

## **Personal and National Narratives: Systemic Functional Linguistic Analysis of 'I' and 'We' in the Biden's Presidential Campaign**

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### **Abstract**

This study delves into Joe Biden's use of the personal pronouns "I" and "We" in his presidential campaign speeches, analyzed through the framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL). By examining how Biden presents himself and the nation, the research uncovers the narratives crafted to promote a sense of unity and leadership. The SFL framework provides a detailed description of the linguistic choices that shape Biden's self-representation and his depiction of America, highlighting the strategies used to connect with voters on both personal and national levels. The results reveal Biden's portrayal of America, his vision for the future, and the specific policies he advocates. Such portrayals are expressed through six processes of Ideational metafunction: Material, Mental, Behavioral, Verbal, Existential, and Relational. Relational process is the highest process found in the data. It implies Biden's inclusivity as common American people and his effort to resonate with a diverse audience. In short, this analysis enhances the understanding of the rhetorical tools utilized in political discourse to create impactful narratives.

**Keywords:** Systemic Functional Linguistics, Ideational Metafunction, Biden, Politics

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The power of political discourse does not lie in the words themselves, but also in the manner in which the message is rigorously articulated and strategically positioned to enable it to resonate with the audience (Farwell, 2012; Wilson, 2015; Dijk, 2002). It involves a level of sophistication that lies behind word choice and even rhetorical devices: a projection of values, passions, and identities (Anastassov, 2018). Such speeches by political leaders should be crafted to fit into the cultural and social contexts of the audience (Charteris-Black, 2018), with language that draws up shared experiences and collective aspirations. It can create a sense of connection and trust in other people, making them effective not only through logical argument but through the use of great storytelling, pointing them to hope and concern (Citrin & Stoker, 2018). The resonance of political discourse, stresses the ability to blend content with delivery, ensuring that the message is not only heard but felt and internalized by the audience (Lilleker, 2019).

One of the political occurrences that are very rich in linguistic features in conveying political messages is Joe Biden's speech during the first campaign for president. Biden's rhetoric during this campaign is particularly notable for deploying the strategic use of

language to convey his political vision and connect with the electorate. As he campaigns once again for the presidential election that he won some years back, his speeches provide a treasure trove for the linguistic analyst. Biden expresses policies, values, and commitments regarding the use of several rhetorical strategies in leading his audiences into a rapport with him and building his authority. His campaign speeches are not just the vehicle for the delivery of his political agenda but also a forum for the construction of his public persona and the solidification of his bond with the American people.

The study examines the linguistic styles of presidential campaigning by Joe Biden - using 'I' and 'we'-pronouns. Personal pronouns "I" and "we" are politically significant since they are used to orient a speaker with their audience and the wider sociopolitical setting (Krawrungruang & Yaoharee, 2018; Romadlani, 2021; Wahyuningsih, 2018). Using "I" can suggest personal involvement, accountability and agency (Packard et. al., 2018) while using "we" might be used to attribute unity of cause, purpose or identity (Bachmann & Gleibs, 2024, Kroo, 2022). These pronouns are used to negotiate the competing aspects of themselves (Lauscher et. al., 2022); singular leader versus "voice of the American) people".

More specifically, this research utilises the ideational metafunction or transitivity system in examining identity, specifically the personal and collective American identity through Biden's pronoun usage for his "I" (as self) or "we" (conjuring up Americans as part with one another in some way). Halliday's analysis, developed through Systemic Functional Linguistics, offers a framework for understanding language as an interlocking social semiotic (Wanselin et. al., 2022). This framework posits that language is used for three basic metafunctions: the ideational (the content of a message), the interpersonal (how it will be received), and textual (how ideas can be connected within a text) (Halliday, M. A. K., & Matthiessen, 2013). The ideational metafunction concerns experiences and realities (Matthiessen, 1995); the interpersonal meaning relates to social interactions and relationships formed through language (Davidse & Simon-Vandenbergen, 2008); and textual meaning involves how ideas are connected within a text (Scholz, 2012). In specific, this study harnesses the ideational metafunction capabilities to demonstrate that Biden's "I" and "we" have been used in the construction of personal and national stories.

