

Semantic Role Analysis of Provocative Political
Semantic Role Analysis of Provocative Political
Discourse: A Case Study on Netanyahu's UN Address
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Abstract

This research uses semantic role analysis to analyze Netanyahu's provocative political speech in the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly, on 22nd September 2023. To achieve this aim, the semantic role analysis proposed by Jackson (2017) in *Grammar and Meaning: A Semantic Approach to English Grammar* is adopted to analyze the data under investigation. The qualitative method appears in the semantic role analysis, while the quantitative method appears in the analysis of numerical data. The data under investigation are extracts of Netanyahu's UN address entitled 'On the Cusp of Historic Saudi-Israel Peace' on 22nd September 2023. The focus is on the excerpts where Netanyahu provokes the UN international community against Iran and Palestine States. The UAM Corpus Tool 3.3x 2007 developed by Mick O'Donnell and the Antconc Software 3.5.8 (2019) provided by Laurence Anthony are used in the quantitative analysis to present the types of semantic situations, semantic roles, and circumstances in numerical data. The results of the data analysis indicate that the provocative political discourse under investigation is characterized by the semantic situation of action as the most recurrent type, followed by the semantic situation of state. The semantic situation of the event is absent from the provocative political speech under investigation. The most recurrent participant roles are the affected, the agentive, the recipient, the

attribute, and the resultant. Other participant roles detected in the data under investigation are the external causer, the locative participant, the instrument, the positioner, and the temporal participant. Finally, contingency is the most recurrent type of circumstance, followed by temporal, locative, process, degree, and respect circumstances.

Keywords

Semantic roles, agentive, affected, recipient, resultant, circumstances, semantic situations, semantic circumstance

Semantic Role Analysis of Provocative Political Introduction

The language of provocative political discourse is the most dangerous form of discourse because of its national and international crucial results. In provocative political discourse, politicians manipulate language to motivate the international community to support their countries either economically or militarily. Through analysis of semantic situations, roles, and circumstance, it would be clear how politicians exploit their provocative political speeches to motivate the international community to do future actions in favor of their countries. It is through provocative political discourse that politicians play victims' roles and convince their audience to support them against other countries.

Aims of the study

The current research paper targets the semantic role analysis of provocative political discourse. It examines the provocative political discourse based on three dimensions, namely semantic situation types, semantic participant roles, and semantic circumstances. It provides a typology of the semantic situations encoded in the discourse under investigation. In addition, it explores the English aspect as a persuasive device in the provocative political discourse, namely the internal temporal nature of the semantic situations delineated in the discourse under investigation, either as closed completed events or as unfinished ongoing processes. Moreover, it seeks to illustrate how semantic role analysis exposes the politicians' intended meanings, the kinds of nominal arguments characteristic of the provocative political discourse and the implications communicated to the audience via the latent participants, i.e., implicitly mentioned. Briefly, the current research paper seeks to find out the distinctive situation types, semantic roles, and

circumstances of the provocative political discourse to introduce a semantic typology of the situation types, semantic roles, and circumstances characteristic of the provocative political discourse.

Methodology and Data of the Study

The current research paper adopts Jackson's (2017) approach of semantic role analysis as presented in his *Grammar and Meaning: A Semantic Approach to English Grammar*. It seeks to analyze Netanyahu's UN address entitled 'On the Cusp of Historic Saudi-Israel Peace' on 22nd September 2023. The qualitative and the quantitative methods are applied in this analysis. The qualitative approach appears in the semantic role analysis and the discussion of the types of semantic situations, roles and circumstances detected in the data under investigation. The quantitative approach appears in the numerical data used to provide generalisations of the distinctive semantic situations, roles, and circumstances of the provocative political discourse.

Jackson's (2017) approach is chosen for a variety of reasons. To the researcher's knowledge, it has not been applied on Netanyahu's UN address: 'On the Cusp of Historic Saudi-Israel Peace' on 22nd September 2023. Second, Jackson's (2017) approach for semantic role analysis provides a detailed semantic analysis. It semantically classifies the predicator into three types of semantic situations, namely state, event, and action. Second, it provides classification of the semantic participants in the clause based on the kind of the semantic situation. Third, it provides a classification of the circumstance elements.

The data under investigation is Netanyahu's UN address on 22nd September 2023, entitled 'On the Cusp of Historic Saudi-Israel Peace'. It is derived from *Times of Israel Online Journal*. It

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is chosen for several reasons. First, the war crimes committed against the Palestinians since 7 October 2023 and the importance of the Palestinian case since Balfour Declaration on 2 November in 1917. Second, to the researcher's knowledge, Netanyahu's UN address on 22nd September 2023 has not been semantically analysed before using semantic role analysis. Third, it is a naturally occurring provocative political speech of the blatant Israeli aggression on the occupied State of Palestine. No matter if the international community admits the existence of State of Palestine or not since Arab nations consciously and unconsciously strongly believe in Palestine as an Arab state occupied by Jewish offenders. The extracts selected for analysis are chosen because they are full of the linguistic phenomena under investigation, namely, provocative insinuations to the UN community to launch war against Palestine and Iran.

The speaker of the speech under investigation is Benjamin Netanyahu. Picheta et al. (2022) states that he is the prime minister of Israel since 2022. He previously held the office in 1996–1999 and in 2009–2021. Heller (2019) adds that he is the chair of the Likud party. In addition, he is the longest-serving prime minister in Israel's history since he served over 16 years. Mesquita (2013: 69) defines *Likud* as “consolidation”. It is an Israeli political party of right-wing conservative nationalist and Zionist ideology. In his speech, Netanyahu declares the Israeli-suggested project of a New Middle East. This project does not include Palestine. This project according to Netanyahu's speech will create a corridor of prosperity that connects *Arab States*, namely *Arab States* that signed normalisation treaties with the Israeli aggression. According to *The Economic Times News*, the Israeli-suggested corridor is known as the India-Middle East-Europe economic corridor (IMEC). Singh (2023) describes the IMEC corridor as a corridor of immense promise in his essay which has the same title. The corridor aims at economic

development and integration between India and Europe through Saudi Arabia, UAE, the alleged state of Israel and Greece. A deep insight will reveal that it is suggested as an alternative to the Egyptian Suez Canal route which connects the oldest three continents, namely Europe, Africa, and Asia. It appears that the Israeli aggression seeks to weaken the economic status of Egypt.

Although Netanyahu is famous for aggression against Palestinians, he manipulates his political discourse to provoke the international community against the Palestinian authority. He plays the victim's role to persuade the UN community to support his alleged state of Israel. Since he uses his speech to provoke the international community in the United Nations against the Palestinian authority, it is essential to clarify that he committed a series of attacks against the Palestinians in Gaza Strip. According to BBC News (2023), Netanyahu fought several wars against Gaza since the withdrawal of the Israeli aggression from Gaza Strip in 2005 and Hamas control in 2006. These wars are *Summer Rains Operation* in 2006, *Cast Lead Operation (Gaza Massacre)* in 2008-2009, *Pillar of Defence Operation* in 2012, *Protective Edge Operation* in 2014, *Black Belt Operation* in 2019, *War of 2021*, *Breaking Dawn Operation* in 2022, and *Swords of Iron Operation* in 2023.

According to Adem (2019: 12-15), the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not only a clash of borders between two nations but also a political, religious, and racial conflict. The persecution of the Jews in-between 1939 and 1945 by Hitler, leader of Nazi party, in the Holocaust era was known as *antisemitism*. The *antisemitism* led to the creation of a movement known as *Zionism* by Theodor Herzl. Herzl's sole aim was to find a state to protect the Jews of the world from the persecution that spread Europe, especially Germany, which is ironically one of the permanent states in the Security Council in the UN organization. In

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Netanyahu's speech under investigation, the political conflict is represented in the Israeli-suggested New Middle East which targets creation of a land route that connects between the three continents, namely Asia, Africa, and Europe across the alleged state of Israel. Netanyahu indirectly anchors the idea of the existence of an Israeli state in the minds of the UN international community, his current audience. The religious conflict appears in his allegory to the story of Moses, a Hebrew prophet of Judaism. In his speech to the UN international community, Netanyahu likens himself to Moses in his speech to the children of Israel: the Israeli-suggested New Middle East is 'the blessing' while supporting Palestine and adopting a non-deterrence policy towards Iran is 'the curse'. Finally, the racial conflict is reflected in the accusations against the Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas as a supporter of antisemitism. It is an indirect motivation to the UN international community to sympathize with him and back the aggressive policies of his alleged state of Israel.

In addition to his incitement against the Palestinians, Netanyahu uses his political speech under investigation to provoke the UN international community to launch war against Iran. This is attributed to the Iran-Israeli proxy conflict or what Ahmari (2012) called Iran-Israel Cold War. According to Holmes et al. (2018), Iran is accused of supporting Lebanese Shia militias specially Hizballah in the Israeli-Lebanese conflict and Hamas in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. On the other side, the alleged state of Israel supports the Iranian protesters and launches air strikes on Iranian allies in Syria.

Theatrical Background

This part discusses four points: first, the meaning of provocative discourse, second, the semantic situation types, third, the semantic concept of the argument and the semantic role types in

the English clause, and finally the semantic types of the circumstance.

Provocative Discourse

Provocative discourse is one kind of *hate speech*. In Cambridge Online Dictionary (2024), *hate speech* is publicly delivered speech that instigates violence towards others based on religious, sexual, or racial prejudice. According to Guillén-Nieto (2023: 1), the first use of the term was by Matsuda in 1989 who focused on racial hate speech and pointed to other types of *hate speech* such as *anti-gay and anti-lesbian hate speech*. Brown and Sinclair (2024: 4) classify *hate speech* based on two concepts: ordinary concept and legal concept. The ordinary concept appears in social rules, norms, and sanctions, e.g., content policies of social media platforms that prohibit racial slurs. The legal concept appears in legal norms, laws, and sanctions, such as criminal laws that criminalize instigation to violence based on racial, ethnic, or cultural origin. Guillén-Nieto (2023: 1) believes that the social and the legal concepts of *hate speech* are intertwined since violating the social norms that lead to *hate speech* causes hate crimes that are punishable by law.

Krupansky (2016) defines *provocative speech* as any verbal communication that elicits a negative emotional or physical response against the referent. He proposes three categories of provocative speech: unintentional provocation, well-meaning intentional provocation, and malevolently intentional provocation. In the first category, the speaker does not have an intention to instigate an action nor to harm or offend. Unintentional provocation stems from the listener's mishearing, misinterpreting, or from the speaker's ignorance of his words as offending because of different cultural, ethnical, political, or social background. In the second category, the speaker purposefully employs provocative language to achieve a positive

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aim, e.g., an instructor challenges his students or refutes a discriminating opinion. In the third category, the speaker seeks to incite immediate violence by belittling, insulting, and demeaning.

Bahador (2023: 295-97) provides *Hate Speech Intensity Scale* (HSIS) composed of six categories. Provocative speech appears in categories number 3,4,5 and 6. In the first category, the speaker disagrees with the beliefs of the criticized group and shows their beliefs as false and negative ones. This is revealed in using adjectives of negative connotations, such as “wrong”, “incorrect”, “false” or verbs, such as “persuade”. In the second category, the speaker blames the criticized group for actions of a few members of this group using alleged actions, e.g., accusing the group of withdrawal from positive events. The demanded response includes condemnation, refusal, and disagreement. In the third category, the speaker directly insults or attributes negative characterization to the criticized group. In the fourth category, the speaker dehumanises and demonises the criticized group. In the fifth category, the speaker accuses the criticised group of committing physical or metaphorical harm using verbs, such as “tortured”, “raped”, and “punished”. The demanded response is requirement of physical violence against the criticized group. In the sixth category, the speaker accuses the criticised group of killing using verbs, such as “destroyed”, “annihilated”, and “killed”. The demanded response is a call for eliminating and killing all the members of this group.

Semantic Situation Types

According to Kasper (2008:10), modern research on *semantic roles* started in the 1960s. Zeno Vendler's (1967), in Griffith (2017: 66), provides the historical beginning of situation types in “verbs and times”. Vendler classifies the verb phrase not the verb in isolation based on time into four states: *states of*

instantaneous switches, such as “I noticed a mistake”, *states of existence*, such as “I hate lies”, *states of ongoing actions*, such as “the cell phone rings”, and *accumulative goal directed actions*, such as “I cook lunch”.

Vendler (1967), in Saeed (2016: 123), specifies four types of semantic situations. *States* appear in verbs, such as “believe”, “love”, and “desire”. *Activities* are unbounded processes, e.g., “walk”, “drive”, and “run”. *Accomplishments* are bounded processes by an end, e.g., “run”, “draw”, and “recover”. Finally, *achievements* are situations with an endpoint, e.g., “start”, “recognize”, and “reach”. Vendler (1967: pp 98-103) in Freed (2012: 40-41) distinguishes between *processes* and *states*. Verbs expressive of processes occur with progressive continuous while verbs expressive of states cannot. *States* are expressive of true or false feature of a subject. To Vendler’s system, Smith (1991), in Saeed (2016: 124), adds *semelfactives* which are differentiated from *achievements* based on the outcome of the new state. *Achievements* include an outcome, e.g., “reach” and “win” while *semelfactives* do not, e.g., “knock” and “cough”.

Cruse (2006: 58-59) mentions that based on verb development through time, there are five types of events: *states*, *activities*, *accomplishments*, *achievements*, and *semelfactives*. They are subclassified into two groups *duratives*, i.e., extend over a period and *punctual*, i.e., happen instantaneously. *Durative event-types* are *states*, *activities*, and *accomplishments*. *States* do not include beginning, end, or change of condition, e.g., “I live in Egypt”. Like *states*, *activities* do not include beginning nor end but include ‘happening’, e.g., “I teach French”. Like *activities*, *accomplishments*, which are known as telic verbs, include happening but with a definite end, e.g., “wrote” and “finished” but that does not apply to “stop” since it does not include a point of completion. *Punctual event-types* are

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achievements and *semelfactives*. *Achievements* involve alteration or change of condition, e.g., “collapsed”, “departed” and “died”. *Semelfactives* include a momentary event with a change of state, e.g., “blinked”, “coughed” and “sneezed”.

Dahl (2010: 37-38) differentiates between *static* and *dynamic* situations based on how they relate to time. *Static situations* express constant conditions in a span of time while *dynamic situations* express variable changing conditions through time. Therefore, *dynamic situations* match with verbs of motion while *static situations* do not. Lassen Baker & Hengeveld (2012: 211) differentiate between *dynamic* and *static* situations based on adding adverbial expressions, such as “slowly”. In *dynamic situations*, adverbial expressions are acceptable but not in *static situations*, e.g., “she sat down slowly” but not “she was slowly weak”.

Freed (2012: 40-41) mentions five philosophical categories of the verb: *states*, *activities*, *events*, *actions*, and *processes*. *States* appear in the stative class of verbs. They do not appear in progressive form. *Activities* are described as “the nucleus of an event”. *Actions* are events performed by agents who has volition and intention. He differentiates between *events* and *actions* based on the volition and intention of the agent. He adds that *modality verbs* are characterised by volition and intention.

