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Tautology and Pleonasm in Political Interviews: A Semantic Study

Karama Hassan Hussain

Mustansiriyah University, College of Political Science

E-mail: hassan_k@uomustansiriyah.edu.iq

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Abstract

Pleonasm refers to the involvement of unnecessary words or morphemes represents pleonastic words which repeat a mentioned information elsewhere, whereas tautology refers to the unacceptable repetition of the same ideas, words, or phrases by using diverse words. In English, there is a perplexity to distinguish some elements that may be misled to be regarded as pleonastic or tautological. The current study aims at clarifying the differences between pleonasm and tautology semantically by analysing two political interviews. The data analysis is taken from two presidential interviews for the American presidents Trump in 2020 and Biden in 2022. The study has concluded that tautology and pleonasm can be used in disparate degrees in political speeches. Using tautology is more necessary than pleonasm in political speeches, in which pleonasm concentrates on ideas and implied meaning, which can be misled to simple, ordinary people, while tautology is clear and can be understood by any simple brain in spite that it is dull and boring sometimes if the repetition is exaggerated, but can be perceived easily to focus on some important ideas the politician sees it is significant.

Key words: tautology, pleonasm, political interviews, redundancy.

1. Introduction

Pleonasm refers to any grammatical element in the sentence that shows additional elements to the word and semantically that have the same meaning. Tautology indicates redundant words and ideas. In English, there is a perplexity to distinguish some elements that may be misled to be regarded as pleonastic or tautological. In spite of considering pleonasm as a part of the concept of tautology, the difference between those two terms is apparent, which causes some confusion when determining whether the phrase is tautological or pleonastic. Therefore, this study deals with analysing political texts to show the difference between tautology and pleonasm. The current study aims at clarifying the differences between pleonasm and tautology semantically by analysing two political interviews.

2.1 Pleonasm: Definitions

According to Brown (2004, p.1160), pleonasm can be defined as the process of inserting superfluous words which are unnecessary to complete the structure or meaning of a sentence. Trask (1993, p. 209) maintains that the involvement of unnecessary words or morphemes represents pleonastic words which repeat a mentioned information in another place. Fowler and Crystal (2009, pp. 440-441) state that pleonastic words are used for rhetorical impact and emphasis by putting a pile of phrases and words together, but this pile of phrases or words is boring instead of being attractive, as in: *save and except, in any shape or form, and of any sort or kind*. In addition, repeated conjunctions are wrongly considered pleonastic, as in: ‘*You just come with me in a tub pair, & I should not wonder if I could not lick you into shape*’, and negative form, as in double negation: ‘*there are not nothing right here*’, which shows nonsense, ungrammatical writing (ibid). A foolish pleonasm is represented in the example ‘*quite all right*’, in which *quite* and *all* are corresponding in sense. The meaning of *quite right* is identical to *all right*, and *all right* is *quite right*, nevertheless *quite all right* is *all quite wrong* (ibid, 480). Grammatically, as Crystal states (2008, p. 371), pleonasm points to elements of a sentence that repeats some other elements and semantically treated as redundant. Dummy pronouns, like *it* and *there*, can be treated as pleonastic beside words. This will be called *pleonastic pronoun*. Besides, empty auxiliaries, like *do*, *does*, and *did*, are also

pleonastic and called *pleonastic do*. Pleonasm is classified as a kind of tautology, which refers to the exaggerated utilisation of words to convey a particular idea.

Additionally, one of the uses of pleonasm is to innervate the expression, in contrary to redundancy, which is the employment of needless words. The repetition of the same idea by involving two or more various words in the same sentence is another use of pleonasm to show emphasis, as in: “ *I saw with my own eyes, I heard with my own ears*”. Pleonasm and redundancy are stylistic devices. Semi-pleonasm can be distinguished from false pleonasm. The phrase “*a pool of water*” shows semi-pleonasm, in which the word ‘*pool*’ alone suggests water in spite that there are pools of oil and blood. The phrases ‘*to go to the attic*’ and ‘*to light a fire*’ indicate false pleonasm. The word ‘*attic*’ is an upstairs room, but not the only one, and ‘*fire*’ should be lit to burn (Dupriez,1991, pp. 345-346). In the same token, rhetorical and poetic devices use pleonasm to achieve meaning. The phenomenon of pleonasm is present in philosophy, linguistics, and rhetoric since ancient times. Pleonastic expressions contain two or more components, in which one expression implies and entails the other that the meaning of the second component bears the meaning of the first one, as in: *return back*, in which the implicit meaning of *back* is found in *return*, which means *go back*. This shared semantic component is called *focal component* (Booji&van Marle,2005, pp. 119-121). In some cases, inanimate pronoun *it* can be pleonastic when not being referential (Lappin&Fox,2015, p. 649). Pleonasm is not considered a question of grammar, but a taste or style, for instance: *gather* or *gather together*, *the reason* or *the reason why*. Before deciding not to employ a pleonastic expression, the question that should be raised is how many of the uttered sentences are necessary. Not using unnecessary words means that the production of any human being would be very little during life. Besides, inside any uttered sentence, the sound and the number of syllables used are more significant that the simple meaning of words (Evans&Evans,1957, p. 372).

2.2.1 Grammatical Pleonasm

The grammatical level of pleonasm shows that pleonasm can be seen in the sentence and in the stem. In the phrases “ *see with one’s eyes*” and

‘*resulting effect*’, different levels can be inspected that, in the first phrase ‘*see with one’s eyes*’, shows verbal level, whereas ‘*resulting effect*’ is nominal. One of the morphological types of pleonasm is what is called hyper characterisation, which deals with the inflectional and derivational morphemes to express the ‘focal component’, for example: ‘*more easier*’. The latter phrase is a mixture of the adverb *more* with the -er, which is an inflectional comparative aspect. Hyper characterisation refers to ‘pleonasm of formative element’, which allows recognising an inflectional category that could be hyper characterised via different morphological methods, for example: -en in *children* and *brethren*. On morphological level, when the head is joined by a bound morpheme, it will add a recognisable expression to the focal component. This joining means that the focal component can be interpreted twice separately to consider its two existences as synonymous. The head, simultaneously, is a word, and what is linked to it is a derivational morpheme, and they could be synonymous. Thus, the semantic pleonasm changes into morphological one (Booji&van Marle,2005, pp. 119-139).

