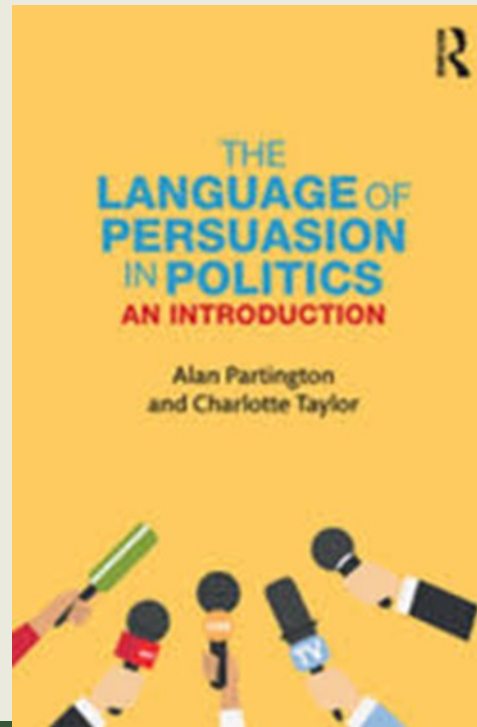


Lingua Inglese III

The Language of Politics Unit 3

Luisanna Fodde



Unit 3

2



Making speeches

Speeches...

3

... are a vital part of the politician's role in announcing policy and persuading people to agree with it



Rhetoric: different views

4

rhetoric \Rightarrow *the art of persuasive discourse*
(*Persuading people*, Cockcroft and Cockcroft 1992)

the 'art' of rhetoric \Rightarrow *an important part of human activity*

***THE SKILLS OF RHETORIC CAN REINFORCE
OUR GOOD INTENTIONS***

Aristotle 384-322 BC

rhetoric \Rightarrow *the manipulation of an audience by people who are
essentially insincere in their motives*

***THE SKILLS OF RHETORIC ARE PLACED ABOVE
THE VALUE OF HONESTY***

Plato 427- 347 BC

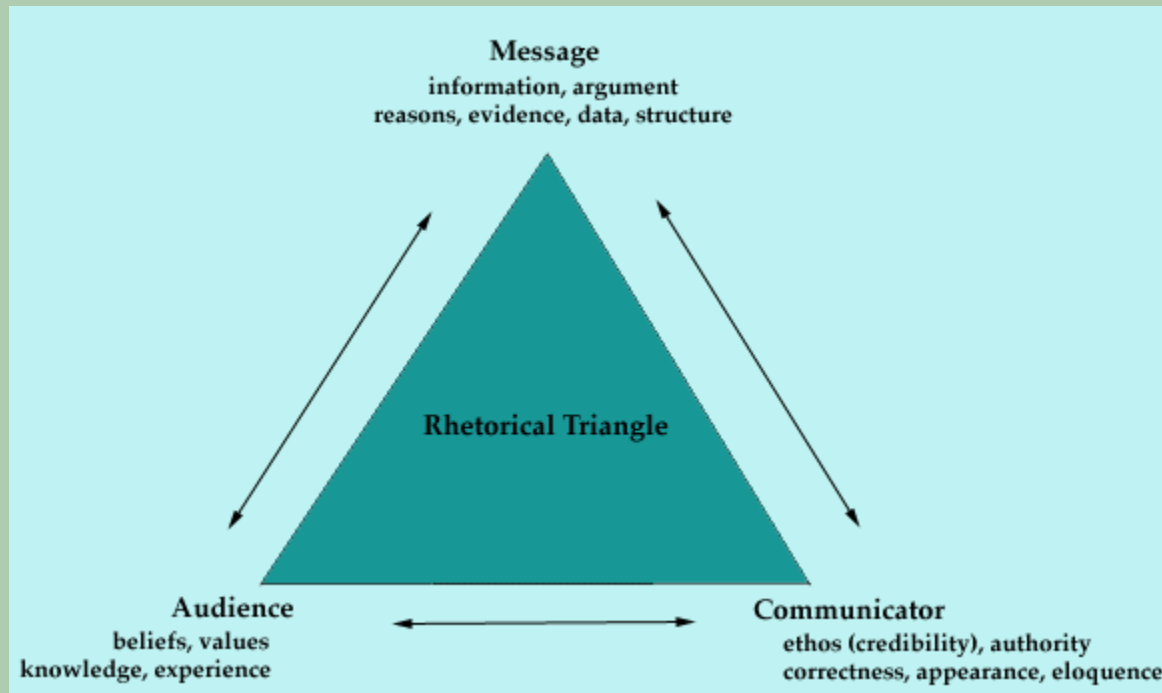
Rhetoric

5

Not concerned with government only.

A factor in all human communication, both written and oral.

The term *rhetoric* = to refer to “speech” and more specifically to a certain type of “formal public speaking”.



Rhetorical skills

6

Persuasive public speaking: part of the **curriculum** in many schools, colleges, and universities in the USA and in the UK.

Formal debating competitions: teams are given a topic and are told which side they must argue.

Students/teams are judged on their **rhetorical skills** and their **ability to speak persuasively**, rather than on the honesty of their views and opinions. Insincerity is acceptable.

Forms of public speaking

7

There are many forms of public speaking or formal speeches in which rhetorical skills are needed if the audience is supposed to pay attention and to be persuaded:

- debating
- the social club annual general meeting
- the law/a trial
- political speeches
- college lecture
- electoral speeches during campaigns
- religious sermon

Dilemma

8

Politicians argue that they wish to **put forward policies** that they honestly believe in.