The reason for using the ideational metafunction, which corresponds to the transitivity system in this research is because it can reveal how political subjects use pronouns, like "I" and "we," to portray what kinds of experiences, actions, or events they represent. Ideational metafunction explores the subject matter of a text. Specifically indulges the speaker's way in representing reality and its encoded meaning within the text (Hoang, 2021). The research looks to reality Biden tries to construe by tracking how he uses "I" and "we" in each speech. The transitivity system, a key feature of the ideational metafunction, looks at what processes (actions and events) and participants involved in them (Gebhard & Accurso, 2020) are realized to illuminate how Biden positions himself as an agent who carries out acts or members of some collective entity. This study provides a way to understand the discursive construction of Biden, as both a leader and an emblematic representation for the American people himself and also allows us to analyze strategic language selection in political speeches.

Several research have been conducted to shed political ambience reflected in a text (written or spoken) using ideational metafunction analysis. Mushtaq et. al. (2020) in his research identifies Imran Khan's political statement in UNGA using Ideational metafunction as theoretical framework. Through quantitative method, the researcher takes the clauses as the data and analyzed them using corpus based analysis tool (UAM Software). The study founds material process as the most frequently used by Imran Khan to represent his actions and reality. Omer & Ali (2021) analyses the ideational metafunction reflected in the translation of journalistic texts in the scope of politics from English to Kurdish. Using corpus based analysis, eight pairs of English source texts and their Kurdish translations are taken as the data. The result indicate specific patterns,

equivalence and shift in translations, in the clauses to replicate the source clausal ideational meaning in the target text. Megah (2021) investigate the ideology of Soekarno, the first president of Indonesia. The data are twelve expressions of selected speeches during 1945-1966. By using descriptive approach, the study found out that material process as the most processes found since it contributes more to Soekarno's hard worker and resilient images. AlAfnan (2021) analyses Trump and Biden's inaugural speeches using Systemic Functional Linguistics framework. Using Critical discourse Analysis, the study figures out that Trump used material process the most while Biden used relational processes. The material process used by Trump indicate a strong committed person as a leader while Biden's relational processes are used to simplify the abstract concept in order to gain people trust.

The present study identifies a critical gap in the analysis of Joe Biden's inaugural political campaign speech. This particular data set is vital because it brings a newer perspective to the study, given the dynamic nature of politics. While many researchers have analyzed Biden's speeches, the constant evolution of his political tactics and rhetoric demands ongoing scrutiny. This continual shift in his approach highlights the need to revisit and reassess his speeches to accurately capture the current political climate and his positioning within it. By concentrating on Biden's initial campaign rhetoric, this research aims to illuminate how he strategically presented his candidacy and policy priorities at the beginning of his campaign.

Furthermore, the study delves into the linguistic aspects of Biden's speech, examining how he uses language to build his political identity and engage with various voter demographics. This method not only showcases his rhetorical techniques but also offers insight into the broader sociopolitical environment in which the speech was delivered. By applying Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) to analyze the speech, the research seeks to reveal the deeper functional meanings within his discourse. Ultimately, this study aims to provide new insights and a more profound understanding of Biden's political communication, reflecting the latest developments and changes in his campaign strategies, thus contributing to the broader field of political communication studies.

