
COVID-19 Runs America: The Representation of Donald J. Trump in The Guardian News Article

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ABSTRACT

As COVID-19 globally spreads from one country to another, the commitment to resolve the crisis has ultimately fallen on world leaders. Consequently, recent public health and safety policies may become the target of controversies, in which people and media may question the government's stance. This research examines Donald J. Trump's representation in a newspaper article entitled "Coronavirus in America: Why the US Has Struggled to Tackle a Growing Crisis," published by The Guardian in 2020. The article discusses Trump's involvement in the issue of COVID-19 in the United States, in which the containment of the crisis has yet to be successful. The research employs Teun A. van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), emphasizing the three structural levels of news discourse: macrostructure, microstructure, and superstructure. Next, the qualitative descriptive research method is utilized, and the data are collected using library research. In terms of findings, it is found that the three structural aspects portray Trump in a negative light. It is hoped that the research can further contribute to CDA to COVID-19.

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1. Introduction

The year 2020 marks the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak across the globe. Given the fact that COVID-19 is highly infectious and deadly (Galbadage et al., 2020), the disease has become a major public health crisis for every country's leader and government to be able to appropriately address, handle, and adapt so that public order and safety can be realized. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has also impacted other basic foundations of human lives, some of which are politics, economy, and education; as a result, this complicates the matter further (Wang, 2020). Singh and Misra (2020) suggested that COVID-19 is likely to be more adverse in developing countries compared to developed ones, as evident in the global ranking for the number of reported cases in which Brazil and India respectively rank second and third as of August 2020. However, it is also found out that developed countries appear to be struggling; in the same ranking, the United States is in the first position (Singh & Misra, 2020). Due to this fact, the country has garnered worldwide attention from numerous newspaper media.

Since the end of the Second World War, the United States has been traditionally considered one of the most important countries in assuming international leadership and upholding world order (O'Rourke, 2021). Considering the United States' substantial worldwide influence, the researchers find it interesting to find out whether this phenomenon is in line with the newspaper article or not. Furthermore, the president at the time was Trump, whose presidency is infamous for controversies and questionable decisions. With Trump as the main subject of analysis, the research can lead to an intriguing discussion.

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The research involves one newspaper article entitled “Coronavirus in America: Why the US Has Struggled to Tackle a Growing Crisis,” which is written by Oliver Milman and published in *The Guardian* on 24 March 2020. The article reports the bleak state of the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic taking place in the United States with the root cause mainly being associated with Trump, especially his lacking preparation, contradicting facts, and disregarding potential dangers. As *The Guardian* is based in the United Kingdom, it will be compelling to find out how an outside perspective provides a commentary on the COVID-19 crisis taking place in the United States. In terms of reliability, *The Guardian* was established in 1821 and started in Manchester, England, the United Kingdom (The Guardian, n.d.). To this day, the newspaper has achieved numerous national and international accolades in professional journalism, among which are the Press Awards, British Journalism Awards, and Amnesty Media Awards (The Guardian, n.d.).

The research primarily concerns representation. According to Hall (2013), representation involves language as an approach to reflecting elements in the world into meaningful concepts. In addition, these elements can be in the form of objects, people, and events. In relation to the media, representation can merely reflect a subjective portrayal of real-life figures and ideologies (Fürsich, 2010). Considering the subjectivity, language use in news discourse can contain specific bias; therefore, the represented can either be positive or negative. In the analysis, the researchers apply Teun A. van Dijk’s Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) as the main approach. CDA is a study that allows discourse analysts to apply diverse linguistic areas in order to investigate and comprehend how social power, dominance, and inequality interact with one another in discourse about socio-political issues (van Dijk, 1993). This research, in particular, primarily focuses on newspapers which belong to van Dijk’s (1988) categorization of news discourse. van Dijk (1988) suggested that this type of discourse contains extensive information which can be linguistically derived in order to reveal certain characteristics that the media intends to implicitly convey. van Dijk (1985) further expanded the structure of news discourse into macrostructure, microstructure, and superstructure; this distinction enables the researchers to take into account linguistic features and strategies to uncover how an individual or idea is represented.

