

A Phono-Discourse Analysis of Tongue Slips in Political Speech

Qassim Abbas Dhayef Al-Tufaili^a, Hawraa Jabbar Rahi^{b*}, Department of English, College of Education for Human Sciences, University of Babylon, Iraq, Email: ^{b*}hawraa.jabar@gmail.com

The present study is concerned with the phono-discourse analysis of tongue slips in American political speech. The phenomenon of tongue slips has been specifically selected because it has not been given its adequate attention by researchers, precisely from a phono-discourse analysis point of view, as far as the researcher could investigate. The study, therefore, aims to show the effect of the phonological rules of the English language on the tongue slips in the American political discourse. It seeks to pinpoint the most dominant types of tongue slips committed by American politicians, finding out whether tongue slips can reveal the repressed thoughts and motives in the politicians' unconsciousness to serve certain ideologies in their political speeches; exploring the effect of tongue slips on the political discourse delivered by American politicians; and developing a phono-discourse analysis model for analysing tongue slips in political speeches. In accordance with its aims, the study hypothesises that tongue slips follow the phonological rules of the English language in the American political discourse; the most dominant type of tongue slips committed by American politicians is substitution; tongue slips reveal the repressed thoughts and motives in the politicians' unconsciousness to serve certain ideologies in their political speeches; and tongue slips affect the political discourse delivered by the American politician. The present study has arrived at a variety of conclusions, including the most central of which is that tongue slips follow the phonological rules of the English language in the American political discourse. Furthermore, that American politicians may not be talented orators who can avoid tongue slips because they come naturally and subconsciously, and they have political outcomes on the personal level and the governmental or political party level. As such, the developed phono-discourse model of political tongue slips has proven its workability and comprehensiveness as a successful instrument used to examine tongue slips in American political discourse.

Keywords: *Phono-Discourse Analysis; Tongue Slips; Political Speech.*

Introduction

Politicians in general, and Presidents in particular, have a lot to say and not much time to say it. In their hastiness, the message often gets lost on its way from the brain to the mouth and comes out in embarrassing, funny, and memorable quotes. These speech errors are called tongue slips and in the present study, they can be political tongue slips. Literature on tongue slips has focussed on it in general or from a psychological standpoint, ignoring examining it phonologically or within the realm of discourse analysis. As a result, there has been an inadequate discussion about tongue slips and an increasing need to study it from a phono-discourse analysis point of view. This knowledge gap has motivated the present study to bridge it by suggesting a broad term which is "phono-discourse analysis", to study the phonological aspects of a particular phenomenon in terms of discourse analysis. Hence, phono-discourse analysis melds the sound patterns and the categorical organisation of speech sounds with *some aspects of discourse analysis* and the study of language in its widest sense. The phenomenon of tongue slips is critical and sensitive in public oratory in general and political speech in particular. It tends to receive more media attention when it happens to a prominent politician. In this sense, tongue slips in political speech deserve scholarly treatments of its rareness, particularly when it is studied from the perspective of phono-discourse analysis. One of the central genres in which tongue slips deserve an extensive study, is in American political speech. Politically speaking, political tongue slips are very serious and sometimes dangerous, because they may cause a split in the diplomatic relations with other countries, they may threaten the stability of a particular political regime, or they may be used as a means of attack against the government. To the best of the researcher's knowledge, there is no empirical study that deals with the political tongue slips from a phono-discourse analysis perspective. Hence, the present study makes an attempt to answer the following questions:

1. How do tongue slips follow the phonological rules of the English language in the American political discourse?
2. What are the most dominant types of tongue slips committed by American politicians?
3. Do tongue slips reveal the repressed thoughts and motives in the politicians' unconsciousness to serve certain ideologies in their political speeches?
4. How do tongue slips affect the political discourse delivered by American politicians?
5. Do American politicians rely on specific clause processes during the occurrence of tongue slips in their speeches?

In accordance with the above raised questions, the present study aims at:

1. Showing the effect of the phonological rules of the English language on the tongue slips in the American political discourse.
2. Pinpointing the most dominant types of tongue slips committed by American politicians.