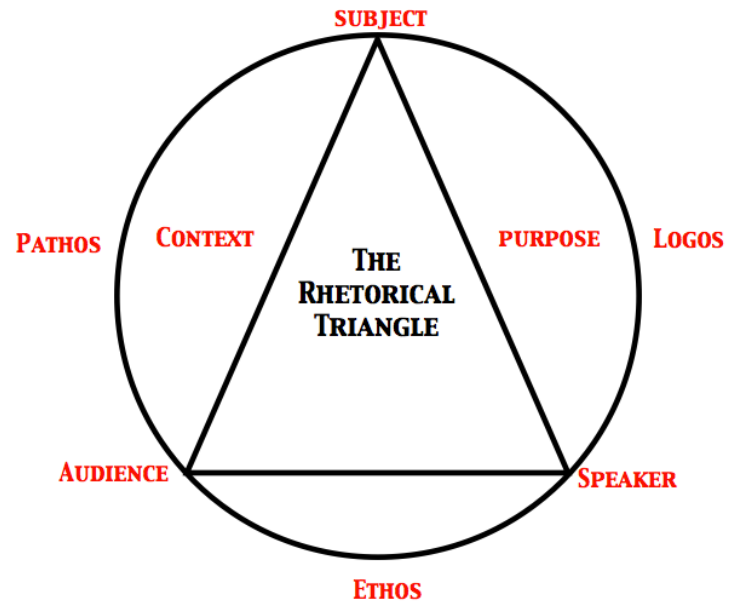


Listeners argue that the real purpose is to **manipulate the audience** into agreeing with policies which serve only the politician's desire to gain or keep power.

Persuasive devices

9

- What are the most common persuasive devices?
- What are the effects of modern media on the way politicians make speeches?



Aristotle's classification of the means of persuasion

10

- 1) Ethos:** Persuasion through personality and stance. The attempt to establish the credentials to justify why you should be listened to.
- 2) Pathos:** Persuasion through the arousal of emotions. The attempt to appeal to the audience's emotions.
- 3) Logos:** Persuasion through reasoning. The attempt to present a reasonable argument in a logical way.