According to Saeed (2016:117-123), in *static situations*, the speaker describes a fixed state giving no information about the internal structure, the point of beginning, nor the end, e.g., “the plant grew quickly”. In *dynamic situations*, the speaker describes an action with stages, e.g., “the truck man is driving to the market”. Lexically, *static situations* include adjectives while *dynamic ones* are structured of verbs. However, *stative verbs*,

such as “be”, “have”, “remain”, “know”, and “love” express *static situations*. Accordingly, lexical semantics of *static situation* types are adjectives and stative verbs while *dynamic situation* types are verbs and adverbs. He adds that based on aspect, progressive aspect with its connotations of dynamism and change is characteristic of *dynamic situations*. Similarly, the *imperative aspect* with its associations of action and dynamism expresses *dynamic situations*. Verbs which express dynamic or static situations vary, e.g., “remain” does not take progressive aspect but it takes the *imperative aspect*. Similarly, “have” expresses *static situations* as in “I have a necklace” and *dynamic situations* or non-static uses, such as “she is having earnings in the stock market”. *Dynamic situations* are classified into *events* and *processes*. In *events*, the speaker expresses the situation as a whole, e.g., “the balloon blew up”, while in *processes*, the speaker expresses the semantic situation as having dynamic internal structure, e.g., “he walked to the school”. Furthermore, *processes* are further subclassified into *inchoatives* and *resultatives*. *Inchoatives* focus on onset of a new state, e.g., “the ice cream melted”, while *resultatives* focus on state completion, e.g., “my mom baked a cake”. *Dynamic verbs* are classified into five types namely *durative*, *punctual*, *iterative*, *telic* and *atelic*. *Durative dynamic verbs* describe actions that last for a period, e.g., “he slept”. *Punctual dynamic verbs* or *semelfactives* describe momentary actions that involve no time, e.g., “sneezed”, “coughed”, and “flashed”. *Iterative dynamic verbs* stem from clash between durative adverbials and semelfactive verbs, e.g., “he coughed all night”. *Telic dynamic verbs* or *resultatives* are bounded verbs with an end, e.g., “he has designed a model”. Finally, *atelic verbs* are verbs unbounded with an end. They continue indefinitely.

Jackson (2017: 8-15) classifies semantic situation types into *states*, *events*, and *actions*. *States* refer to conditions and

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positions of persons or things. *States* are subclassified into *qualities*, *temporary states*, *private states*, and *stance*. *Qualities* refer to permanent states, e.g., “sugar is sweet”. *Temporary states* are qualities that last for a limited period, e.g., “she is asleep”. *Private states* are intellectual states, emotional or attitudinal states, perception states, and bodily sensations. “He *knows*^{intellectual state} the reason”, “she *likes*^{emotional state} adventures”, “I *could hear*^{perception state} the bird’s voice”, and “it *hurts*^{bodily sensation} my finger” are examples of the *private states* respectively. *Stance* refers to the position of a person or object, e.g., “she was *standing*^{Stance} next to him”.

Event is the second situation type. It is “a happening” without human instigator. It includes four subtypes of semantic situations: *goings-on*, *process*, *momentary*, and *transitional events*. *Goings-on events* are events in progress with no end, e.g., “improvement efforts are still working^{Goings-on event}”. *Process events* refer to a change of state over a period, e.g., “his speaking skill *improved*^{Process event}”. The improvement takes place over a period and implies a change of state. *Momentary events* are instantiations events, e.g., “the earthquake hit^{Momentary event} the city”. Finally, *transitional events* are instantiations events that implies a change of state, e.g., “the cargo arrived^{transitional event} at the port”. The previously mentioned subtypes of events are distinguished based on two features, namely a change of state (*conclusive* or *non-conclusive*) and duration of the event (*durative* or *punctual*). Events that involve a change of state are *conclusive events*. They are *process events* and *transitional events*. Conversely, events that do not involve a change of state are *non-conclusive events*. They are *goings-on events* and *momentary events*. Events that last for a period are *durative events*. They are *goings-on events* and *process events*. Conversely, events that take place in a moment of time are

punctual events. They are *momentary events* and *transitional events*.

Action is the third situation type. It demands a human or animate as the doer of the action. It is subclassified into *activities*, *accomplishments*, *momentary acts*, and *transitional acts*. *Activities* are actions that last for a period with no results implied, e.g., “she sang ^{action/activity}”. Similarly, *accomplishments* are acts that take place over a period but with a result or achievement, e.g., “he discovered ^{action/accomplishment} a new hormone”. *Momentary acts* are punctual acts with no result, e.g., “he kicked ^{Momentary action} the ball”. Finally, *transitional acts* are punctual actions with a change of state, e.g., “he began ^{transitional action} the second phase of the project”. Like the situation types of events, actions are differentiated based on two features, namely change of state and duration. Actions that involve a change of state are *conclusive actions*. They are *accomplishments* and *transitional acts*. Conversely, *activities* and *momentary acts* are *non-conclusive actions*. Based on duration, *activities* and *accomplishments* are durative while *momentary acts* and *transitional acts* are *punctual*.

Lassen Bruntt (2021: 212) defines *dynamic situations* as an action of beginning, end, and intention, i.e., intentionally done. They could be put in imperative, such as “make”, “work”, and “arrive”. *Static situations* are an action of no beginning nor end and they happen unintentionally. They cannot be put in the imperative, e.g., “feel”, “know”, and “appear”. Only dynamic situations can appear in continuous aspect, e.g., “claiming” but not “containing”.

Semantic Role Analysis of Provocative Political Argument and Semantic Role Types

This part clarifies the notion of the argument from a semantic perspective and sketches the historical development of the thematic role theories and the motivations for their emergence. Cruse (2006: 143) states that an argument is 'an entity about which something is said'. It is one constituent of any proposition, the other being the predicate, namely 'what is said about the argument'. E.g., “Mark ^{argument} is ^{predicate} tall”. Some predicates need one argument, such as “Mark slept”; two arguments, such as “Mark likes pizza”; and three arguments, such as “Mark gave Lisa a present”. Accordingly, predicates are described as one place, two place, or three place arguments according to the number of arguments demanded by the predicate.

Crystal (2008: 34) clarifies that in the case of grammar each proposition is analyzed into a predicate word and set of arguments, which are labeled according to its semantic case relationship with the predicate. In *Government Binding Theory*, an argument has THETA role which could be an *internal argument*, namely does not include the subject, or *external argument*, namely includes the subject. E.g., in “Mark broke his finger”, Mark is Agent if *Mark* and *his* refer to two persons but a patient if *Mark* and *his* are co-referential.

According to Griffiths (2017: 60-62), the *argument* is an umbrella term for all kinds of referential constituents that are demanded by the verb. They are noun phrases, embedded clauses, or prepositional phrases. He mentions that the number of arguments differ according to the verb. *Causative verbs* include at least two arguments; the *causer* of the action and *the caused state* or event, namely the embedded situation which contains other arguments. E.g., “the teacher ^{causer} made ^{causative verb} the students read the article ^{embedded situation}”.

Panin's *Karaka Theory of Sanskrit* is the beginning of Semantic role theories. Butt (2005: 16-17) mentions that the first attempt to explore the relation between syntactic properties and semantic categories is Panin's *Karaka theory of Sanskrit*. he specifies different participants in an event or action as expressed in the verb. *The Karaka theory of Sanskrit* reflects the relation between the action expressed by the verb and the agents in the described situation in Sanskrit language. It is twofold: morphological cases and karaka roles. Panini's morphological cases for Sanskrit are *nominative, accusative, instrumental, dative, ablative, genitive, and locative*. His Karaka roles for Sanskrit are *ablative, instrument, locative, patient, and agent*. Penn and Kiparsky (2012) agree that the first attempt to study semantic roles is Panini's work. Panini describes the Sanskrit language in 3959 sutras. Monier-Williams (2002:1241) defines the *sutras* as aphoristic rule or strings of rules in manuals of philosophy and grammar.

Fillmore (1968), in Kittilä & Zuniga (2016: 1-2), analyzes the surface structure of the sentence based on the deep cases, i.e., semantic roles, such as *agent, object, dative, location, or instrument* that accompany the verb. The verb selects specific semantic roles, e.g., the verb "give" demands *agent/patient pattern*.

According to Kasper (2008:11-14), semantic role theories branches into two directions, the first refuses the Chomskyan tenets where form is independent and autonomous of meaning, the second develops Chomskyan theory in different directions. According to Kittilä & Zuniga (2016: 3-4), *Chomskyan Theory*, as a formalist approach to grammar, distinguishes between *thematic relations*, i.e., a semantic notion and *theta roles*, i.e., a syntactic notion where thematic relations are associated with particular argument positions. *Role and*

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Reference Grammar (RRG) differentiates between *predicate-specific semantic roles* and *predicate-class abstractions*, i.e., thematic relations, e.g., “The baby^{seer} saw the toy^{the thing seen}” → (semantic roles). “The baby^{experiencer} saw the toy^{stimulus}” → (thematic relations). Thematic relations according to RRG are the following: 1st argument of *do*: *agent, effector, consumer, creator, mover*. 1st argument of predicate: *possessor, experiencer, wanter*, and *location*. 2nd argument of predicate: *possessed, creation, theme, consumed, stimulus, desire*, and *performance*. The arguments of *state predicate* are *patient* and *entity*.

Nomenclature of semantic participants in the English clause varies greatly. Rambaud (2012: 176) refers to the absence of consensus on the terms of semantic realization of participants. Case roles, functional roles, participant roles, deep cases and thematic roles refer to the semantic realization of the participants in the sentence.

Fillmore (1968), in Cruise (2011: 282- 283), proposes six participant roles: *agent, instrument, dative, factitive, locative*, and *objective*. *Agent* is an animated instigator of an action, e.g., “Mark^{Agent} hits the ball”. *Instrument* is inanimate force or object involved in the action, e.g., “Mark used the red pen^{Instrument} to write the letters”. *Dative* is affected animate by action, e.g., “Mark^{Dative} heard the birds singing”. *Factitive* refers to the result of the action, e.g., “Mary made a cake^{Factitive}”. *Locative* is obligatory location or spatial orientation, e.g., “Mark put the horse in the stable^{Locative}”. *An objective* is inanimate entity affected by the action, e.g., “Mark closed the window^{Objective}”. Fillmore's participant role of *dative*, alternatively called *experiencer*, is differentiated from *benefactive* which is the entity that benefits from the action, e.g., “my mom made me^{benefactive} a cake”. Static location, and locative participant are other types of

participants. *Locative* includes three kinds, namely *source*, *path*, and *goal*. *Locative Source* is the literal or metaphorical origin from which a participant moves, e.g., “the decorated furniture came from Italy^{*Locative Source*}”. *Locative Path* appears in he crossed the street^{*Locative Path*}. *Locative goal* is the orientation towards which a participant moves either literally or metaphorically, e.g., “Mike reached the summit^{*Locative goal*}”. *Objective* includes the subdivision *theme* and *patient*. *Theme* refers to inanimate affected entity moved by an action, e.g., “Mark through the ball^{*Theme*}” or its location is described, e.g., “the wallet is on the disk^{*Theme*}” respectively. The *patient* is an entity that changes because of an action, e.g., “the sun melted the ice cream^{*patient*}”.

Van Valin & La Polla (2004: 113) differentiate between *thematic relations* and *participant roles*. The former are linguistic entities while the latter are not since they refer to external situations. They offer participant micro-roles, namely *actor* and *undergoer*.

Cruise (2011:283-284) states that some participant roles undergo developments. The *agent* is subdivided into *prototypical animate agent* and inanimate *agent-like cause of force*, such as “the earthquake^{*agent-like cause of force*} destroyed the building”. Additionally, there are *agent-like supplier of will*, e.g., “the Lieutenant^{*agent-like supplier of will*} marched the soldiers” and *agent-like supplier of energy* but not will, e.g., “Mark^{*agent-like supplier of energy*} accidentally hit the vase”.

Jackson (2017; 46- 47) differentiates between *explicit participant* and *implicit or latent participant*. *Explicit participant* is mentioned literally in the sentence, e.g., “Mark^{*Explicit participant*} offered his sister a chocolate”. *Implicit or latent participant* is understood from the context, e.g., “Mark offered a chocolate”. In the previous example, the *agentive Mark* offered something to another person who is the *latent participant*. It is

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understood from the sentence that there is a person who received the chocolate that Mark offered.

Jackson (2017:23) presents a set of semantic roles depending on the semantic situation, namely *state*, *event*, and *action*. Concerning the semantic situation type of states, semantic participants are *Affected*, *Attribute*, *Recipient*, *Positioner*. First, *the affected* refers to a person or thing having a quality, a temporary state, or a bodily sensation. It does not play an active role, e.g., “The *book*^{*affected*} is too long”, “*Anna*^{*affected*} is disappointed”, and “my hand^{*affected*} was aching” respectively. Second, *the attribute* refers to *current attribute* or *resulting attribute*. *The current attribute* could be an *identification attribute* or *characterization attribute*. *The identification attribute* is an elaboration or specification, e.g., “Mark's conclusion is *the same as Anna's research*^{*identification attribute*}”. *Characterization attribute* is permanent or temporary quality of the *affected*, e.g., “every student is *different*^{*Characterization attribute*}”. Both *identification attribute* and *characterization attribute* are associated with qualities and temporary states. Conversely, *resulting attribute* refers to a new condition of the affected that stems from the event, e.g., “the flower became *weak and pale*^{*resulting attribute*}”. Third, the *recipient* refers to the person who receives a private state of intellect, emotion, or perception, e.g., “*she*^{*recipient*} knows the secret”, “*she*^{*recipient*} loves pasta”, “*I*^{*recipient*} could hear the sound”. Moreover, the recipient is associated with qualities and temporary states of position, e.g., “He^{*recipient*} has a new car” and “the bags belong to Mark^{*recipient*}”. Fourth, the *positioner* refers to a person in specific stance, e.g., “he^{*positioner*} stood by the window”.

Concerning the situation type of action, Jackson (2017:28-34) specifies eight participant roles: *agentive*, *external causer*, *positioner*, *instrument*, *affected*, *resultant*, *recipient*, and *attribute*. *The agentive* refers to an animate human or non-human instigator of an action, e.g., “He^{*agentive*} drank tea”. *External*

causer refers to inanimate unintentional instigator of the action, e.g., “the wind ^{External causer} destroyed the building”. *Positioner* is associated with the agentive role. It is a double-participant role in which a person, i.e., the agent, adopts a position, i.e., the positioner, e.g., “he ^{Positioner} was carrying his laptop”. *Instrument* refers to a tool used in doing an action, e.g., “the computer ^{Instrument} prepares the documents”. *Affected* in action situation is associated with semantic situation of action/activity, e.g., “she sang a song ^{Affected}”. *Resultant* refers to the result of the action. It is associated with semantic situation of action/accomplishment, e.g., “my mom made me a cake ^{Resultant}”. Concerning the difference between the *affected* and the *resultant*, the *affected* exists before the action takes place while the *resultant* does not. *Recipient* refers to the animate who benefits or receives something from the action, e.g., “they sent me ^{Recipient} more documents”. Finally, *attribute* refers to a characteristic of the *affected* in the semantic situation of action, e.g., “he is appointed a general manager ^{attribute}”.

