

**DISCURSIVE STRATEGIES IN THE 2017 JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE
OF DONALD TRUMP AND KLAUS IOHANNIS**

THESIS

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LETTERS
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI MAULANA MALIK IBRAHIM
MALANG
2018**

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THESIS

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in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of *Sarjana Sastra* (S.S.)

By

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APPROVAL SHEET

This is to certify that Mufrotul Faidah's thesis entitled *Discursive Strategies in the 2017 Joint Press Conference of Donald Trump and Klaus Iohannis* has been approved by the thesis advisor for further approval by the Board of Examiners.

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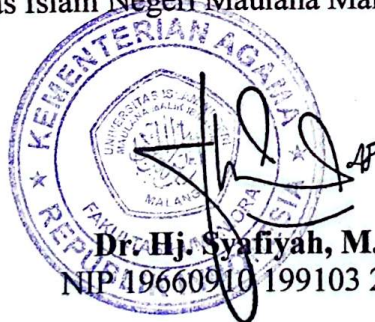
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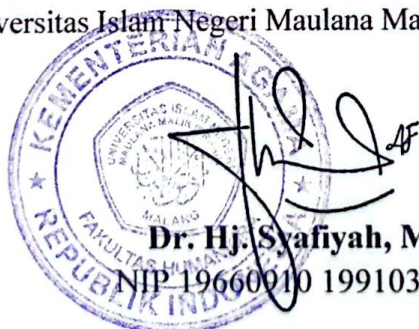
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STATEMENT OF AUTHORSHIP

I declare that the thesis I wrote to fulfill the requirement for the degree of *Sarjana Sastra (S.S.)* in the English Letters Department, Faculty of Humanities, Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University of Malang, entitled **Discursive Strategies in the 2017 Joint Press Conference of Donald Trump and Klaus Iohannis**, is truly my original work. It does not contain any materials which are previously written or published by other people, except for the indicated theory, quotation, and bibliography. Therefore, I am the only person responsible for the thesis if there are any objections or claims from others.

Malang, June 28th, 2018



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MOTTO

“You may delay time, but time will not.”

- Benjamin Franklin -

DEDICATION

I proudly dedicate this thesis to

My dearest parents, Ayah Sahid and Ibu Munifah, the roots that keep me
grounded and the wings that taught me to fly.

My beloved sister and brother, Nur Jihan Qothrunnada and Muhammad Kholil,
who bring endless warmth to my days and hold a piece of my childhood heart
forever.

And to my home, which anchors my storm and shares my sky—thank you for
being the quiet force behind every step of this journey.

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All praise is due to Allah SWT, the Most Holy and the Almighty, for His mercy, guidance, and blessings that have always accompanied me throughout my life. May peace and blessings always be upon the Prophet Muhammad SAW, the messenger of Allah, who brought guidance and good news to humanity.

I could not have completed this thesis without the support, assistance, and contributions of many people. Therefore, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all those who have supported me throughout the process of completing this thesis.

First, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my extraordinary advisor, Dr. Meinarni Susilowati, M.Ed., who patiently guided and supported me throughout the process of writing this thesis. Her valuable advice, encouragement, and insights broadened my perspective and helped me overcome various challenges during the completion of this thesis. I also extend my profound gratitude to the honorable Board of Examiners, Galuh Nur Rohmah, M.Pd., M.Ed., and Vita Nur Santi, M.Pd., for generously dedicating their valuable time, constructive feedback, and insightful suggestions to the refinement of this work. My deepest gratitude also goes to all lecturers at the English Letters Department, who have generously shared their knowledge, guidance, and valuable lessons throughout my studies at this university.

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Finally, I fully realize that this thesis may still contain shortcomings, mistakes, and errors. Therefore, I sincerely welcome any constructive criticism, suggestions, and comments from readers to improve this work. I hope that this thesis will be useful and contribute to the development of knowledge, particularly for students of the Department of English Letters and for future researchers.