Morphologically speaking, when the root joins an affix that is used to add a certain unit of meaning, affix pleonasm can exist, for instance: ‘*undecipher* to *decipher*’ (Gardani,2015, p. 542). Hyper characterisation presents pleonasm grammatically, which means that this concept covers the morphological part inflectionally and derivationally. Hyper characterisation also embraces two primary pleonastic varieties in compounding; synonym and hyponym compounding (Bauer et al,2015, p. 147). Another type of pleonasm can be mentioned which is concord pleonasm. This term means that focal component can be expressed particularly by the morpheme, beside a semantic feature of lexical meaning of a noun (Booji&van Marle,2005, p. 131).

2.2.2 Semantic Pleonasm

Notice the following examples: *a male father, a royal king, a female sister*. These expressions represent pleonasm, in which they have an element that embraces a meaning indicates the sense of pleonasm. These expressions contain what is called dependent items that new information is added to the meaning of the sentence or phrase. The result of such expressions is

considered pleonastic. For example: “*John drinks liquids*”, “*liquids*” does not add new information that the verb “*drink*”, which bears the meaning of *liquids*. So, the solution is to modify the object *liquid* to be any kind of liquids, like *juice, tea, milk*, etc. In the same vein, *a male father* bears a dependent item, *male*, that is implied in the head *father*, so it is a pleonastic expression (Cruse,1986, p. 104).

In addition, not all repeated expression is pleonastic. Some repeated expressions are used to show emphasis and intensification, for instance: “*That is very, very, very much, Sandra rushed quickly to the street*”. The adverb *quickly* is a part of *rush*, and *very* intensify the meaning of the sentence. In another example, redundancy is apparent: “*Chris was extremely, extremely, extremely angry*”, represented in the repetition of the word *extremely*. In the example: “*Clara shrugged her shoulders*”, pleonasm is absent because it is a verb of bodily actions, in which the verb *shrug* is connected to *shoulders*, but in the example: “*What Clara shrugged were her shoulders*” is pleonastic (Cruse,2000, pp. 223,229).

2.3 Tautology: Definitions

Tautology refers to a proposition or a sentence that cannot be false, for instance: “*Unicorns either exist or do not exist*”. This sentence shows that tautology is true in both cases, whether the unicorn is found or not (Murphy&Koskela:2010, p. 160). Tautology can be defined as a concept employed to show repetition of the same idea in various ways, either by using the same words, the same essence of the sentence for rhetorical uses. It can be noticed in some writings of naïve authors who looks emphasising ideas and fail to notice using repeated words more than required, for example:

e.g. “The motion on constitutional reforms aims at placing women *on the same equality* with men in the exercise of the franchise.”

Tautology appears in the phrase “*the same equality is*” (Fowler&Crystal,2009, pp. 595-596). A tautology can be utilised to propose that an instance is given as a good example of a type, as in: *this woman is a woman*. Tautology in language is not restricted to the meaning of expressions and linking words. The sentence “*This stone is not a stone*” identify a form

and the contradiction impacts the correlation between the subject and the predicate directly. The contradictory identification of the two opposing terms, in this case, represents the negative corresponding item of a tautology. A contradiction like ‘*This stone is not a stone*’ shows negation of the tautological identification ‘*This stone is a stone*’. Tautology lacks sense because it cannot be adopted as images of reality and any potential situation, but it is part of symbolism. It can determine the limits of sensed speech from outside (Prandi,2004, pp. 200-361).

The notion of tautology refers to the unacceptable repetition of the same ideas, words, or phrases by using diverse words (Brown, pp. 2004:1160). According to Dupriez (1991, pp. 262-463), tautology represents a ‘statement construction’ that can be replaced by only one replacement, which is the repetition of the same word by employing unsimilar utterances, for instance:

e.g. ‘*When three hens go into the fields, the first goes first, the second follows the first, the third comes along behind*’.

In tautological sentences, predicate and theme are equal. On the other hand, some approaches regard tautology as a mistake, but, in fact, some pieces of tautologies are true. In the same token, the case of ‘being self-designating’ is a meaningful tautological construction, which also called ‘autonymical’, for example:

e.g. ‘*We must call things by their right name / a dog is a dog*’.

Tautology can be used to show illustrations, like truism, which refers to a form of thought without the need to repeat it. Also, to show the desire to reduction, tautology can work well. This latter case appears in litotes, which represents a tool of ironical rhetoric, as in:

e.g. ‘*The past is the past and the present is the present*’ (ibid).

The needless repetition of any idea by using other words without telling new information or clearing ideas is called tautology. Those needless words exceed the natural and usual process of using words. In some other cases, redundant words are hidden in archaic and technical terminology, as in: ‘*so many knots per hour*’ (Evans&Evans,1957, p. 413). Linguistically,

tautology is a statement that is true to any possible situation (Hussein&Said,2017, p. 190).

2.4 Tautology and Pleonasm

Those two concepts, tautology and pleonasm, meet at some points and differ in others. The phenomena of tautology and pleonasm are seen as interchangeable in both rhetoric and linguistics. The dissimilarity between those two phenomena is designed in terms of synonymy and entailment between two components, for example: *each* and *every* shows tautology, whereas *return back* shows pleonasm. The word ‘tautology’ can be deleted and avoided that the used data can be a word-formation tautology, which is utilised in past tense, is reanalysed now in terms of pleonasm and hyper characterisation. In this condition, tautology and word-formation might lead to confusion. Consequently, tautology in morphological level is not stated. Pleonasm may be confined to the relation of entailment or be employed as a cover term for semantic relations of entailment and synonymy (Bauer et al,2015, p. 144, p. 146). In tautology, each constituent represents a synonymy with the structure, while in pleonastic expressions, only one part represents a synonymy with the structure (Booji&van Marle,2005, p. 122). Explicit pleonasm refers to pleonastic compounds and implicit pleonasm points out to synonym compounds. Tautology deals with the semantic structure of compounds as it appears in some twentieth-century studies, but, nowadays, it has been abandoned (Bauer et al,2015, p. 149). Those two devices are employed for the purpose of creating emphasis. Tautology is logically and analytically real propositions, while pleonasm, as a figure of speech, can work to fortify a statement (Busmman,1996, pp. 359-1179).

3. Methodology

3.1 Data Collection

The adopted data of the present study is from two political interviews with two American presidents. The first one is with the former American president Donald Trump in 2020. The second interview is for the current president Joe Biden in 2020.

3.2 Sample Size

To achieve the aim of the study, two American presidential interviews are selected to be analysed in the light of semantic pleonasm and tautology concepts.