Other participant roles are *eventive*, *locative*, and *temporal*. *Eventive* refers to ‘a happening’, i.e., an event or action that is usually derived from a lexical verb. *Eventive* is the first, the second or the third participant in the semantic situation of action, e.g., “the quarrel ^{Eventive} created a scandal”, “he is going to make a suggestion ^{Eventive}”, and “he gave the door a kick ^{Eventive}” respectively. In addition, it is the first participant in the semantic situations of states and events, e.g., “observation ^{Eventive} is necessary in teaching” and “The quarrel ^{Eventive} would flare up” respectively. *Locative participant* and *temporal participant* are obligatory circumstances of place or time whose deletion would turn the sentence to be nonsense. They could occur in first, second, or third position in the sentence, e. g., “The road to the college ^{Locative participant} takes three hours”, “Tomorrow ^{temporal participant} will be the meeting day”, and “the competitor climbed

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Mount Everest ^{Locative participant}. The following table summarizes the participant roles according to Jackson’s (2017) approach for semantic role analysis:

Table (1): Participant Roles in Jackson’s (2017) Approach			
States	Event	Action	others
<i>Affected</i>	Affected	Agentive, external causer, positioner, instrument, affected, resultant, recipient, and attribute.	Eventive
<i>Attribute</i>	Attribute		Locative
<i>Recipient</i>			Temporal
<i>Positioner</i>			

Circumstance Types

Cruise (2004: 293) differentiates between *functional roles* and *circumstantial roles*. *Functional roles* are obligatory, e.g., “Mark put his car in the garage ^{functional role}”, conversely *circumstantial roles* are optional clausal adjuncts, e.g., “Mark fixed his car in the garage ^{circumstantial role}”. This is like Jackson’s differentiation between *Locative* and *temporal participants* and *Locative* and *temporal circumstances*. Among the three types of adverbials mentioned by Biber et al. (2012: 763-768) is *circumstance adverbials*. They are considered as the most varied and the most integrated class into the sentence. They add information about state or action described in the sentence. Based on their importance to the meaning of the sentence, they are classified into *obligatory* and *optional circumstances*. Based on their scope of description, *circumstance adverbials* could modify an entire clause or only the predicate of the clause. *Circumstance adverbials* can be realised by five syntactic forms: single adverbs, noun phrases, prepositional phrases, finite clauses, non-finite clauses which could be ing-clauses or ed-clauses, to-infinitive clauses, and verbless clauses.

Halliday (2014:263-75) in *Systemic Functional Linguistics* classifies *the circumstance* into seven types. First, *extend spatial circumstance* expresses distance, such as “seven miles” while *extent temporal circumstance* expresses duration, such as “two hours” or frequency, such as “three times”. *location circumstance of space* expresses the position of the action while *location circumstance of time* expresses specific time, such as “six o’clock”. *Circumstance of manner* expresses the manner of doing the action. It includes means, quality, comparison, and degree. *Circumstance of means* answers the question how? and what with? *Circumstance of quality* answers the question how? *Circumstance of comparison* expresses similarity or difference. *Circumstance of degree* expresses the extent of the event. *Circumstance of cause* expresses the reason of doing the action. It includes *circumstance of reason* which answers the question why? *circumstance of purpose* which answers the question what for? and *circumstance of behalf* which uses ‘on my behalf’. *Circumstance of contingency* expresses an element on which the action depends, namely a condition, a concession or a default. *Circumstance of accomplishment* answers the question *and who?* or *what else?* It is subclassified into comitative circumstance which answers the question who else? or what else? and *additive circumstance* which answers the question and who? or and what else? Finally *circumstance of role* expresses the meaning of become. It is subclassified into *circumstance of guise* which answers the question what as? and *circumstance of product* which answers the question what into?

Jackson (2017: 47) defines the circumstance as unnecessary element for the completeness of the sentence. He describes circumstance as “additional gratuitous information about a situation” which could be optionally added or deleted. Jackson (2017: 49-51) presents six types of circumstance: *locative*, *temporal*, *process*, *respect*, *contingency*, and *degree*. The *locative circumstance* is subclassified into three types:

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locative position, *locative direction*, and *locative distance*. *Locative position circumstance* answers the question where? *Locative direction circumstance* is subdivided into source, path, and goal. *Locative direction source circumstance* answers the question where from? *Locative direction path circumstance* answers the question which way? *Locative direction goal* answers the question where to? Finally, *locative distance circumstance* answers the question how far? *Temporal Circumstance* has similar classification of locative circumstance. It is classified into temporal position, temporal duration, and temporal frequency. *Temporal position circumstance* answers the question when? *Temporal duration circumstance* is subdivided into general and orientation. The general orientation answers the question how long? *The orientation circumstance* is either background, which answers the question since when? or forward which answers the question until when? Finally, *frequency circumstance* answers the question how often?

Process Circumstance answers the question how an action or event happened? *Process Circumstance* is subdivided into manner, means, instrument, and agentive. *Manner process circumstance* answers the question “in what way? *Means process Circumstance* answers the question by what means? The means are characterized by being abstract. *Instrument process Circumstance* answers the question what with? The instrument is characterized by being physical entities. *Agentive Process Circumstance* answers the question by whom? *Respect circumstance* answers the question in respect of what? it is usually introduced by prepositional expressions, such as “with respect to”, “concerning”, and “respect of”. *Contingency Circumstance* is subclassified into six types: cause, reason. *Cause Circumstance* answers the question why? Or what cause? *Reason Circumstance* answers the question for what reason? The difference between cause and reason is that cause is objective identifiable while reason is subjective opinion. *Purpose*

circumstance answers the question “what purpose?”. *Result circumstance* answers the question with what result? *Condition Circumstance* answers the question under what condition? *Concession circumstance* answers the question “despite what condition?” It is introduced by despite or though. *Degree circumstance* answers the question “how much?” It is subclassified into *amplification*, *diminution*, and *measure*. *Amplification circumstance* refers to a high degree. *Diminution circumstance* refers to a low degree. *Measure circumstance* refers to intermediate degree.

The following table summarises the circumstances under investigation:

Table (2): Circumstances in Jackson’s (2017) Approach
Locative circumstances (position, direction, distance)
Temporal circumstances (position, duration, frequency)
Process circumstances (manner, means, instrument, agentive)
Respect circumstance
Contingency circumstances (cause, reason, purpose, result, condition, concession)
Degree circumstances (amplification diminution, measure)

There are a number of previous studies which tackle the analysis of provocative political discourse but using different linguistic approaches, mainly forensic and pragmatic. In *A Hate and Provocative Speech Act in Social Media: A Forensic Linguistics Study*, Kamaruddin et al. (2021) analyzes provocative speech using forensic linguistic approach and pragmatic theory of speech acts. Similarly, in *Ribka Tjiptaning's Provocative Speaking Action in Social Media: Forensic Linguistic Study*, Kamaruddin et al. (2021) uses denotative and connotative meanings to analyse provocative political speech. Likewise, Harsa and Arifulhak (2022) in *A Forensic Linguistics Study of Provocative Speech Acts by Politicians on Social Media Platforms* use speech act theory to analyse the provocative

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speech of politicians. Melnyk et al (2022) in *Provocation as a Tool of Language Influence* examine provocation as a form of interpersonal communication using the cooperative principle and politeness maxims. This research compensates for the lack of papers that analyze provocative political discourse using semantic role analysis. To illustrate this new area of exploring provocative political speech using semantic role analysis, this study uses the approach of Jackson (2017) which have not previously been applied to the discourse under investigation to the best of the researcher's knowledge. In addition, it exploits the UAM Corpus Tool 3.3x (2007) and the Antconc software 3.5.8 (2019) to specify the frequency of the predicate to explore the semantic situations, the noun phrases to state the different kinds of semantic participants, and the adverb phrases to determine the kinds of the semantic circumstances used in the provocative political speech.

Data Analysis

This section provides semantic role analysis of Netanyahu's UN address: 'On the Cusp of Historic Saudi-Israel Peace' on 22nd September 2023. It seeks to specify the semantic situation types, the semantic participant roles, and the circumstance types used by Netanyahu to provoke the international community of the United Nations to launch war against Iran and the Palestinian authority.

Abstract (1)

When I last spoke at this podium five years ago, I warned about the tyrants of Tehran. They have been nothing but a curse. A curse to their own people, to our region, to the entire world.
(Netanyahu, 22/9/2023)

Netanyahu starts with the *temporal position circumstance* 'When I last spoke at this podium five years ago', syntactically realized by the finite clause. The *temporal position circumstance* is structured of *the semantic situation of action/activity* in the intransitive verb 'spoke' which is *non-conclusive durative action*. The *agentive* is the first-person pronoun 'I'. 'At this podium' and 'five years ago' are *locative* and *temporal position circumstances* respectively. The *locative position circumstance* is syntactically realised by the prepositional phrase while the *temporal position circumstance* is syntactically realised by the noun phrase. Netanyahu exploits the *locative* and *temporal position circumstances* to refer to his speech to the UN General Assembly on 19th September 2017. Similarly, in 'I warned about the tyrants of Tehran', the *agentive* is the first-person pronoun 'I' and the semantic situation is one of action/activity in the intransitive verb 'warned'. Netanyahu manipulates the *semantic situation of action/activity* to remind the UN international community of his warnings against Iran in his speech to the UN General Assembly on 19th September 2017. The *affected participant* is latent since it is implicitly understood as the UN international community. 'About the tyrants of Tehran' is *respect circumstance* which is syntactically realised by the prepositional phrase structure. The previous sentence has the pattern of (*agentive + action activity + locative position circumstance + temporal position circumstance*) ^{*temporal position circumstance*}, *agentive + action activity + latent affected + respect circumstance*.

In 'they have been nothing but a curse', Netanyahu uses the *semantic situation of state/permanent quality* in 'have been'. The *affected* is the personal pronoun 'they', which refers to 'the tyrants of Tehran', followed by *the permanent quality* 'nothing but a curse'. The curse is clarified in the *identification attribute*, namely 'a curse to their own people, to our region, to the entire

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world'. The previous sentence has the pattern of *affected + state/permanent quality + identification attribute*.

Abstract (2)

But at that time, I also spoke about a great blessing that I could see on the horizon. ... “The common threat of Iran has brought Israel and many Arab States closer than ever before in a friendship that I have not seen in my lifetime.”
(Netanyahu, 22/9/2023)

After the contrast coordinator 'but', Netanyahu uses the *temporal position circumstance* 'at that time' as a reference to his speech to the UN General Assembly on 19th September 2017. The *temporal position circumstance* is syntactically realised by the propositional phrase structure. Then, he presents the *semantic situation of action/activity* in the intransitive verb 'spoke'. The first-person pronoun is the *agentive* and the prepositional phrase 'about a great blessing' is *respect circumstance* in which the 'blessing' is modified by the *identification attribute*, i.e., 'that I could see on the horizon'. The previous sentence has the pattern *temporal position circumstance + agentive + action/ activity + respect circumstance+ identification attribute*. More specifically, the identification attribute, i.e., 'that I could see on the horizon' has the pattern of *recipient + private state of perception + metaphorical locative position circumstance*.

In 'the common threat of Iran has brought Israel ... in my lifetime', Netanyahu represents the semantic situation of *action/accomplishment* in the transitive verb 'brought'. It is a *conclusive durative action*. 'The common threat of Iran' is the *external causer* that has brought, i.e., caused 'Israel and many Arab States', the *affected*, in "a friendship", the *resultant* that

does not exist before the action expressed in the verb. This 'Friendship' is further qualified by the *identification attribute* in 'that I have not seen in my lifetime'. The previous sentence has the pattern *external causer + action/accomplishment + affected + resultant + identification attribute*. The identification attribute 'that I have not seen in my life' has the pattern *recipient + private state of perception + temporal duration background circumstance*.

Abstract (3)

You know, a few years ago I stood here with a red marker to show the curse, a great curse, the curse of a nuclear Iran. But today, I bring this marker to show a great blessing. The blessing of a new Middle East, between Israel, Saudi Arabia and our other neighbors. (Netanyahu, 22/9/2023)

Netanyahu starts the previous extract by the semantic situation of *private state of attitude* in the intransitive verb 'know'. Although it is a verb of intellect, it is paraphrased as 'you agreed', i.e., on opposing nuclear Iran. The *recipient* is the second person pronoun 'you' referring to the current audience in the United Nations building. Then, Netanyahu uses the *temporal position circumstance* in 'a few years ago' to demonstrate the semantic situation in the past. Next, he represents the semantic situation of *state of stance* in 'stood' where 'I' is the positioner and 'here' is the *locative position circumstance which is syntactically realized by the adverb*. The prepositional phrase 'with a red marker' is *process instrument circumstance* since its deletion does not affect the meaning of the sentence, followed by *contingency purpose circumstance* in the infinitive phrase 'to show the curse'. The 'curse' is further qualified by the *identification attribute* 'a great curse, the curse of a nuclear Iran'. The previous sentence has the pattern of *recipient+ private state*

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*of attitude +temporal position circumstance+ positioner+ state
of stance + locative position circumstance + process instrument
circumstance +contingency purpose circumstance+
identification attribute*

After the contrast coordinator ‘but’, Netanyahu uses the *temporal position circumstance* ‘today’ to represent the *semantic situation* in the present. He depicts the semantic situation of *transitional action* in ‘bring’ where the *agentive* is the first-person pronoun. ‘This marker’ is *instrument*, and ‘to show a great blessing’ is *contingency purpose circumstance*. The ‘great blessing’ is further clarified by *the identification attribute* ‘the blessing of a new Middle East between Israel, Saudi Arabia, and our other neighbors’. The previous sentence has the pattern of *temporal position circumstance + agentive + transitional action + instrument + contingency purpose circumstance + identification attribute*.

Abstract (4)

We will not only bring down (reduce) barriers between Israel and our neighbors. We’ll build a new corridor of peace and prosperity that connects Asia through the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel, to Europe. This is an extraordinary change, a monumental change, another pivot of history. (Netanyahu, 22/9/2023)

Netanyahu starts this quotation with action/accomplishment in the transitive verb ‘bring down’, i.e., reduce. It is conclusive durative action. The first-person plural pronoun ‘we’ is the *agentive* while ‘barriers between Israel and our neighbors’ is the *affected participant*. The previous sentence has the pattern *agentive+ action/accomplishment + affected*.

In ‘we will build a new corridor ... to Europe’, Netanyahu uses *the semantic situation of action/accomplishment* in the transitive verb ‘build’, conclusive durative action. The ‘new corridor of peace and prosperity’ is the *resultant* in the semantic situation, which is further identified by the *identification attribute* ‘that connects Asia through ... to Europe’. The previous sentence has the pattern *agentive + action/accomplishment + resultant + identification attribute*.

In ‘This is an extraordinary change...history’, Netanyahu uses *the semantic situation of state/permanent quality* in the present-tensed verb to be. It predicates the *characterization attributes* of ‘extraordinary change’, ‘a monumental change’, and ‘another pivot of history’. The affected is the near demonstrative ‘this’ which refers to the ‘new corridor of peace and prosperity’. The previous sentence has the pattern of *affected + state/permanent quality + characterization attributes*.

Abstract 5

Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas must stop spreading the horrible antisemitic conspiracies against the Jewish people *and the Jewish state*. He recently said that Hitler wasn’t an antisemite. You can’t make this up. The Palestinian Authority must stop glorifying terrorists. They must stop its ghoulish pay-to-slay policy of giving money to Palestinian terrorists for the murder of Jews. (Netanyahu, 22/9/2023)

In the previous extract, Netanyahu attacks the Palestinian authority as symbolized in the Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas. Since the transitive verb ‘stop’ is preceded by the modal ‘must’, it is a semantic situation of *private state of attitude*. The

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recipient is 'Mahmoud Abbas' who must stop 'the horrible antisemitic conspiracies', i.e., the *affected*. The prepositional phrase, namely 'against the Jewish people and the Jewish state' is *respect circumstance* structured of two coordinated noun phrases. It seems as if 'the Jewish people' and 'the Jewish state' are two different entities. This is unconscious confession by Netanyahu of his aggression and preoccupation of Palestine. The previous sentence has the pattern *recipient + private state of attitude + affected + respect circumstance*.