Malang, 28th June, 2018

Mufrotul Faidah

ABSTRACT

Faidah, Mufrotul. 2018. *"Discursive Strategies in the 2017 Joint Press Conference of Donald Trump and Klaus Iohannis"*. Thesis. Department of English Letters, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim, Malang. Advisor: Dr. Meinarni Susilowati, M. Ed.

Keywords: Discursive Strategies, Political Discourse, Critical Discourse Analysis, Joint Press Conference

Political discourse involves linguistic choices through which political actors represent social actors, evaluate political issues, justify positions, express particular viewpoints, and construct political relationships. This study investigates how discursive strategies are employed in the 2017 Joint Press Conference of Donald Trump and Klaus Iohannis held at the White House on June 9, 2017. The study employs a descriptive qualitative method with a deductive discourse-analytical procedure. The data consist of selected utterances produced by Donald Trump and Klaus Iohannis during the press conference. The analysis draws on the concept of discursive strategies associated with Reisigl and Wodak and focuses on five analytical categories: nomination or referential strategies, predication, argumentation, perspectivization or framing, and intensification and mitigation.

The findings show that all five discursive strategies are employed by both speakers and frequently operate in combination. Nomination is used to identify and foreground political actors, institutions, groups, and other relevant entities. Predication is used to assign positive or negative characteristics to political actors, events, and issues. Argumentation is employed to justify political positions through relationships of responsibility, necessity, causality, security, and advantage. Perspectivization enables the speakers to present political issues from particular standpoints, with Trump more frequently foregrounding his personal political agency and Iohannis emphasizing collective agency through expressions such as "we" and "our." Intensification strengthens the force of evaluations and political claims, while mitigation occurs more selectively to reduce or qualify the force of particular statements.

The findings further indicate that Predication and Argumentation are the most prominent strategies in the data. Trump places greater emphasis on counterterrorism, NATO responsibility, defense contributions, and burden-sharing, whereas Iohannis emphasizes partnership, mutual responsibility, strategic cooperation, and economic development. Despite these differences, both speakers contribute to constructing the U.S.–Romania relationship as a cooperative strategic partnership. Overall, the findings demonstrate that discursive strategies function interactively to construct political actors and identities, legitimize political positions, express political perspectives, and reinforce representations of security, responsibility, cooperation, and bilateral partnership.

الملخص

فائدة، مفروتول. 2018. الاستراتيجيات الخطابية في المؤتمر الصحفي المشترك بين دونالد ترامب وكلاوس يوهانيس لعام 2017. رسالة جامعية، قسم اللغة الإنجليزية وآدابها، كلية العلوم الإنسانية، جامعة مولانا مالك إبراهيم الإسلامية الحكومية مالانج. المشرفة: مينارني سوسيلواتي، ماجستير.

الكلمات المفتاحية : الاستراتيجيات الخطابية، الخطاب السياسي، تحليل الخطاب النقدي، المؤتمر الصحفي المشترك

ينطوي الخطاب السياسي على مجموعة من الاختيارات اللغوية التي يستخدمها الفاعلون السياسيون لتمثيل الفاعلين الاجتماعيين، وتقييم القضايا السياسية، وإضفاء الشرعية على مواقف معينة، والتعبير عن وجهات النظر، وبناء العلاقات السياسية. تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تحليل كيفية توظيف الاستراتيجيات الخطابية في المؤتمر الصحفي المشترك بين دونالد ترامب وكلاوس يوهانيس، الذي عُقد في البيت الأبيض في 9 يونيو 2017. واعتمدت الدراسة المنهج الوصفي النوعي، مع اتباع إجراءات تحليل الخطاب بصورة استنباطية. وتمثلت بيانات الدراسة في مجموعة من الأقوال المختارة التي أدلى بها دونالد ترامب وكلاوس يوهانيس خلال المؤتمر الصحفي. واستند التحليل إلى مفهوم الاستراتيجيات الخطابية الذي طوره رايزغل وفوداك، مع التركيز على خمس فئات تحليلية، وهي: استراتيجية التسمية أو الإحالة، واستراتيجية التوصيف، واستراتيجية الحجاج، واستراتيجية التمنظر أو التأطير، واستراتيجية التكثيف والتخفيف.

