The Functions of Synonymy in Parliamentary Speeches in Jordan

By

Sohad H. Al Badarneh

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Examining committee

Prof. Yousef Bader (Chairman) ..................................................

Prof. Fawwaz Al-Abed Al-Haq (Member) ..................................

Dr. Musatafa Hayaderah (Member) ...........................................
Abstract

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This study investigates the functions of synonyms in Parliamentary speeches in Jordan and explains its main functions. Together with other important rhetorical devices used by politicians in their speeches such as repetition, metaphor, personification, rhetorical questions, and irony, synonyms were found to abound in political speeches in Jordan. More than 270 such synonyms were unveiled in only twenty speeches, which were the source of the data of the present thesis. The study has revealed that the most important functions of synonyms used by politicians include "emphasis and assertion", "expressing emotions and feelings", "praise and esteem", "clarification", "criticism", "dissatisfaction", among many others. Many synonyms have been found, however, to express no specific function and are considered redundant. The study ends with some conclusions and recommendations for future studies.

Key words: synonyms, functions, rhetorical devices, emphasis, praise, redundant usage.