In 'he recently said that ... antisemite', Netanyahu represents the semantic situation of *action/activity* in the transitive verb 'said' which is *non-conclusive durative action*. The *agentive* is the third person pronoun referring to Mahmoud Abbas followed with the *temporal position circumstance* 'recently' to denote nearness of the action. The *affected* participant is 'Hitler wasn't an antisemite'. The previous sentence has the pattern *agentive+ temporal positions circumstance +action activity +affected*. The affected participant has the pattern *affected (Hitler)+ state/permanent quality (wasn't)+ characterization attribute (antisemite)*.

In 'You can't make this up', Netanyahu uses the semantic situation of *private state of attitude* to refuse antisemitism using the negated modal can't + make. The *recipient* is the second person pronoun 'you' referring to the current audience while the *affected* appears in the demonstrative 'this' referring to what Mahmoud Abbas said. The previous sentence has the pattern *recipient + private state of attitude + affected*. Similarly, in 'the Palestinian authority must stop glorifying terrorists', Netanyahu directly attacks the Palestinian authority in the semantic situation of *private state of attitude* using the modal must + the transitive verb 'stop'. The *recipient* is 'the Palestinian authority' and the

affected is ‘glorifying terrorists’. The previous sentence has the pattern *recipient + private state of attitude + affected*.

In ‘they must stop its ghoulish pay-to-slay ... Palestinian terrorists’, Netanyahu represents the semantic situation of *private state of attitude* in the verbal phrase ‘must stop’. The *recipient* is the third person pronoun ‘they’, referring to the Palestinian authority. The *affected* is ‘its ghoulish pay-to-slay policy of giving money to Palestinian terrorists’, followed with the *contingency purpose circumstance* in ‘for the murder of Jews’. The previous sentence has the pattern *recipient + private state of attitude + affected+ contingency purpose circumstance*.

Abstract 6

Antisemitism must be rejected wherever it appears, whether on the left or on the right, whether in the halls of universities or in the halls of the United Nations. For peace to prevail the Palestinians must stop spewing Jew-hatred. (Netanyahu, 22/9/2023)

In ‘Antisemitism must be rejected ... halls of United Nations’, Netanyahu starts this abstract by the semantic situation of *private state of attitude* in the verbal phrase ‘must be rejected’. In Oxford dictionary (2018), antisemitism is ‘hostility or prejudice against Jews’. In Miriam Webster's dictionary (2018), antisemitism is ‘discrimination against Jews as religious, ethnic, or racial group’. antisemitism is the *affected* participant where the *latent agentive* is implicitly understood as everyone in the political parties, the universities, or the United Nations. This is understood from the *locative position circumstances* ‘on the left or on the right’, ‘in the halls of universities’, and ‘in the halls of the United Nations’. The last locative position circumstance has special importance since it refers to the international political

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organization of the United Nations. The previous sentence has the pattern *affected + private state of attitude + latent agentive + locative position circumstances*.

In 'for piece to prevail the Palestinians must stop ... Jewish state', Netanyahu starts by the *contingency purpose circumstance*, namely 'for piece to prevail'. It is syntactically realized by a prepositional phrase. He represents the semantic situation of *private state of attitude* in the verbal phrase 'must stop'. The *recipient* is the plural noun 'Palestinians' and the *affected* is 'spewing Jew hatred'. The previous sentence has the semantic pattern of *contingency purpose circumstance + recipient + private state of attitude + affected*.

Abstract 7

The fanatics ruling Iran will do everything they can to thwart this historic peace. Iran continues to spend billions to arm its terror proxies. It continues to extend its terror tentacles in the Middle East, Europe, Asia, South America, even North America. They even tried to assassinate the Secretary of State of the United States of America. They even tried to assassinate the National Security Advisor of the United States of America. (Netanyahu, 22/9/2023)

In the previous extract, Netanyahu attacks the Iranian politicians by describing them as 'fanatics ruling Iran' and by revealing them as the *recipient* in the semantic situation of *private state of attitude*, namely in the verbal phrase 'will do'. The *affected* is 'everything they can'. The *contingency purpose circumstance* appears in 'to thwart this historic piece', syntactically realized by infinitive clause. The previous sentence

has the pattern *recipient + private state of attitude + affected+ contingency purpose circumstance*.

In 'Iran continues to spend ... terror proxies', Netanyahu attacks Iran in two consecutive semantic situations of *action/activity*, namely in 'to spend' and 'to extend', which are *non-conclusive durative actions*. Iran is revealed as the *external causer* while 'billions' and 'its terror tentacles' are the *affected* participants respectively. The infinitive clause 'to arm its terror proxies' is *contingency purpose circumstances* while the prepositional phrase 'in the Middle East, ... North America' is *locative position circumstance*. The previous sentence has the pattern of *agentive + action/ activity (spend) + affected + contingency purpose circumstance+ action/ activity (extend) + affected + locative position circumstance*.

In 'they even tried ... United States of America'; Netanyahu attacks Iranian politicians in the semantic situation of *action/accomplishment*, namely in 'tried'. The plural personal pronoun refers to the Iranian politicians who are the *agentive* while the infinitive clause 'to assassinate the secretary of a state of the United States of America' is *contingency purpose circumstance*. The previous sentence has the pattern *agentive + action/ accomplishment+ contingency purpose circumstance*.

In 'they even tried to assassinate ... United States of America', Netanyahu uses the third person plural pronoun 'they' referring to the Iranian politicians, the *agentive* in the semantic situation of *action/ accomplishment*, namely in 'tried'. The infinitive clause 'to assassinate the national Security advisor of the United States of America' is *contingency purpose circumstance*. The previous sentence has the pattern *agentive + action/accomplishment + contingency purpose circumstance*.

Abstract 8

This tell you all you need to know about Iran's murderous intentions and Iran's murderous nature. Iran continues to threaten international shipping lanes, hold foreign nationals for ransom and engage in nuclear blackmail. Over the past year, its murderous goons have killed hundreds and arrested thousands of Iran's brave citizens. (Netanyahu, 22/9/2023)

In 'this tell you all ... about Iran's murderous intentions and Iran's murderous nature', Netanyahu delineates the semantic situation of *action/ activity* in 'tell'. The near demonstrative 'this' is the *agentive*. It refers to 'Iran's attempts to thwart historic peace', 'extend its terror tentacles in the Middle East ...America', and 'its attempts to assassinate the Secretary of State of the United States of America and the national security advisor'. The *recipient* is the second person pronoun 'you', namely the UN international community. 'all you need to know' is the *affected* participant. The previous sentence has the pattern *agentive + action activity + recipient + affected*.

The previously mentioned *affected participant*, namely 'all you need to know', indicates the semantic situation of *private state of intellect*. It appears in the transitive verb 'know' which could be paraphrased as 'realize'. The indefinite determiner 'all' is the *affected* while the second person pronoun 'you' is the *recipient*. The infinitive phrase 'about Iran's murderous intention and Iran's murderous nature' is *contingency respect circumstance*. *Affected + recipient + private state intellect + contingency respect circumstance*.

In 'Iran continues to threaten international shipping lanes, hold foreign nationals for ransom and engage in nuclear

blackmail', Netanyahu attacks Iran in three consecutive semantic situations of *action/activity*, namely 'threaten', 'hold', and 'engages'. In the semantic situations expressed in the transitive verbs 'threaten' and 'hold', the *affected* is 'international shipping lanes' and 'the foreign nationals' respectively. In the semantic situation expressed in the intransitive verb 'engage', the prepositional phrase, namely 'in nuclear blackmail' is *metaphorical locative participant* since it is essential to the meaning of the sentence. *The previous sentence has the pattern agentive + action/ activity + affected+ action/ activity + affected+ action/ activity + metaphorical locative participant.*

In 'Over the past year ... Iran's brave citizens', Netanyahu starts with *temporal duration backward circumstance*, namely over the past years. He represents *transitional semantic situation* in the transitive verbs 'killed' and 'arrested'. The *agentive* is 'its murderous goons', implicitly understood as Iranian politicians, and the *affected* is 'hundreds of brave men and women'. The previous sentence has the pattern of *temporal duration backward circumstance + agentive + twice use of action/ momentary + affected.*

Abstract 9

Iran's drones and missile program threaten Israel and our Arab neighbors. And Iran's drones have brought and bring death and destruction to innocent people in the Ukraine. Yet the regime's aggression is largely met by indifference in the international community. (Netanyahu, 22/9/2023)

In 'Iran's drones and missile threaten... neighbors, Netanyahu expresses the semantic situation of *action/activity* in the transitive verb 'threaten'. The *external causer* is 'Iran's drones and missile program' while the *affected* is 'Israel and our

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Arab neighbors'. The previous sentence has the pattern *external causer + action/ activity + affected*.

In 'Iran's drones have brought... to innocent people in the Ukraine', Netanyahu depicts the semantic situation of *action/accomplishment* in the transitive verb 'brought and bring'. 'Iran's drones' is the *external causer* while 'death and destruction' is the *resultant* that do not exist before Iran's drones bring it. 'To innocent people in Ukraine' is *agentive circumstance*. The previous sentence has the pattern *external causer+ action accomplishment + resultant + agentive circumstance*.

In 'yet the regime's aggression ... in the international community', Netanyahu expresses the semantic situation of *private state of attitude* in the passive verb 'met, i.e., reacted to'. The 'regimes aggression', i.e., Iran's political regime, is the *affected* while 'indifference' is *identification attribute*. The adverb 'largely' is a *degree circumstance of amplification* and the prepositional phrase 'in the international community' is *agentive circumstance* since it answers the question by whom? The previous sentence has the pattern *affected + private state of attitude + degree circumstance of amplification + identification attribute + agentive circumstance*.

Abstract 10

Eight years ago, the Western powers promised that if Iran violated the nuclear deal, the sanctions would be snapped back. Well, Iran is violating the deal. But the sanctions have not been snapped back. To stop its nuclear ambitions, this policy must change. Sanctions must be snapped back and above all, Iran must face a credible military threat. (Netanyahu, 22/9/2023)

In 'eight years ago, the western powers... would be snapped back', Netanyahu starts with *temporal position circumstance*, namely in 'Eight years ago'. He represents two semantic situations in active and passive modes respectively. The first is the semantic situation of *action/activity* in the active verb form, i.e., 'promised'. The *agentive* is the 'Western powers' and the *affected* is 'the sanctions would be snapped back'. The if-clause is a *contingency condition circumstance*. The second semantic situation is *transitional action* in the passive verb form, i.e., 'would be snapped back'. The *affected* is 'the sanctions' and the latent *agentive* is implicitly understood as the Western powers. The previous sentence has the pattern of *temporal position circumstance + agentive + action/activity + contingency condition circumstance + affected + transitional/action + latent agentive*.

In 'well Iran is violating the deal', Netanyahu represents the semantic situation of *action/ activity* in the continuous verb 'violating'. The *agentive* is 'Iran' and the *affected* is 'the deal'. The previous sentence has the pattern *agentive + action activity + affected*. In 'But the sanctions have not been snapped back', Netanyahu represents the semantic situation of *transitional action* in the passive verb form, i.e., 'snapped back' where 'the sanctions' is the *affected*. The *latent agentive* is implicitly understood as the UN international community. The previous sentence has the pattern of *affected + transitional action + latent agentive*.

In 'to stop its nuclear ambitions, this policy must change', Netanyahu starts his sentence with *contingency purpose circumstance*, namely 'to stop its nuclear ambitions', syntactically realized by infinitive clause. 'This policy' is the *affected participant* and 'must change' is a *semantic situation of*

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private state of attitude. This sentence has the pattern of *contingency purpose circumstance + affected + private state of attitude*. In ‘sanctions must be snapped back’, Netanyahu represents *the semantic situation of transitional action* in which ‘sanctions’ is the *affected* and the *latent agentive* is implicitly understood as the UN international community. It has the pattern of *affected + transitional action + latent agentive*. Likewise, in ‘Iran must face a credible military threat’, Netanyahu represents the semantic situation of *private state of perception* in ‘must face’. The *recipient* is ‘Iran’ and the *affected* is ‘credible military threat’. It has the pattern of *recipient + private state of perception + affected*.

Abstract 11

Equally, we should support the brave women and men of Iran who despise this regime and yearn for freedom, who’ve gone out bravely on the sidewalks of Tehran and Iran’s other cities and face death. It is the people of Iran, not their oppressors, who are our real partners for a better future. (Netanyahu, 22/9/2023)

In ‘Equally, we should support... and face death’, Netanyahu starts with *degree measure circumstance*, i.e., ‘equally’. Then, he depicts the semantic situation of *private state of attitude* in the verbal phrase ‘should support’. The *recipient* is the first-person plural pronoun ‘we’ while the *affected* is ‘the brave women and men of Iran’. The wh-clauses, namely ‘who despise this regime’ and ‘who have gone out’ are *identification attributes* of the *affected*. The previous sentence has the pattern of *degree measure circumstance + recipient + private state of attitude + affected + two identification attributes*.

In ‘who despise this regime’, Netanyahu depicts *private state of attitude* in the transitive verb ‘despise’. The *agentive* is the relative pronoun ‘who’ which refers to ‘the brave woman and men of Iran’. The *affected* is ‘this regime’. The previous sentence has the pattern *latent recipient + private state of attitude + affected*. Similarly, in ‘yearn for freedom’; Netanyahu delineates the semantic situation of *private state of attitude* in the verb ‘yearn’. The *affected* is ‘freedom’. In the previous sentence, the *agentive* is implicitly understood as ‘the brave woman and men of Iran’. The previous sentence has the pattern *latent recipient + private state of attitude + affected*.

In *the identification attribute*, namely ‘who have gone out bravely on the sidewalks of Tehran and Iran’s other cities’, Netanyahu depicts the semantic situation of *transitional action* in the phrasal verb ‘gone out’. ‘Bravely’ is *degree measure circumstance*. The prepositional phrase ‘on the sidewalks of Tehran’ and the noun phrase ‘Tehran’s other cities’ are *locative position circumstances*. Since the *agentive* is implicitly understood, the previous sentence has the pattern of *latent agentive + transitional action (gone out) + degree measure circumstance + locative position circumstance*. In ‘and face death’, Netanyahu represents the semantic situation of *private state of attitude* in which the *latent recipient* is ‘brave women and men of Iran’ and the *affected* is ‘death’. The previous sentence has the pattern of *latent recipient + private state of attitude + affected*.

Finally, in ‘It is the people of Iran, not their oppressors, who are our real partners for a better future’, Netanyahu embodies the semantic situation of *state/permanent quality* in which ‘the people of Iran’ is the *affected* that is qualified by the *identification attribute* ‘our real partners for a better future’. The adverbial phrase ‘not their oppressors’ is *agentive circumstance*.

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The previous sentence has the pattern *affected* + *agentive circumstance* + *state/permanent quality* + *identification attribute*.

Abstract 12

Thousands of years ago, Moses presented the children of Israel with a timeless and universal choice, “Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse.” May we choose wisely between the curse and the blessings that stand before us this day. (Netanyahu, 22/9/2023)

In ‘thousands of years ago... universal choice’, Netanyahu starts with *temporal position circumstance*, namely in ‘thousands of years ago’. He depicts the semantic situation of *action/activity* in the transitive verb ‘presented’ which is *non-conclusive durative action*. The *agentive* is ‘Moses’ while the *recipient* is ‘the children of Israel’. The *affected* is the prepositional phrase ‘with a timeless and universal choice’. The previous sentence has the pattern *temporal position circumstance* + *agentive* + *action/activity* + *recipient* + *affected*.

In ‘I set before you this day a blessing and a curse’, Netanyahu provides words of Moses in which the *agentive* is ‘I’ referring to Moses and depicts the semantic situation of *action/activity* in the transitive verb ‘set’. The *agentive circumstance* is realized by the prepositional phrase, i.e., ‘before you’, the *temporal position circumstance* is realized by the noun phrase, i.e. ‘this day’, and the *affected participant* is realized by the noun phrase ‘a blessing and a curse’. The previous sentence has the pattern *agentive* + *action/activity* + *agentive circumstance* + *temporal circumstance* + *affected*.