Aristotle's classification of the means of persuasion

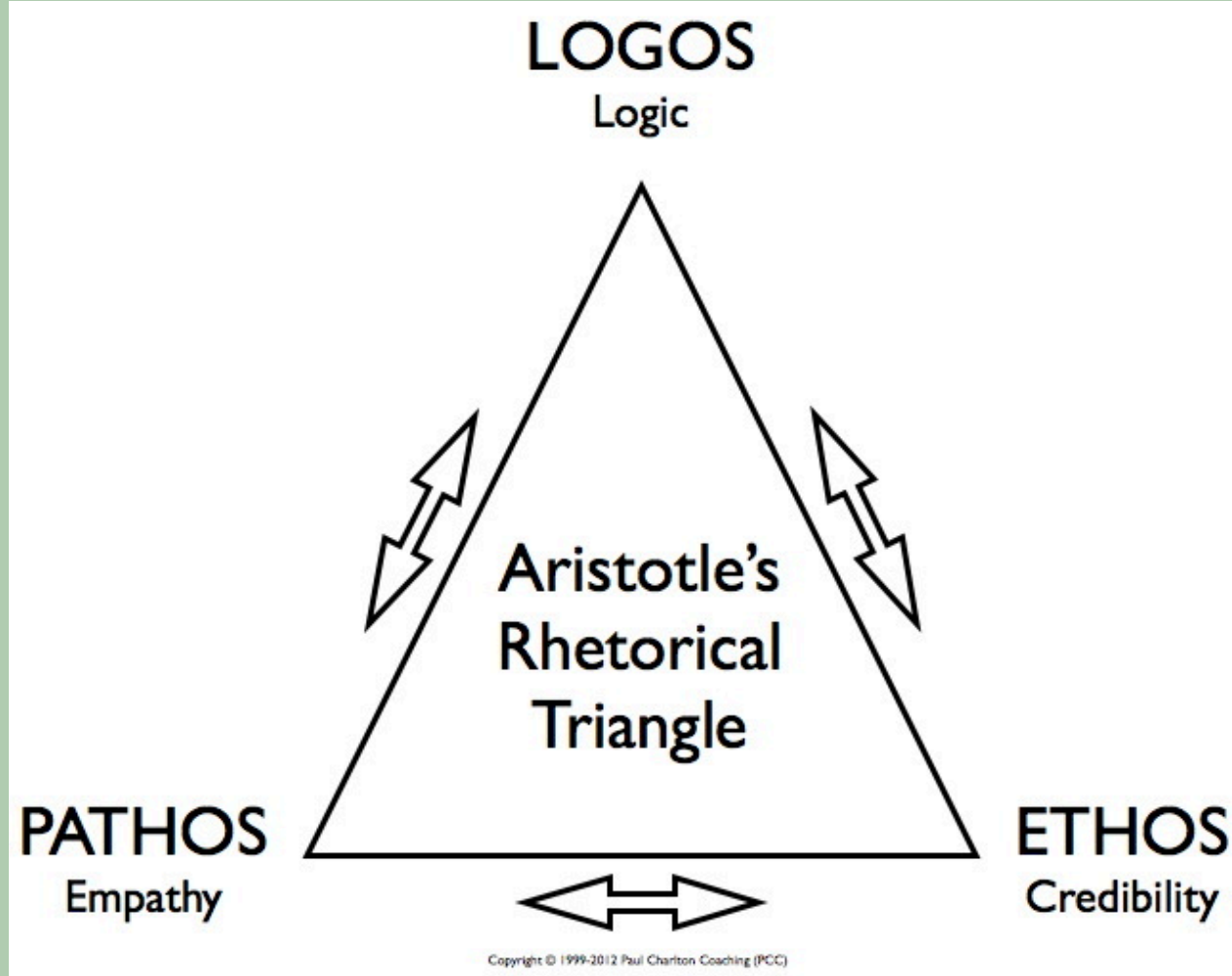
11

Ethos, Pathos and Logos

All three categories can be used by the speaker as part of his/her performance. The way in which they are constructed and the way in which the audience responds to them will influence the way in which a politician is seen (sincere or manipulative).

Studying rhetoric means studying the perlocutionary intent of utterances, i.e. the effect speakers wish them to have on their audience (see also Partington: 3-5)

Persuasion through reasoning



Persuasion
through
emotion

Persuasion
through
personality

To be persuasive, the speaker must take the audience into consideration and appeal to them in ways that will convince them. The Greek philosopher Aristotle (384 BC–322 BC) described three appeals that can be used to persuade an audience: ethos, pathos, and logos.

Logos: The speaker appeals to the audience's sense of reason, using logic, facts, and statistics.

Ethos: The speaker tries to show the audience that he or she is reliable, credible, and trustworthy. The speaker also tries to build a bridge to the audience by using first-person plural pronouns (we, us).

Pathos: The speaker appeals to the audience's emotions, using emotional language, sensory images, and anecdotes.

We can see an example of how these three types of appeal interact in a speech by former First Lady and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton to the fourth World Conference of the United Nations. Clinton speaks about the rights of women around the world. Look at these excerpts:

LOGOS

"Women comprise more than half the world's population, 70% of the world's poor, and two-thirds of those who are not taught to read and write."

"If women are healthy and educated, their families will flourish. If women have a chance to work and earn as full and equal partners in society, their families will flourish."

ETHOS

"Over the past 25 years, I have worked persistently on issues relating to women, children, and families."

"Earlier today, I participated in a World Health Organization forum."

"I have met mothers in Indonesia. I have met working parents in Denmark. I have met women in South Africa."

PATHOS

"Women also are dying from diseases that should have been prevented or treated. They are watching their children succumb to malnutrition caused by poverty. They are being denied the right to go to school by their own fathers and brothers. They are being forced into prostitution, and . . . banned from the ballot box."

LOGOS

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PATHOS

"Women also are dying from diseases that should have been prevented or treated. They are watching their children succumb to malnutrition caused by poverty. They are being denied the right to go to school by their own fathers and brothers. They are being forced into prostitution, and . . . banned from the ballot box."

Clinton appeals to logos with statistics ("more than half," "70%," "two-thirds") to persuade her audience of the importance of her cause: worldwide human rights for women. She also poses a logical cause-and-effect argument ("If women . . . , then . . .").

Clinton establishes her ethos, or credibility, when she cites her 25 years of experience working on "issues relating to women," her participation in the World Health Organization forum, and the women she has met in her travels around the world.

Clinton taps into the audience's sympathy by listing hardships women face around the world (poverty, malnutrition). She also cites examples of rights that women are denied in some parts of the world (education, voting).

The most frequent adjective which modifies the word *rhetoric* in the British National Corpus is political, followed by public (Chrateris-Black 2013).

The three distinctive meanings of RHETORIC:

- 1) the art of persuasion in the attempt to influence the behaviour of others (Aristotle)
- 2) the manipulation of an audience for personal ends. (Plato)
- 3) grandiloquence, or the use of high-sounding but empty language

The soundbite age

17

- Politicians nowadays tend to make their **public speeches** in front of their own supporters- as in **party conferences** and **party rallies**.
- **In the past** (up to the 1960s), political speeches tended to be more numerous and were delivered in front of anyone who wanted to attend.
- Today the **real audiences** are the **millions** who will read about the speeches in **newspapers** or hear/see them on **radio, television and the web**.
- The speeches are often written for the speakers/politicians by a team of **speech writers** who prepare the material for them.
- Speeches are distributed in advance to **the press** so that newspapers and **broadcasters** can cover the speech in evening news bulletins.

Soundbites

18

The speeches must contain highlights/best parts/key points/focal points which are often called **soundbites** (*brevi frasi dal forte impatto mediatico*): transmitted on radio or on TV or used as headlines in newspapers.

soundbite



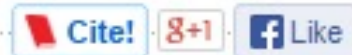
a short sentence or phrase that is easy to remember, often included in a speech made by a politician and repeated in newspapers and on television and radio

Soundbites require **economy of expression**: brief, and with language structures easy to repeat and to be remembered.

sound bite *noun*

: a short recorded statement that is broadcast on a television or radio news program

Full Definition of SOUND BITE



: a brief recorded statement (as by a public figure) broadcast especially on a television news program; *also* : a brief catchy comment or saying

[See sound bite defined for English-language learners »](#)

Examples of SOUND BITE

- His campaign relies on catchy *sound bites*.

First Known Use of SOUND BITE

1972

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/soundbite>

THE GOVERNMENT DOESN'T MAKE CHANGES JUST
'FOR THE SAKE OF IT'...WE MAKE CHANGES SO THAT
WE CAN HAVE AN ENDLESS STREAM OF POPULIST
SOUNDBITES FOR THE MEDIA!