van Dijk (1998) explained that macrostructure mainly deals with the global topic of discourse, which functions to deliver general information which summarizes the entire content of an article. In news discourse, the global topic can only be derived from two sections, namely the headline and lead (van Dijk, 1988). Next, microstructure deals with local linguistic meanings which can be obtained from words, phrases, clauses, sentences, and sounds (van Dijk, 1988). Furthermore, these linguistic units are especially significant if they form a pattern or relate to one another (van Dijk, 1988). van Dijk (1988) suggested that there are four aspects capable of analyzing such linguistic features: stylistics, syntax, semantics, and rhetoric. Within these aspects, active sentence structure, evidentiality, and number game are the three analytical tools employed in the research. Lastly, the superstructure investigates the occurrence of schematic categories within discourse so as to reveal its global organization (van Dijk, 1988). The schematic categories that can take place are Summary, Main Events, Backgrounds, Verbal Reactions, and Comments (van Dijk, 1988).

Using van Dijk’s CDA, previous researchers took on different scopes and methods in examining linguistic features within news discourse. As found in research entitled “Metaphorical Representation of COVID-19 Pandemic in Kenya’s Newspaper Headlines,” Mulonzi et al. (2023) placed an emphasis on the analysis of the macrostructure aspect. They analyzed a number of headlines from two local Kenyan newspapers. The researchers managed to elaborate the macrostructure of the two newspapers by revealing that *The Standard Newspaper* largely applied metaphors in order to represent the danger of COVID-19 to the readers, while *Daily Nation* opted for simpler language. The difference in portraying two different ideas is in line with van Dijk’s (1985) argument that certain media may exhibit language use that can reveal their subjective views. Furthermore, another interesting finding in this research is the fact that the use of rhetoric enhances the message further through a persuasive effect.

Other researchers highlighted the news schemata in the superstructure aspect. For instance, Sutomo (2014) in “News Text Genre of the Bali Times” in a specific way analyzed the superstructure within some selected news texts of *Bali Times*. The researcher discovered that the data tended to follow van Dijk’s (1988) established pattern of news discourse. In addition, the researcher succeeded in revealing that this kind of schemata is purposeful for ease of disseminating information to the readers. This finding is supported by Ludji et al. (2021) in “Discourse Superstructure Analysis on COVID-19 in Public

Spaces of Kupang City,” who confirmed that discourse in general also displays the same consistent pattern and function of providing ease of communication, despite in different forms.

In one study entitled “Representation of Indonesia’s Judiciary of Ahok Blasphemy Verdict in The New York Times Article,” Nurhaliza and Tanto (2019) conducted a broader research scope as it covers all of the three aspects of macrostructure, microstructure, and superstructure of a newspaper article. In their findings, they concluded that in the three aspects, the portrayal of Indonesia’s judiciary is represented negatively. As the study utilized all of van Dijk’s news discourse structures, the research results are more thorough and critical. Nevertheless, looking at the microstructure analysis, the researchers only investigated the use of lexicon as its primary linguistic tool due to substantial implications contained in select words and phrases.

In another study entitled “Discourse Analysis of van Dijk on Online News Text of Reynhard Sinaga Case on CNN Indonesia News”, Yulika (2021) employed more linguistic tools as she covered semantics, syntax, stylistics, and rhetoric, which led to uncovering that CNN Indonesia remained neutral in representing Reynhard Sinaga.

In an effort to form more complete and critical results as well as cover the gap of the previous studies, in this present research, the researchers aim to examine *The Guardian* newspaper article entitled “Coronavirus in America: Why the US Has Struggled to Tackle a Growing Crisis” in order to find out the representation of Donald J. Trump in all the three aspects of news structure, namely the macrostructure, microstructure, and superstructure. In revealing Trump’s representation in the microstructure analysis, the researchers utilize three linguistic tools, active sentence structure, evidentiality, and number game so that a more thorough picture of Trump’s representation can be obtained.