3. Finding out whether tongue slips reveal the repressed thoughts and motives in the politicians' unconsciousness to serve certain ideologies in their political speeches.
4. Exploring the effect of tongue slips on the political discourse delivered by American politicians.
5. Figuring out whether or not there are particular clause processes which American politicians depend on when uttering tongue slips in their speeches.
6. Developing a phono-discourse analysis model for analysing tongue slips in political speeches.

In light of the questions and the aims mentioned above, the following statements are hypothesised in the present study as far as the phono-discourse analysis of tongue slips in political speech is concerned:

1. Tongue slips follow the *phonological* rules of the English language in the American political discourse.
2. The most dominant type of tongue slips committed by American politicians is substitution.
3. Tongue slips reveal the repressed thoughts and motives in the politicians' unconsciousness to serve certain ideologies in their political speeches.
4. Tongue slips affect the political discourse delivered by American politicians.
5. American politicians rely on specific types of clause processes to attain ideological gains while producing tongue slips.

Literature Review

Tongue Slips: General Overview

Linguistically speaking, tongue slips can be considered as a significant contribution to our understanding of speech processing and language development. The speakers who make a tongue slip reveal much more about the fields of linguistics. Dell (1986: 284) defines tongue slips as unintended and nonhabitual deviations from a speech plan. Further, Crystal (1987: 262) states that the main linguistic finding is that tongue slips are not random and they are regular when we speak. For example, the two words included in a tongue slip, i.e., the word that contains the slip and the word that influences it, are often found within the same syntactic constituents or intonation and rhyme unit. In this respect, Crystal (*ibid.*) adds that the influencing word is often the most strong within the tone unit, and most tongue slips involve the symmetrical substitution within a syllable of one sound by another, i.e., an initial segment in the influencing word replaces the initial segment in the supplied word. In this regard, Donovan (2006: 2) affirms that slippers cannot make a slip of the tongue with a linguistic unit unless they have already learned that unit. Thus, it is frequently the case that after a slip is made, the speaker looks confused and corrects the wrong utterance.

One advantage of tongue slips is that they can be used as a window into the mechanisms and structure of language. Tongue slips are spontaneous errors which occur infrequently, but they reveal planning units in the production of speech and tend to occur in highly regular patterns (Carroll, 2008: 194). According to Yule (2014: 78), the phenomenon of tongue slips mainly occurs with uncommon words and names when speakers generally have an accurate phonological outline of the word and they can get the initial sound correct and they mostly know the number of syllables in the word. So far, there is a call for a definition that can be applicable in phonetics, phonology, and discourse analysis. On the ground of what has already been discussed, the phenomenon of tongue slips can be operationally defined in the present study as *a phono-discourse phenomenon, which results in phonetic and phonological misuses that require contextual information for their interpretations*. Additionally, the present study offers a general definition for the coining term "political tongue slip" that can be operationally defined as *the politician's verbal misstep which becomes a political problem or which negatively affects the politician, where the misuse in question is usually committed in a public speech*. These operational definitions will be further clarified and enriched as the journey of the present study unfolds in conformity with its aims and hypotheses.

