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# Examining English Vocabulary in Terms of Style and Meaning as a Way to Communicate and Feedback the Audience to Huge Events in the Field of International Relations and Security

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## Abstract

The Munich Security Conference 2021 (the MSC), a significant event in the field of international relations and security, is the focus of this article's analysis of comments as a means of audience feedback and communication. The MSC's official accounts on well-known social media platforms like Facebook are used to analyze the comments. The authors of the article organize the comments into themes based on their popularity and relevance, and they examine the vocabulary from a stylistic and semantic perspective. It is concluded that events occurring on a global scale as well as specific domestic issues requiring the attention and response of the international community influence public opinion. The particular characteristics of user feedback are dictated by the kind of digital platforms used. In addition to offering crucial information about public opinion in cyberspace, the critical approach to discourse analysis enables the application of acquired knowledge in the educational domain to instruct critical perception of digital content and adhere to media literacy principles.

*Keywords:* English Vocabulary; Media; Communication; Linguistic.

## 1. Introduction

The increasing impact of digital communication over the last three decades has led to interdisciplinary research in computer-mediated discourse in particular, as well as computer-mediated communication in general. The very nature of modern communication, which "reflects the coexistence of the new with the old, in the sense of manifesting two parallel systems of communication – the old resources and the new technologies," has made such research imperative. On a number of levels, including the organization of text, digital technologies have revolutionized communication. Bolander & Locher (2020), Blitvich & Bou-Franch (2018), and Androutsopoulos (2021) are some of the academics who discuss the topic. Given the nature of the current situational framework and the fact that digital or computer-mediated communication is at an all-time high due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the growing significance of the current understanding of the issue can be explained. The Internet is currently influencing new communication genres and methods of analysis in addition to becoming a new medium for communication itself. Numerous scientists, such as Blitvich & Bou-Franch (2018), who assert that "the analysis of digital discourse lies at the intersection of (non) language resources, society and technology," attest to the cross-border nature of research into computer-mediated, or digital discourse.

Research on computer-mediated communication "may be thought of in terms of 'waves,' i.e. research approaches defined by distinct sets of questions, assumptions, and methods," according to Androutsopoulos (2021). The researcher contends that although "media-related constraints of language use on the internet" were the main focus of the first wave of computer-mediated communication research, the second wave "rejected technologically determined and homogenizing views and focused instead on sociolinguistic variation and diversity." The author argues that the need for research "shifts to language practices in a trans-media, trans-contextual perspective" after analyzing the current situation with widespread

access to the Internet and newly developed discourse practices (Fakhrutdinova et al. 2020). The notion is reinforced by Herring (2019), who contends that computer-mediated discourse analysis, which she defines as "specialization within the broader interdisciplinary study of CMC distinguished by its focus on language and language use and by its use of methods of discourse analysis to address that focus," is one possible approach to researching computer-mediated communication (Gali et al., 2019).

Thus, the researcher claims that the fundamental component of computer-mediated discourse analysis is the examination of participants' online behavior via the prism of language use. This viewpoint explains the use of techniques from the long-standing tradition of studying spoken and written language analysis, such as critical discourse analysis, interactional sociolinguistics, pragmatics, conversation analysis, and text analysis. In addition, "imbrication of certain elements of discourse analysis with some elements of image production and analysis as well as with elements related to the electronic environment" is another characteristic of contemporary research. This strategy would determine the parameters and structure of our investigation into the public's response to the Munich Security Conference in 2021.

## 2. Literature Review

Over the last twenty years, there has been a growing awareness of the significance of acquiring vocabulary. The importance of foreign language vocabulary acquisition for language learners is acknowledged by academics, educators, and curriculum designers (Gu 2003). Furthermore, it appears that language learners understand the value of vocabulary because they typically consult dictionaries rather than grammar manuals (Wilkins, 1972). Similarly, Wilkins (1972) asserts that "very little can be conveyed without grammar, and nothing can be conveyed without vocabulary" (Wilkins 1972). Additionally, McCarthy (1990) and Shen (2008) contend that vocabulary knowledge has a significant role in an individual's ability to communicate in a language. In fact, research has shown a strong correlation between students' vocabulary size and their proficiency in the four language domains of speaking, writing, listening, and reading (Koizumi and In'nami 2013).