In ‘May we choose wisely between the curse and the blessings that stand before us this day’, Netanyahu represents the semantic situation of *private state of intellect* in the verbal phrase ‘may ... choose’. The first-person plural pronoun is the *recipient*, ‘wisely’ is *degree amplification circumstance*, and ‘between the curse and the blessings’ is the *affected*. The that-clause, i.e., ‘that stand before us’ is *identification attribute* and the noun phrase ‘this day’ is a *temporal position circumstance*. The previous sentence has the pattern *recipient + private state of intellect + degree amplification circumstance + affected+ identification attribute + temporal positions circumstance*.

Abstract 13

Let us harness our resolve and our courage to stop the curse of a nuclear Iran and to roll back its fanaticism and aggression. Let us bring forth the blessings of a new Middle East that will transform lands once ridden with conflict and chaos into fields of prosperity and peace. (Netanyahu, 22/9/2023)

In ‘let us harness... fanaticism and aggression’, Netanyahu represents the semantic situation of *action/activity* in the transitive verb ‘harness’, i.e., ‘to control’ which is *non-conclusive durative action*. ‘Our resolve and our courage are the *affected participants*, which is followed with two *contingency purpose circumstances* in the infinitive phrases namely, ‘to stop the curse of a nuclear Iran’ and ‘to roll back its fanaticism and aggression’. The *agentive* appears in the first-person plural pronoun ‘us’, used by Netanyahu to provoke the UN international community. The previous sentence has the pattern of *agentive + action activity + affected + two contingency purpose circumstances*.

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In 'let us bring forth... prosperity and peace', Netanyahu depicts the semantic situation of action/accomplishment in the transitive verb 'bring forth'. The *agentive* is the first-person plural pronoun 'us' referring to the UN international community. 'The blessings of a New Middle East' is the *resultant* that do not exist before the action expressed in 'bring forth'. It is modified by the *identification attribute* 'that will transform lands once ridden with conflict and chaos into fields of prosperity and peace'. The previous sentence has the pattern of *agentive* + *action accomplishment* + *resultant* + *identification attribute*.

Moreover, in the *identification attribute*, Netanyahu represents the semantic situation of *transitional action* in the transitive verb 'transform'. The *affected* is 'lands' which is described by the *identification attribute* 'once ridden with conflict and chaos' and the *resultant* is 'into fields of prosperity and peace'. The previous sentence has the pattern *latent agentive* + *transitional action* + *affected* + *identification attributes* + *resultant*.

Results and Discussion

This section discusses the use of the semantic situation, participant roles, and circumstance types used in Netanyahu's UN address entitled 'On the Cusp of Historic Saudi-Israel Peace' on 22nd September 2023. The focus is on the semantic situations used by Netanyahu to provoke the UN community to instigate an action against Iran and the Palestinian authority. Netanyahu's aim is either imposing economic or military international sanctions or launching war by the members of the Security Council against Iran and the Palestinian authority. In the United Nations organization, the Security Council is one of the main bodies of the UN. It has authority to determine the existence of

threats and accordingly to impose sanctions, and even to use force to keep international peace and security.

In his provocative political speech, Netanyahu uses the semantic situation of action activity 16 times.

Table (3) illustrates the semantic situations of action/activity spotted in the discourse under investigation:

Table (3): Semantic Situation of Action/Activity in Netanyahu's UN Address on 22/9/2023

- 1-When I last spoke at this podium five years ago.
- 2- I warned about the tyrants of Tehran.
- 3- But at that time, I also spoke about a great blessing.
- 4-the Western powers promised that if Iran violated the nuclear deal, the sanctions would be snapped back.
- 5- He recently said that Hitler wasn't an antisemite.
- 6- Iran's drones and missile program threaten Israel and our Arab neighbors.
- 7-This tell you all you need to know about Iran's murderous intentions
- 8- Moses presented the children of Israel with a timeless and universal choice
- 9- "Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse."
- 10- Iran continues to spend billions to arm its terror proxies.
- 11- It continues to extend its terror tentacles in the Middle East, Europe, Asia, ...
- 12- Iran continues to threaten international shipping lanes,
- 13- hold foreign nationals for ransom and ...
- 14- engage in nuclear blackmail.
- 15- the Western powers promised that if Iran violated the nuclear deal
- 16- Let us harness our resolve and our courage to stop the curse of a nuclear Iran

Table (3) illustrates that *the semantic situation of action/activity* has frequency of 16 times the data under investigation. In (1) and (2), *the semantic situation of action/activity* appear in the intransitive past verbs 'spoke' and

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‘warned’. Netanyahu reminds the UN international community of his warnings against Iran in his address to the UN General Assembly on 19th September 2017. In (3), he uses the intransitive past verb ‘spoke’ to advocate for the Israeli-suggested New Middle East (where Palestine is eliminated). In (4), *the semantic situation of action/ activity* appears in the intransitive past verb ‘promised’ where ‘the Western Powers’ is *the agentive*. Netanyahu reminds the UN international community of the authority of the Western Powers as permanent members in the Security Council, i.e., the authorized body of the UN responsible for launching wars and imposing sanctions to keep security.

In (5), *the semantic situation of action/activity* appears in the intransitive past verb ‘said’ where ‘the Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas’ is the *agentive*. Netanyahu accuses the Palestinian president of advocating for antisemitism. He indirectly provokes the UN international community to take an action against the Palestinian authority. In (6), *the semantic situation of action/activity* appears in the transitive verb ‘threaten’ where ‘Iran’s drones and missile program’ is the *external causer*. Netanyahu depicts the alleged state of Israel and its neighbouring *Arab States* as endangered by Iran’s drones and missile program and implicitly requests the protection of the UN international community.

In addition, in (7), the semantic situation of action/activity appears in the transitive verb ‘tell’ where the *external causer* is Iran's terrorism and attempted assassinations referred to by the near demonstrative ‘this’. Netanyahu accuses Iran with terrorist activities and attempted assassinations of American diplomats to instigate a hostile reaction by the Un international community. In (8) and (9), the semantic situation of action/activity appears in the transitive verbs ‘presented’ and ‘set’ where the *agentive* is ‘Moses’. Netanyahu portrays himself as ‘Moses’, his Israeli-suggested New Middle East as ‘a blessing’, Iran as ‘a curse’, and the UN international community as ‘the children of Israel’.

Moreover, Netanyahu depicts Iran as determined and consistent on arming its terrorist supporters in (10) and (11), threatening the international shipping lanes in (12), kidnapping foreign national in (13), engaging in nuclear blackmail in (14). Netanyahu syntactically exploits *the continue + to infinitive pattern* to express determinism and consistency of Iran's terrorism to provoke the UN international community to impose sanctions and to launch war against Iran. In (15), and (16), Netanyahu exploits the semantic situations of action/activity exemplified in 'violate' and 'harness' to draw a comparison between Iran and Israel respectively. While Iran 'violated' the nuclear deal, the alleged state of Israel 'harness' to stop the curse of the nuclear, fanatic, and aggressive Iran.

Table (4) illustrates *the semantic situations of action/accomplishment* in the data under investigation:

Table (4): Semantic Situation of Action/Accomplishment in Netanyahu's UN Address on 22/9/2023

- 1- ... Iran's drones have **brought**
- 2- ..._and **bring** death and destruction to innocent people in the Ukraine
- 3- ... Let us **bring forth** the blessings of a new Middle East
- 4- ... They even **tried** to assassinate the Secretary of State of the United States of America.
- 5- ... They even **tried** to assassinate the National Security Advisor of the United States of America.
- 6- ... We will not only **bring down** barriers between Israel and our neighbors.
- 7- ... We'll **build** a new corridor of peace and prosperity
- 8- The common threat of Iran **has brought** Israel and many Arab states closer than ever before in a friendship

Table (4) shows that *the semantic situation of action/accomplishment* has frequency of 8 times. It is essential to mention that *the semantic situation of action/accomplishment* has

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nothing to do with the positive or negative acts. The *semantic situation of action/accomplishment* is used to draw a comparison between Iran and Israel. While Iran ‘brought’ and ‘bring’ death and destruction in (1) and (2), Israel ‘bring forth’ the blessings of a New Middle East in (3). In addition, while Iran ‘tried’ (used twice in (4) and (5)) to assassinate international American diplomats, Israel ‘bring down’, i.e., reduce the barriers with the neighbouring *Arab States* and ‘builds’ new corridors of peace and prosperity in (6) and (7). By using the past verb ‘tried’ in (4) and (5), Netanyahu provokes the United States, one of the permanent members in the Security Council, to avenge itself for the attempted assassinations of its diplomats. By using the verbs ‘bring down’ and ‘builds’ in (6) and (7), Netanyahu reveals Israel as giver of peace and prosperity and eager to co-exist with the neighbouring *Arab States* peacefully. Finally, in (8), *the semantic situation of action/ accomplishment* in ‘has brought’ is used to delineate the common threat of Iran as an *external causer* of friendly relation between the alleged state of Israel and its neighbouring *Arab States*. Netanyahu implicitly assures the UN international community that his alleged state and its neighbouring *Arab States* are in reconciliation and there is no fear of launching war against Iran.

Transitional action is another type of the semantic situations identified in the data under investigation.

Table (5) illustrates *the semantic situation of transitional actions* spotted in the data under analysis:

Table (5): Semantic Situation of Transitional Action in Netanyahu's UN Address on 22/9/2023

- 1- ... the sanctions would be snapped back.
- 2- ... But the sanctions have not been snapped back.
- 3- ... Sanctions must be snapped back
- 4- ... the blessings of a new Middle East that will transform lands once ridden with conflict ...
- 5- ... But today, I bring this marker to show a great blessing.
- 6- the brave women and men of Iran ... who've gone out bravely on the sidewalks of Tehran.

Table (5) illustrates *the semantic situation of transitional action* with frequency of 6 times. Like the *semantic situation of action/accomplishment*, the semantic situation of transitional action is used to provoke the UN international community. In (1), (2), and (3), *the transitional action* appears in the transitive past verb 'snapped back' (used three times). *The latent agentive* is the UN international community and the *affected* is the sanctions on Iran. Netanyahu instigates the UN international community to impose sanctions on Iran and to change its attitude towards Iranian terrorist activities. In (4) and (5), *the semantic situation of transitional action* appears in the transitive verbs 'transform' and 'bring'. The *agentive participants* are 'the blessings of a New Middle East' and the speaker respectively. Netanyahu persuades the UN international community with the Israeli-suggested project of a New Middle East as the one which will transform the current situation in the Middle East from conflict and chaos into prosperity and peace. In (6), the *semantic situation of transitional action* appears in the intransitive past verb 'gone out'. Netanyahu provokes the Iranian citizens to protest in Tehran streets against their government.

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Punctual or momentary actions are inspected in the data under investigation.

Table (6) shows twice use of the semantic situation of momentary action:

Table (6): Semantic Situation of Momentary Action in Netanyahu's UN Address on 22/9/2023

.....its murderous goons have killed hundreds and arrested thousands of Iran's brave citizens.

Table (6) represents twice use of the semantic situation of momentary action. It appears in the transitive past verbs 'killed' and 'arrested'. The Iranian politicians are the *agentive* while the *affected* is the Iranian protesters. Netanyahu instigates the Iranian citizens to avenge for the killed and arrested Iranian protesters by the murderous Iranian politicians.

Another type of semantic situation that is detected in the provocative political speech under investigation is the semantic situation of state. It has frequency of 20 times. It is classified into the semantic situation of *permanent quality* with frequency of 4 times and *private state* with frequency of 16 times.

Table (7) illustrates the semantic situation of *permanent quality* in the provocative political speech under investigation:

Table (7): Semantic Situation of permanent quality in Netanyahu's UN Address on 22/9/2023

- 1- They have been nothing but a curse.
- 2- This is an extraordinary change, a monumental change, another pivot of history.
- 3- He recently said that Hitler wasn't an antisemite.
- 4- It is the people of Iran, not their oppressors, who are our real partners for a better future

Table (7) clarifies that the semantic situation of *permanent quality* in the provocative political speech under investigation has

frequency of 4 times. In (1), Netanyahu uses verb to have as the main verb to predicate the *permanent quality* of ‘nothing but a curse’ to describe Iran and consequently to provoke the UN International community against Iran. In (2), he uses the present form of verb to be as the main verb to predicate the *permanent qualities* of ‘extraordinary change’, ‘monumental change’ and ‘another pivot of History’ to describe the Israeli-suggested New Middle East. Netanyahu indirectly provokes the UN international community against Palestine by requesting their agreement on the Israeli-suggested New Middle East, namely a Middle East without Palestine. In (3), he uses the negative form of verb to be in the embedded clause to accuse the Palestinian president with being antisemite and accordingly to provoke the UN international community against the Palestinian authority. In (4), Netanyahu uses the present form of verb to be to describe the Iranian protesters with the permanent quality of ‘our real partners for a better future’ and accordingly to instigate internal revolutions.

Semantic situations of private states of *perception*, *intellect* and *attitude* are another type of semantic situations detected in the discourse under investigation.

Table (8) illustrates the semantic situation of *private states of perception*.

Table (8): Semantic Situation of Private States of Perception in Netanyahu’s UN Address on 22/9/2023

- 1- a great blessing that I could see on the horizon**
- 2- in a friendship that I have not seen in my lifetime**

Table (8) illustrates that *the private state of perception* is used twice. In both cases the sense verb ‘see’ is metaphorically used to predict and exclaim respectively. In (1), the *private state of perception* appears in the modal + infinitive structure. Netanyahu reveals himself as the *recipient* who could predict the great blessing of the Israeli-suggested New Middle East, *the*

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affected. In (2), the *private state of perception* appears in the present perfect structure where Netanyahu is the *recipient* who happily exclaims about the alleged friendship between his alleged state and the neighboring *Arab States* caused by the Iranian threat. He indirectly provokes the UN international community to launch war against Iran by reassuring the friendly relation between his alleged state and the neighboring *Arab States*. In addition to the *private state of perception*, the *private state of intellect* is identified in the speech under analysis.

Table (9) clarifies the semantic situation of private state of intellect in the data under investigation:

Table (9): Semantic Situation of Private States of Intellect in Netanyahu's UN Address on 22/9/2023

- 1- This tell you all you need to know about Iran's murderous intentions**
- 2- You know, a few years ago I stood here with a red marker to show the curse...**
- 3- May we choose wisely between the curse and the blessings that stand before us**

Table (9) reveals that the semantic situation of *private state of intellect* is used three times, namely in 'know', used twice and 'choose'. In (1), Netanyahu uses the semantic situation of private state of intellect to convince the UN international community of Iran's murderous intentions. In (2), he exploits the private state of intellect in the intellectual verb 'know', i.e., 'realize' to implicitly get an agreement from the UN international community, i.e., the *recipient* on Iran as a terrorist state. Finally, in (3), Netanyahu uses the private state of intellect to motivate the UN international community to agree on the Israeli-suggested New Middle East (a Middle East without Palestine), i.e., 'the blessing' and to attack Iran, i.e., the curse.

Finally, the semantic situation of *private state of attitude* has frequency of 11 times. It is used 4 times to attack Palestinian authority, 6 times to attack Iranian government, and once to refuse antisemitism .