2. Methods

This research applies the qualitative descriptive method for the purpose of identifying the recurring non-numerical patterns of data and processing them to form the findings (Merriam, 1998; Ray & Mill, 2003, as cited in Bradshaw et al., 2017; Nassaji, 2017); in this case, the recurring linguistic features are analyzed to reveal the representation of Donald J. Trump revolving the context of his handling the COVID-19 in the United States. At the same time, the research can also be classified as textual analysis because I analyze a newspaper article as the select discourse while applying particular linguistic theories. This is in line with the theory of Fairclough (2003), in which it is explained that textual analysis is an approach to exploring the phenomena and their effects within research materials based on transdisciplinary knowledge Fairclough (2003) also mentioned that textual analysis is important in the field of discourse analysis as it allows research themes to relate with social and language theories. As the research data of the research are gathered and processed using available resource materials such as in the form of newspaper articles, journal articles, and reference books (Meldy et al., 2020), my research can be considered library research.

In the research, macrostructure, microstructure, and superstructure are analyzed. First, in the macrostructure analysis, the researchers will focus on strictly examining the headline and lead in order to find out the global topic of the newspaper article. In the two sections, the language use will be examined to reveal specific linguistic features which the newspaper writer employs to portray Trump. In this case, the features are choice of words and repetition which will then be related to the dictionary definitions as well as the context concerning Trump’s primary role and actions in handling the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States. Based on the overall analysis, the researchers will be able to critically conclude the global topic which can then lead to the representation of Trump.

Second, the process will then be continued to the microstructure analysis, in which three analytical tools, namely active sentence structure, evidentiality, and number game, will be applied. Respectively, the linguistic features to be examined are active sentences with Trump as the Subject, paragraphs citing notable sources, and sets of notable numbers in specific relations to COVID-19 and public health concerns. It should be noted that only the linguistic features suggesting the involvement of Trump will be considered so that the research data can become relevant in yielding his representation.

Third, the analysis ends with the superstructure. The researchers will start by extensively reading and comprehending the newspaper article as a whole. Next, the newspaper article will have each

paragraph identified and sorted based on the following five schematic categories: Summary, Main Events, Backgrounds, Verbal Reactions, and Comments. Afterward, the schematic categories are calculated, and the most dominant category will be regarded as the most significant to represent the data of the superstructure analysis. Lastly, the most dominant category will be discussed further by contextualizing the roles of notable parties so that Trump's representation can be clearly portrayed.

3. Results and Discussion

In addressing the findings, the research is divided into three structural levels of van Dijk's news discourse consisting of macrostructure, microstructure, and superstructure.

3.1. Macrostructure

In the macrostructure analysis, the headline and lead are subsequently analyzed to derive the global topic and reveal Donald J. Trump's representation. The headline of this newspaper is "Coronavirus in America: Why the US Has Struggled to Tackle a Growing Crisis." Based on the headline, it can be inferred that the coronavirus outbreak taking place in the United States is an alarming, ongoing issue which is difficult to resolve. This is based on the definition of the word "crisis," which is "a situation that has reached a critical phase" (Merriam-Webster, n.d.). To contextualize, when the coronavirus outbreak reaches its critical phase, it is claimed to be challenging to deal with due to its fast transmission rate, contribution to worsening underlying health conditions, and symptoms requiring immediate hospital resources (Jordan et al., 2020; Sen-Crowe et al., 2020).

Besides the word "crisis," the word "growing" employed by the writer expresses the intensity of the coronavirus outbreak. In *Merriam-Webster* (n.d.), "growing" means "becoming greater in prevalence, popularity, or influence." It can be concluded that the outbreak continues to become worse and worse than it already is, implying that it may also start becoming more and more difficult to deal with. In addition, the writer further puts an emphasis on the setting and issue through the repetition of two different descriptions respectively: "America-US" and "Coronavirus-crisis." This suggests the important point of what the article is mainly about, which is the crisis caused by the coronavirus that takes place in the United States of America.

In the headline, it is also mentioned that the United States is struggling in facing the continuing coronavirus outbreak. As stated by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2014), the United States has been classified as a developed country, which is apparent from its high income, developed economy, and great infrastructure. As such, it is intriguing to find out more about why such a stable country as the United States is struggling to handle a coronavirus outbreak, especially because the country has more than sufficient resources.

Nevertheless, there are some missing pieces of key information in the headline, and this results in raising the speculations for the following information:

- 1) what growing crises are being faced by the United States;
- 2) the causes of the United States' struggle;
- 3) most importantly, who or what causes the United States to have a crisis.

