2019). Force Dynamic Dimensions of Rhetorical Effect.

<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/333033790>

Sweetser, Eve. 1990. *From etymology to pragmatics:*

metaphorical and cultural aspects of semantic structure.

Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Talmy, L. (2000a). *Toward a Cognitive Semantics. Vol. 1*

*Concept Structuring Systems*. Massachusetts:

Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Talmy, L. (2000b). *Toward A Cognitive Semantics. Vol. 11:*

*Typology and Process in Concept Structuring*.

Takahashi, H. (2012). A Cognitive Linguistic Analysis of the

English Imperative With special reference to Japanese

imperatives. John Benjamins Publishing Company

Massachusetts: The MIT Press.