3.3 Procedures

The research follows the following procedures:

1. Collecting some presidential interviews for American presidents in 2020 and 2022.
2. Eliciting the tautological and pleonastic expressions. Stating conclusions.

4. Data Analysis

4.1 An Interview with the Former American President Donald Trump

The first text that is analysed is an interview with the former American President Donald Trump in January, 2020. The interview is done by CNBC's Joe Kernen at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

In the first text, Trump uses some tautological and pleonastic expressions by repeating either the same words or idea. He says '*no, not at all*', so the meaning of '*not at all*' is implied in the word '*no*'. Tautologically, he repeats the phrases '*we're—we*' and '*under control*'. He also uses the pleonastic pronoun '*it*'. In the second text, tautologically, he repeats '*I do*' twice for emphasis, in addition, the phrase '*the biggest deal ever made*' is used to show the importance of this deal. The pleonastic pronoun '*it*' is utilised also twice as well as the pleonastic '*do*'. The third text shows intensification, but not pleonasm when he uses '*very, very good*' and this shows tautology. The fourth text shows tautology as he repeats '*I did*', at the same time, '*did*' is considered as a pleonasm. The idea in the fifth text is implied in the word '*other. Other countries*', so the first '*other*' is redundant and tautological. '*It is a hoax. It is a total hoax*' shows the repeated idea of being total hoax and intensifying it. '*did*' is used for emphasis and is regarded as pleonastic. Pleonastic '*it*' is employed to refer to the perfect conversation.

The repeated unnecessary word in the sixth text is ‘*I think*’, as well as repeating the same phrase in the seventh text is tautological. The verb ‘*read*’ is redundant which is repeated as a command. The sentences ‘*I had a first call which was perfect, and I had a second call which was perfect*’ is redundant, in which the second sentence could be blended with the first one. The sentences ‘*You notice they don’t mention the calls, though. They never mention the calls. They talk about everything but the calls.*’ implies the same idea and represent redundancy and it shows the importance of the calls for him. Using pleonastic pronoun ‘*it*’ is repeated for three times. In text no. 8, pleonastic pronoun ‘*it*’ is employed twice. In text no. 9, Trump says ‘*you asked me- the question*’, which indicates a pleonastic expression, in which the verb ‘*ask*’ implies asking a question.

In the tenth text, pleonastic ‘*do*’ is used. Tautologically, Trump repeats the phrases ‘*I think*’ for four times, ‘*you know*’ twice, the pronoun ‘*they— they’re*’ twice, and the sentence ‘*We have tremendous potential*’ twice to fortify it. In the eleventh text, the redundancy appears in the repetition of the word ‘*right*’. Text no.12 shows the use of pleonastic ‘*it*’ for three times. Tautologically, ‘*I think*’, ‘*it is the opposite*’ and ‘*was a lot of increases*’ are unnecessary repetitions. In text no.13, pleonastic ‘*it*’ is used. The sentence ‘*Who are the people that buy*’ are tautologically repeated to focus on the people who buy as well as the phrase ‘*a lotta*’. In the fourteenth text, tautologically speaking, the phrase ‘*I think*’, ‘*you—you*’ are repeated, beside the repetition of the same idea, in which Trump says ‘*the dollar’s very, very strong. I want this dollar to be strong. I want it to be so powerful. I want it to be great.*’ The adjectives ‘*strong, powerful, and great*’ refers to the same idea, which shows intensification. The pleonastic pronoun ‘*it*’ is also used. In text no.15, pleonastic ‘*do*’ and ‘*it*’ are used, but the tautological sentence is repeated in this text and in text no.16, which is ‘*we’re poised for tremendous growth*’. Only pleonastic ‘*it*’ is used in the seventeenth text.

Text no. 18 holds a tautological repeated idea ‘*that should not have taken place. It should not have happened*’, in which ‘*take place*’ and ‘*happen*’ have the same meaning. The repetition of the phrase ‘*we had*’ is redundant, in which it is repeated three times, while it could be used once and combine the three ideas in one sentence. Pleonastic pronoun ‘*it*’ is employed also.

Text no.19 embraces a pleonastic pronoun ‘it’ and so many redundant sentences, like ‘*They admit to it*’ and ‘*I was right*’, which are repeated to show emphasis. In text twenty, ‘*I think*’, ‘*you know*’, and ‘*The relationship I have with President Xi*’ are tautologies, while the pronoun ‘it’ is pleonastic. In text twenty-two, ‘*Oh yeah. Oh yeah*’ is a tautology. In text no. 23, ‘*so many of these other things*’ is unnecessary to be repeated. Text no. 24 holds tautology, as in ‘*this is*’, as well as the repeated sentence in text 21 ‘*it could go much higher than that*’ and pleonastic words, like ‘it’.

Text no. 25 bears a lot of redundant tautological expressions, as in the repeated idea ‘*We’re starting*’ and ‘*We’ve already started*’, ‘*to be honest with you*’ and ‘*frankly*’, ‘*You couldn’t make a deal*’ and ‘*It was very hard to make a deal*’, in which the latter idea is connotated in the concept of inability of making a deal because of being hard. Besides, the repeated sentence shows tautology ‘*I wanted to wait till I finished China*’, and ‘*They have to*’. In text no. 26, only a pleonastic pronoun ‘it’ appears. In text no 27, tautology appears in the repetition of the same phrase ‘*you add*’, which is used for four times. Text no. 28 holds a pleonastic pronoun ‘it’ only. Some other expressions are repeated and used in many texts represented by using the sentence ‘*you know*’, which shows tautology. In text no. 29, the concept of tautology is clear in repeating the phrase ‘*big disappointment*’, as well as the pleonastic pronoun ‘it’. Text no. 30 carries the phrases ‘*I think we should... I think we should-- we should... I think..*’, ‘*Samsung. Mostly Samsung*’, ‘*You know*’, and ‘*they would-- they would*’. Text no. 31 shows the unnecessary repetition of the word ‘no’.

