**Humor as a Rhetorical Device in the Speeches of Former President of Egypt Gamal Abdel Nasser**

The proposed study seeks to examine how humor is reflected as a rhetorical device in the political discourse of the late president of Egypt, Gamal Abdel Nasser. Our aim is to show how Abdel Nasser relied on humor as an essential rhetorical device to convey his political messages, promote his ideological views, and level scathing criticism against his political opponents. The study is based on the key premise through humor Abdel Nasser was able to engage in emotional manipulation of his audience, inspiring them to sympathize with his political views. This study will also rely on the use of critical discourse analysis (CDA) tools.

It is important to note out that the political views of Abdel Nasser and those of the Muslim Brotherhood were radically different, as the latter regarded the socialist ideology espoused by Abdel Nasser as destructive, and were certain that those who adhered to it were infidels opposing the will of Allah. The Muslim Brotherhood challenged Abdel Nasser’s rule and constantly fomented rebellion against him. Consequently, much of the humor in his speeches is directed against them. In the proposed study, we shall thus mainly focus on the humor aimed at the Muslim Brotherhood.

The study corpus draws on examples from Abdel Nasser’s speeches in which humor as a rhetorical device is a salient feature. While some of his speeches are extremely long, many consist of no more than a few lines. The study is based on the recorded speeches, gather mainly from online media. Despite the importance of these speeches, they have yet to be collected and concentrated in a comprehensive book.

This study is based on the selection and collection method. After collecting varied examples from the speeches documented online, we will analyze the derisory rhetoric that characterizes the language used in them, asking certain central questions. What is so special about this language? What are its salient linguistic components? Does this language incorporate humiliation and denigration? How does Abdel Nasser aspire to target the ethos of his political opponents by using this language?

Bibliography

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