FRAN



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INAUGURATION EXTRA

The Boston Globe

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2009

'Hope over fear'



L' impeachment al Presidente della Repubblica Sergio Mattarella

"Se andiamo al voto e vinciamo poi torniamo al Quirinale e ci dicono che non possiamo andare al governo.

Bisogna mettere in Stato di accusa il Presidente.

Bisogna parlamentarizzare tutto anche per evitare reazioni della popolazione".



**Italy's Salvini vows to end migrant arrivals by boat
Interior Minister says pregnant women, children
and refugees will remain in Italy.**

*Interior Minister says pregnant women, children and refugees will remain in Italy.
Al Jazeera, 5 July 2018*



“Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!” (R. Reagan, 1987)



A volte le lacrime sono gli occhiali per vedere Gesù.



Soundbites during Covid-19

25



GET THE FACTS.

PROTECT EACH OTHER.

BE KIND .



**YOUR BEST SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON
COVID-19 IS THE NEW ZEALAND
GOVT'S MINISTRY OF HEALTH**



Soundbites during Covid-19

26



**HAPPY
LABOUR DAY**

«Lascia il virus fuori dalla porta. Resta a casa».

«Anybody that wants a test can get a test.» (D. Trump, April 10, 2020)

“Alla pandemia del virus vogliamo rispondere con la universalità della preghiera, della compassione, della tenerezza. Rimaniamo uniti.” (Papa Francesco, 20.03.20)

Sound bites during Covid-19

27

Rimaniamo
distanti oggi per
abbracciarci
domani.
Fermiamoci oggi
per correre più
veloci domani.
(Giuseppe Conte)



CATCH IT 
Germs spread easily. Always carry tissues and use them to catch your cough or sneeze.

BIN IT 
Germs can live for several hours on tissues. Dispose of your tissue as soon as possible.

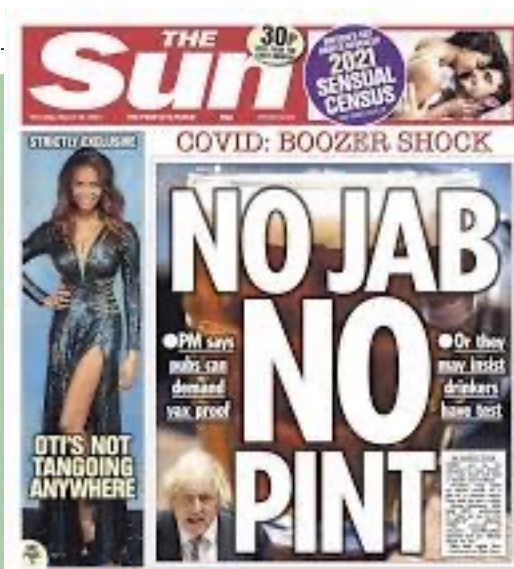
KILL IT 
Hands can transfer germs to every surface you touch. Clean your hands as soon as you can.

BBC NEWS

NHS

Sound bites during Covid-19

28



VIRUS 'PASSPORT' PLAN



**NO JAB,
NO JOB**



NO JAB, NO PLAY. NO JAB, NO PAY.





Great speeches have always had great soundbites. The problem now is that the young technicians who put together speeches are paying attention only to the soundbite, not to the text as a whole, not realizing that all great soundbites happen by accident...

(Peggy Noonan)

izquotes.com

Margaret Ellen "Peggy" Noonan (born September 7, 1950) is an American author of seven books on politics, religion, and culture, and a weekly columnist for *The Wall Street Journal*. She was a primary speech writer and Special Assistant to President Ronald Reagan.

Making political speeches memorable and exciting to the audience



- ✓ Three-part list (tricolons)
- ✓ Contrastive pairs
- ✓ Pronoun reference
- ✓ Binomials
- ✓ Bicolons
- ✓ Oxymorons

They all appeal to the human fascination for creative repetition and creative contrast, similar to our fascination for rhythm and music. They exploit what Jakobson (1960) called the *poetic function of language*, playing with the sounds and rhythm of language because it is pleasing to us. In a political context, the poetic function can be allied with ideas to produce a striking effect on the audience (see also Partington: 97-117)

Three-part list (1)

31

- one of the most common means of eliciting approval
- gives a sense of unity and completeness
- Each of the three parts has a similar lexical and syntactic structure with a degree of variation
- can be simple repetition
- repetition but with different prepositions
- different words with a similar meaning
- spoken aloud
- prosodic features** (tempo, rhythm, pitch, rhyme, alliteration, non-verbal features) play an important role



«American cars will travel the roads, American planes will soar in the skies, and American ships will patrol the seas»
(Trump 2016)



- ✓ Beginning of each phrase
 - ✓ Mode of transport
 - ✓ Will+verb of movement
 - ✓ Along or through a physical medium (pl)
- (Partington 2018: 100)

Logical crescendo, almost like a syllogism:

«You can fool some of the people all the time.
You can fool all of the people some of the time.
But you can't fool all of the people all the time» (A. Lincoln)

Three-part list (2)

33

“two occurrences of a phrase structure are sufficient to set up an expectation that there will be a third”

A. PARTINGTON, *The Linguistics of Political Argument. The Spin-Doctor and the Wolf-Pack at the White House*, 2003, p. 215.