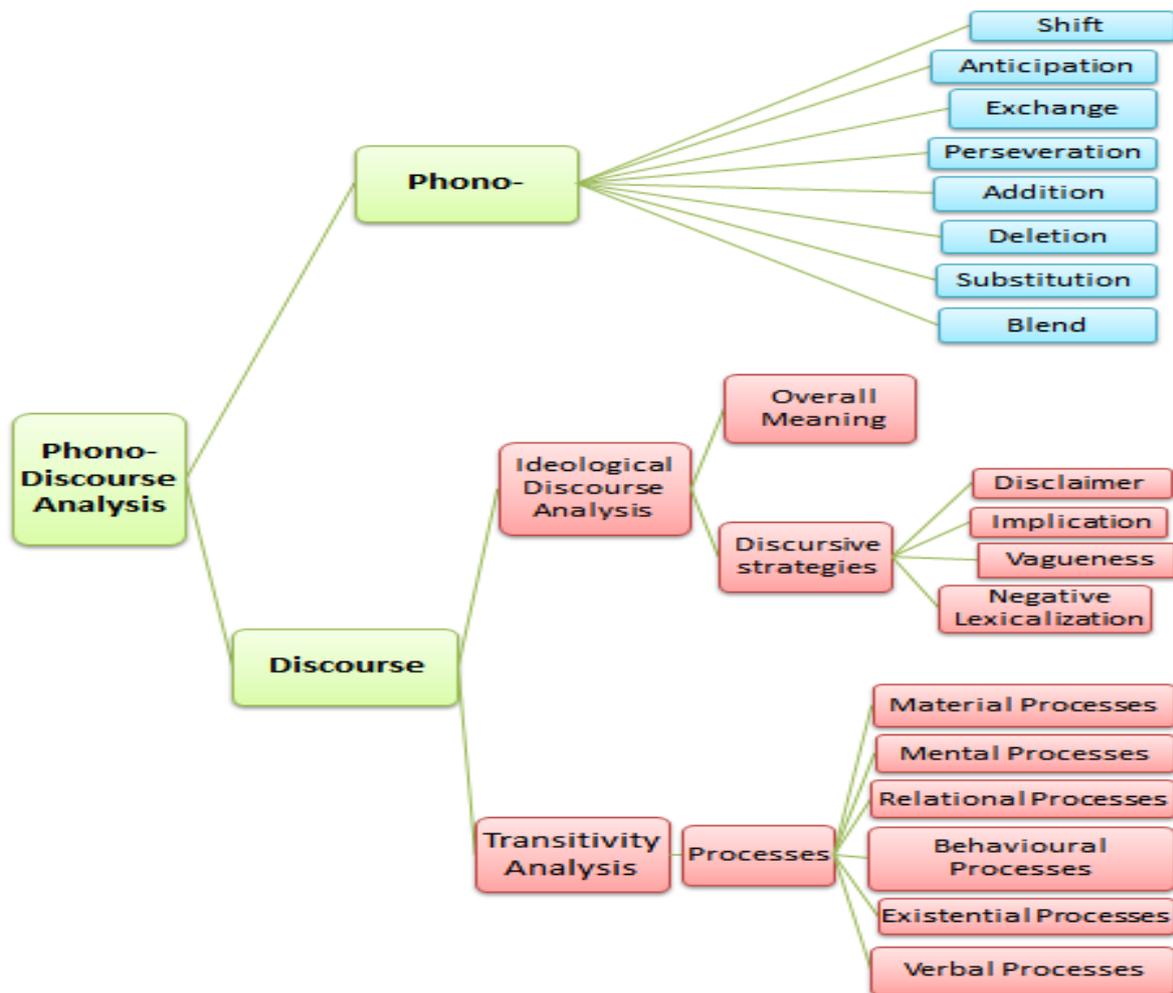
Tongue Slips: A Phono-Discourse Analysis Perspective

Most of us make tongue slips from time to time and such tongue slips are more common when we are nervous or under stress, as when performers appear on live television and radio shows. It seems probable that such slips are more likely to occur when we are tired or anxious. Most research, however, has focussed less on the factors that may influence the frequency of tongue slips than on the nature of the slips themselves. Although tongue slips, mistakes, and imperfections have enjoyed lots of media attention, no analysis is conducted to deal with these tongue slips from a phono-discourse analysis point of view. In order to foster and activate a phono-discourse model, the phonological types of tongue slips are mingled with the discourse strategies. Throughout the analysis, such elements will be investigated in the data with reference to the linguistic strategies and ideologies reflected. The present study examines tongue slips by American politicians in order to discover some of the ways in which speakers monitor their own speech, and to draw some inferences from them about the processes used by speakers in constructing discourses. A closer look at a number of extracts from some American speeches serve to illustrate the multi-faceted nature of tongue slips. It has become clear that tongue slips can work on the different linguistic levels: the phonological, morphological, syntax, semantic levels, or even sometimes, pragmatic level if they are intentionally said. However, the present study is restricted to examine the phono-discourse aspects of tongue slips.