Although having a large vocabulary is essential for language proficiency, many academics contend that the hardest part of learning a foreign language is actually expanding one's vocabulary. "Vocabulary forms the biggest part of the meaning of any language, and vocabulary is the biggest problem for most learners," according to McCarthy's diary (1990). In response to these challenges, numerous academics have devised diverse strategies and techniques to aid language learners in effectively gaining vocabulary. Since the 1960s, language learning strategies (LLS) have drawn a lot of attention (Safian et al., 2014). This illustrates how the emphasis in education has shifted from teachers and their methods to students and their learning preferences (Wong Fillmore, 1976). Schmitt (1997) ascribes this change in education to the widespread realization that a learner's strategies may be just as crucial to their success in language acquisition as their aptitude is. Because of this, scholars now concentrate on how each learner learns differently and how they manage their language use and learning (Alahmadi et al., 2018).

## 3. Methodology

The global 2021 forum brought together notable individuals such as John F. Kerry, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Charles Michel, Ursula von der Leyen, Emmanuel Macron, Boris Johnson, Jens Stoltenberg, Joe Biden, and Bill Gates. It follows that it is understandable why such a large-scale event garners so much interest from viewers worldwide. Our research's goal is to examine audience reactions to the event as a whole, as well as to the speakers and topics covered specifically, as reported on Facebook. The following techniques were used: continuous sampling, content analysis, stylistic, semantic, and analytical analysis techniques to investigate the axiological component of word-connotation as well as lexical and stylistic variety.

## 4. Results

The premier forum for discussing global issues and international security policy is the Munich Security Conference (MSC). It is a yearly occasion that is typically televised from the Hotel Bayerischer Hof, the MSC's customary location, in February. The conference was first established in 1962. Prior to 1993, the event was primarily focused on military matters and was organized by the Christian Social Union, a conservative German political party. The forum's first thirty years saw the participation of political experts, media representatives, and military and political leaders from NATO member states. Since the 1990s, the conference has expanded the range of its attendees, welcoming representatives

of numerous other nations and international organizations to the discourse on international security. In order to discuss critical issues of international security policy, the MSC now brings together prominent decision-makers and thought leaders from around the globe, such as heads of state, ministers, prominent figures from international and non-governmental organizations, and high-ranking representatives from industry, the media, academia, and civil society (Alava et al., 2020).

Defense and security policy, technology and cyber security, human security, resource and economic security, and transnational security are among the subjects that are of utmost importance. The 57th Munich Security Conference, dubbed "Beyond Westlessness: Renewing Transatlantic Cooperation, Meeting Global Challenges," was conducted virtually due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. The name alludes to the previous 56th MSC, which was dubbed "Westlessness" due to the rise of illiberalism and the resurgence of nationalism, which endangered the West and its democratic ideals. The theme of this year's central focus, "Beyond Westlessness," sought to address global issues like climate change and the Covid-19 pandemic while also figuring out how to reestablish the transatlantic partnership. The Munich Security Conference sparked lively public response and was widely discussed on social media (See Table 1).

Table 1. *Public Response to Munich Security Conference in Facebook*

| Account | Posts | Verbal Comments | Likes | Shared |
|---------|-------|-----------------|-------|--------|
| Facebook | 19 | 275 | 2038 | 469 |

Social media comments made by the general public about the event can be categorized into a number of thematic groups, which aids in highlighting the audience's top concerns. With 53,307 followers, the Munich Security Conference's non-commercial Facebook page is called @MunSecConf. The first Facebook post announcing the conference date under the hashtag #MSC2021 was released on February 12 and provided information about the event's theme, format, and anticipated attendance. There are nineteen posts in total that are related to the conference. The topics covered in the posts, the amount of comments made on them, the frequency with which the post was shared, and the audience's response are all displayed in the following table.