Table (10) clarifies the syntactic realization of the private state of attitude:

Table (10): Semantic Situation of Private States of Attitude in Netanyahu’s UN Address on 22/9/2023

- 1-The Palestinian Authority must stop glorifying terrorists
- 2- They must stop its ghoulis pay-to-slay policy
- 3- For peace to prevail the Palestinians must stop spewing Jew-hatred.
- 4- ...Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas must stop spreading the horrible antisemitic conspiracies
- 5-The fanatics ruling Iran will do everything they can to thwart this historic peace.
- 6- Yet the regime’s aggression is largely met by indifference in the international community.
- 7- Equally, we should support the brave women and men of Iran
- 8- the brave women and men of Iran who despise this regime
- 9-and yearn for freedom,
- 10-and face death.
- 11-Antisemitism must be rejected wherever it appears

Table (10) shows that the semantic situation of *private state of attitude* has frequency of 11 times. It appears in ‘the must + stop structure’ 4 times. The Palestinian authority is the *recipient* that is accused by ‘glorifying terrorists’ in (1), ‘killing

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Jewish people' in (2), 'spewing Jewish hatred' in (3), and of 'spreading horrible conspiracies against Jewish people' in (4). These accusations are in the *affected participant* position. By using the future tense in (5), Netanyahu uses *the private state of attitude* to express the future murderous intentions of 'The fanatics ruling Iran' and accordingly to provoke the UN international community to react against them. 'To thwart historic peace' is *contingency purpose circumstance* that explains the purpose of 'the fanatics ruling Iran', the *recipient*. In addition, using the passive structure in 'is largely met by' in (6) reveals Iran as the *recipient*, which is met by indifference, i.e., the affected, on part of the UN international community. Netanyahu provokes the UN international community by blaming it for failure to stop the aggressive, murderous and nuclear Iran. Moreover, he is unsatisfied to provoke the UN international community; he provokes the Iranian civilians to protest their government. This is expressed in using the modal 'should + support' in (7) and the desiderative verbs 'despise' the Iranian regime, 'yarn' for freedom and 'face' death in (8), (9), and (10) respectively. Finally, he uses the *private state of attitude* to express his refusal and opposition of antisemitism, syntactically realized by the passive obligatory 'must + be + p.p. structure' in (11). He is revealed as the *recipient* and antisemitism is in the *affected participant role*. Although Arabs are among the Semitic peoples, the term antisemitism, according to Kerr (345: 2015), refers to hostility and discrimination against Jewish people. Antisemitism started in 19th and 20th centuries in France, Germany, and Russia, which are ridiculously the permanent members in the United Nations Security Council. The others are China, United Kingdom, and United States.

Table (11) clarifies the semantic situation types detected in the provocative political speech under investigation:

Table (11): Frequency of Semantic Situations in Netanyahu's UN Address on 22/9/2023	Frequency
Semantic situation of action	32 (61%)
Semantic situation of state	20 (39%)
Total Number	52 (100%)

Table (11) illustrates that the semantic situation of action is distinctive semantic feature of the provocative political discourse under investigation. This is attributed to Netanyahu's objectives, namely, to instigate actions (i.e., imposing sanctions on Iran and supporting the Israeli-suggested New Middle East) by a third party (i.e. the UN international community). More importantly is that the Israeli-suggested New Middle East is presumed to create a new route that connects between Asia and Europe as an alternative to the Egyptian Suez Canal route. According to Fisher (2024), the Suez Canal connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea. It is the shortest maritime route between Asia and Europe.

Table (12) illustrates the frequency of the semantic situations of action detected in Netanyahu's UN address.

Table (12) Frequency of Semantic Situations of Action in Netanyahu's UN address on 22/9/2023	Frequency
Semantic Situation of Action Activity	16 (50 %)
Semantic Situation of Action Accomplishment	8 (25 %)
Semantic Situation of Transitional Action	6 (18.75 %)
Semantic Situation of Momentary Act	2 (6.25 %)
Total Number	32 (100 %)

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Table (12) reveals that Netanyahu uses *the semantic situation of action/activity* more frequently than the other types of action with frequency of 16 (50 %). This is attributed to his desire to achieve certain objectives. First, to recall his past activities concerning his warnings towards the state of Iran. Second, to remind the international community of its duty to confront Iran aggressive activities and to stop its nuclear armament. Third, to present the antisemite activities of the Palestinian leader. Fourth, to portray Iran's activities as threatening the security of the alleged state of Israel and the neighboring *Arab States*. Fifth, to cast himself as a religious character, as he likens himself to Hebrew Prophet Moses in his speech to the children of Israel. Sixth, to draw a comparison between his alleged state and Iran, which is violating the nuclear agreements, as he accused it, while his alleged state seeks to provide blessings and peace to the world.

The second most recurrent type is *the semantic situation of action/ accomplishment* with frequency of 8 (25 %). Netanyahu uses the semantic situation of action/accomplishment to draw a comparison between his alleged state and the state of Iran. While Iran's accomplishments are causing destruction and death to innocent people and assassinating American diplomats, the achievements of the alleged state of Israel is offering blessings through the Israeli-suggested New Middle East where Palestine is eliminated, reducing the barriers with neighboring *Arab States*, and building a corridor of peace and prosperity.

The third recurrent semantic situation is the semantic situation of transitional action with frequency of 6 (18.75 %). Netanyahu uses the semantic situation of transitional action to achieve three goals: First, to demand a transitional action by the UN international community, namely, to reimpose the sanctions on Iran since Iran violated the nuclear deal. Second, to depict the transitional effect of the Israeli-suggested New Middle East, namely, to transform the Middle East region from chaos to

stability. Third, to depict the Iranian's revolution as brave one and accordingly to motivate them to revolutionize against their government. Finally, the least occurrence of semantic situations is the semantic situation of momentary action with frequency of 2 times (6.25 %). It is used mainly to depict the momentary actions of killing and arresting the Iranian protesters by their government.

Table (13) illustrates the frequency of the semantic situations of state in the data under investigation:

Table (13): Frequency of Semantic Situations of State in Netanyahu's UN address on 22/9/2023		
Semantic Situation of Permanent quality	Semantic Situation of Private state	
4 (20 %)	16 (80 %)	
Total number = 20 (100 %)		
Semantic Situation of Private States 16 (80 %)		
Private state of Perception	Private State of Intellect	Private State of Attitude
2 (12.5 %)	3 (18.75 %)	11 (68.75 %)

Table (13) reveals that the most recurrent semantic situation of state is the semantic situation of *private states* with frequency of 16 (80 %). This is attributed to the variety of the private states, namely *perception*, *intellect*, and *attitude*. Netanyahu uses *the semantic state of perception* with frequency of 2 (12.5 %) to depict his prediction of the blessings of the Israeli- suggested New Middle East and to happily exclaim about the friendship between his alleged state and the neighbouring *Arab States* caused by the Iranian threat. Second, he uses the semantic situation of *private state of intellect* with frequency of 3 (18.75 %) to claim the need of the UN international community to know about Iran's murderous intentions and terrorist activities, to implicitly get the agreement of the UN international community on his cautions against Iran and to urge the UN international community to agree on the Israeli suggested Middle

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East and the sanction imposing on Iran. Most importantly is the semantic situation of *private state of attitude* with frequency of 11 (68.75 %) where he frankly accuses Iran as an aggressive terrorist state and the Palestinian Authority as an antisemite. Moreover, Netanyahu uses the *private state of attitude* to declare rejection of antisemitism all over the world as an urgent demand. Finally, *the semantic situation of state/quality* has frequency of 4 times (20 %) where Netanyahu describes Iran as ‘a curse’ and the Palestinian president as antisemitic. In addition, Netanyahu uses the semantic situation of *state/quality* to describe the Iranian protesters as real partners of the alleged state of Israel and the Israeli-suggested New Middle East as ‘extraordinary, monumental change and pivot of history’.

The second element under investigation is the participant types in the provocative political speech.

Table (14) clarifies the frequency of the participant types in the discourse under investigation:

(14) Frequency of Participant Types in Netanyahu’s UN address on 22/9/2023		
Participant type	Frequency	Percentage
Affected	39	(33%)
Agentive	29	(25%)
Recipient	18	(15%)
the attribute	14	(12%)
Resultant	5	(4%)
External causer	4	(3.1%)
Locative participant	4	(3.1%)
Instrument	1	(1.6%)
Positioner	1	(1.6%)
Temporal participant	1	(1.6%)
Total number	116	(100%)

Table (14) illustrates the most frequent participant role is *the affected participant* with frequency of 39 times (33%). This is

ascribed to the fact that Netanyahu uses the *affected participant* to achieve two functions, namely, to accuse Iran and the Palestinian Authority with international crimes and to declare the good intentions and positive achievements of his alleged state. The *affected participants* used to accuse Iran and the Palestine authority are antisemite conspiracies, glorifying terrorists, the ghoulish pay-to-slay policy against Jews, Iran's terrorist tentacles, Iran's violation of the nuclear deal, and death of the Iranian protesters. The *affected participants* used to represent the positive achievements of the alleged state of Israel are reducing the barriers with neighbouring *Arab States*, providing a new corridor that connects Asia and Europe, providing the current audience with a timeless and universal choice, namely the Israeli-suggested New Middle East (without Palestine)

The second most frequent type of participant roles is the agentive with frequency of 29 times (25%). The most recurrent *agentive participants* in the speech under investigation are the first-person singular form referring to Netanyahu and the first-person plural form referring to the Jewish community. This is attributed to Netanyahu's desire to reflect the opinions and defend the interests of his Jewish community. The second most recurrent agentive participants are Iran and Iranian politicians. This is ascribed to the fact that Netanyahu's provocative political speech targets an international agreement on imposing sanctions on Iran and Iranian politicians. In addition, the *latent agentive participants* are the UN international community, the Western powers, and the first-person plural accusative pronoun (referring to the UN international community and Netanyahu's alleged state). This is justified by the fact that the UN international community including the Western Powers is the provoked party against Iran.

The third most frequent type of participant roles is the *recipient participant* with frequency of 18 times (15%). The *recipient* in the discourse under investigation revolves around the

Semantic Role Analysis of Provocative Political

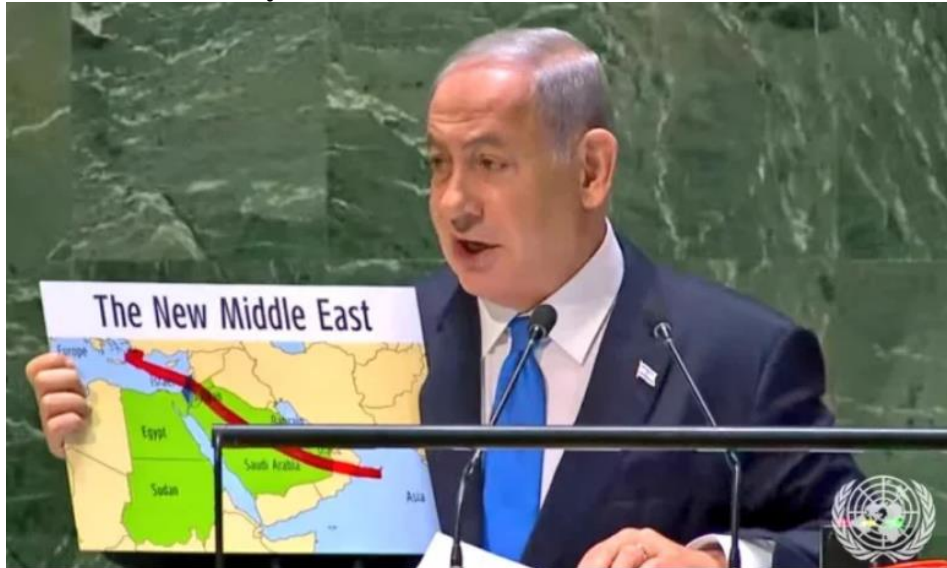
second person pronoun referring to the UN international community. This is attributed to Netanyahu's deliberate attempts to get implicit agreement of the UN international community on his cautions against Iran in his address to the UN General Assembly on 19th September 2017 and to get explicit agreement on rejecting antisemitism all over the world. In addition, the second-person pronoun is used to depict the UN international community as in need to know the terrorist activities of Iran. The second important use of the *recipient participant* is to represent the Palestinian Authority and Iran as locus of antisemitism and terrorism respectively. Also, they are depicted as the *recipients* of indifference on the part of the UN international community. Third, *the recipient participant* is syntactically realized by the first-person plural pronoun which refers to the UN international community as the one who can choose the blessings of the Israeli suggested New Middle East, namely a Middle East devoid of Palestine. Finally, *the recipient participant* stands for the Iranian protesters who despise their politicians and face death.

The fourth most frequent type of participant roles is the *attribute participant* with frequency of 14 times (12%): once as a *characterising attribute* and 13 times as an *identification attribute*. The most recurrent *identification attributes* in the provocative political speech under investigation is the identification of the Israeli-suggested New Middle East as a 'blessing' that Netanyahu predicts in the future. Even the only use of the *characterising attribute* is used to describe the Israeli-suggested New Middle East as an extraordinary marvellous change. The second most frequent use of the identification attribute is to identify Iran as 'a curse'. The third most important use of the *identification attribute* is to identify the brave Iranian protesters as the ones who despise the Iranian regime, the ones who protest Iranian politicians in Tehran, and the ones who deserve to be the Israeli real partners.

The fifth most frequent type of semantic participant roles is the *resultant* with frequency of 5 times (4%). Netanyahu uses *the resultant participant* to draw a comparison between his alleged state and Iran. While the most recurrent *resultant participants* achieved by the Israeli aggression are the corridor of peace and prosperity, the blessings of a New Middle East, and the prosperity and peace in the region of the Middle East, the resultant participants caused by Iran's drones is 'death and destruction'. In addition, the resultant participant appears as the friendship between Israel and the neighbouring *Arab States* caused by Iran's threats.

Both the *external causer* and the *locative participant* have equal frequency of 4 times (3.1%). Netanyahu mainly uses *the external causer* to refer to Iran. *The external causers* in the data under investigation are the common threat of Iran and Iran's drones and missiles. *The locative participants* in the provocative speech under investigation are the countries that will be connected by the new route suggested by the Israeli aggression, the location of the Iranian terrorism around the world, the alleged involvement of Iran in the Ukrainian crisis, and the location of the Iranian demonstrations, i.e., Tehran, the Iranian capital.

It is important to clarify that either verbally or visually Palestine State is eliminated from the countries that will be connected by the Israeli-suggested New Middle East project. According to Nova News (2023), Netanyahu is holding a map of the countries that will be connected by the Israeli-suggested New Middle East, i.e., Egypt, United Arab of Emirates, kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Jordan. The following image clarifies that Palestine is eliminated and replaced with a small blue-coloured part labelled Israel.



The least occurrences are that of the *instrument*, *positioner*, and *temporal participants* (used once) (1.6%). The *instrument participant* in the data under investigation is ‘this marker’, namely the red marker which Netanyahu brought to show the alleged blessings of the Israeli-suggested New Middle East. *The positioner participant* appears in the first-person singular pronoun which Netanyahu uses to refer to himself where he stood in the past in the UN General Assembly to warn against Iran. Finally, Netanyahu uses *the temporal participant* once to show his prediction of the great blessings of the Israeli-suggested New Middle East where Palestine is eliminated

Circumstance is the third element under investigation. It has a great importance in the provocative political speech under scrutiny.