1) Ask me my three priorities for government and I tell you: Education, Education, Education.

2) Defence, diplomacy and development.

3) Friends, comrades and fellow South Africans. I greet you all in the name of peace, democracy and freedom for all.

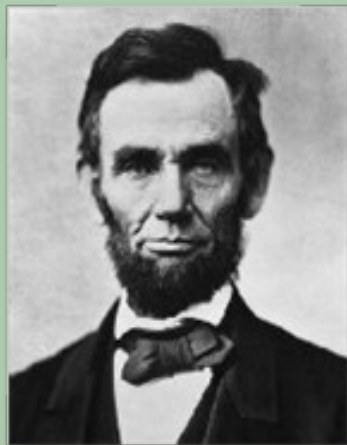


Who said that?



Who said that?

- 1) *Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears.*
- 2) *Government of the people, by the people, for the people.*
- 3) *Impresa, Internet, Inglese.*
- 4) *Maggie, Maggie, Maggie. Out, out, out.*
- 5) *Veni, vidi, vici.*



Our two countries have joined together as a force for peace, prosperity, and progress. (Hillary Clinton, 20 February 2009)



Investing in the potential of the world's women and girls is one of the surest ways to achieve global economic progress, political stability and greater prosperity for women- and men- the world over. (Hillary Clinton, 8 March 2010)

What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility - a recognition, on the part of every American, that we have duties to ourselves, our nation, and the world...

(Barack Obama, Inaugural Address, 2009)



Dear brothers and sisters, do remember one thing. Malala day is not my day. Today is the day of every woman, every boy and every girl who have raised their voice for their rights.

(Malala Yousafzai, Speech at the United Nations, July 2013)



"The rock of our family, the love of my life, the nation's next first lady Michelle Obama" – *The tribute to his wife*

(Barack Obama, Victory speech, 2008)



"Tonight, I ask for your prayers *for all those who grieve, for the children whose worlds have been shattered, for all whose sense of safety and security has been threatened.*".

(G.W. Bush, 9/11 speech, 2001)



Contrastive pair

41

- Called **antithesis** by classical Greek and Roman writers.
- Contains two parts which are parallel in structure, but in some ways are in opposition. In other ways they may use repetition to make the overall effect.

*“One small step for man:
one giant leap for mankind”.*

(Neil Armstrong, 1969)

- 1) identical syntactic structure, but small contrasts in meaning
- 2) phonological repetition
- 3) rhythm and stress
- 4) lexical repetition

*Where there is discord, may we bring harmony.
Where there is error, may we bring truth.
Where there is doubt, may we bring faith.
And where there is despair, may we bring hope.*

(Margaret Thatcher, victory speech 1979, from St Francis of Assisi)



NELSON MANDELA FREED

50,000 Celebrate in Cape Town South Africa Enters New Age of Hope



Nelson Mandela and his wife, Winnie, greet supporters outside New Victoria Prison

Nelson Mandela has been freed at last after almost 27 years of imprisonment. The parole board for the anti-apartheid leader has voted 10-0 to release him from the Robben Island prison, near Cape Town, shortly after 6pm yesterday afternoon.

Accompanied by his wife, Winnie, Mr Mandela said he passed the all in a victory salute and was immediately surrounded by a swirling mass of admirers and supporters. The authorities had restricted the number of those who were allowed to welcome Mr Mandela outside the prison but the excitement which had build up has been in the making ever since his arrest in 1962.

Mr Mandela was also escorted from the prison in Cape Town, where an estimated 50,000 people, the first public to see the man since his arrest in 1962, were gathered in the main square, outside the former South African Parliament building. I have seen all of the most great, freedom and democracy for all.

Speech
Mr Mandela said he had spent the six years of his imprisonment in Robben Island, a small island off the coast of Cape Town, where he was surrounded by a swirling mass of admirers and supporters. The authorities had restricted the number of those who were allowed to welcome Mr Mandela outside the prison but the excitement which had build up has been in the making ever since his arrest in 1962.

Winnie's Role
Winnie Mandela was also seen in Cape Town, where she was surrounded by a swirling mass of admirers and supporters. The authorities had restricted the number of those who were allowed to welcome Mr Mandela outside the prison but the excitement which had build up has been in the making ever since his arrest in 1962.

Other News
Nelson Mandela's release from prison has been celebrated in Cape Town, where he was surrounded by a swirling mass of admirers and supporters. The authorities had restricted the number of those who were allowed to welcome Mr Mandela outside the prison but the excitement which had build up has been in the making ever since his arrest in 1962.

Look after her!
ISOPON

“I stand before you not as a prophet but as a humble servant of you, the people... We have waited too long for our freedom. We can no longer wait.”