أظهرت نتائج الدراسة أن الاستراتيجيات الخطابية الخمس قد استُخدمت من قبل المتحدثين كليهما، وأنها غالبًا ما تعمل بصورة متداخلة ومتزامنة. فقد استُخدمت استراتيجية التسمية لتحديد الفاعلين السياسيين والمؤسسات والجماعات والكيانات الأخرى ذات الصلة وإبرازها. واستُخدمت استراتيجية التوصيف لإضفاء سمات إيجابية أو سلبية على الفاعلين السياسيين والأحداث والقضايا المختلفة. أما استراتيجية الحجاج، فقد استُخدمت لإضفاء الشرعية على المواقف السياسية من خلال إقامة علاقات تقوم على المسؤولية والحاجة والسببية والأمن والمنفعة. واستُخدمت استراتيجية التمنظر لعرض القضايا السياسية من منظور معين. وقد ركز ترامب بدرجة أكبر على إبراز الفاعلية السياسية الشخصية، في حين ركز يوهانيس بصورة أكبر على الفاعلية الجماعية من خلال استخدام تعبيرات مثل «we» و «our». كما استُخدمت استراتيجية التكثيف لتعزيز قوة التقييمات والادعاءات السياسية، في حين استُخدمت استراتيجية التخفيف بدرجة أقل للحد من قوة بعض التصريحات أو التخفيف من حدتها.

كما أظهرت النتائج أن استراتيجيتي التوصيف والحجاج كانتا الأكثر بروزًا في البيانات. فقد ركز ترامب بدرجة أكبر على قضايا مكافحة الإرهاب، ومسؤوليات حلف شمال الأطلسي (الناتو)، والمساهمة الدفاعية، وتقاسم الأعباء، في حين ركز يوهانيس بصورة أكبر على الشراكة والمسؤولية المشتركة والتعاون الاستراتيجي والتنمية الاقتصادية. وعلى الرغم من اختلاف مجالات التركيز بين المتحدثين، فقد أسهم كلاهما في بناء تمثيل للعلاقة بين الولايات المتحدة ورومانيا بوصفها شراكة استراتيجية قائمة على التعاون. وبوجه عام، تعمل الاستراتيجيات الخطابية بصورة تفاعلية على بناء تمثيلات الفاعلين والهويات السياسية، وإضفاء الشرعية على المواقف السياسية، والتعبير عن وجهات النظر السياسية، وتعزيز تمثيلات الأمن والمسؤولية والتعاون والشراكة الثنائية.

ABSTRAK

Faidah, Mufrotul. 2018. Strategi Diskursif dalam Konferensi Pers Bersama Donald Trump dan Klaus Iohannis Tahun 2017. Skripsi. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Humaniora, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Pembimbing: Dr. Meinarni Susilowati, M.Ed.

Kata kunci: Strategi Diskursif, Wacana Politik, Analisis Wacana Kritis, Konferensi Pers Bersama.

Wacana politik melibatkan berbagai pilihan linguistik yang digunakan oleh aktor politik untuk merepresentasikan aktor sosial, mengevaluasi isu politik, melegitimasi posisi tertentu, mengungkapkan sudut pandang, serta membangun relasi politik. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji bagaimana strategi diskursif digunakan dalam Konferensi Pers Bersama Donald Trump dan Klaus Iohannis yang diselenggarakan di Gedung Putih pada 9 Juni 2017. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dengan prosedur analisis wacana secara deduktif. Data penelitian berupa tuturan-tuturan terpilih yang disampaikan oleh Donald Trump dan Klaus Iohannis selama konferensi pers. Analisis didasarkan pada konsep strategi diskursif yang dikembangkan dalam kajian Reisigl dan Wodak dengan berfokus pada lima kategori analisis, yaitu nominasi atau strategi referensial, prediksi, argumentasi, perspektivisasi atau pembingkai, serta intensifikasi dan mitigasi.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa kelima strategi diskursif digunakan oleh kedua pembicara dan sering kali beroperasi secara bersamaan. Strategi nominasi digunakan untuk mengidentifikasi dan menonjolkan aktor politik, institusi, kelompok, dan entitas lain yang relevan. Prediksi digunakan untuk memberikan karakteristik positif atau negatif terhadap aktor politik, peristiwa, dan isu tertentu. Argumentasi digunakan untuk melegitimasi posisi politik melalui hubungan tanggung jawab, kebutuhan, kausalitas, keamanan, dan keuntungan. Perspektivisasi digunakan untuk menyajikan isu politik dari sudut pandang tertentu. Trump lebih sering menonjolkan agensi politik personalnya, sedangkan Iohannis lebih menekankan agensi kolektif melalui penggunaan ungkapan seperti “we” dan “our.” Intensifikasi digunakan untuk memperkuat evaluasi dan klaim politik, sedangkan mitigasi digunakan secara lebih terbatas untuk mengurangi atau memperlunak kekuatan pernyataan tertentu.