Moreover, the lead can be found in paragraph (1) of the article, which states:

- 1) A lack of preparation, deep-rooted dysfunction and a reckless president – now the US faces being the center of the pandemic.

Next, the lead reveals the information of the last two previously-mentioned speculations. It is now quite clear that the causes of the crises are a lack of preparation, deep-rooted dysfunction, and the only figure mentioned to be responsible for this is the reckless president whose name is not specifically mentioned.

Supported by this information, it can be concluded that the most important figure in running and managing the United States as a whole is the president. As a result, the president ultimately has the duty of preventing and resolving the crisis in accordance with the Constitution, especially since the Constitution prohibits deprivations of life (Gostin et al., 2020). Concerning the president in question, the news article was published in 2020; therefore, it was during Donald J. Trump's term. According to Duignan (2021), his presidency lasted from 2017 until early 2021.

In the lead, there are words that contain negative connotations describing the qualities of Trump's handling of the coronavirus outbreak: "lack of preparation," "deep-rooted dysfunction," and "reckless president." First, the word "lack" means "to be deficient or missing" (Merriam-Webster, n.d.), and "preparation" refers to "the action or process of making something ready for use or service (Merriam-Webster, n.d.). Therefore, this creates the impression that Trump does not regard the coronavirus outbreak as an important state of emergency to be previously prepared for.

Second, "deep-rooted" means "deeply implanted or established" (Merriam-Webster, n.d.), while "dysfunction" is "impaired or abnormal functioning" (Merriam-Webster, n.d.). Thus, this refers to Trump's term being impaired before the outbreak and even during the outbreak. The former is evident in Trump's decision in disbanding the National Security Council pandemic unit in 2018, which was developed in 2016 by Obama in response to a potential global pandemic (Riechmann, 2020; Shields, 2020). Additionally, Trump had spent his whole term actively trying to dismantle the Affordable Care Act by having imposed taxes and fees so that healthcare services could capitalize on the free market (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, n.d.). As a result, this has left approximately thirty million Americans not able to afford health insurance as of 2021 (Tanne, 2021). On the other hand, the latter is proven when Trump prioritized the recovery of the stock market by downplaying the coronavirus happening globally as the common flu (Cathey, 2020; Cole, 2020).

Third, the word "reckless" means "careless of consequences" (Merriam-Webster, n.d.). As a president, Trump is illustrated to be a figure who does not consider whether his action can potentially make the United States fall apart. These qualities are further emphasized by the fact that the United States faces the potential condition of being the center of the pandemic. From these, it is evident that the writer is trying to put an emphasis on Trump himself as an incompetent president who potentially endangers the well-being of his citizens.

Based on the analysis of the headline and lead, it is evident that the global topic of the newspaper article is "Donald J. Trump's incompetence as a president is the reason why the United States faces a crisis during the pandemic." In conclusion, in the macrostructure, Trump is negatively represented.

3.2. *Microstructure*

In this section, the analysis is further categorized according to the application of three linguistic analytical tools, active sentence structure, evidentiality, and number game.

3.2.1. *Active sentence structure*

Nelson (2019) stated that active sentence structure or generally known as active voice is a type of sentence structure that follows the order of "Subject + Verb + Direct Object" with "Indirect Object," "Object Complement," and "Adjunct" as the elements that can be optionally placed inside the structure to provide additional information. As the Subject is positioned at the beginning, the element can be perceived to have more power, especially in comparison to the Direct Object (Fajri, 2017).

Table 1. Data of active sentence structure

No	Data
1	(para. 5) Trump (S) initially (Adj.) referred to (V) media coverage of the outbreak (IO) as a " hoax " (DO) before banning travel from China, where the virus originated, and claiming it had been nearly vanquished on US soil.
2	(para. 6) The Trump administration (S) previously (Adj.) dismantled (V) a federal team working on pandemics (DO) and cut back (V) a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) group based in China tasked with tracking new threats such as Covid-19. (DO)

As can be examined from the select data, Donald J. Trump is the Subject of the active sentence construction; thus, he is associated as the doer of the actions. This indicates that he has a high degree of influence and role in the involvement of the actions being done in data (1) until (3) above.