Text no. 32 bears pleonastic ‘it’ and ‘do’. Besides, the tautological expression ‘*You know, he’s done-- he’s done*’ is redundant. Text no. 33 shows unnecessary repetition of the sentence ‘*is better than it’s ever been. Literally better than it’s ever been*’, which is tautological. A pleonastic expression appears in text no. 34 which is ‘*he’s also doing the rockets. He likes rockets. And-- he does good at rockets too*’, in which liking rocket is implied in the meaning of doing it as a hobby. Tautologically, the sentence ‘*you know, we have to protect*’ is repeated three times, and ‘*we want to...*’ twice. Text no. 35 embraces a repeated idea in different tenses in ‘*We have tremendous growth. We’re going to have tremendous growth*’ as well as

repeating the same idea in *“We have tremendous growth. We’re going to have tremendous growth”* that he wants to show the importance of this growth. Finally, in text no. 36, tautology is apparent in *“we’re going--we’re going”*, *“the kind of-- the kind of”*, *“we have never had”*, *“African American”*, and *“Best they’ve ever done.”* As pleonastic pronouns, *“there”* and *“it”* are employed.

4.2 An Interview with the Present American President Joe Biden

The second text that is analysed is an interview with the present American President Joe Biden in 2022. The interview is done by Scott Pelley in *“The 2022 60 Minutes Interview”*.

In text no.1, Biden uses the pleonastic pronoun *“it”* for many times, as in *“it is good news”*, *“it’s not..”*, and *“it’s been”*, as well as using it in the second text. Besides, he mentions some repeated idea tautologically to clarify the same meaning of creating jobs and investment by saying *“we’ve created 10 million new jobs since we came to office...We’re in a situation where manufacturing is coming back to the United States in a big way. And look down the road, we have massive investments being made in computer chips and employment”*, as well as repeating the sentence *“this is a process”*. Text no. 3 holds the expression *“be a lot lower”*, which is redundant and repeated for three times. The fourth text shows repeated idea tautologically in different tenses to show the progress of economic growth and show its significance: *“Continue to grow the economy, and we’re growing the economy. It’s growing in a way that it hasn’t in years and years”*. Pleonastic *“it”* is used in this sentence. The same sentence of text no.4 is repeated in text no.5, which is *“Continue to grow the economy”*, beside repeating the verb *“grow”* twice and the verb *“increase”* which bears the same indication.

Tautologically, the phrases *“the pandemic is over”* and *“I think”* are repeated in text no. 6, in addition to the use of *“it”* as a pleonastic pronoun. Only pleonastic *“there”* is used in text no.7. The same happens in the eighth text when Biden utilises *“it”* as a pleonastic pronoun. The adjective *“incredible”* is repeated twice, and the word *“citizen”* is used beside the phrase *“innocent people”*, in which the word *“citizen”* could bear the same spirit of *“innocent people”*. In the tenth text, the pleonastic *“do”* and *“it”*

are used only. In text no.11, pleonastic pronoun ‘*it*’ appears, as well as using it in the twelfth text, beside the tautological repetition of ‘*don’t*’, which is also pleonastic. In text no. 13, pleonastic ‘*it*’ is used twice, as well as using pleonastic ‘*there*’ in text no. 14. In this text a pleonastic expression appears in the sentence ‘*We agree with what we signed onto a long time ago*’, in which the meaning of agreement is implied in the action of signing papers and giving approval before signing. Text fifteen bears the tautological, redundant repetition of the words ‘*no, not...*’, in which ‘*no*’ is unnecessary. Text sixteen shows the repetition of the adjective ‘*irresponsible*’ twice, which indicates intensification. Only pleonastic ‘*it*’ and ‘*do*’ are shown in text seventeen. In text no. 18, pleonastic ‘*it*’ is used, and the same idea is repeated tautologically in the sentence ‘*my intention,but it’s just an intention*’, in which the idea of ‘*intention*’ is repeated redundantly. In text no.19, the phrases ‘*watch me*’, ‘*I think*’, and ‘*I mean*’ are tautologies, as well as ‘*it*’ and ‘*don’t*’ are pleonastic.

Text twenty embraces pleonastic ‘*it*’ and ‘*there*’, and the expression ‘*even saying to myself in my own head*’ shows that the meaning of saying something in head refers to saying it to one’s self and no one can hear him, which is pleonastic. Text no.21 bears an idea of making decisions and how be looked in future, which shows pleonasm as the idea of making decisions appears surely in future. This idea is shown in the sentence ‘*We’re going to make decisions, and we’re making decisions now, that are going to determine what we’re going to look like in the next 10 years from now.*’ In text no. 22, tautologies are apparent in some sentences to focus on those ideas, as in: ‘*there’s a lot of uncertainty out there, a great deal of uncertainty*’ and ‘*We were left in a very difficult situation. It’s been a very difficult time, very difficult*’. Pleonastic ‘*there*’ appears in text twenty—three. Text twenty-four holds tautological expressions by repeating the same expression, like: ‘*four hours*’ and ‘*in the pain*’, ‘*think...*’, ‘*it’s wrong*’, and ‘*we’ve gotta stop it*’. Pleonastic ‘*it*’ are used also.

Text no. 25 shows the use of pleonastic pronoun ‘*it*’ and pleonastic ‘*do*’. Besides, tautology is clear in the repeated sentence ‘*it’s coming back a little bit. It’s coming back*’. Only a pleonastic pronoun ‘*it*’ is utilised in text no. 26. Pleonasm is transparent in text no. 27 in the sentence ‘*I’ve had tragedies. I lost part of my soul when I lost my son Beau, and I lost my wife*

and my daughter in an accident.”, in which Biden’s loss is a tragedy, and in the first part of the sentence he says that he has tragedies and it bears the concept of losing things and shows the importance of this incident in his life . Tautology appears in the unnecessary repetition of the phrase ‘*what would...*’. In the text no. 28, tautological phrases are repeated, like ‘*why not?*’ and ‘*get up*’. Finally, in text no. 29, Biden repeats the phrase ‘*a lot more to give*’ tautologically.

4.3 Discussion and Results

In the analyses of Trump’s interview, it has been noticed that he uses tautology more than pleonasm, in which tautology is used for (68) times, while pleonasm (34) times only as it appears in Table no.1 below.