## **METHOD**

This research describes the textual analysis of Biden's speech before examining the historical and rhetorical aspects of Biden's 2020 presidential campaign, focusing on how his speeches shape public perception. The findings delve into SFL analysis to Biden's campaign speeches. Such analysis involves exploring the frequency, distribution, and functional roles of "I" and "we." In detail, the utterances with pronoun "I" and "we" are analyzed based on the agents and the processes reflected in the utterances. The process is reflected through the verbs of the clauses. The verbs later is classified based on the classification of process. There are six types of process based on Systemic Functional linguistics framework. They are material, mental, behavioral, verbal, relational and existential. After analysing the process, the study concludes with a discussion of the implications of these findings for political identity construction and offers final reflections on the effectiveness of Biden's rhetorical strategies. By shedding light on the strategic use of "I" and "we" in Biden's campaign rhetoric, this research contributes to a deeper understanding of political language and its role in shaping personal and national narratives. Using the paradigm of Systemic Functional Linguistics, it illustrates how language, identity, and power are recurrent features in political discourse.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The analysis found out that there are six types of processes found in the data. They are material, Mental, Relational, Verbal, Existential and Behavioral. Both of subject actor "I" and "we" possess those six types of processes.

### Results on Subject Actor “I”

There are five clauses found in the material processes. In detail, the results are as in the table below.

Table 1: Results of Material Process

Code	Clauses	Identified Process
MR 1	I just visited the grounds of Valley Forge.	visited
MR 2	Jill and I attended the funeral of police officers who died as a result of the events of that day.	attended
MR 3	Travel with me as I meet with other heads of state throughout the world.	meet
MR 4	Whether you voted for me or not, I’ve done it for the last three years and I’ll continue to do it.	Have done
MR 5	That’s why, I’ve said it many times, that’s why I’ve never been more optimistic about our future, and I’ve been doing this a hell of a long time.	Have been doing

Though all the processes above are not the type of action verbs, those verbs belong to the material processes since it explains the material event of the actor, Joe Biden. The words ‘visited’ and ‘attended’ are uttered when Biden starts his speech by highlighting the crime cases in Valley Forge. He recalled the incident to invite the audience to remember the cases that are being negatively responded by Trump, his opponent. In MR 3, Biden wants to highlight the democracy of America that is destroyed by Trump. He wanted to convince the audience that it is not his personal opinion of saying that Trump has destroyed American democracy but also the leaders around the world. MR 4 and MR 5 stress Biden’s effort and action in his presidential era for the sake of the goodness of America and its democracy. Besides material process, mental processes are also found in the speech of Joe Biden.

Table 2: Results of Mental Process

Code	Clauses	Identified Process
MN 1	Today, the topic of my speech today is deadly serious and I think it needs to be made at the outset of this campaign.	Think (cognitive)
MN 2	You know, it’s the very site that I think every American should visit, because it tells the story of the pain and the suffering and the true patriotism it took to make America.	Think (cognitive)
MN 3	Is democracy still America’s sacred cause? I mean it.	Mean (cognitive)
MN 4	I, I think it’s despicable. Seriously. Not just for a president, for any person to say that.	Think (cognitive)
MN 5	Trump’s not concerned about your future. I promise you.	Promise (desiderative)
MN 6	Sometimes I’m really happy the Irish in me can’t be seen.	Am happy (affective)
MN 7	I placed my hand on our family Bible, and I swore an oath on the very same steps of the Capitol just 14 days after the attack on January the sixth.	Swore (desiderative)
MN 8	As I looked out over the capital city, whose streets were lined with National Guard to prevent another attack, I saw an American that had been pushed to the brink, an America that had been pushed to the brink.	Looked out and saw (perceptive)
MN 9	But I felt enormous pride, not in winning. I felt enormous pride in America, because American	Felt (affective)

	democracy had been tested.	
MN 10	And when Trump had seen weakness in our democracy and continued to talk about it, I saw strength.	Saw (perceptive)
MN 11	I know mine, and I believe I know America's.	Know and believe (cognitive)
MN 12	I won't go through them all. It would take too long.	Go through (desiderative)
MN 13	I'll keep my commitment to be president for all of America.	Keep (desiderative)
MN 14	Whether you voted for me or not, I've done it for the last three years and I'll continue to do it.	Continue to do (desiderative)
MN 15	I tell you from my experience working with leaders around the world, and I mean this sincerely, not a joke, that America is still viewed as a beacon of democracy for the world.	Mean (cognitive)
MN 16	That's the America I see in our future.	See (perceptive)
MN 17	With patience and fortitude, with one heart, we are the United States of America, for God's sake. I mean it.	Mean (cognitive)
MN 18	There's nothing. I believe with every fiber there's nothing beyond our capacity if we act together and decently with one another.	Believe (cognitive)