Hasil penelitian juga menunjukkan bahwa Prediksi dan Argumentasi merupakan strategi yang paling menonjol dalam data. Trump lebih menekankan isu kontraterorisme, tanggung jawab NATO, kontribusi pertahanan, dan pembagian beban, sedangkan Iohannis lebih menekankan kemitraan, tanggung jawab bersama, kerja sama strategis, dan pengembangan ekonomi. Meskipun terdapat perbedaan penekanan, kedua pembicara berkontribusi dalam membangun hubungan Amerika Serikat–Rumania sebagai kemitraan strategis yang kooperatif. Secara keseluruhan, strategi diskursif berfungsi secara interaktif untuk membangun representasi aktor dan identitas politik, melegitimasi posisi politik, mengungkapkan perspektif politik, serta memperkuat representasi mengenai keamanan, tanggung jawab, kerja sama, dan kemitraan bilateral.

TABLE OF CONTENT

TITLE OF SHEET.....	ii
APPROVAL SHEET	ii
LEGITIMATION SHEET	iii
STATEMENT OF THE AUTHORSHIP.....	iv
MOTTO	v
DEDICATION	vi
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	vii
ABSTRACT	viii
TABLE OF CONTENT.....	xii
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Research Questions	7
1.3 Objectives of the Study	7
1.4 Significance of the Study	8
1.5 Scope and Limitations	11
1.6 Definition of the Key Terms	13
1.7 Research Design	17
1.7.1 Research Method.....	17
1.7.2 Data Source	18
1.7.3 Research Instrument	19
1.7.4 Data Collection	19
1.7.5 Data Analysis	20
CHAPTER II REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE	24
2.1 Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)	26
2.1.1 Definition and Scope of CDA.....	26
2.1.2 Relevance of CDA to the Present Study.....	29
2.2 Approaches to Critical Discourse Analysis.....	32
2.2.1 Fairclough’s Approach.....	34
2.2.2 Van Dijk’s Approach	35

2.2.3 Wodak's Approach	36
2.3 Discursive Strategies.....	37
2.3.1 Nomination/Referential Strategies	37
2.3.2 Predication Strategies	38
2.3.3 Argumentation Strategies	39
2.3.4 Perspectivization/Framing	40
2.3.5 Intensification and Mitigation	41
2.4 Previous Studies	41
CHAPTER III FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION	45
3.1 Research Finding of Discursive Strategies	46
3.2 Discussion	93
CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS	110
4.1 Conclusion.....	110
4.2 Suggestion	114
BIBLIOGRAPHY	116
APPENDIX	

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the study, research questions, objectives, significance, scope, limitations, definition of key terms, and research design. The research design describes the research method, data sources, research instruments, and data collection and analysis procedures employed in the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language plays an important role in political communication because it enables political actors to express positions, explain policies, represent social actors, and establish relationships with other political actors and institutions. In politics, language is not just a neutral means of transmitting information. Linguistic choices can be used to construct meanings, representations, identities, and political relationships (van Dijk, 1997, 2004; Fairclough & Fairclough, 2012). Political discourse is therefore not just about what political actors say, but also how they linguistically represent political actors, events, issues and positions in specific communicative contexts.