Table (1) Tautology and Pleonasm Frequencies and Percentages of Trump’s Interview

	Tautology			Pleonasm		
	Total frequencies		Total percentages	Total frequencies		Total percentages
	Repeated idea	11	16.18	Pleonastic expression	3	8.9
	Repeated words	57	83.82	Pleonastic pronoun	25	73.5
				Pleonastic do	6	17.6
Total results	68		100%	34		100%

In the analyses of Biden’s interview, it has been noticed that he uses pleonasm more than tautology, especially using pleonastic pronouns, in which tautology is used for (27) times, while pleonasm (30) times as it appears in Table no.2 below

Table (2) Tautology and Pleonasm Frequencies and Percentages of Biden’s Interview

	Tautology			Pleonasm		
	Total frequencies		Total percentages	Total frequencies		Total percentages
	Repeated idea	4	14.9%	Pleonastic expression	5	16.7

	Repeated words	23	85.1%	Pleonastic pronoun	20	66.6
				Pleonastic do	5	16.7
Total results	27		100%	30		100%

5. Conclusions

The study has come up to the following conclusions:

1. Tautology and pleonasm can be used in disparate degrees in political speeches, in which the use of pleonastic expressions is not so frequent in contrast to the use of tautology which is based on redundancy.
2. Biden tends to use pleonasm, especially pleonastic pronouns rather than pleonastic expression.
3. Trump tends to repeat words, sentences, and ideas tautologically as a kind of emphasising some ideas.
4. In political speeches, using tautology can be necessary as a kind of intensification, emphasis, and focusing on some important ideas the politician needs others to understand and stress on it.
5. Using tautology is more necessary than pleonasm in political speeches, in which pleonasm concentrates on ideas and implied meaning, which can be misled to simple, ordinary people, as well as some pronouns and auxiliaries, while tautology is clear and can be understood by any simple brain in spite that it is dull and boring sometimes if the repetition is exaggerated, but can be perceived easily to focus on some important ideas the politician sees it is significant.

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تكرار المعنى و الحشو الكلامي في لقاءات سياسية: دراسة دلالية

كرامه حسن حسين

الجامعة المستنصرية/ كلية العلوم السياسية

المستخلص

يشير الحشو الكلامي الى استخدام الكلمات او الاضافات الصرفية التي تمثل الحشو الكلامي غير الضرورية و التي تكرر معلومة انفة الذكر، بينما يشير تكرار المعنى الى تكرار غير مقبول للافكار و الكلمات و العبارات باستخدام كلمات متنوعة المعنى. في اللغة الانكليزية هناك حيرة في تمييز بعض العناصر المضللة بين الحشو الكلامي و تكرار المعنى. تهدف الدراسة الحالية الى توضيح الاختلاف الدلالي بين الحشو الكلامي و تكرار المعنى من خلال تحليل لقائين سياسيين. تم اخذ تحليل البيانات من لقائين رئاسيين للرئيسين الامريكيين دونالد ترامب للعام 2020 و جو بايدن للعام 2022. خلصت الدراسة الى ان الحشو الكلامي و تكرار المعنى من الممكن استخدامهما بدرجات متباينة في الخطابات السياسية. ان استخدام تكرار المعنى اهم من الحشو الكلامي في الخطابات السياسية، لان الحشو الكلامي يركز على الافكار و المعنى الضمني، و الذي لا يسهل فهمه للناس ذوي التفكير المحدود، بينما تكرار المعنى يكون واضحا و مفهوما لهم على الرغم من كونه مملا و مضجرا احيانا اذا ما تكرر بشكل مبالغ فيه و لكن من الممكن فهمه بشكل سهل للتركيز على الافكار التي يراها السياسي مهمة.

الكلمات المفتاحية: تكرار المعنى، الحشو الكلامي، اللقاءات السياسية، الاطناب.

Appendices

Appendix 1

CNBC TRANSCRIPT: PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP SITS DOWN WITH CNBC'S JOE KERNEN AT THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM IN DAVOS, SWITZERLAND

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PRESIDENT TRUMP: No. Not at all. And-- we're-- we have it totally under control. It's one person coming in from China, and we have it under control. It's—going to be just fine.¹

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I do. I do. I have a great relationship with President Xi. We just signed probably the biggest deal ever made. It certainly has the potential to be the biggest deal ever made. And-- it was a very interesting period of time time.²

PRESIDENT TRUMP: But we got it done, and-- no, I do. I think-- the relationship is very, very good.³

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I did. I did. I watched some of it last night.⁴

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I got-- I had a busy day yesterday, as you know. You were there. And we had the speech and we had lots of meetings with different leaders, including Pakistan and others. Other countries. In addition to businessmen all over the place. But I did get to see some of it. It's a hoax. It's a total hoax. It's a perfect conversation⁵

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I think the team was really good. And-- the facts are all on our side. The Republican party has never been this unified. You saw that. 195 to nothing. I guess twice. In fact we got three Democrats voting for us. That was with the House. I think--⁶

PRESIDENT TRUMP: --I really don't know. I think that-- if everybody tells the truth, it's perfect. All you have to do is read the transcript. Read-- if you take a look at the transcript-- and it's really two transcripts. It's-- you know, I had a first call which was perfect, and I had a second call which was perfect. You notice they don't mention the calls, though. They never mention the calls. They talk about everything but the calls. All they have to do is read the transcripts. I put it out all the time. The other thing is speak to the president of Ukraine. He's been great, I have to tell you. And his foreign minister's been great.⁷

PRESIDENT TRUMP: They constantly--say there was no pressure. They don't even know what we're doing. They think it's crazy. So they got the money. In fact they got it very early. President Obama gave them nothing. He gave them pillows and sheets and things like that, and I gave them tank busters. You know, it's a disgraceful hoax.⁸

PRESIDENT TRUMP: But no, you asked me- the question.⁹

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, I appreciate that very much. We do. We have an incredible economy. The consumer has never been so rich. They-- you know, they're-- between the tax

cuts and the regulation cuts-- people forget about regulation. I think it might have been more important than the tax cuts. But we have-- a consumer in the United States that has never done so well. And I think we're really poised to have I think we have tremendous potential. You know, we're at a point where we've done so well, I think we're going to do much better. We have tremendous potential.¹⁰

JOE KERNEN: So the market's up 50%, and we've talked about this before. November 9th is the date--

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Right, right thank you--¹¹

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, I think it's the opposite, actually. The Fed raised too fast interest. They brought up the rate too fast, and they didn't drop it fast enough. And that was very-- you know, that was a lot of increases, and it was a lot of increase. And I think it's really the opposite of what you're saying. Now they've dropped it, but it was very late. And you look at other countries where they actually have negative interest rates, negative in a positive way. I mean they're actually getting paid-- they make a loan and they end up--¹²

JOE KERNEN: --about that. You don't-- are you hoping that it comes to that in the United States? That we get negative rates? 'Cause it-- a lotta people don't think it's a great thing, and it hasn't worked well in other places. You--