Mental processes concern the processes of sensing, such as perception, emotion, cognition, and desideration (wanting or needing). Eight cognitive mental process are found in the data through the words 'think', 'mean', 'know' and 'believe'. Those mental process are expressed when Biden's talk about American's democracy. Biden believes that American democracy is worth fighting for because from the very first American builds the country, democracy has been the foundation for the society. Thus, he deems that such democracy should be maintain for the sake of Americans. Five desiderative mental process are reflected through the words 'promise', 'swore', 'keep', 'go through' and 'continue to do'. Those desiderative mental process becomes Biden's commitment in maintaining and fighting for the democracy that he claimed is being ruined by Trump allies. Three perceptive mental process are expressed through the use of 'see', 'saw', and 'looked out'. The past tense of perceptive mental process are highlighting how American's democracy condition when Trump held the presidential chair. Biden uses past tense to indicate that such condition will not happen when he becomes the president of the America. Through the present tense of perceptive mental process, Biden offers his optimistic future of good American democracy since he claims that his presidential regime gives a great refreshment of America. Two affective mental process are drawn through the words 'am happy' and 'felt'. The words 'happy' implies Biden's pride as an American in general though he is Irish. While the words 'felt' reannounces his happiness as the current President of America. The following process found in the data is the verbal process, as shown in the table below.

Table 3: Results of Verbal Process

Code	Clauses	Identified Process
VB 1	I'll say what Donald Trump won't. Political violence is never, ever acceptable in the United States political system. Never, never, never.	say
VB 2	I mean, if I were writing a book of fiction, and I said an American president said that, and not in jest.	said
VB 3	He called and I quote, the terminate, quote, this is a quote, the termination of all the rules, regulations and	quote

	articles, even those found in the U.S. Constitution should be terminated if it fits his will.	
VB 4	I tell you from my experience working with leaders around the world, and I mean this sincerely, not a joke, that America is still viewed as a beacon of democracy for the world.	tell
VB 5	I can't tell you how many, how many world leaders, and I know all of them, virtually all of them, grab my arm in private and say, "He can't win. Tell me. No, my country will be at risk."	Can't tell
VB 6	That's why, I've said it many times, that's why I've never been more optimistic about our future, and I've been doing this a hell of a long time.	said

In VB 1, VB 2, and VB 3, Biden highlights an issue he claims Donald Trump ignores, unequivocally condemning political violence. Hypothetical context is also expressed his disbelief at something an American president supposedly uttered, suggesting it sounds more like fiction than reality. Not to mention, the speaker recounts someone else's extreme suggestion of discarding constitutional rules to fit personal desires. Besides negative claims Biden put on Trump, VB 4 highlights his global experience and sincerely assures the audience that America remains a symbol of democracy. He also assures that if the audience vote for him, the audience is withstanding with numerous world leaders' concerns who are having the anxiety about potential political outcomes if Trump wins. Finally, in VB 6, the speaker reiterates his enduring optimism about the future, backed by his extensive experience. Overall, the speaker's verbal processes highlight his seriousness, disbelief, assurance, and optimism, effectively communicating his points through his speech. Asides from the three processes above, relational processes are also found in the data.

Table 4: Results of Relational Process

Code	Clauses	Identified Process
RL 1	I've been there a number of times since the time I was a Boy Scout years ago.	was
RL 2	That's why, I've said it many times, that's why I've never been more optimistic about our future, and I've been doing this a hell of a long time.	Have never been

The first clause recalls an experience, referencing his long-standing connection. Biden underscores his deep roots and ongoing engagement with the American people. The second clause expresses Biden's current and growing optimism about the future, highlighting the length of his political involvement. By emphasizing his optimism and extensive experience, Biden aims to boost confidence in his leadership. His statement of having "never been more optimistic" is meant to inspire hope and a positive outlook among supporters, indicating that his vision for the future is ambitious yet achievable. In Biden's campaign, these relational processes strategically connect with the audience emotionally. This narrative showcases how Biden uses his past experiences and current mindset to reinforce his suitability for the presidency, appealing to voters who want a leader with both a proven track record and a forward-looking vision. Besides the processes above, existential process also contributes to the Biden's political rhetoric.