First, in Datum 1, "Trump initially referred to media coverage of the outbreak as a "hoax" before banning travel from China, where the virus originated, and claiming it had been nearly vanquished on

US soil,” the verb “refer to... as” is defined as “to call (something or someone) by (a specified name or title)” (Merriam-Webster, n.d.). By itself, it expresses no indication of either a positive or negative connotative meaning. Nevertheless, following the verb is the indirect object “media coverage of the outbreak” and the direct object “hoax,” which is “something accepted or established by fraud or fabrication” (Merriam-Webster, n.d.). Calling media coverage of the outbreak a hoax is a notable allegation, especially if claimed by such an important figure as the president. Trump, however, does not specify which media covering the outbreak is responsible for the hoax, implying that all media of any type in the United States are reporting untrustworthy coronavirus outbreak news. In this particular case, in fact, the World Health Organization, which is considered one of such media, has both covered the coronavirus outbreak and confirmed it to be a factual report based on global scientific research in a virtual press conference held on 11 March 2020 (World Health Organization, 2020).

Second, there are two verbs containing negative connotations in Datum 2, “The Trump administration previously dismantled a federal team working on pandemics and cut back a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) group based in China tasked with tracking new threats such as COVID-19.” First, Merriam-Webster (n.d.) defines “dismantle” as “to destroy the integrity or functioning of” with the direct object being “a federal team working on pandemics.” Second, the verb “cut back” is “to do less of something, or use something in smaller amounts, especially money” (Cambridge, n.d.). The direct object affected is “a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) group based in China tasked with tracking new threats such as COVID-19.” That being said, these words negatively suggest that Trump is accountable for making the teams ensuring safety and information flow for the benefit of the United States not effectively function anymore. Having analyzed the data above, it can be seen that Trump has a tendency to be positioned as the active subject with negative attributions. Therefore, Trump is represented negatively.

3.2.2. Evidentiality

van Dijk (2007) stated that evidentiality is a type of analysis evaluating a speaker’s claim, which can be proven as legitimate if it is supported by credible evidence and relevant sources. It should also be noted that the proof being used has the potential to express the ideology of a speaker (van Dijk, 2007).

Table 2. Data of evidentiality

No	Data
1	(para. 1) A lack of preparation, deep-rooted dysfunction and a reckless president – now the US faces being the center of the pandemic. (para. 4) More than 46,000 people in the US have been diagnosed with Covid-19 and nearly 600 have died. On Monday, for the first time, more than 100 people in the US died in a single day. The sharp acceleration in cases – just two weeks ago the official number was less than 2,000 – has led to the WHO warning that the US is overtaking countries such as Italy as the global hotspot for the virus.
2	(para. 3) Coronavirus has raced across the American continent with the aid of a chronic lack of preparation, deep-rooted dysfunction in the US healthcare system, and a president who has repeatedly dismissed the crisis and is now looking to scale back containment efforts in favour of restarting economic activity. (para. 8) Muddled messaging from the White House, where Trump has often contradicted the sombre warnings of his top infectious disease expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci , has done little to Americans stop congregating on beaches or in shopping malls.

In the table above, there are two data of evidentiality found. First, it can be seen that in Datum 1, the writer presents an argument in paragraph (1), whose main topic is that the United States faces being the center of the pandemic. It turns out that the claim is valid due to the fact that it is proven by the World Health Organization. The number of infected citizens and mortality as well as the surging number of cases show that the country is becoming a global coronavirus hotspot; in other words, the center of the pandemic. Given the organization’s long-standing background in gathering information about and dealing with diseases and outbreaks, the World Health Organization is a reliable source (Columbia University, n.d.).

Second, in Datum 2, the main argument is contained in paragraph (3), in which Trump has repeatedly dismissed the coronavirus crisis. In paragraph (8), it is revealed as proof that the argument is true as he has contradicted the warning concerning the virus. Dr. Anthony Fauci is indicated to be the source of such proof as he is the one who has presented the warnings. Fauci has been the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases since the year 1984. He has many professional experiences dealing with infectious diseases, one of which is respiratory infections which correlate with the coronavirus outbreak (“Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., NIAID Director,” n.d.). Therefore, his position in giving an argument concerning the outbreak is valid. After analyzing the data of evidentiality, the arguments including the speakers are, in fact, reliable. These prove that the COVID-19 outbreak is a pressing matter that should not be underplayed, resulting in Trump’s arguments within the newspaper articles being untrustworthy. Therefore, the data represent Trump negatively.