Table (15) clarifiers the frequency of the locative circumstance:

Table (15): Locative Circumstance in Netanyahu's UN Address on 22/9/2023

- 1- at this podium
- 2- Here
- 3- On the left or the right
- 4- In the Halls of universities
- 5- In the Halls of the United Nations

Table (15) demonstrates that the locative position circumstance has frequency of 5 times in the data under investigation. Either *the locative direction* or *locative distance circumstances* has no occurrence in the data under investigation. Netanyahu uses the *locative position circumstance* to refer to his current place in (1) and (2), syntactically realised by a prepositional phrase and an adverb respectively. In addition, he uses the locative position circumstance to reject antisemitism in (3), (4), (5), syntactically realised by prepositional phrases.

Another type of circumstance spotted in the data under investigation is the temporal circumstance.

Table (16) shows Netanyahu's use of the temporal circumstance in his provocative political speech.

Table (16): Temporal Circumstance in Netanyahu's UN Address on 22/9/2023	
Temporal Position Circumstance	Temporal Duration Background Circumstance
1 - five years ago	9 - in my lifetime
2 - at that time	10- over the past year
3 - a few years ago	
4- thousands of years ago	
5- today	
6- this day	
7- recently	
8- eight years ago	

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Table (16) reveals that the temporal circumstances have frequency of 16 times in the data under investigation, 8 times as a temporal position circumstance and twice as a temporal duration background circumstance. The *temporal position circumstance* in (1), (2), and (3) are used by Netanyahu to refer to his political speech *to the UN General Assembly* on 19th September 2017. In addition, it is used as a persuasive verbal tool where he likens himself as Moses and the current audience, namely the international community of the United Nations as the children of Israel in (4). The choice between Iran and the Israeli-suggested New Middle East is like the choice provided by Moses between the curse and the blessing. In (5) and (6), *the temporal position circumstance* is used to attract the attention of the audience to the current speech. In (7), *the temporal position circumstance* reveals the temporal proximity of the Palestinian leader statement about Hitler as antisemite. Finally, the temporal position circumstance in (8) refers to the nuclear deal between Iran and several western powers in 2015, known as Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPO). According to Robinson (2023), the JCPO imposed restrictions on Iran's nuclear program in return for decreasing the sanctions imposed on Iran since 1979. In addition to the *temporal position circumstance*, Netanyahu uses the *temporal duration background circumstance* in (9) to reassure the UN international community of the friendship between his alleged state and its neighbouring *Arab States* which is caused by the Iranian threat. It is an indirect provocative verbal tool since the implicit meaning is that Iran is unsupported by the neighbouring *Arab States*. Therefore, imposing sanctions or launching war against Iran would be an easy task. In addition, the temporal duration background circumstance in (10) expresses the long period of Iranian oppressive policies where Iranian politicians practiced oppressive policies of killing and arresting the Iranian protesters. Syntactically, temporal position circumstance is realised by adverb phrases in 4 times, adverbs (twice), noun phrase and

prepositional phrase (used once). Temporal Duration Background Circumstance is syntactically realised by prepositional phrases.

Process circumstance is another type of circumstance that is detected in the data under investigation. Table (17) clarifies the process circumstance in Netanyahu's UN address:

Table (17): Process in Netanyahu's UN Address on 22/9/2023

- 1- With a red marker
- 2- to innocent people of Ukraine
- 3- In the international community
- 4- Not their oppressors
- 5- Before you

Table (17) illustrates that *process circumstance* has frequency of 5 times: Once as *process instrument circumstance* and 4 times as *process agentive circumstance*. In (1), the *process instrument circumstance* is syntactically realised by the prepositional phrase structure. It is used to attract the current audience's attention to the Israeli-suggested project of the New Middle East where Palestine is eliminated. The *Process agentive circumstance* revolves around the innocent people of Ukraine who are killed by Iranian drones, the UN international community who is indirectly blamed for its indifferent attitude to the terrorist activities of Iran, the Iranian politicians as oppressors of their citizens, and the current audience as the one who could choose between the Israeli-suggested New Middle East, i.e., the blessing or Iran, i.e., the curse. Process circumstances are syntactically realised by prepositional phrase in 3 times, followed with infinitive phrase and adverb phrase (used once).

Using AntConc 3.5.8 software, respect circumstance is detected in the data under investigation. Table (18) clarifies Netanyahu's use of the respect circumstance in his UN Address on 22nd September 2023:

Table (18): Respect Circumstance in Netanyahu's UN Address on 22/9/2023

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AntConc 3.5.8 (Windows) 2019	
File Global Settings Tool Preferences Help	
Corpus Files	Concordance Concordance Plot File View Clusters/N-Grams Collocates Word List Keyword List
sample.txt	Concordance Hits 3
Hit	KWIC
1	the entire world. But at that time, I also spoke about a great blessing that I could see on the horizon. ... "
2	of America. This tell you all you need to know about Iran's murderous intentions and Iran's murderous nature.
3	last spoke at this podium five years ago, I warned about the tyrants of Tehran. They have been nothing but a

Table (18) illustrates respect circumstance in 3 times. In addition to table 18, respect circumstance appears in 'against the Jewish people and the Jewish state'. Respect circumstance in the data under investigation revolves around three topics, namely the Israeli-suggested New Middle East where Palestine is eliminated as a great blessing in (1), Iran's murderous intentions in (2), Iranian politicians as tyrants in (3), and the Jewish people as victim. It is syntactically realised by prepositional phrases in 3 times and once as an adverb phrase.

Contingency circumstance is another type of circumstance that is detected in the data under investigation. Table (19) clarifies the most recurrent types of contingency circumstance in Netanyahu's UN Address on 22nd September 2023:

Table (19): Contingency Circumstance in Netanyahu's UN Address on 22/9/2023

- 1- If Iran violated the nuclear deal
- 2- To show the curse
- 3- To show a great blessing
- 4- For the murder of Jews
- 5- For piece to prevail
- 6- For ransom
- 7- To stop its nuclear ambitions
- 8- For freedom
- 9- to thwart this historic peace
- 10- For a better future
- 11- To arm its historic proxies
- 12- To assassinate the national security advisor of the United States
- 13- To assassinate the secretary of that state
- 14- To know about Iran's murderous intentions and Iran's murderous nature

- 15- To stop the curse of a nuclear Iran
 16- To roll back it's fanaticism and aggression

Table (19) reveals that *contingency circumstance* has frequency of 16 times. Once as a *contingency conditional circumstance* and 15 times as *contingency purpose circumstance*. The *contingency conditional circumstance*, which appears in the definite if clause in (1) is used to communicate Iranian violation of the nuclear deal of 2015, namely the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPO). Therefore, according to Netanyahu, the UN international community should impose sanctions on Iranian transportation of weapons and its nuclear program. *Contingency purpose circumstance* is syntactically realized as infinitive phrase in 10 times and as prepositional phrase in 5 times. It is used to achieve a variety of functions, namely, to show Iran as murderous nuclear curse in (2), (6), (7), (9), (11), (12), (13), (14), (15) and (16), the New Middle East as a blessing in (3), and the Palestinian Authority as murderous in (4). In addition, the contingency purpose circumstance is used to show peace, freedom, and better future as aims of the Israeli-suggested New Middle East in (5), (8) and (10).

Finally, degree circumstance is detected in the data under investigation. Table (20) clarifies Netanyahu's use of two types

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of degree circumstance in his UN address on 22nd September 2023.

Table (20): Degree Circumstance in Netanyahu's UN Address on 22/9/2023	
Degree Measure Circumstance	Degree Amplification Circumstance
wisely	Bravely
equally	largely

Table (20) illustrates that the degree circumstance has frequency of 4 times: used twice as *degree measure circumstance* and twice as *degree amplification circumstance*. They are syntactically expressed as adverbs. Netanyahu uses the *degree measure circumstance* to describe the process of choosing between the blessing of the New Middle East (the Middle East without Palestine) and the curse of Iran in (1) and to describe his support of the Iranian protesters against the Iranian politicians. *The degree amplification circumstance* appears in 3 and 4. In (3), *the degree amplification circumstance* describes the demonstrations of the Iranians against their government, and the great indifference of the UN community towards Iranians aggression in (4).

Table (21) clarifies the frequency of six types of circumstance in Netanyahu's UN Address on 22nd September 2023.

Table (21): Frequency of Circumstance in Netanyahu's UN Address on 22/9/2023	
Circumstance type	Percentage
Locative circumstances: position (5 times), direction (0), distance (0)	5 (11.5 %)
Temporal circumstances: Position (8 times), duration (twice), frequency (0)	10 (22 %)
Process circumstances: Manner (0), means (0), instrument (1), agentive (4)	5 (11.5 %)
Respect circumstance	4 (9.5 %)
Contingency circumstances: cause (0), reason (0), purpose (15), result (0), condition (1), concession (0)	16 (36 %)
Degree circumstances: amplification (2), diminution, measure (2)	4 (9.5 %)
Total number	44 (100%)

Table (21) shows that the most recurrent type of *circumstance element* is the *contingency circumstance* with frequency of 16 times (36 %). This is attributed to Netanyahu's

use of *the contingency purpose circumstance* in 15 times to show the purposes of his current speech, namely, to expose Iran and its terrorist activities and to invite for freedom and better future, namely the Israeli suggested New Middle East. It is followed with the temporal circumstance with frequency of 10 times (22 %). This is ascribed to Netanyahu's use of *temporal position circumstance* in 8 times to refer to past events of importance to his current speech, namely his cautions against Iran on 19th September 2017 speech and the JCPO in 2015. In addition, he uses *the temporal position circumstance* to invite the current audience to support the Israeli- suggested New Middle East and to attract the attention of the UN international community to his current speech. *The locative circumstance and process circumstance* have equal frequency of 5 times (11.5 %). Netanyahu uses *the locative circumstance* to attract attention to his speech and to declare his refusal of antisemitism everywhere. *The process circumstance* mainly occurs as *agentive process circumstance* in 4 times. It is mainly used to refer to the Iranian involvement in the Ukrainian crisis, the Iranian politicians and the current audience as the one who should support the Israeli suggested New Middle East. The least occurrence is of *the degree circumstance* and the *respect circumstance* in 4 times (9.5 %). *The degree circumstance* is used to describe the degree of the demanded support of the UN international community to the Israeli-suggested New Middle East and to blame the UN international community for its indifferent attitude towards Iran's terrorist activities. Finally, *the respect circumstance* is mainly used to attack Iranian politicians, create sympathy with Jews, and invite to support the Israeli-suggested New the Middle East

Conclusion

Based on the qualitative and quantitative analysis of Netanyahu's UN address: 'On the Cusp of Historic Saudi-Israel Peace' on 22nd September 2023 using Jackson's (2017) semantic

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approach, *the semantic situation of action* is the most frequently used type in provocative political discourse. This is attributed to the infuriating and agitational nature of the provocative discourse since Netanyahu seeks to motivate a third party to act against Iran and Palestine States. The second most frequently used semantic situation is *the semantic situation of state* to express hostile attitudes towards the attacked states. Finally, the *semantic situation of the event* is completely absent from the provocative political speech under investigation.

The activity is the most frequently used type of *semantic situations of action*. This is ascribed to the fact that Netanyahu uses the semantic situation of *action/activity* to represent deliberate terrorist activities committed by Iran and Palestine States, and to draw a comparison between his alleged state and Iran and Palestine States. The semantic situation of *action/activity* is syntactically realized by verbs of saying, i.e., ‘spoke’, ‘warned’, ‘promised’, ‘said’, ‘threaten’, ‘tell’ ‘set’ ‘presented’ and the syntactic structure of *continue + infinitive pattern*. They are *non-conclusive durative verbs* used more frequently in past simple to express terrorist activities committed by Iran and Palestine States. The *continue + infinitive pattern* is used to emphasize the continuance of the terrorist activities until the time of Netanyahu’s current utterance and the violation of international laws by Iran and Palestine. In *the semantic situations of action/activity*, the *agentive participant* varies. It refers to the speaker (Netanyahu), the provoked side (the UN international community), the religious figure (Moses) who is culturally and religiously related to the speaker’s community, and the targeted countries (the Palestinian authority and Iran). In case the *agentive* is the targeted countries, it is either *animate agentive* (Palestinian president and Iranian politicians) or *inanimate external causer* (Iran’s drones and missile programs).

Accomplishment is the second frequently used type of semantic situations of action. *Action/accomplishment verbs* are

‘bring’ and ‘tried’. They appear most frequently in present simple, followed with past simple, and the least is present perfect. Netanyahu uses *the semantic situation of action/accomplishment* to draw a comparison between his alleged state and the attacked states. Therefore, *the agentive* varies between the first-person pronoun referring to Netanyahu’s alleged state and the third person pronoun referring to Iran and Palestine States. *The external causer* represents only Iran, i.e., Iran’s drones, Iran’s missile program and Iran’s threat. Based on the agentive and the external causer, the resultant in action/accomplishment is classified into positive and negative ones. When *the agentive* stands for Netanyahu or his alleged state, the *resultant* is one of positive associations, such as “blessings” and “corridors of peace and prosperity”. Conversely, when *the agentive or the external causer* refers to Iran and Palestine, the *resultant* is one of negative associations, such as “death”, “destruction” and “assassinations”. Exceptionally, the *positive resultant* in relation to Iran is cunningly used once, i.e., the alleged friendship between the alleged-state of Israel and the neighboring *Arab States* caused by the Iranian threat. Netanyahu emphasize on having political alliance with Arab States to reveal Iran as a pariah state. It works like additional verbal motivation for the UN international community to adopt a deterrence policy against Iran by imposing economic and military sanctions on Iran.

Transitional action is the third frequently used type of semantic situations of action in the provocative political speech under investigation. It appears in verbs, such as “would be snapped back”, “gone out”, ‘have not been snapped back’, ‘must be snapped back’, ‘transform’, and ‘bring’. The focus is on returning the sanctions back on Iran. While the past tense expresses the absence of the sanctions on Iran for a period in the past, the present perfect expresses the absence of the sanctions until the time of the current utterance. Transitional action is used

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to express the demanded actions from the provoked side that appears as *latent agentive* and to persuade the provoked side to vote for a project that serves the interests of the alleged state of Israel. Moreover, the *semantic situation of transitional action* is used to prompt local demonstrations in Iran. Finally, the least occurrence is the semantic situation of *momentary action*, which appears in past simple verbs, such as “killed” and “arrested” which are *conclusive punctual verbs*. Netanyahu uses *the momentary action* to depict the terrorist activities committed by the politicians of Iran against their citizens, namely the killing and arresting of the Iranian protesters.

The *semantic situation of state* is the second most frequently used type in provocative political discourse. It is classified into semantic situation of *permanent quality* and of *private state*. The semantic situation of *private state* is more frequent than the semantic situation of *permanent quality*. It is further classified into private state of *perception, intellect, and attitude*. The most frequent is the private state of *attitude* followed by the private state of *intellect* and the least occurring one is *perception*. This is attributed to Netanyahu’s priority in his provocative political speech, i.e., expressing hostile attitudes towards Iran and Palestine States.

The most frequent *private state* is the *private state of attitude*. Netanyahu uses *the private state of attitude* to accuse Iran and Palestine States of criminal offenses which appear in the *affected participant*, namely glorifying terrorists, killing Jews, spewing Jew-hatred, spreading antisemitic conspiracies, and thwarting historic peace. The *recipients* are Iran and Palestinian States. The second most frequent use of the semantic situation of private state of attitude is to refuse certain policies, namely antisemitism. Although Arabs are one of the Semite nations, the term antisemite turned to be restricted to discrimination against Jews. This reveals the massive role of the misleading media all over the world. Finally, by using *the semantic situation of the*

private state of attitude, Netanyahu motivates the Iranians to demonstrate against their government.

