

Political Incorrectness

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Abstract

The article focuses on metaphors in political discourse. Van Dijk (2001) views political discourse as a class of genres defined by a social domain, namely by politics. Though the domain has fuzzy boundaries, he suggests that it can be narrowed down to the set of activities politicians engage in. The study of the structures of political discourse (topic, coherence, arguments, lexical choice, rhetorical features and others) may reveal much about the unique character of the discourse. My approach in this paper is not ideological since I restrict my analysis to constellations of metaphoric clusters in one political discourse which I consider prototypical for the Romanian parliamentary declarations. My objective is to analyse the meaning of conceptual metaphors in the context of their use, and to show how they construe a bridge between thinking and speaking, speaking and culture. The way politicians speak is part of who we are.