The Phono-Discourse Model of Analysis

It generally appears that tongue slips are conducted on two levels. On the first level, there are eight realisations or types of tongue slips which are shift, exchange, anticipations, perseveration, addition, deletion, substitution, and blend. On the second level, the model consists of van Dijk's (1995) "Ideological Discourse Analysis", and Halliday's (1994) concept of "Transitivity" in his model "Systemic Functional Linguistics". On the grounds of what has just been illustrated, a phono-discourse model of political tongue slips is proposed by the present study to analyse the data under scrutiny. It is worth mentioning that the model is a unidirectional model, which is moving or operating in a single direction and it is working from the left to the right. In other words, it works from the phonological part to the discourse part, because we can identify and recognise tongue slips by their pronunciation first so that it is necessary to identify the phonological realisations and then move to their discourse analyses. However, each horizontal *line* which runs from left to right across the page indicates "by means of". The model is sketched clearly in Figure 1 on the next page, in which colours are indicative for the sake of distinction and the following keys are presented:

-  = Phono-Discourse Analysis
-  = Phonological Types of Tongue Slips
-  = Discourse Analysis Strategies



Data Collection

The data of the present study comprises twelve extracts collected from official websites (see Website Sources of the Data). They are found in forms of videos taken and transcribed by the researchers, since most of them are oral. In other words, tongue slips have been collected and written down as they are heard in the present study. Due to the fact that tongue slips are orally committed, it is of great importance for the data to be oral rather than written, and consequently the oral data represent a reliable and authentic source for the analytical purposes conducted by the present study. The extracts are delivered by American politicians including Donald Trump, *Barack Obama*, *George Bush*, Mitt Romney, Sarah Sanders, and Dave Lenihan. As far as the main topic of the American speeches is concerned, different topics and themes are raised. Then, the data collected to be analysed are represented by 12 extracts, distributed depending on their speakers. The data are divided into extracts and each extract stands for one particular American President or politician. The extracts are numbered for the sake of distinction and ease of reference. The specific reason behind choosing these

ten American extracts from these speeches (to be the data of the present study) is pervaded in the fact that they are critical, risky, and sometimes, they cause highly heated conflict or controversy.

Data Description

As far as data description is concerned, specific features of the data need to be illustrated with regard to the contextual factors that influence any communication. All politicians are prone to make slips of the tongue in the heat of the moment. The speakers of the extracts are American politicians and some of them are Presidents of the United States of America (USA), including Donald Trump, *Barack Obama*, and *George Bush*. The American politician's speeches have not been neutral or natural. Rather, they have been manipulatively employed to express positive or negative ideologies towards different political aspects and in different settings. Thus, the data are of considerable importance since tongue slips may lead to risky consequences in the political realm and they will, of course, be the subject matter of journalists, broadcasters, and all those who are engaged in the media.

Data Analysis

Data analysis is conducted by means of the phono-discourse model which is sketched in Figure 1. This model is the basic instrument employed in the present study to conduct the analysis of the data to obtain a full analysis of political tongue slips in political speeches. It is worth mentioning here that tongue slips are highlighted in **bold**. Consequently, the following sections are dedicated to the phono-discourse analysis of tongue slips in the American political speeches under scrutiny.

Extract No. 1

“It's very close to my heart because I was down there and I watched our police and our firemen down on **seven eleven 7\11** down the World Trade Center it's very close to my heart because I was down there and I watch our police and our firemen down on **seven-eleven 7\11 seven-eleven 7\11** down the World Trade Center right after it came down and I saw the greatest people I've ever seen in action.”

The Speaker: Donald Trump. Website Source A

In Extract 1 above, the USA President, Donald Trump, was on the campaign trail in Buffalo, New York. He was talking about the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks and the police and firefighters who had responded; this is the overall meaning of the extract. Then, he said, "seven eleven (7-11)" instead of nine eleven (9-11). Donald Trump misspoke since he called

the attacks of 11 September 2001 as "7-11" instead of "9-11". Seven eleven (7-11) is the name of a chain of convenience stores in the USA. Trump may have confused the World Trade Center with the American international chain of [convenience stores](#) known as '7-Eleven'.