The second most frequent type of private states is the private state of intellect which appears in the intransitive verbs 'know' and 'choose'. It is mainly used to get implicit agreement from the audience that Iran and Palestinian States are murderous, antisemite, terrorist counties. Finally, *the private state of perception* appears in the transitive verb 'see'. It is used by Netanyahu to express his prediction of the success of his suggested project and his admiration of the alleged friendship between his alleged state and the neighboring *Arab States*. It is an indirect verbal provocative technique where the UN community is comforted and reassured of the peaceful situation between the Israeli occupation and the neighboring *Arab States* in the Middle East region.

The second recurrent type of *semantic situation of state* that characterizes the provocative political speech under investigation is the semantic situation of *permanent quality*. It appears in simple present tense of verb to be and verb to have as the main verbs of the sentence. Based on the affected participant, the *permanent qualities* used in the provocative political discourse are of two kinds: positive and negative ones. *Positive permanent qualities* are used when *the affected participants* are either the alleged state of Israel or the opponents of Iran. Conversely, *negative permanent qualities* are used when the *affected participant* is Iran and Palestine States.

The second element under investigation is the semantic participant roles in the provocative political speech. The most recurrent semantic participants in the data under investigation are *the affected*, *the agentive*, *the recipient*, *the attribute*, *the resultant*, *the external causer*, *the locative participant*, *the instrument*, *the positioner*, and *the temporal participant*. *The affected participant* is the most recurrent participant role. It is used by Netanyahu to represent the antisemitic, murderous, and

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terrorist crimes as committed by Palestine and Iran. *The agentive* is the second most recurrent participant role. This is attributed to Netanyahu's use of the singular and plural first-person pronouns to refer to himself and his alleged state of Israel. In addition, *the agentive participant* represents Iranian politicians to state their responsibility for killing and arresting Iranian protesters. The *latent agentive* revolves around the UN international community as responsible for keeping peace by imposing sanctions on Iran and backing the Israeli-suggested New Middle East.

The recipient, which is the third most recurrent participant role in the data under investigation, revolves around two entities. First, the attack countries as the locus of antisemitism and terrorist activities and the recipient of Indifferent attitude from the UN international community. Second, the UN international community as the one which is demanded to agree on the Israeli-suggested project. *The attribute*, particularly *the identification attribute*, as the fourth most occurring participant in the data under investigation mainly modifies the Israeli-suggested project with *positive identifying attributes* and Palestine and Iran with *negative ones*. *The resultant*, which is the fifth most recurrent participant role, is used to draw a comparison between the achievements of the alleged state of Israel and the attacked states. Netanyahu attributes *the resultants of positive associations* to the alleged state of Israel while *the resultants of negative associations* are attributed to Palestine and Iran.

The sixth most recurrent participant role is *the external causer* and *the locative participant* with equal frequency. *The external causer role* represents Palestine and Iran and *the locative participant role* expresses the locations of their crimes and the location of the anti-government protests. The exceptional use of *the locative participant* is to express the countries that will be connected in the Israeli-suggested project. Finally, the least recurrent participant roles are *the instrument*, *the positioner* and *the temporal*. *The instrumental participant* represents the red

marker used by Netanyahu to draw on the map of the Israeli-suggested New Middle East. *The positioner participant* expresses Netanyahu's reference to himself in his previous speeches in the UN General Assembly. The *temporal participant* illustrates Netanyahu's prediction of the blessings of the Israeli-suggested New Middle East.

The third element under investigation is *the circumstance*. *Contingency circumstance* is the recurrent type of *circumstance* types in the provocative political speech under investigation. Only *contingency conditional* and *contingency purpose* circumstances are detected. *Contingency purpose circumstance* is the most frequent type since it expresses the purposes of the alleged-state of Israel, the state of Palestine, and the state of Iran from the perspective of Netanyahu. Syntactically, it is most frequently realised by prepositional phrase followed with infinitive phrase. The *contingency conditional circumstance* expresses the terrorist activities committed by Iran, i.e., Iranian violation of the JCPO of 2015. It is syntactically realised by the finite if- clause.

Temporal circumstance is the second most frequent type of *circumstance* types in the provocative political speech under analysis. While *temporal position* and *temporal duration background* circumstance are detected in the data under investigation, *temporal frequency circumstance* is not used. The *temporal position circumstance* is the most frequent. This is ascribed to Netanya's use of the past tense to refer to his past cautions against Iran and to the Hebrew religious story of Moses to persuade his audience of voting for the Israeli-suggested project. *Temporal durative background circumstance* is used by Netanyahu to admire the alleged Arab-Israeli friendship and to refer to the long period of oppressive policies of Iran. Syntactically, *temporal circumstances* are realised by adverb phrases followed with prepositional phrases.

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The locative and *process circumstance* have equal frequency in the provocative political speech under investigation. Only *the locative position circumstance* is detected in the data under investigation. *The locative direction* and *the locative distance* are not used. *The locative position circumstance* is used either to refer to the current location of Netanyahu, i.e., the General Assembly Hall in New York or to different locations where antisemitism should be rejected. It is syntactically realised by prepositional phrases and once by an adverb. Only two types of *process circumstance* are spotted in the data under investigation, namely *instrument* and *agentive* circumstances. The *process agentive circumstance* is the most frequently used type since it refers to a variety of entities, namely the innocent people terrorized by Iran, the Iranian politicians as oppressors, and the current audience as capable of imposing sanctions on Palestine and Iran. The *process instrument circumstance* is used to attract the attention of the audience to the current speech. Process circumstances are syntactically realised by prepositional phrase, rarely in infinitive phrase and adverb phrase.

Degree circumstance and *respect circumstance* have equal frequency in the provocative political speech under analysis. Only *degree amplification* and *degree measure* circumstances are detected in the data under investigation. Both are syntactically realised as adverbs. *The degree amplification circumstance* is used to blame the provoked party (UN international community) for not taking an action against Iran, and to motivate the Iranian citizens to protest their governments. *The degree measure circumstance* is used by Netanyahu to declare the support of his alleged state to the Iranian protesters and to motivate the provoked party to back the policies of his alleged state. *Respect circumstance* is used to create sympathy, demand political support to the alleged state of Israel, and to accuse Palestine and Iran with terrorist activities.

Based on the previous representation of the semantic role analysis of the provocative political speech of Netanyahu's UN address on 22nd September 2023, the provocative political discourse is characterized by several semantic features:

Using *the semantic situation of action* more frequently than the *semantic situation of state*. This is attributed to the provoker's incitement of the provoked side. The semantic situation of *action/activity* is the most recurrent type, followed with the *action /accomplishment*, then the *transitional action*, and finally the *momentary action*. The main function of *the semantic situation of action/activity* is to represent the activities of the targeted countries as terrorist activities. These countries are represented either as *agentive* or as *external causer*. Verbs of saying and the *continue + infinitive pattern* are the syntactic realizations of *the semantic situation of action/activity*. *The semantic situation of action/accomplishment* is used to draw a comparison between the provoker's state and the targeted countries. The *agentive* is either provoker's state or the targeted countries. The participant role of the *external causer* is dedicated only to the targeted countries. The *positive resultant* is associated with the provoker's state while the *negative resultant* is associated with the targeted countries. *The semantic situation of transitional action* instigates the provoked side to take an action against the targeted countries using *the latent agentive technique*. In addition, it is used to persuade the audience of certain action or project that fulfills the provoker's aims. *The semantic situation of momentary/ action* is used to represent the targeted countries' policies as oppressive ones towards their citizens and accordingly to instigate internal revolutions.

The second most recurrent semantic situation in the provocative political discourse is *the semantic situation of state*,

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i.e., *private states* used more frequently than *permanent quality*. The semantic situations of *private states* vary between *perception*, *intellect*, and *attitude*. The highest frequency is of *attitude*, followed with *intellect*, then *perception*. The *private state of attitude* has the semantic realization of *the modal + infinitive pattern*. It is semantically used to express the provoker's aggressive attitude towards the targeted countries and to accuse the targeted countries with a variety of accusations that appears in the *affected participant*. In addition, the *private state of attitude* is used by the provoker to express his government's support of the demonstrators in the targeted countries and his refusal of antisemitism. *The semantic situation of perception* is used to make a prediction that supports a future action of benefit to the provoker and to claim political alliances that motivates the provoked party to take an action against the targeted countries. The private state of *intellect* is used to emphasize the murderous nature of the targeted countries. Finally, *the semantic situation of permanent quality* is primarily used to describe the targeted countries with *negative permanent qualities*, the provoker's policies with positive ones, and secondarily to express the provoker's support of the protesters in the targeted countries.

The distinctive participant roles of the provocative political discourse are the *affected* where the crimes of the targeted countries are represented, followed with the *agentive* where the provoker refers to the targeted countries as perpetrators of terrorist activities. *The latent agentive* in the provocative political discourse is allocated to the provoked party as responsible for taking a reaction against the targeted countries' terrorist activities. The *recipient* is the third distinctive participant role of the provocative political discourse. It stands for the targeted countries as the source of terrorism and the

recipient of indifferent attitude from the provoked party. The *identification attribute* is the fourth distinctive participant role of the provocative political discourse. It is classified into *positive identifying attributes* to identify the provoker's state and *negative identifying attributes* to modify the targeted countries. Similarly, *the resultant participant role* is classified into *positive resultants* to illustrate the achievements of the provoker's state and *negative resultant* to represent the crimes of the targeted countries. The *external causer* and the *locative participant* are other distinctive participants of the political discourse. The former refers to the targeted countries and the latter stands for the locations of the crimes of these countries. Finally, *the instrument, the positioner and the temporal participants* are rarely identified in the provocative political discourse.

Contingency circumstance is the most recurrent type, followed with temporal, then, equal frequency of *locative and process circumstances*, and finally equal frequency of *degree and respect circumstances*. *Contingency circumstance* is mainly used as *purpose circumstance* where the provoker's positive purposes are represented in comparison to the destructive purposes of the targeted countries. *Contingency conditional circumstance* is rarely used in provocative political discourse. *Temporal position circumstance* is used either to refer to the provoker's previous speeches to authorize his current speech or to religious stories that could persuade his audience of his demands. *Temporal duration circumstance* is used by the provoker to refer to the long history of the targeted countries' oppressive policies and to persuade his audience of having political alliances with neighbouring countries. Adverb phrases followed with prepositional phrases are the most recurrent syntactic realisations of *the temporal circumstances* in the provocative political discourse. The *locative circumstance* is

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mainly used to refer to the current location of the provoker's speech or to different places where hostile policies exist. It is syntactically realised by prepositional phrases. *Process circumstance* is mainly used as *agentive circumstance*. It is used to refer to the politicians of the targeted countries as oppressors and the innocent civilians who suffer the terrorism of the targeted countries. It is syntactically realised by prepositional phrases. As a verbal tool to attract the attention of the current audience, *process instrument circumstance* is rarely used in provocative political discourse. *The degree circumstance* is used to encourage the audience to support the provoker's future interests and to take an action against the targeted countries. It is syntactically realised by the adverb. Finally, *respect circumstance* in the provocative political discourse is used by the provoker to play the victims role, to demand backing his policies, and to accuse the targeted countries with murderous intentions and oppressive policies.

It is noteworthy to mention that according to Article 117, The Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) in American law, using provoking speeches or gestures is incriminated in the American criminal law and punishable. Article 117 states the following:

words are considered provoking and a violation of Article 117, UCMJ, when, inter alia, a reasonable person would expect them to induce a breach of the peace under the circumstances; the provocative nature of speech for purposes of Article 117, UCMJ, thus depends in part upon the context in which they are spoken and the audience to whom they are addressed), the context of the words and the receiving audience should be taken into consideration.

Based on article 117, UCMJ, of the American criminal law, Netanyahu should be incriminated for using provoking words that lead to the breach of international peace. Based on the semantic analysis conducted in this research paper, the clearest evidence of the crime of provoking in Netanyahu's speech are the *respect circumstance*, e.g., "about the tyrants of Tehran", the *identification attributes*, e.g., "a curse" used five times, the *external causer*, e.g., "common threat of Iran". In addition, the crime of provoking appears in the *affected participants*, e.g., "the horrible antisemitic conspiracies", "glorifying terrorists", "it's ghoulis pay-to-slay", "spewing Jew-hatred", "threatening international shipping lanes", and in "foreign nationals". Moreover, the provoking words appear in the *contingency purpose circumstance*, e.g., "arming its terror proxies", "extending its terror tentacles", "assassinate Secretary of State" and in *the respect circumstance*, e.g., "about Iran's murderous intentions and murderous nature"

As the current research is limited to Netanyahu's UN address: 'On the Cusp of Historic Saudi-Israel Peace' on 22nd September 2023, potential areas for future research are the analysis of more provoking political speeches delivered by politicians. While Jackson's semantic role analysis is the only applied approach in this research paper, applying other approaches on the provocative political speeches would strengthen and empower the findings of the current research. Finally future research on the provocative political speech could exploit the UAM Corpus Tool 3.3x (2007) in creating a corpus of the distinctive semantic situations, roles, and circumstances of the provocative political speech. They could be taken as linguistic evidence to incriminate politicians who breach international peace, cause death of the innocent people, and destruction of the world by their provocative political speeches.

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تحليل الدور الدلالي للخطاب السياسي الاستفزازي: دراسة حالة لخطاب نتنياهو في الأمم المتحدة في 22 سبتمبر 2023

يهدف هذا البحث الى تحليل الدور الدلالي في الخطاب السياسي الاستفزازي لنتنياهو في الدورة الثامنة والسبعين للجمعية العامة للأمم المتحدة، في 22 سبتمبر 2023. ولتحقيق هذا الهدف، تم استخدام منهج تحليل الدور الدلالي الذي اقترحه جاكسون (2017) في Grammar and Meaning: A Semantic Approach to English Grammar لتحليل البيانات قيد التحقيق. ويظهر الأسلوب النوعي في تحليل الدور الدلالي، بينما يظهر الأسلوب الكمي في البيانات الرقمية. البيانات قيد التحليل هي مقتطفات من خطاب نتنياهو في الأمم المتحدة بعنوان "على أعتاب السلام السعودي الإسرائيلي التاريخي" الذي القاه على مسامع المجتمع الدولي التابع للأمم المتحدة في 22 سبتمبر 2023. وينصب التحليل على المقتطفات التي يستفز فيها نتنياهو المجتمع الدولي التابع للأمم المتحدة ضد إيران والسلطة الفلسطينية. و قد تم استخدام UAM Antconc و Mick O'Donnell Corpus Tool 3.3x 2007 Software 3.5.8 (2019) المقدمة من Laurence Anthony في التحليل الكمي

د/نهله محمد نجيب أحمد محمد خليل
لاستخلاص أنواع المواقف والأدوار والظروف الدلالية في صورة بيانات رقمية. وتشير نتائج
تحليل العينه إلى أن الخطاب السياسي الاستفزازي قيد البحث يتميز بالموقف الدلالي
للفعل semantic situation of action باعتباره النوع الأكثر تكراراً، يليه الموقف
الدلالي للحاله semantic situation of state. ويغيب الموقف الدلالي للحدث
semantic situation of event عن الخطاب السياسي الاستفزازي قيد التحقيق. اما
عن الادوار الدلالية participant roles الأكثر تكراراً فهي المتأثر the affected ،
والمستلم the recipient ، والوكيل the agentive ، والنتائج the attribute ، والنتائج
the resultant. وأخيراً، فإن ظروف الاحتمال contingency circumstance هي
الظروف الأكثر تكراراً ، يليها الظروف الزمنية temporal والمكانية
locative والطريقه process والدرجة degree والموضوع respect.

الكلمات الدالة

الأدوار الدلالية، الفاعل، المتأثر، المتلقي، الناتج، الظروف، المواقف الدلالية، الظرف الدلالي