Political discourse is communicated in a variety of ways, for example, political speeches, parliamentary debates, election campaigns, interviews, media discourse, and institutional communication. Analysis of political discourse should pay attention not only to linguistic choices but also to the communicative purposes and contexts where these choices are made. For example, Van Dijk (1997) emphasizes the relations among political discourse, political actors,

institutions, political processes, and the social consequences of political communication. Linguistic choices in political discourse can also serve to represent political values, social groups, identities and political positions, as shown by previous research (Sowińska, 2013; Kuznyetsova, 2021). Consequently, political discourse offers an important context for contemplating how language is used to construct and convey political meanings.

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) offers a more comprehensive critical perspective to examine the relationship between discourse and society. CDA is concerned with the relationship of discourse and power, ideology, social relations, and representational processes (van Dijk, 2004; Fairclough & Fairclough, 2012). Critical discourse studies approach language not as an isolated product of linguistic study, but as part of social practices. This perspective is relevant to political discourse because political actors use language not only to provide information but also to represent social actors, evaluate political issues, justify positions, express viewpoints, and establish relationships. However, the present study does not attempt to employ a comprehensive Critical Discourse Analysis model. CDA functions only as the broader theoretical orientation, while the specific analytical framework is the concept of discursive strategies associated with Reisigl and Wodak.

The concept of discursive strategies provides a more specific framework for examining how linguistic choices perform particular discursive functions. Reisigl and Wodak identify several strategies through which social actors and political issues may be represented, characterized, justified, positioned, and rhetorically strengthened or weakened. These strategies include nomination or

referential strategies, predication, argumentation, perspectivization or framing, and intensification or Mitigation (Reisigl & Wodak, 2001, 2009). The framework is particularly useful for political discourse because political actors routinely need to identify relevant actors, characterize people and events, justify political positions, present issues from particular viewpoints, and regulate the force of their statements.

Nomination or referential strategies concern how social actors, groups, institutions, and other entities are named or referred to. Predication is the assignment of particular qualities and characteristics to social actors and other entities. Argumentation is the process of justifying or legitimating claims, positions, or evaluations. Perspectivization is about the placement of the speaker and the representation of events or issues from a particular perspective. Intensification and mitigation concern the augmentation or diminution of the force, certainty or degree of a proposition. These strategies are not necessarily used independently. It may be that one utterance contains more than one strategy when different linguistic elements fulfil different discursive functions.

The five strategies are relevant to political communication because political discourse often involves processes of representation, evaluation, justification, positioning, and stance-taking. Nomination may establish who is relevant to an issue, predication may describe actors in particular ways. Argumentation may give reasons for political claims or positions, perspectivization may specify the standpoint from which an issue is presented, intensification or Mitigation may modulate the rhetorical force of a statement. The

study of how political meanings are constructed through language choices is, then, a particular method for viewing these approaches together.

The significance of political communication is particularly emphasized in an international situation. Political leaders can address domestic publics, foreign governments, international institutions, journalists, and other political actors simultaneously. Their discourse can thus encompass the representation of national interests, political actors, security concerns, diplomatic relations, and forms of cooperation. In such contexts, language choices can contribute to building relationships between states and to presenting particular political positions.

The joint press conference is a relevant setting for the analysis of these discursive processes since it involves the participation of two political leaders in the same institutional communicative event. Unlike a speech delivered by a single political actor, a joint press conference provides discourse produced by more than one speaker within a shared political and communicative setting. The event, therefore, provides an opportunity to examine how different political actors employ discursive strategies to address related political issues while representing distinct national and institutional positions. It also allows the researcher to examine similarities and differences in the linguistic realization and functions of discursive strategies across the two speakers.

The present study focuses on the joint press conference between Donald Trump, President of the United States, and Klaus Iohannis, President of Romania, held at the White House on June 9, 2017. The press conference addressed several political issues, including the relationship between the United States and Romania, NATO, defense, terrorism, security, and economic cooperation. The

event is relevant for the present study because it provides a common communicative setting in which two national political leaders publicly articulate political positions and represent political actors and issues.