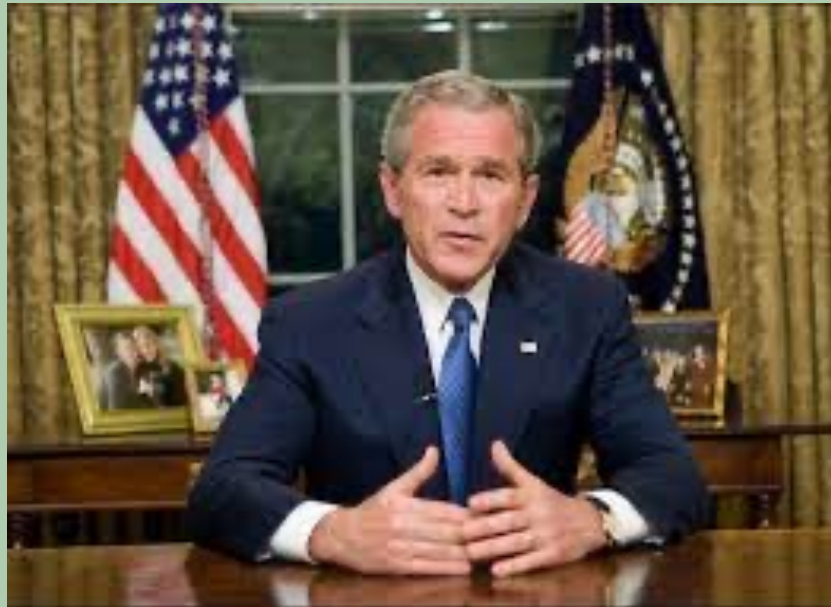
(Nelson Mandela's first speech on his release from prison in 1990, Cape Town)

I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.

Nelson Mandela



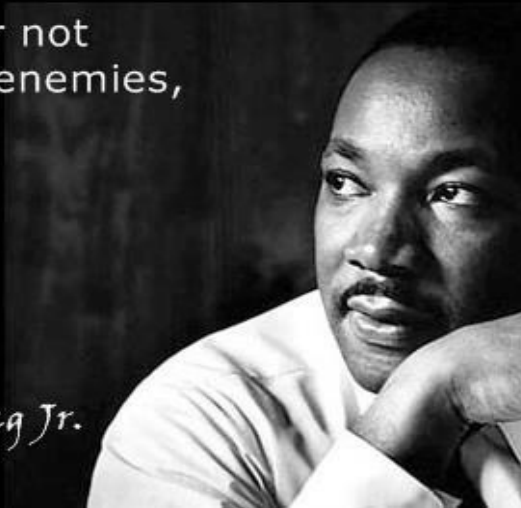
“Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America” (G.W. Bush, 9/11 speech)



www.c

"In the end,
we will remember not
the words of our enemies,
but the silence
of our friends."

Martin Luther King Jr.



**'Injustice anywhere
is a threat to
justice everywhere'**

“For too long, a small group in our nation's capital has reaped the rewards of government, while the people have borne the cost. Washington flourished, but the people did not share in its wealth. Politicians prospered, but the jobs left and the factories closed. The establishment protected itself, but not the citizens of our country. Their victories have not been your victories. Their triumphs have not been your triumphs, and while they celebrated in our nation's capital, there was little to celebrate for struggling families all across our land”
(Trump's Inaugural address, 2017):

*A series of contrasts to set the tone of his speech, the so-called political elite against 'you, the people'
(Partington: 103)*

CHIASMUS: A special type of contrastive pairs where the elements of the first part are switched around in the second. In other words, the grammar of one phrase is inverted in the following phrase, so that two key concepts from the original phrase reappear in the second phrase in inverted order:

“The press take Trump literally, but not seriously. Voters take him seriously, but not literally ” (The Atlantic, 2016)

“Mankind must put an end to war, or war will put an end to mankind” (J. Kennedy)

"Let us never negotiate out of fear, but let us never fear to negotiate." -John F. Kennedy.

"We shape our buildings, and afterward our buildings shape us." -Winston Churchill.

"We were elected to change Washington, and we let Washington change us." -John McCain.

[The Atlantic "How to keep an idiot busy"](#)

Political Chiasmi

Some figurative differences between Liberals and Conservatives

- ✓ Liberals believe that morality and charity don't require religion. Conservatives believe that religion doesn't require morality and charity.
- ✓ Liberals believe that religion should not interfere with government. Conservatives believe that government should not interfere with religion.
- ✓ Liberals want to expand government spending to stimulate the economy. Conservatives want to stimulate the economy by reducing government spending.

Pronoun reference

51

Pronoun reference is very important in political persuasion.

<i>you / your</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ the reader is being addressed personally▪ <i>you</i> is not just the single reader but also everyone in the country
<i>we / our</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ politicians are trying to persuade us to a point of view▪ we already agree with them▪ <i>we</i> gives a sense of collectivity, of us being all together

We are a grandmother

52

When Margaret Thatcher announced on the steps of 10 Downing Street that her son and his wife had had a baby, she said “***We are a grandmother***”: she was seen as giving herself royal airs, as considering herself too important, especially because she was talking about family news, not talking about anything which affected the whole country.





The *royal we*: traditionally, kings and queens of England have used this pronoun to refer to themselves. It is **formal** and suggests that in their role as monarch they are talking for their people as well as for themselves.

The royal 'we'



A screenshot of a tweet from Cheryl Cole (@CherylCole) dated December 3, 2012. The tweet expresses excitement about the birth of a royal baby. The interface shows 5,797 retweets and 1,468 favorites. The tweet is framed by a dark purple border.

Cheryl Cole 
@CherylCole

I'm soooooo excited that we're having a royal baby !!!! Congratulations to Kate and Wills !!!!!