Table 2. *Distribution of Feedback to Munich Security Conference 2021 in Facebook Account*

| Post Number | Date | Comments | Shared | Positive Reaction | Negative Reaction |
|-------------|------|----------|--------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1.The #MSC2021 Special Edition "Beyond Westlessness" | 12.02.21 | 17 | 13 | 59 | 1 |
| 2. Beyond Westlessness. MSC Special Edition | 16.02.21 | 8 | 0 | 69 | 1 |
| 3. How to revive transatlantic relations? | 16.02.21 | 9 | 32 | 90 | 1 |
| 4. How to win the race against climate change? | 17.02.21 | 0 | 6 | 34 | 0 |
| 5. What are European priorities for a new transatlantic agenda? | 18.02.21 | 11 | 12 | 59 | 23 |
| 6. Just a few hours left until the virtual #MSC2021 Special Edition "Beyond Westlessness" kicks off! | 19.02.21 | 0 | 15 | 89 | 0 |
| 7. Who will speak at the #MSC2021 Special Edition? | 19.02.21 | 11 | 28 | 96 | 1 |
| 8. Now LIVE | 19.02.21 | 135 | 195 | 318 | 25 |
| 9. A strong signal for transatlantic cooperation | 19.02.21 | 9 | 39 | 238 | 2 |
| 10. This was the #MSC2021 Special Edition! | 20.02.21 | 13 | 26 | 207 | 0 |
| 11. "America is back." | 20.02.21 | 24 | 36 | 203 | 6 |
| 12. "Germany stands for a new chapter in transatlantic relations." | 21.02.21 | 10 | 16 | 114 | 3 |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 13. MSC account renewed a photo of the cover | 22.02.21 | 3 | 4 | 110 | 0 |
| 14. President Joe Biden's "America is back" was met with relief by U.S. allies. | 23.02.21 | 0 | 4 | 43 | 0 |
| 15. "I do believe in NATO," says French President Emmanuel Macron | 26.02.21 | 9 | 24 | 94 | 2 |
| 16. John Kerry at the #MSC2021 Special Edition | 2.03.21 | 0 | 7 | 68 | 0 |
| 17. Women in the European Union and G20 states make up... | 8.03.21 | 10 | 10 | 51 | 0 |
| 18. Covid-19 is a #Polypandemic | 19.03.21 | 3 | 2 | 19 | 0 |
| 19. Tune in live to Asia Society Southern California's conversation on President Joe Biden's economic priorities with our Chairman Wolfgang Ischinger. | 23.03.21 | 3 | 0 | 12 | 0 |

Table 2 demonstrates how wildly different people's reactions were. Posts that were published on the day of the conference's live streaming broadcast have the highest popularity. This is the post with the most shares and comments. The post featuring US President Joe Biden's speech and his assertions that "America is back" received the second most comments and shares. The majority of responses to the themes and personalities in the posts were positive. A negative attitude accounts for 3.29% of the total set of fast reactions. Posts about European priorities for a new transatlantic agenda (which elicited 23 negative responses against 59 positive ones) and the conference's live broadcast (which elicited 25 negative reactions against 318 positive ones) are among the ones that received low ratings (Ivanova & Biktasheva, 2019).

## 5. Discussion

The linguistic data that we obtained from the Munich Security Conference comments enabled us to make the following deductions. Digital platform type influences the type and intensity of public feedback. Because Facebook is a networking site, a large number of comments and discussions can be found there. Discourse analysis of the data allows for the identification of the "hottest" topics and well-known figures in the public sphere. The conference's live broadcast, Joe Biden's declaration that "America is back" on Facebook and Twitter, and the assessment of A. Merkel's involvement in the MSC activities from a diachronic perspective garnered the greatest attention in both verbal and nonverbal forms. The majority of the comments were posted in English, with German being the second most popular language. A few comments were also posted in French, Ukrainian, and Turkish. In addition to giving us vital information about the power dynamics that exist in cyberspace, the critical approach to discourse analysis also made it easier to apply this knowledge in the educational setting to teach students how to critically perceive digital content, recognize domination and enforcement strategies, and adhere to media literacy principles.

## 6. Conclusion

On a Facebook account, the comments can be categorized as follows: comments expressing opinions about the event, remarks about urgent matters, names of countries, names of political figures, names of international organizations, comments about the COVID pandemic, remarks that make an appeal for something or provide evaluations, remarks unrelated to the conference's issues, or spam. Due to the fact that Internet discourse frequently reflects a colloquial speech pattern, our data frequently displays contracted forms, a variety of omissions, syntactical gaps, sentence style and word order violations, spelling errors that follow orthographic rules, and the use of capital letters instead of lowercase or vice versa. At the lexical level, there are a lot of terms that are evaluative and emotive, as well as low and high colloquial lexemes and instances of invectives. Certain followers have a tendency to be very active, so the same person leaves comments on a single topic in multiple locations and uses various approaches to convey the same idea.

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