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, they don't know yet. It's so new. I want to know who are the people that buy. Okay? Who are the people that buy and they invest in Germany and end up getting, you know, less money at the period of time -so I-- have to find these people. But-- no, if Germany-- and-- we're the most prime in the world. We're the leader in the world. We have the dollar, and the dollar's very strong. A lotta-- a lotta things are happening. But, you know, we're paying higher interest than other countries because of the Fed. If we were paying less, I would do it, and I'd pay off a lot of debt.¹³

PRESIDENT TRUMP: No, because I think the dollar's very, very strong. And I think the rate should go down. We have a very strong dollar, and that sounds good, and it is good in many ways, but it's very bad in terms of manufacturing. I've created almost 700,000 manufacturing jobs. The past administration said manufacturing is dead, which I said, "Tell me about that. How do you-- you can't do that." And we have had a tremendous success, but it's harder with a strong dollar. And-- I want this dollar to be strong. I want it to be so powerful. I want it to be great. But if you lower the interest rates, so many good things would happen.¹⁴

PRESIDENT TRUMP: And one of the things I do want to do is pay off debt, and we're poised for tremendous growth. It'll really kick in toward the end of this year. But--¹⁵

PRESIDENT TRUMP: we're poised for tremendous growth.¹⁶

PRESIDENT TRUMP: As far as I'm concerned. And that was a big blip that should not have taken place. It should not have happened. But it's one of those things. But we had

Boeing. We had the big strike with General Motors. We had things happen that are very unusual to happen¹⁸.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Including some unbelievably powerful storms. You know, we were hit with storms. Now, with all of that, had we not done the big raise on interest, I think we would have been close to 4%, and I-- could see 5,000 to 10,000 points more on the Dow. But that was a killer when they raised the rate. It was just a big mistake. And they admit to it. They admit to it. I was right. I don't wanna be right, but I was right.¹⁹

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Okay, I think the biggest thing about getting the deal with China-- number one, it's a great deal for us. It's an important deal for China, because they were-- you know, their supply chains were breaking. It was-- you know, it's been tough for them. The best thing that happened is we have two countries that like each other again, because it was getting pretty nasty. And, you know, they have taken advantage of our country for 30 years and we-- I was not going let it happen. And-- we've taken in billions and billions of dollars. The tariffs are still on, so I still have that negotiating chip. I have 25% tariffs on, and that's a great negotiating chip. And yes, we're starting phase two very soon. But the relationship that we have now with China is probably better than it's ever been. The relationship I have with President Xi, president for life. Okay? It's not bad. But the relationship I have with President Xi is, you know, I think extraordinary, considering he's for China, I'm for us.²⁰

PRESIDENT TRUMP: But-- the deal is a phenomenal deal. We will take in \$250 billion-- they're going to be buying \$250 billion, and it could go a lot higher than that.²¹

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Oh yeah. Oh yeah.²²

PRESIDENT TRUMP: You-- I know I was watching you and you were really surprised that so many of these other things, the intellectual property, so many of these other things were--²³

PRESIDENT TRUMP: And this is---manufacturing. This is-- technology. This-- phase one is a massive deal. And in the end, it's probably \$250 billion, but it could go much higher than that. And just that alone, not even talking about the USMCA, which now we just got passed. In fact, when I go back I'll be signing it. It's all passed. And we had I believe 89 votes in the Senate, which is tremendous.²⁴

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I think they want it, they need it.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Oh yeah. We're starting. We've already started negotiating. And frankly, we're starting with Europe too. Europe is-- to be honest with you, Europe has been very, very tough to deal with. They've taken advantage of our country, the European Union, for many, many years. And I told them, we can't do it anymore. I met with them yesterday. I wanted to wait till I finished China, to be honest with you. I'm-- always like to be very transparent. I wanted to wait till I finished China. I didn't want to go with China and Europe at the same time. Now China's done, and I met with the new head of the European

Commission, who's terrific. And had a great talk. But I said, look, if we don't get something, I'm going to have to take action, and the action will be a very high tariffs on their cars and other things that come into our country. Now, saying that, I don't want your audience to get nervous. They're going to make a deal, because they have to. They have to. They have no choice. But we've had a tremendous deficit for many, many years. Over \$150 billion with Europe. And they are-- frankly, Jean-Claude was a friend of mine, but he was impossible to deal with. And I think it's going to be a lot better for Boris now too. You couldn't make a deal. It was very hard to make a deal. Now, I never played my cards, because I didn't want to do that again while I was doing China. I wanted to do China first. I wanted to do Mexico and Canada first. But now that we're all done-- and now what we do is we are going to do Europe. And I had a very good conversation. And I would be very surprised if I had to implement the tariffs.²⁵

PRESIDENT TRUMP: We're going to actually probably lower taxes, if you want to know the truth. You know, if you take a look at what we've done, we've cut taxes in half. And we've taken in more revenue substantially than we did when the taxes were high. Nobody can even believe it. But we take in more revenue with the big tax cuts-- I mean you were paying really 41% and we brought it down to 21%, and it's sort of lower than that--²⁶

PRESIDENT TRUMP: And one of the reasons I'd like to see the interest rates lowered, frankly, is because I'd like to refinance the debt and pay off the debt.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: We're going have tremendous growth. Joe, when you have all of these trade deals the I've made-- don't forget, I made a \$40 billion deal with Japan. I made a massive deal with South Korea. Nobody even knows what the number is, but, you know, it was a horrible deal, now it's a great deal. And then you add Mexico, you add China, you add Canada. You add all of these other countries. And we have about ten countries that we're dealing with. These deals were horrible. In many cases we didn't even have a deal. They just came in here and took advantage of our country. So-- we have massive potential, massive growth, and you'll see that toward the middle to the end of next year--²⁷

PRESIDENT TRUMP: All very different. You have Mini Mike is spending a lot of money. He's got no chance. But he's got a tremendous-- you know, he used to be a friend of mine until I ran for politics, and then-- he went a little off. You should see some of the nice things he said about me before I ran. They're like the nicest. But he had a deal with Hillary Clinton that he was going to become secretary of State. It was very simple. People know that. And he-- wasn't going to happen. It was going to go to Terry McAuliffe. I mean so they were playing with Michael. And-- it's too bad, but he's spending a fortune. He's making a lot of broadcasters wealthy. And he's getting nowhere. His ratings are terrible. His-- you look at his numbers. I don't know if Joe's going to limp across the line, but you-- I watch him. I s-- watch him speaking. He can't put together a sentence, but it could be him. And it could be Crazy Bernie. I don't know who it's going to be. Whoever it is, I'm ready.²⁸