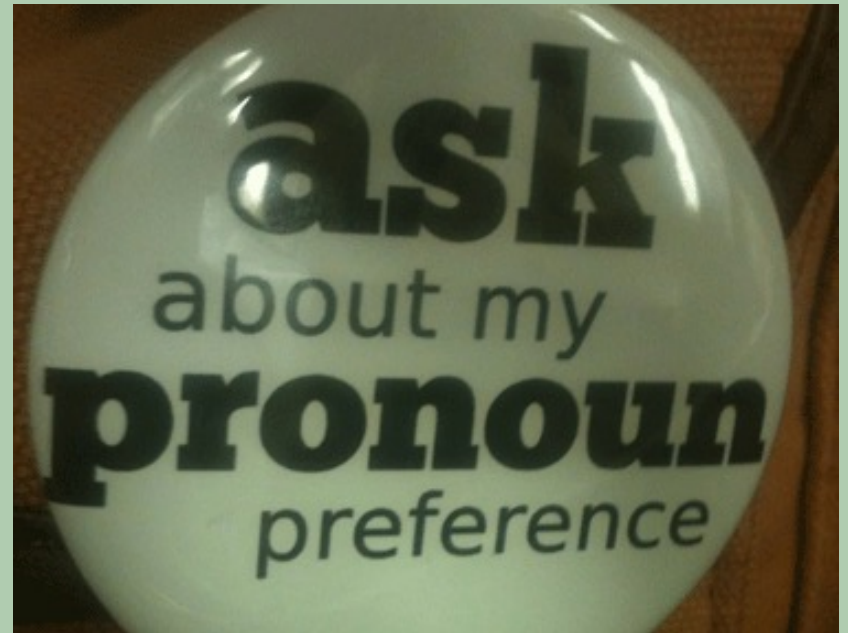
[Reply](#) [Retweet](#) [Favorite](#) [More](#)

5,797 RETWEETS **1,468** FAVORITES

10:26 AM - 3 Dec 12 · Embed this Tweet



The pronoun “one”: it is still used by the members of the royal family and by others in high offices; it has a **distancing effect** so it is **no longer popular with politicians** who are trying to communicate that they stand with the people.



Five ways to introduce a measure...

56

- 1) Today **I** intend to reduce taxes by 20 per cent.
- 2) Today **we** intend to raise taxes by a mere 5 per cent.
- 3) The **Chancellor/Government** must raise taxes for the long-term good of the nation's economy.
- 4) Today **it has been found necessary** to raise taxes by 20 per cent.
- 5) This **budget** will help all those on low incomes.

Personal reference

57

- There are 5 ways politicians use to introduce a new policy:
 - 1) first person singular *I, me, myself, mine*
 - 2) first personal plural *we, our, ourselves, us*
 - 3) they can **refer to their position**
 - 4) they can use **the passive**, to avoid giving direct responsibility for action to anyone
 - 5) they can use **a form of metonymy**

What woman have?

While you were hunting, I
was gathering — parts of speech.
Here, try a pronoun.

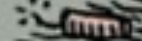


PELO
Tikaro
1-29-07



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Bizarro.com



The first person singular forms

59

I/me/myself/mine

- show **personal involvement** on the part of the speaker
- useful when good news is delivered
- they show too clearly where **blame** lies if something goes wrong
- they are not used to deliver bad/negative news
- are seen as too self-important, because speaker places himself/herself **above or outside the collective responsibility** of the colleagues