Phonologically, this kind of tongue slip is called substitution and it occurs when one segment is replaced by an intrusive segment. In the above extract, the whole word "nine" is substituted by "seven". This tongue slip causes vagueness and uncertainty in terms of discursive strategies. Moreover, it seems that Trump realises that there is something wrong in his speech because some of the audience smile, but he could not correct himself so that he repeats the same tongue slip again.

In terms of transitivity analysis, Trump appeals to the existential process by repeating the expressions as "I was down there". Additionally, he was a sensor by representing his inner experience since he executes the mental process, which is apparent by means of "I saw" and "I've ever seen".

Extract No. 2

“My people came to me... they said they think it's Russia. I have President Putin; he just said it's not Russia. I will say this: I don't see any reason why it **would** be.”

The Speaker: Donald Trump. Website Source B

In a press conference, the USA President Trump and the Russian President Putin are together on the conference platform, and a reporter asks the USA President Trump the following:

“The President Putin denied having anything to do with the election interference in 2016 and every USA intelligence agency has concluded that Russia did. My first question for you, sir, is, who do you believe?”

Consequently, Trump replies with Extract 2, as above. His replay leads to a controversy and draws a barrage of criticism. This controversy centres on Trump's tongue slip where others accuse him of intended utterance, rather than a tongue slip. In another occasion, Trump says:

“In a key sentence in my remarks, I said the word 'would' instead of 'wouldn't', so the sentence should have been, I don't see any reason why I wouldn't or why it wouldn't be Russia.”

Thus, there is a sort of phonological deletion of "not" where a double negative is required. At the very least, the President gives his supporters some material to rally around by causing vagueness. If the utterance is intended, it is obvious that modal verb conveys Trump's attitude and judgment about the Russian President and the election interference in 2016. Moreover, in relation to transitivity analysis, the verbal process is evident in the use of the expression, "I will say this", so that Trump is the sayer and President Putin is the target. The mental process is also appealed to by Trump when he says, "I don't see any reason".

Extract No. 3

“I will tell you that I left Texas and I left Florida and I left Louisiana and I went to Puerto Rico and I met with the **President** of the Virgin Islands.”

The Speaker: Donald Trump. Website Source C

The occasion of the above extract was the 2017 Values Voter Summit, which took place at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington on 13 October 2017. This is the overall meaning and context of the utterance. What Donald Trump meant to say, was ‘the Governor of the Virgin Islands’, and it is corrected in the official transcript by putting it in brackets. Simply because, the President of the US Virgin Islands is the President of the United States, Donald Trump himself, since The Virgin Islands is a US territory.

Then, this tongue slip is a phonological substitution of one word by completely a different word. Thus, this tongue slip seemed to show confusion on his part as to whether his presidency extended to United States territories such as the Virgin Islands, Guam, and Puerto Rico. Consequently, the quote, "I met with the President of the Virgin Islands", is frequently shared as a sarcastic meme on social media. Furthermore, the material process is obvious by means of the expressions "I left", "I went", and "I met", respectively. Thus, Trump uses this process by means of these verbs that indicate an action, either concrete or abstract.

Extract No. 4

“They work two jobs and sometimes more jobs they sacrifice every day for the **furniture** the future of their children.”

The Speaker: Donald Trump. Website Source D

Praising hardworking Americans, the President, Donald Trump, mixed up the words "future" and "furniture", but clearly hoped that no one would notice. Again, this kind of tongue slip is substitution so that a double shift occurs between the two words. Donald Trump tries to make

the tongue slip seem as if he meant to say the incorrect thing as well as the correct thing. It seems that Trump's most common technique is that after getting a word wrong, he pauses briefly and then he adds the correct word as if both happen to be correct, in the hope that he can style it out.

Extract No. 5

“This administration's unlawful immigration orders earlier this year. **President Obama** is laying out a responsible 24 month phase-out. No permits. Sorry President Trump. No permits will be expiring for another six months and permits will remain active for up to two full years.”