Table 5: Results of Existential Process

Code	Clauses	Identified Process
EX 1	I've been there a number of times since the time I was a Boy Scout years ago.	Have been there
EX 2	But to say it to the whole world listening. When I was	was

	overseas, anyway ...	
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Table 5 showcases how Biden leverages existential processes to underscore his experience and position himself effectively. In EX 1, the process "have been there" highlights his enduring involvement over the years. Similarly, in EX 2, the process "was," reflects on his international past experiences. This not only underscores his global exposure but also presents him as someone with a comprehensive understanding of global issues, capable of addressing them effectively. By emphasizing his past experiences and long-term engagement, Biden creates an image of a leader proficient in both domestic and international matters, appealing to voters who prioritize experience and proven capability. The last processes found in the data with pronoun "I" as the subject is the behavioral process.

Table 6: Results of Behavioral Process

Code	Clauses	Identified Process
BV 1	I placed my hand on our family Bible, and I swore an oath on the very same steps of the Capitol just 14 days after the attack on January the sixth.	Placed my hand
BV 2	Today, I make this sacred pledge to you: The defense, protection and preservation of American democracy will remain, as it has been, the central cause of my presidency.	make
BV 3	I could go on	Go on
BV 4	And I promise you, I will not let Donald Trump and the MAGA Republicans force us to walk away now.	Promise & not let.
BV 5	After all we've been through in our history, from independence to civil war to two world wars to a pandemic to insurrection, I refuse to believe that in 2024 we Americans will choose to walk away from what's made us the greatest nation in the history of the world.	refuse
BV 6	I mean it. We're the only nation in the world that's come out of every crisis stronger than we went into that crisis. And that was true yesterday.	behavioral
BV 7	It is true today. And I guarantee you will be true tomorrow.	guarantee

In the context of Biden's political campaign, the table of behavioral processes offers insights into his rhetorical strategies and commitments. In BV 1, the process "Placed my hand" signifies a deeply personal and symbolic act, emphasizing Biden's solemn commitment to his duties and the gravity of the moment following the January 6th attack. It shows his dedication to upholding the Constitution and protecting democracy. Such dedication is strengthened by BV 2 that highlights his focus on safeguarding democratic values. This pledge is deemed as a continuation of his ongoing commitment to the nation. BV 3 indicates Biden's willingness to continue his presidential regime since there are numerous political policies claimed as the successful political movements. Such short yet meaningful process conveys his depth of thought and preparedness to address various issues. BV 4 showcases Biden's determination to resist opposition forces and protect the country from regressing made by Trump. However, he also convinced that the American will choose him over Trump through the process "refuse". Such process highlights Biden's rejection of the notion that Americans would choose Trump since making Trump a president again will abandon American core values and achievements. BV 6 encapsulates Biden's assertion of America's unique strength and ability to emerge stronger from crises. This statement reinforces national pride and resilience, aligning with his campaign's

themes of unity and fortitude. BV 7 signifies Biden's confidence in the nation's continued resilience and strength. By projecting this assurance into the future, he aims to instill confidence in his audience that the values and strengths of America will persist under his leadership.

**Results on Subject Actor “We”**

As results on the subject actor “I”, six processes types are also found in the data when analysing the subject actor “we”. The first process that is discussed is the material process as seen in the table below.