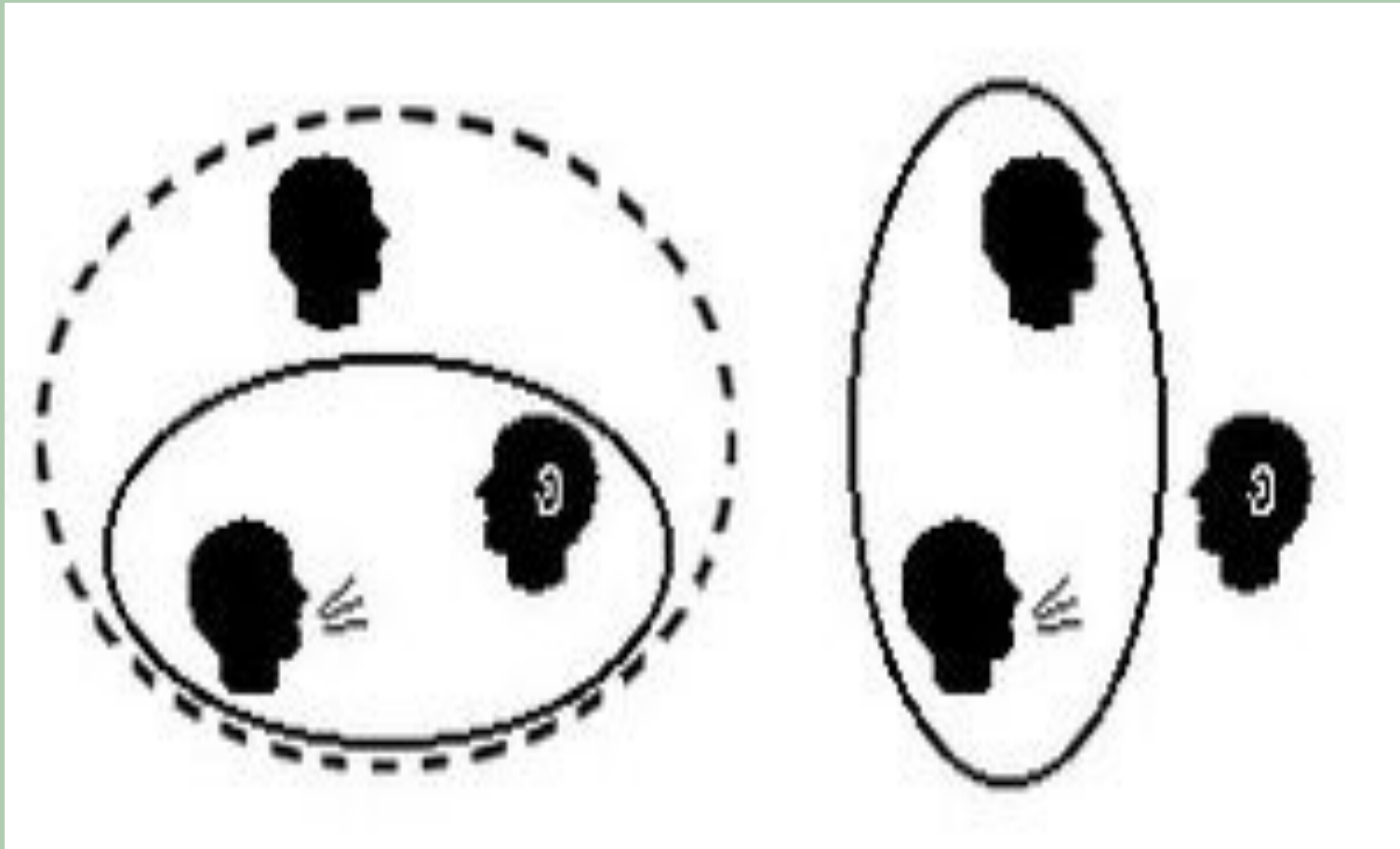
The first person plural forms

60

we/us/ourselves/ours

- help **share the responsibility** when the news is uncertain or negative
- show the politician as being **in touch** with all the country, the whole world
- the individual politician **does not gain much credit** when things go well

I	+	one other	= we
minister/politician	+	Prime minister	
I	+	a group	= we
minister/politician	+	government/political party	
I	+	the whole country	= we
minister/politician	+	the people of Britain/the USA	
I	+	the rest of humanity/world	= we
minister/politician	+	the people everywhere	



Inclusive 'we' includes the addressee (that is "we" means "you and I").

Exclusive 'we' excludes the addressee (that is "we" means "he/she and I, but not you").

A Short Story

Characters:

■ Everybody

★ Anybody

▲ Nobody

● Somebody

There was an important job to be done and ■ was sure that ● would do it.

★ would have done it but ▲ did it.

● got angry about that because it was ■'s job. ■ thought ★ would do it but ▲ realized that ■ wouldn't do it.

It ended up that ■ blamed ● when ▲ did what ★ could have done.

BINOMIALS – BICOLONS

Salt and pepper, man and wife, one and all (both literal and figurative)

BINOMIALS are semi-fixed phrases common in language in general:

Two or more words belonging to the same grammatical category, having some semantic relationship and joined by such particles as and or so.

Very popular in legal language, and quite a popular feature in political language:

Government and Parliament; political and monetary (union)

BINOMIALS – BICOLONS

BICOLONS are expressions containing two parallel phrases. They are longer than binomials:

“The South Africa **so many** have sacrificed **so much** to achieve is within sight.

Together let us walk this last, long gruelling mile to reach a non-racial, nonsexist society, where all our people will be equal before the law [...]. Together we have it in our power to defeat those who continue to kill to maintain the old order. We have it in our power to transform our country into the peaceful and prosperous homeland to all our people. **Let us work** together to achieve these goals. **Let us vow** never to celebrate another Christmas in chains. **We have a right to be free, and we shall be free!**” (N. Mandela 1990)

BINOMIALS – BICOLONS

«Madam President, you have done a great deal to promote
this understanding and reconciliation /.../

«The challenges of the past have been replaced by new
economic challenges which will demand the same **imagination
and courage**».

(Queen Elizabeth II: Speech in Ireland 2011)

“They have done everything we have asked of them. They
have won every battle they have fought” *(B. Obama, A
Sacred Trust, 2007)*

[...] I fought this campaign in the only way I know how – which is to say directly and passionately what I think and feel – head, heart and soul.[...]

(D. Cameron, Resignation Speech 2016)

OXYMORONS

A deafening silence, noble savage, bittersweet

Two apparently contradictory elements are combined in a single work, phrase or epigram.

*Extreme moderate, left-wing fascist, radical conservative,
Fighting for peace; Peace-keeping force; Great Depression;
Diplomatic offensive*

The term oxymoron is often used to make an argument by negatively evaluating someone, or something, by suggesting that the two components are incompatible:

Following the Brexit Referendum, in which a slim majority voted to leave the EU: **The United Kingdom is an oxymoron**

(See Partington 106-107)

OXYMORONS

In Praise of the Oxymoron

Gary Nunn, The Guardian (29 June 2012)

«Now then»

Questions Unit 3 Making Speeches

6 cfu exam

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- 1) What does the term rhetoric mean?
- 2) Summarize the different opinions of Plato and Aristotle regarding how rhetoric is generally used.
- 3) What exactly are soundbites and why have they become important in the modern age, with modern means of communication?
- 4) *Three* is a perfect number. Why are three-part lists used so often by public speakers? What is the effect on the listeners? Give some examples of three-part lists in political language or in another language area.

Questions Unit 3 Making Speeches

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5) Contrastive pairs, bicolons and binomials are often used in speeches. Give some examples of well known phrases and say where they were heard (if on one specific occasion) or where they can be heard (if they are associated with a particular event).

6) What determines the choice of a politician in the use of the personal pronouns 'I' or 'We'? What ways are there to introduce a new policy or measure?