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Very disappointing company. This is one of the great companies of the world, let's say as of a year ago, and then all of sudden things happen. I am so

disappointed in Boeing-- had a tremendous impact. You know, when you talk about growth, it's so big that some people say it's more than a half a point of GDP. So Boeing-- big, big disappointment to me. Big disappointment.²⁹

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I like them a lot. I think we should do some encryption. I think we should-- we should start finding some of the bad people out there that we can do with Apple. I think it's very important. Frankly, I've helped them a lot. I've given them waivers, because I want them-- it's a great company, but it made a big difference. Now, you know, they compete against Samsung. Mostly Samsung. I guess that would be their number one competitor. That's from South Korea. It's not fair, because we have a trade deal with South Korea, so Samsung would get the no waiver. And they would-- they would have to pay-- tariffs. So I did waivers, but I want them to help us a little bit. They-- you know, Apple has to help us. And I'm very strong on it. They have the keys to so many criminals and criminal minds, and we can do things. When they had the problem with the-- recently in Florida. I won't go into it, because it's so horrible.³⁰

PRESIDENT TRUMP: No, no. I understand--³¹

PRESIDENT TRUMP: You're dealing with drug lords and you're dealing with terrorists, and if you're dealing with murderers, I don't care. We have to get--

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I'd rather him just do whatever he's going to do. You know, he's done-- he's done a hell of a job, when you think of it. And-- he's going to do what he has to do. I heard he was going to run for president. That wouldn't be too frightening, I don't think. But he does have that monster behind him. He said, "You're number one," and I said, "That's really nice." It's always nice to be number one. You know who number two is?³²

PRESIDENT TRUMP: And by the way, our relationship with India, and again with China and with Japan and with so many countries, is better than it's ever been. Literally better than it's ever been.³³

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well-- you have to give him credit. I spoke to him very recently, and he's also doing the rockets. He likes rockets. And-- he does good at rockets too, by the way. I never saw where the engines come down with no wings, no anything, and they're landing. I said I've never seen that before. And I was worried about him, because he's one of our great geniuses, and we have to protect our genius. You know, we have to protect Thomas Edison and we have to protect all of these people that-- came up with originally the light bulb and-- the wheel and all of these things. And he's one of our very smart people and we want to-- we want to cherish those people. That's very important. But he's done a very good job. Shocking how well-- you know, how it's come so fast. I mean you go back a year and they were talking about the end of the company. And now all of a sudden they're talking about these great things. He's going to be building a very big plant in the United States. He has to, because we help him, so he has to help us.³⁴

PRESIDENT TRUMP: At some point they will be. We have tremendous growth. We're going to have tremendous growth. This next year I-- it'll be toward the end of the year. The growth is going to be incredible. And at the right time, we will take a look at that. You know, that's actually the easiest of all things, if you look, cause it's such a--³⁵

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, we're going-- we're going look. We also have-- assets that we've never had. I mean we've never had growth like this. We never had a consumer that was taking in, through-- different means, over \$10,000 a family. We never had the kind of-- the kind of things that we have. Look, our country is the hottest in the world. We have the hottest economy in the world. We have the best unemployment numbers we've ever had. African American, Asian American. Hispanics are doing so incredibly. Best they've ever done. Black. Best they've ever done. African American. The numbers are incredible. The poverty numbers. The unemployment and the employment. There's-- there is a difference, actually. But the unemployment and employment numbers for African Americans are the best we've ever had. You know, we just-- came up with a chart, and it was a very important to number to me. African American youth has the highest, by far, unemployment. The best unemployment numbers that they've ever had. And the best employment numbers. Right now we have almost 160 million people working in the United States, and we've never even been close to that, Joe.³⁶

Appendix 2

President Joe Biden: The 2022 60 Minutes Interview Transcript

President Joe Biden: The 2022 60 Minutes Interview Transcript

President Joe Biden: (01:34)
No, I'm not saying it is good news, but it was 8.2 before. I mean, it's not... I can make it sound like all of a sudden, "My God, it went to 8.2%." It's been-¹

President Joe Biden: (01:47)
I got that. But guess what we are, we're in a position where for the last several months it hasn't spiked, it has just barely... It's been basically even. And in the meantime, we created all these jobs and prices have gone up, but they've come down for energy. The fact is that we've created 10 million new jobs since we came to office. We're in a situation where the unemployment rate is about 3.7%, one of the lowest in history. We're in a situation where manufacturing is coming back to the United States in a big way. And look down the road, we have massive investments being made in computer chips and employment. So look, this is a process, this is a process.²

President Joe Biden: (02:36)
No, I don't think so. We hope we can have what they say, a soft landing, a transition to a place where we don't lose the gains that I ran to make in the first place for middle class folks, being able to generate good paying jobs and expansion. And at the same time, make sure that we are able to continue to grow.

President Joe Biden: [\(03:06\)](#)

No, I'm telling the American people that we're going to get control of inflation, and their prescription drug prices are going to be a hell of a lot lower, their healthcare costs are going to be a lot lower, their basic costs for everybody. Their energy prices are going to be lower. They're going to be in a situation where they begin to gain control again. I'm more optimistic than I've been in a long time.³

President Joe Biden: [\(03:33\)](#)

Continue to grow the economy, and we're growing the economy. It's growing in a way that it hasn't in years and years.⁴

President Joe Biden: [\(03:42\)](#)

We're growing entire new industries. We're at 695, I think it is, or 85,000 new manufacturing jobs just since I've become president of the United States. Continue to grow the economy and continue to give hard working people a break in terms of, we pay the highest drug prices in the world of any industrialized nation, making sure that Medicare can negotiate down those prices. By the way, we've also reduced the debt and reduced the deficit by 350 billion dollars my first year. This year, it's going to be over \$1.5 trillion dollars reduced the debt. So, to continue to put people in a position to be able to make a decent living and grow, and grow, and increase their capacity to grow.⁵

President Joe Biden: [\(04:52\)](#)

The pandemic is over. We still have a problem with COVID, we're still doing a lot of work on it, but the pandemic is over. If you noticed, no one's wearing masks, everybody seems to be in pretty good shape. And so I think it's changing, and I think this is a perfect example of it.⁶

President Joe Biden: [\(05:33\)](#)

Well, there's a couple things we've done. For example, remember I got some criticisms for releasing a million barrels of oil a day from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and then along came the industry saying they'd produce another million barrels a day by the spring. So I think we're in relatively good shape.⁷

President Joe Biden: [\(07:26\)](#)