Table 7: Results of the Second Material Process

Code	Clauses	Identified Process
MRw 1	There’s nothing. I believe with every fiber there’s nothing beyond our capacity if we act together and decently with one another.	Act together
MRw 2	Today, we gather in a new year, some 246 years later, just one day before January 6, a day forever seared in our memory because it was on that day that we nearly lost America, lost it all.	gather
MRw 3	Today, we’re here to answer the most important of questions. Is democracy still America’s sacred cause? I mean it.	are
MRw 4	Yes, we’ll be voting on many issues: on the freedom to vote, and have your vote counted. On the freedom of choice.	Be voting
MRw 5	We’re living in an era where a determined minority is doing everything in its power to try to destroy our democracy for their own agenda.	Are living

The table outlines five key phrases from Biden's speech: "Act together," "gather," "are," "Be voting," and "Are living." Such phrases underscore the importance of unity and collective action, asserting that America can achieve anything if people treat each other decently. He highlights the significance of coming together, especially on the eve of January 6, a day associated with the Capitol riot, suggesting the need for remembrance and resilience. He also poses a rhetorical question about the current state of American democracy and stressing its importance. Not to mention, Biden also emphasizes the critical nature of voting, framing it as essential to freedom and choice. He implicitly characterizes trump’s allies as a determined minority that is threatening democracy. Thus, he calls for vigilance and action to protect it by stressing that voting for presidential election means voting for many issues of Americans. Within his political campaign, these phrases underscore themes of unity, democratic values, and collective action. Biden aims to inspire Americans to value voting, defend democracy, and act together against divisive forces, presenting himself as a leader committed to national healing and strengthening through shared values and collective effort.

As on the subject actor “I”, in subject actor “we”, mental process also becomes the most processes found in the data. The details are showcased in the table below.



Table 8: results of the Second Mental Process

Code	Clauses	Identified Process
MNw 1	Three years ago tomorrow, we saw with our own eyes the violent mob stormed the United States Capitol.	saw
MNw 2	But he, we knew the truth, because we saw it with our own eyes. So it wasn't like something, a story being told. It was on television repeatedly. We saw it with our own eyes.	Knew & saw
MNw 3	We'll defend the truth, not give in to the big lie.	Defend & not give in
MNw 4	We'll embrace the Constitution of the Declaration, not abandon it.	Embrace & not abandon
MNw 5	We'll honor the sacred cause of democracy, not walk away from it.	Embrace & not walk away
MNw 6	So was me, we have to understand it as well.	Have to understand
MNw 7	We've been blessed so long with a strong, stable democracy, it's easy to forget why so many before us risked their lives and strengthened democracy.	Have been blessed
MNw 8	Democracy. Democracy is how we open the doors of opportunity wider and wider with each successive generation, not notwithstanding our mistakes.	Open & not withstanding
MNw 9	But if democracy falls, we'll lose that freedom, we'll lose the power of we, the people, to shape our destiny.	lose
MNw 10	We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men and women are created equal.	hold
MNw 11	It's an idea, declared in the Declaration, created in a way that we've viewed everybody as equal and should be treated equal throughout their lives.	viewed
MNw 12	Together, we can keep proving that America is still a country that believes in decency, dignity, honesty, honor, truth.	Can keep proving
MNw 13	We still believe that no one, not even the president, is above the law. We still believe the vast majority of us still believe that everyone deserves a fair shot at making.	Believe
MNw 14	We still believe in we the people, and that includes all of us. Not some of us.	Believe
MNw 15	We're not perfect, but at our best, we face on, we face head on the good, the bad, the truth of who we are.	face
MNw 16	We look in the mirror and ultimately never pretend we're something we're not.	Look in the mirror
MNw 17	We don't believe, none of you believe America is failing.	Believe
MNw 18	We know America is winning.	Know
MNw 19	We all know who Donald Trump is.	know