3.2.3. Number Game

Number game is an analytical tool that displays numbers and statistics in order to create a perception that certain information is credible and objective (Khan et al., 2019). In discourse, van Dijk (2000) added that numbers can also act as a rhetorical device that can function to emphasize the degree or extent of a phenomenon.

Table 3. Data of number game

No	Data
1	(para. 4) More than 46,000 people in the US have been diagnosed with Covid-19 and nearly 600 have died . On Monday, for the first time, more than 100 people in the US died in a single day . The sharp acceleration in cases – just two weeks ago the official number was less than 2,000 – has led to the WHO warning that the US is overtaking countries such as Italy as the global hotspot for the virus.
2	(para. 10) These shortages have only worsened pre-existing problems. Nearly one in 10 Americans have no health insurance, while a widespread lack of sick pay across the country has forced many ill people into work despite the risk of spreading the virus.

In the table above, there are two number game data. First, in Datum 1, there are three instances of number game that depict how adverse the COVID-19 pandemic is in the United States. The numbers include 46,000 having been diagnosed with COVID-19, 600 having died of the virus, and a first-time record of more than 100 people having died in a single day. As Galbadage et al. (2020) suggested that COVID-19 is a deadly and highly infectious coronavirus strain, and these numbers may massively spike in a short span of time if no appropriate containment measures are taken (Schuchat & CDC COVID-19 Response Team, 2020; Galbadage et al., 2020). It should be noted that these numbers only account for reported cases, so there can be more cases left unidentified which may increase as well, especially in regard to the United States’ lack of widespread COVID-19 testing kits. In addition, March 2020, as indicated in the news article date, counts as the early phase of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States; therefore, such cases are considered to be urgent to control (Schuchat & CDC COVID-19 Response Team, 2020).

There is another number game in this datum, in which it is mentioned that less than 2,000 officials handled the pandemic condition. When being paralleled with the previous number game data, the current officials to help deal with 46,000 COVID-19 infected people are definitely not enough. This problem is further exacerbated due to the fact that the officials, mainly field workers, were prone to become infected themselves as a result of a massive lack of personal protective equipment and limited physical distancing (Ehrlich et al., 2020). As such, the two numbers show a contrast which demonstrates that there is a lack of preparation and management to handle the pandemic in the United States.

Second, Datum 2 of number game shows that nearly one in 10 Americans having no health insurance; in other words, the number can represent nearly 10% of Americans. For a developed country, the United States lacks the necessity to ensure all of the citizens’ well-being during a public health crisis. In comparison, another developed country, Canada, only around 0,53-1,31% (200,000-500,000 in 38,037,204 as of 2020) are reported to have no health insurance (Ore, 2020; Statistics Canada, 2021). Therefore, a great number of uninsured citizens in the United States may face difficulties in having

access to healthcare, which can worsen the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States. Based on the analysis, the COVID-19 situation in the United States is depicted to be something negative and Trump has clear involvement with it. As a result, Trump is negatively represented.

3.3. Superstructure

The newspaper article consists of 21 paragraphs. However, as there are paragraphs that can be considered to have more than one schematic category, the superstructure deals with 23 data, which exclude the headline and lead. From the 23 data, there are the following schematic categories: four Main Events (17%), seven Backgrounds (31%), nine Verbal Reactions (39%), and three Comments (13%). Therefore, the most dominant category is Verbal Reactions. van Dijk (1988) stated that Verbal Reactions are a schematic category that features paraphrased or quoted opinions stated by news participants, for example, political leaders. In addition, Verbal Reactions can function in reinforcing the objectivity and importance of news discourse should trustworthy sources are cited (van Dijk, 1988).