Rather than examining the discourse of either leader in isolation, this study considers the utterances produced by both Trump and Iohannis within the same communicative event. The comparative dimension does not constitute a separate research question; rather, it supports the investigation into how the two speakers employ discursive strategies. The study deals with the use of discursive strategies. However, by investigating the linguistic realization and the communicative functions of the strategies in both sets of utterances, it is able to show the patterns of similarity and difference.

Earlier research has shown the importance of discursive strategies for different types of political and public discourse. For example, Mansouri et al. (2017) conducted an investigation into nomination and argumentation strategies, as well as the phenomenon of perspectivization and intensification/mitigation in oratory discourse. Erdogan-Ozturk and Isik-Guler (2020) employed Reisigl and Wodak's methodology to analyze exclusionary rhetoric on Twitter. At the same time, Kijratanakoson (2023) employed linguistic devices such as nomination, predication, argumentation, perspectivization and intensification/mitigation to explore the representation of male sex workers in Thai newspapers by. Zhang (2022) also investigated rhetorical strategies of political speech. The study demonstrates that the framework can be applied to a variety of genres and communicative contexts.

Other studies have been conducted on political discourse from various critical discourse perspectives. Rofiq (2010) analyzed derogation and euphemization in an international speech by Mahmoud Ahmadinejad within a framework informed by van Dijk. Kusmaya (2012) analyzed discursive strategies in a debate between Tony Blair and Christopher Hitchens. Kholishoh (2010) analyzed hegemonic discourse in *Valkyrie* using Fairclough's approach and the Gramscian theory. Su'udiyah (2010) analyzed racism in *Hotel Rwanda* using van Dijk's approach. Though these studies describe the application of critical discourse perspectives, they vary from the present study in their theoretical frameworks, objects of analysis, and communicative settings.

The above-mentioned studies demonstrate the usefulness of discursive strategies for the analysis of political and public discourse. However, they also differ from the present study in terms of genre, participants and communicative setting. Some studies focus on a single speaker or text, while others examine mediated discourse, for example, newspapers or social media. The present study instead examines two political leaders participating in the same joint presidential press conference. This setting provides an opportunity to investigate how the five discursive strategies are employed within a shared institutional context and how their linguistic realization and functions may vary between the two speakers.

The present study is deliberately limited to the concept of discursive strategies as defined by Reisigl and Wodak. Although the five strategies have been extensively developed and applied within the broader tradition of the Discourse-Historical Approach, the present study does not claim to conduct a comprehensive Discourse-Historical Analysis. In particular, it does not

systematically employ the full set of methodological procedures associated with DHA. Historical and political information may be used when necessary to clarify the immediate context of an utterance, but such information functions as contextual support for interpretation rather than as a separate analytical procedure.

Accordingly, the present study investigates how discursive strategies are employed in the 2017 Joint Press Conference of Donald Trump and Klaus Iohannis. The analysis focuses on five categories: nomination or referential strategies, predication, argumentation, perspectivization or framing, and intensification or Mitigation. The analysis examines how these strategies are linguistically realized and what discursive functions they serve in the press conference's communicative context. The objective of this framework is to give a focused account of how Trump and Iohannis use linguistic resources to refer to and characterize political actors, to formulate and justify political claims, to present particular viewpoints, and to regulate the force of their statements.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the study's background, this research addresses the following question: **“How are discursive strategies employed in the 2017 Joint Press Conference of Donald Trump and Klaus Iohannis?”**

1.3 Objectives of the Study

In line with the research question, this study analyses how discursive strategies are employed during the 2017 Joint Press Conference between Donald Trump and Klaus Iohannis. Specifically, the study examines the linguistic

realization and discursive functions of the five strategies identified in the data: nomination or referential strategies, predication, argumentation, perspectivization or framing, and intensification or Mitigation.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The study is expected to contribute to a better understanding of language use in political discourse and of the use of discursive strategies in an institutional political context. The importance of the study is revealed in three aspects: theoretical, methodological and practical.