Three main points are drawn through the mental process of subject actor "we". They are, American democracy, identity, and Trump's image. When discussing American democracy, Biden depicts a positive trajectory, emphasizing progress driven by himself and American society. His frequent use of the future tense, like "will," conveys a forward-looking, proactive stance, encouraging society to trust in him and engage in a shared effort

toward a brighter future. Biden also underscores American identity by highlighting the nation's fairness, accountability, and strength. He aligns himself with these values, positioning himself as a representative of the everyday American, thus strengthening his connection with voters. Moreover, Biden strategically weakens his political rival, Donald Trump, by portraying Trump's rejection as a collective sentiment among Americans. His statement, "We all know who Donald Trump is," implies a widespread understanding and disapproval of Trump. Through these rhetorical strategies, Biden aims to establish himself as a unifying leader dedicated to democratic principles and the nation's core values, while simultaneously discrediting his opponent. Unlike the mental process, verbal process in the subject actor of "we" is found once.

Table 9: Results of the Second Verbal Process

Code	Clauses	Identified Process
VBw 1	We speak of possibilities, not carnage.	speak

VBw 1 emphasizes Biden's act of communication instead of quoting someone else's statement. Such phrase captures a moment of his rhetoric, spotlighting his positive vision for the future. By using "speak," Biden positions himself as addressing the public directly, a vital element in political speeches to connect with the audience. The term "possibilities" conveys optimism, hope, and potential, appealing to voters seeking positive change and leadership. By rejecting "carnage," Biden distances himself from negative, destructive imagery, contrasting his hopeful vision with a more fear-driven perspective. By framing his message around possibilities and rejecting carnage, Biden subtly contrasts his vision with opponents who may appear more divisive or negative. The use of pronoun "we" also implies that such vision is not made as personal but also as a unity since he includes himself as a part of American society. This analysis offers insight into how Biden uses language to shape his image and vision for the country, an essential element of his campaign strategy. The following process discussed is the relational process, as in the table below.

Table 10: Results of the Second Relational Process

Code	Clauses	Identified Process
RLw 1	America, as we begin this election year, we must be clear: Democracy is on the ballot. Your freedom is on the ballot.	be
RLw 2	What our lives would be without it.	Would be
RLw 3	We're the only nation in the history of the world built on an idea, not hyperbole, built on an idea.	are
RLw 4	We're still a nation that gives hate no safe harbor.	are
RLw 5	We're not perfect, but at our best, we face on, we face head on the good, the bad, the truth of who we are.	are
RLw 6	We look in the mirror and ultimately never pretend we're something we're not. And we're a great nation. We're the greatest nation on the face of the earth. We really are.	are

Table 10 delves into clauses of relational processes, expressing states of "being." RLw 1 emphasizes the necessity and clarity regarding the stakes of the election. RLw 2, on the other hand, explores a hypothetical scenario to underscore the importance of democracy and freedom. RLw 3 highlights American democracy, portraying America's unique identity as grounded in a foundational idea rather than just rhetoric. In RLw 4, the verb "are" is used to emphasize the nation's ongoing commitment to rejecting hate. RLw 5 uses "are" to acknowledge imperfections while highlighting the nation's courage to confront reality. Finally, RLw 6 employs multiple instances of "are" to assert the nation's genuine greatness, rejecting pretense and emphasizing authenticity and pride. These

clauses show Biden's strategic use of relational processes to present America and its values positively while acknowledging challenges and imperfections. The repeated use of "are" serves to affirm identity and core principles, reinforcing the campaign's messages of democracy, freedom, authenticity, and resilience. Through these relational processes, the speech creates a sense of unity, purpose, and moral clarity among voters. As the verbal process, existential process is also found one in the data.

Table 11: Results of the Second Existential

Code	Clauses	Identified Process
EXw 1	Today, we're here to answer the most important of questions.	are

Within Biden's campaign, this clause illustrates an existential process, emphasizing the existence or presence of something significant. The verb "are" in the clause underscores the importance and urgency of the questions Biden addresses. By declaring, "we're here to answer the most important of questions," Biden highlights his commitment to tackling key issues. This wording positions him as a proactive leader, attentive to the needs of the American people. It aligns with the core themes of his campaign, which focused on addressing urgent challenges and offering future solutions. The last process discussed in this chapter is the behavioral process. The details are in the table below.