Looking at the sources, the data feature the statements cited from Donald J. Trump as the president of the United States, Christopher Sellers as a Stony Brook University professor, Dr. Deborah Birx as the COVID-19 response coordinator under Trump, Andrew Cuomo as the New York state governor, and the World Health Organization. Next, Trump's statements are discussed first. There are three statements talking about the United States being in control of the COVID-19 pandemic and the country's swift recovery from it. In paragraph (1), Trump says that the United States has complete control over COVID-19. He also has another claim in paragraph (5), asserting that media reports on the pandemic are a hoax and that the United States has become almost free of the virus. Lastly, in paragraph (19), he reassures the people that the United States is able to withstand the economic impact of COVID-19, and that the country will recover soon. As these statements appear to suggest positive representations of Trump's addressing and handling of the pandemic, it can be concluded that Trump attempts to represent himself in a positive light. However, Trump's account must be ignored because it is too subjective. It is clear that the COVID-19 issue revolves around Trump; thus, there is likely a bias favoring himself. In addition, Trump's statements contradict the Verbal Reactions made by the other sources which are analyzed in the following paragraphs.

In terms of reputation, Sellers, Dr. Birx, Cuomo, and the World Health Organization are all credible sources. Based on these sources' statements, there seem to be negative representations pointing to Trump. The paragraphs are divided into two aspects: the urgency of the United States being overtaken by COVID-19 and Trump's ignorance. In the first aspect, the World Health Organization in paragraph (2) warns that the United States is vulnerable to COVID-19, and it is indeed true as the organization follows up in paragraph (4) that the United States is becoming the global hotspot for the virus. As the warnings are not properly acknowledged by Trump, the state of New York becomes one of the states with a high number of COVID-19 cases, as claimed by its state governor Andrew Cuomo in paragraphs (7) and (8). In paragraph (12), Dr. Birx supports this by having given a special warning to New York state citizens due to the severity of the pandemic.

In the second aspect, there are two paragraphs that suggest that the COVID-19 pandemic is the consequence of Trump's ignorance. In paragraph (7), Sellers states that the Trump administration has continuously compromised the Centers for Disease Control of Prevention, resulting in the lack of preparation to effectively deal with the pandemic. Furthermore, in Datum 8, Cuomo mentions that Fema and the Trump administration do not manage to send 30,000 ventilators despite the state desperately needing them, which Cuomo adds that they do not understand how severe the pandemic is in the state of New York. Thus, these statements from the two aspects demonstrate that Trump is lacking a complete understanding of how a pandemic can affect the United States, especially when it comes to dealing with it. Since the quoted credible sources express negatively regarding this, Trump is negatively represented in the news article. Besides, as there are Verbal Reactions from many perspectives from varying reputable positions, the news article can be considered mostly objective.

4. Conclusions

Based on the findings above, the negative representation of Donald J. Trump is evident. In the macrostructure analysis, the global topic derived from the headline and lead implicitly suggests that Trump is the root cause of the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States. As the negative connotations are not apparent, the researchers need to utilize dictionary meanings and social contexts in order to uncover Trump's final representation. It is also worth commending because it is likely the writer's implicit language use allows for drawing more readers of various political ideologies to read as the bias against Trump is obscured at the beginning. Next, the microstructure analysis demonstrates that there are various linguistic features, as analyzed using active sentence structure, evidentiality, and number game, that the writer applies in writing the article, allowing the readers to be more engaged in reading further. Not only can the article become more interesting, but it also reinforces the significance of the COVID-19 issue to be taken more seriously. The last analysis in the superstructure aspect results in Trump's negative representation through the most dominant occurrences of Verbal Reactions. The researchers find that employing such a schematic category is an intriguing strategy because it emphasizes Trump's ignorance and lack of knowledge about COVID-19 due to featuring reputable sources that contradict Trump's statements.

Still, it should be noted that the research contains certain limitations due to time constraints. First, the researchers only consider one *The Guardian* news article discussing one specific topic as the source of data; accordingly, it is not possible for the findings to objectively generalize that *The Guardian* views Trump as generally unfavorable or specifically so regarding the particular Covid-19 pandemic. To make the findings more objective and concrete, it is suggested that future researchers should involve more than one news article. Second, the research is limited to applying three analytical tools. As such, further research can use other tools to uncover remaining specific linguistic features.

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