The Speaker: Sarah Sanders. Website Source C

Sarah Sanders is an American [campaign manager](#) and a [political adviser](#) who is the [White House Press Secretary](#) under [President Donald Trump](#). Sanders is the third woman to fill the position. In the above extract, the White House Press Secretary, Sarah Sanders makes a funny slip of the tongue during the press briefing while speaking about *the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)* and said, "President Obama" instead of "Trump". In this case, she makes a substitution, even though she was reading from a script when she commits this tongue slip. In other words, even more disturbing is the fact that she is reading from a prepared text when she delivered the mistaken remark which implies that Obama stands on the mind and mouth in this situation. After a while, she realises her tongue slip and then she employs a disclaimer by apologising and using self-correction when she says, "sorry President Trump".

Extract No. 6

“If asking a billionaire to pay the same tax rate as a **Jew** as a janitor makes me a warrior for the working class.”

The Speaker: Barak Obama. Website Source D

In Extract 6 above, Barak Obama says "Jews" instead of "Janitors". He quickly makes a self-correction after the slip of the tongue. In listening to the video, it is clear that there is not only the nasalisation of the 'u' vowel, but also a short 'n' which is somewhat glottalized due to being cut off by his self-correction. He wrongly asks why a billionaire should pay the same tax as a Jew. Obama makes a slip of the tongue by confusing Jews with janitors in his speech about economy. The President embarrassingly got the two issues mixed-up. Instead of referring to the low tax rate of janitors, Obama said that it was a mistake to have a billionaire pay the

same tax rate as a Jew. The President may have had Jews and money on the brain. He meant to say "janitor", but it came out as "Jew". Those words starting with the letter "J" are confused in his speech. As far as transitivity analysis is concerned, the verbal process is used by means of the use of the verb "asking", which indicates exchanging information.

Extract No. 7

“I want to remind you all that in order to fight and win the war, it requires an expenditure of money that is **commiserate** with keeping a promise to our troops to make sure that they're well-paid, well-trained, well-equipped.”

The Speaker: *George Bush*. Website Source E

In the above extract, Bush confuses a target word with a similar sounding one, so he said "commiserate" instead of "commensurate". In the above statement, Bush substituted the adjective "commensurate" with the sounds-like verb "commiserate". The words have some of the same properties, as the same number of syllables and the same stress pattern. Besides the different grammatical units that these two words belong to, they also differ in meaning. It seems that Bush is not aware of the accurate meaning of the word commiserate, as he used it in at least four other statements. The problem is that some people, not realising the exchange of words, may view this statement insultingly. The two processes of transitivity are used, which are mental and verbal processes. The mental is depicted by the expression "I want to remind you" to show his desire, while the verbal is highlighted by means of expression "keeping a promise".

Extract No. 8

“We want our teachers to be trained so they can meet the obligations, their obligations as teachers. We want them to know how to teach the science of reading. In order to make sure there's not this kind of federal, federal **cuff link**.”

The Speaker: *George Bush*. Website Source F.

In Extract 8 above, it seems as if Bush's memory has failed, so that he did not manage to select the right word. This is evident from repeating the word "federal" twice, as if he was searching for the target word for some time, but unfortunately, without success. He managed to recall one segment "cuff" but produced "cuff link" instead of "handcuff". This tongue slip is substitution and it causes vagueness in the above extract. Repeating the expression "we want" twice highlights the mental process as a process of transitivity in this discourse. Within

this process, there is always a conscious sensor, but on this occasion the sensor fails to control his speech.

Extract No. 9

“I think they **misunderestimated** the compassion of our country, the will, and determination of the commander in chief, too.”

The Speaker: *George Bush*. Website Source G

During his 2001 speech about the 9/11 attacks, Bush incorrectly combined two words by adding the prefix "mis-". This tongue slip is of the type blending or blend. It seems that his first intention was to utter the word "misunderstood" and then he changed it to "underestimated". The outcome of these two words is the non-existent word "misunderestimate". The words have some of the same properties, as the same number of syllables and the same stress pattern, but they are unrelated in meaning so that the output word is nonsense and it causes vagueness. The mental process is a key of the transitivity system of sensing in this extract as Bush starts this extract with "I think", but he does not manage to reveal his thinking clearly and accurately due to the tongue slip that he commits.