Table 12: Results of the Second Behavioral

Code	Clauses	Identified Process
BVw 1	And we'll debate and disagree.	Debate & disagree
BVw 2	We've never fully lived up to that. We have a long way to go, but we've never walked away from the idea.	Lived up, have & walked away
BVw 3	We get up. We carry on. We never bow. We never bend.	Get up, carry, bow & never bend.
BVw 4	We're not weighed down by grievances. We don't foster fear. We don't walk around as victims.	Not weighed down, not foster fear & not walk around.
BVw 5	We take charge of our destiny. We get our job done with the help of the people we find in America, who find their place in a changing world and dream and build a future that not only they but all people deserve a shot at.	Take charge & get our job done
BVw 6	The question we have to answer is who are we?	Have to answer
BVw 7	After all we've been through in our history, from independence to civil war to two world wars to a pandemic to insurrection, I refuse to believe that in 2024 we Americans will choose to walk away from what's made us the greatest nation in the history of the world.	Have been through & will chose

The table above categorizes various clauses from Biden's campaign speech under different identified processes. Throughout his speech, Biden underscores themes of resilience, action, and determination. He acknowledges that America hasn't always lived up to its ideals but has never abandoned its core principles. This is evident in his remarks about never straying from the idea of progress. Biden's speech emphasizes perseverance with phrases like "We get up. We carry on. We never bow. We never bend," encapsulating a collective resolve. He firmly rejects the notions of victimhood and fear, advocating instead for a proactive and fearless approach. He calls for Americans to take charge of their destiny, highlighting the importance of collective efforts in building a better future. The process poses a rhetorical question about America's identity, urging reflection on the nation's historical resilience and achievements. This narrative encapsulates Biden's vision of an America that faces challenges head-on and continuously strives for improvement and

unity.

After analyzing all the process, it is found that this research supports Alafnan's (2021) research. In both research, relational process is found in the highest number than the other processes. It implies that Biden's political movement focuses on more abstract concept rather than the physical or material concept. It also implies that Biden has many profound ideas and tries to conceptualize those ideas. In conceptualizing such ideas, Biden includes himself as common American people through the relational process expressed. It also implicitly invites common American people to vote for him since he is one of them. Thus, any political movement he makes will always built on society's interest.

This research acknowledges its limitation in the analysis. To portray a more holistic view of Biden's political movement, it is crucial to expand the analysis beyond the ideational metafunction to also include interpersonal and textual metafunctions. By doing so, a more comprehensive understanding of Biden's rhetorical strategies and the construction of his political narrative can be achieved. This approach allows us to see not only what Biden is saying but also how he says it, how he engages with his audience, and how he structures his message to create a compelling and persuasive speech. Such expanded analysis offers a richer and more nuanced perspective on Biden's political stance, revealing the intricate ways he uses language to position himself and his vision for America. Additionally, examining other pronouns used in his speeches could further enrich our understanding of Biden's political perspective.

## CONCLUSION

The pronouns "I" and "we" in Biden's campaign speeches play crucial roles in emphasizing relational dynamics, both personal and collective. When Biden uses "I," he takes direct responsibility for his actions, decisions, and promises, aiming to connect personally with the audience and present himself as an accountable leader. This pronoun highlights his experiences, beliefs, and accomplishments, thereby establishing his credibility and authority. Pronoun "I" signals personal commitment and accountability. Conversely, "we" promotes a sense of collective identity and unity, including Biden as part of the American people, his administration, or his supporters. It suggests shared goals, challenges, and responsibilities, emphasizing collective effort and fostering solidarity. Through "we," Biden frames America as a united entity striving together to overcome challenges and achieve common goals. By using "I," he establishes himself as a responsible leader personally invested in the nation's well-being. This blend of pronouns enhances relational processes, as the most process found in the data, creating a strong connection with the audience and underscoring teamwork and shared responsibility in achieving national goals.

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