Ukraine, through their... With significant help we and our allies are giving them, and the incredible bravery, and the incredible determination of the Ukrainian people, are not losing a war, and they're making gains in certain areas. Winning the war in Ukraine is to get Russia out of Ukraine completely and recognizing their sovereignty. They're defeating Russia. Russia's turning out not to be as competent and capable as many people thought they were gonna be. But winning the war? The damage it's doing, and the citizens, and the innocent people are being killed, it's awful hard to count that as winning.⁹

President Joe Biden: [\(08:18\)](#)

It has been barbaric, what he's done. His attacks on civilian, everything from civilian hospitals, to old-age homes, to neighborhoods where just ordinary people live-¹⁰

President Joe Biden: (08:34)
And schools, it's just outrageous. So the price the Ukrainian people are paying for this war is extremely high. But we're gonna stay with them as long as they need our help.¹¹

President Joe Biden: (09:15)
Don't. Don't. Don't. It will change the face of war unlike anything since World War II.¹²

President Joe Biden: (09:31)
You think I would tell you if I knew exactly what it would be? Of course, I'm not going to tell you, but it'll be consequential. They'll become more of a pariah in the world than they ever have been, and depending on the extent of what they do will determine what response would occur. [inaudible 00:09:45].¹³

President Joe Biden: (10:28)
We agree with what we signed onto a long time ago. And that there's a one China policy, and Taiwan makes their own judgments about their independence. We are not moving, we're not encouraging their being independent. That's their decision,¹⁴

President Joe Biden: (12:01)
No, not ahead of time.¹⁵

President Joe Biden: (12:22)
How that could possibly happen? How anyone could be that irresponsible. And I thought, what data was in there that may compromise sources and methods? By that I mean, names of people who helped, or et cetera. And it's just totally irresponsible¹⁶.

President Joe Biden: (14:08)
In terms of election laws. And it's much too early to make that kind of decision. I'm a great respecter of fate. And so what I'm doing is I'm doing my job, I'm going to do that job and within the timeframe that makes sense, after this next election cycle here, going into next year, make a judgment of what to do.¹⁷

President Joe Biden: (14:34)
Look, my intention, as I said to began with, is that I would run again, but it's just an intention. But is it a firm decision that I run again, that remains to be seen.¹⁸

President Joe Biden: (15:05)
Watch me. And honest to God, that's what I think. Watch me. If you think I don't have the energy level or the mental acuity, then that's one thing. But it's another thing to just watch and keep my schedule, do what I'm doing. I think that... I don't, when I sit down with our NATO allies and keep them together, I don't have them saying, "Wait a minute, how old are you? What do you say?" I mean, it's a matter of that old expression, the proof of the pudding's in the eating. I mean, I respect the fact that people would say, "You're old." But I think it relates to how much energy you have and whether or not the job you're doing is one consistent with what any person of any age would be able to do.¹⁹

President Joe Biden: (15:58)
Oh, it's focused. Look, I have trouble even mentioning, even saying to myself in my own head the number of years. I no more think of myself as being as old as I am than fly. I mean, it's just not... I haven't observed anything in terms of... There's not things I don't do now that I did before, whether it's physical or mental or anything else.²⁰

President Joe Biden: (16:44)
This is a really difficult time. We're at an inflection point in the history of this country. We're going to make decisions, and we're making decisions now, that are going to determine what we're going to look like in the next 10 years from now.²¹

President Joe Biden: (16:57)
I think you'd agree that the impact on the psyche of the American people, as a consequence of the pandemic, is profound. Think of how that has changed everything, people's attitudes about themselves, their families, about the state of the nation, about the state of their communities. And so there's a lot of uncertainty out there, a great deal of uncertainty. And we lost a million people, a million people to COVID. When I got in office, when I got elected, only two million people had been vaccinated, I got 220 million... My point is, it takes time. We were left in a very difficult situation. It's been a very difficult time, very difficult.²²

President Joe Biden: (18:56)
I love my son, number one. He fought an addiction problem. He overcame it, he wrote about it. And no, there's not a single thing that I've observed at all that would affect me or the United States relative to my son, Hunter.²³

President Joe Biden: (20:00)
Again, I've gone to every one of those places. And in Uvalde, I spent time with every sing... Four hours, four hours in the pain, the pain, and it's just so, so unnecessary. So wrong. Who the hell... Don't get me going. But I met with every one of those families and the extended families for four hours. Look, our kids should be learning how to read and write, not duck and cover. Think about that. Think of the mental impact on these kids going back to school. We saw it. It's wrong. It's wrong. It's not who we are. And we've gotta stop it. We've got to stop it. And the NRA continuing to push the sale of assault and semiautomatic weapons is bizarre.²⁴

President Joe Biden: (22:01)
Well, I don't think it's impossible, but it's changed. What we do today, think about it, it's all personal attacks. It's about motive. It's not about, I disagree with you on the subject matter. And secondly, I think it's fair to say that we've not had a president like the last president, who has made all of it so personal. I've had six Republican senators, I promised I'd never say their names, and I won't, come up to me in the last two years and say, "Joe, I agree with you, but if I vote this way they're going to primary me and I'm going to lose an election." It didn't used to be that way, but it's coming back a little bit. It's coming back.²⁵

President Joe Biden: [\(22:58\)](#)
Well, I'll tell you what I think about this. We were able to get a bipartisan \$1.2 trillion package done for dealing with the whole question of rebuilding the country, the roads and the highways. The fact of the matter is we've gotten a lot of things done bi-partisanly, when everybody said, "We're not gonna do anything, don't let Biden have any successes," et cetera. So it's still a way to go, but I think we're making some progress²⁶.

President Joe Biden: [\(23:37\)](#)
Well, look, I've had tragedies. I lost part of my soul when I lost my son Beau, and I lost my wife and my daughter in an accident. I think of all the people who've gone through what I've gone through and a lot more without what I had. I have had incredibly supportive family. There's so many, literally, heroes getting up every day putting one foot in front of the other with no help, I constantly think, what would Beau want me to do? What would... And this gets me a long way, this rosary.²⁷

President Joe Biden: [\(24:35\)](#)
And he's looking up, and what's he say? He says, "Why me, God?" And the next scene, a voice from heaven, "Why not?" That's my dad. "Why not, Joey? Why not you? Why not? What makes you so different? Just get up." My mom's expression was, "Just get up. Get up. Get up."²⁸

President Joe Biden: [\(24:58\)](#)
A lot more to give, a lot more to give.²⁹