Extract No. 10

“Justice was being delivered to a man who **defied** that gift from the Almighty to the people of Iraq.”

The Speaker: *George Bush*. Website Source H

The overall meaning and context of the above extract is that it is taken from a long speech by *George Bush*, who held a press conference in 2003 after the arrest of *Saddam Hussein*. In the above extract, the tongue slip is of the kind of substitution. The word "defied" is a misstep of "denied" and it has some of the same properties assigned to the word "denied". In other words, the tongue slip and the target word are unrelated in meaning, but rather they are phonologically related, and the pair have the same number of syllables. Their pronunciation is close to each other.

Extract No. 11

“Actually, just look at what **Obama** – Osama said just yesterday. He is calling on radicals and jihadists of all the different types, to come together in Iraq. "That is the battlefield. That's the central place", he says. "Come join us under one banner".

The Speaker: Mitt Romney. Website Source I

The above extract is said by Mitt Romney who is an American politician and businessman, serving as the junior United States Senator from Utah since January 2019. He previously served as the 70th Governor of Massachusetts from 2003 to 2007, and he was the Republican Party's nominee for President of the United States in the 2012 election. In an apparent slip of the tongue, Mitt Romney has accused Barack Obama of calling on terrorists to unite in Iraq. He simply misspoke by refereeing to Osama bin Laden as Obama. This tongue slip was risky and critical and it leads to many controversies. Obama later shrugged off this tongue slip [telling the New York Times](#): "I don't pay too much attention to Mitt Romney and apparently, Mitt Romney can switch names just as casually as he switches positions". Thus, the inner ideologies and conflicts of both politicians are revealed as a result of this tongue slip.

Extract No. 12

"She's got the patent resumé of somebody that has serious skill. She loves football, she's African-American, which would be kind of a big coon. A big coon. Oh my God. I totally, totally, totally, totally am sorry for that. I didn't mean that."

The Speaker: Dave Lenihan. Website Source J

The above extract is said by the American politician, political analyst, and radio broadcaster, Dave Lenihan. Because of this tongue slip, he [lost his job](#) over inadvertently uttering a racial slur while discussing the prospect of Condoleezza Rice as Commissioner for the National Football League. Lenihan later claimed that he was aiming to say "coup" and mis-pronounced the word, an explanation that would strike a language scientist as wildly *plausible*. Either of which would have been reasonable words in context, and whose sound similarity would have increased the probability of the substitution. However, it is taken as a negative lexicalisation in political discourse.

Hypotheses Verification

This section aims at briefly bringing the hypotheses of the present study together to be easily checked. Hence, the hypotheses verification is presented in points as follows:

1. The first hypothesis is verified because it was seen that tongue slips exist between linguistic units of the same positions. For example, initial linguistic segments are replaced by another initial linguistic segment. The same generalisation is applied to the middle and final linguistic segments. Additionally, slips appear in similar phonetic units. This means that that the consonants are replaced by consonants, and vowels are replaced by vowels.

Furthermore, the slips occur in similar stress patterns, which signify that stressed syllables are replaced by stressed syllables, and unstressed syllables are replaced by unstressed syllables. Finally, slips of the tongue follow the phonological rules of a language.

2. The second hypothesis is authenticated due to the fact that tongue slips are considered to have more meanings behind the uttered tongue slips as they are linked to the unconscious mind.
3. The third hypothesis is confirmed as shown that some political tongue slips are made as a result of the interference of an unconscious subdued wish or *internal* train of thought.
4. The fourth hypothesis is verified as it is shown that tongue slips cause political outcomes on the person himself or on his governmental or his political party.
5. The fifth hypothesis is verified since the processes of transitivity analysis are mingled within the political speeches including the material, mental, relational, behavioural, verbal, and existential, respectively.

Conclusions

On the grounds of the findings arrived at by the phono-discourse analysis of the data under investigation, several conclusions are presented in accordance with the questions, aims, and hypotheses of the present study. Nonetheless, some other conclusions are arrived at as a by-product of the analyses and they are embraced here for their necessity and usefulness:

1. Tongue slips are natural and everyday experiences and they appear to be a universal experience across cultures and languages.
2. Political tongue slips can imply a shift, exchanges, perseveration, addition, anticipation, deletion, substitution, and bend.
3. The most common tongue slip is substitution which occurs between words that have similar sounds or meanings, so it occurs as a result of a similarity effect.
4. Substitution dominantly occurs more than the other types of tongue slips. It happens because it a bit more complicated, as it can be considered that there are more meanings behind the word error that is made.
5. American politicians rely on some types of clause processes to attain ideological gains including material, mental, relational, behavioural, verbal, and existential. However, when they speak quickly or feel nervous or tired, they may commit tongue slips which hinder these processes and sometimes cause vagueness.
6. Even a native speaker, a politician, or a President may not be a talented orator and master of his mother tongue. Furthermore, the line between the correct and incorrect statement is

very thin and even a tiny mistake which is presented by the President can cause huge confusions.

7. There are two major political outcomes of tongue slips of American politicians and they can be divided into two levels which are the personal level and the governmental or party level. Thus, American politicians have to bear responsibility for their tongue slips, usually in one of the three ways which are self-correction, apology, or explanation.
8. Some tongue slips can be very risky and lead to lose the political position, as in the case of Dave Lenihan (see Extract No. 10), so some will suffer in their future career because of their tongue slips. However, if they self-correct, apologise, or explain, the slips of the tongue have little impact for their future political career.
9. Some tongue slips lead to perilous political outcomes since they can cause a split in the diplomatic relations between a particular country and other countries. Political tongue slips can be considered as a means of attack against the Government and government party or parties by the opposition.
10. Tongue slips are kinds of speech problems that happen unconsciously and the speaker has a difficulty in remembering the suitable word. It is a matter of confusion with words that have similar sounds, morphemes, or meanings.
11. Tongue slips can produce an acceptable sequence of language structure which has a linguistic importance. Thus, there is a strong relationship between tongue slips and linguistic fields so that they can be mingled and realised within the realm of phonology and discourse analysis.
12. Tongue slips are matters of phonological issues including voicing, nasality, voicelessness features, syllable deletion, and syllable reversal, which obey the structural law of syllable place.
13. Within the domain of discourse analysis, tongue slips are critical in public political American speeches as they lead to negative ideologies rather than positive ones.
14. The discourse matters of disclaimer, implication, vagueness, and negative lexicalisation are realised in the American political discourse, as far as tongue slips are concerned.
15. Tongue slips are verbal mistakes that are considered to be linked to the unconscious mind. So, tongue slips are not considered as mistakes at all, but instead they are unconscious thoughts that are coming out in speech. Thus, they are not only concerned with sounds, but also with some critical, ideological, or discursal issues.
16. American politicians tongue slips have meanings and they are not really mistakes at all, but their unconscious mind slipping through into their speech. Thus, when they pronounce tongue slips, their unconscious mind is crawling into their speech and substituting some words for others.
17. In regards to the operational definition of tongue slips, which is born out of the present study, it has proven its effectiveness in manifesting tongue slips as *a phono-discourse phenomenon which results in phonetic and phonological misuses that require contextual information for their interpretations.*

18. Moreover, the present study shows the efficiency of the definition of "political tongue slip" as *the politician's verbal misstep which becomes a political problem or which negatively affects the politician, where the misuse in question is usually committed in a public speech*. Therefore, the operational definitions of tongue slip and political tongue slip are successful in their scope in accordance with the aims and hypotheses of the present study.
19. As far as the developed phono-discourse model of tongue slips is concerned, it has proven its workability and comprehensiveness as a successful instrument used to examine political tongue slips in American political discourse, as it mingles the phonological aspects of tongue slips with some strategies of discourse analysis.



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Website Sources of the Data

Extract No. 1

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Extract No. 2

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