1.4.1 Theoretical Significance

This study is expected to contribute theoretically to the understanding of discursive strategies in political discourse. Political discourse concerns the linguistic choices that political actors make to represent people, events, issues, and political positions. Discourse analysis has been used in previous research to study the construction of political meanings, identities, values and perspectives through language (van Dijk, 1997; Sowińska, 2013). Building on the concept of discursive strategies associated with Reisigl and Wodak, the present study focuses on five analytical categories: nomination or referential strategies, predication, argumentation, perspectivization or framing, and intensification or Mitigation.

The study may also contribute to understanding how these strategies function in an institutional political setting with two political leaders engaging in the same communicative event. The idea of discursive strategy

has been used to study numerous kinds of political and public discourses, for example, discourses in speeches, social media and newspapers (Mansouri et al., 2017; Erdogan-Ozturk & Isik-Guler, 2020; Kijratanakoson, 2023). By examining a joint press conference, the present study provides a further application of the discursive-strategy framework to a communicative event in which two political actors address related political issues within a shared institutional context.

In addition, the study provides a more focused account of how nomination, predication, argumentation, perspectivization, and intensification or Mitigation operate in political communication. The analysis considers not only the linguistic forms through which the strategies are realized but also their discursive functions in representing political actors and issues, expressing viewpoints, supporting political positions, and constructing political relationships.

Moreover, the study offers a more refined account of how nomination, predication, argumentation, perspectivization, and intensification or mitigation work in political communication. The analysis takes into account not only the linguistic forms through which strategies are realized, but also their discursive functions in the representation of political actors and issues, the expression of viewpoints, the support for political positions, and the construction of political relationships.

1.4.2 Methodological Significance

Methodologically, this study shows how qualitative discourse analysis can be carried out through a theoretically guided, deductive coding

procedure. The five discursive strategies are pre-existing analytical categories, and relevant utterances in the transcript are identified and classified according to the strategy or strategies they realize. The strategies identified are then examined in terms of their linguistic realization, communicative function, and immediate discourse context. This procedure provides a systematic way to connect the research question, theoretical framework, linguistic data, analytical categories, and the interpretation of findings. It also demonstrates how discursive strategies can be applied as a specific analytical framework within a qualitative discourse-analytical study.

The methodological significance of the study also lies in its clear delimitation of the analytical framework. Although the concept of discursive strategies is closely associated with the work of Reisigl and Wodak and with the Discourse-Historical Approach, the present study does not employ the entire Discourse-Historical Approach as its comprehensive methodology. Instead, it adopts the five discursive strategies as the principal analytical framework, using contextual information to support the interpretation of the linguistic data.

1.4.3 Practical Significance

Practically speaking, this study may be useful to students and researchers in linguistics, particularly those interested in discourse analysis, political discourse, and Critical Discourse Studies. The findings might be a reference for future studies on political speeches, press conferences, debates,

diplomatic communication, and other institutional forms of political discourse.

The study may also be an example of how theoretical ideas about discursive strategies can be applied to actual linguistic data. The study may help readers understand the way linguistic choices may be used as discursive strategies in political communication by identifying and interpreting nomination, predication, argumentation, perspectivization or framing and intensification or Mitigation in an actual political communicative event.

Moreover, the study may be useful for researchers interested in the political discourse of several speakers in a common communicative space. Thus, the utterances of Trump and Iohannis are compared to demonstrate that the same analytical categories can be applied consistently to different speakers while accounting for the linguistic and contextual particularities of their respective discourses.

1.5 Scope and Limitations

The scope of this study is limited to the analysis of discursive strategies employed during the 2017 Joint Press Conference of Donald Trump and Klaus Iohannis at the White House on June 9, 2017. The study focuses specifically on the verbal discourse produced by the two political leaders during the press conference. The primary data consist of their utterances, whereas journalists' questions or statements are not treated as primary analytical data. Such questions

or statements may be considered only as contextual information when necessary to understand the responses of Trump and Iohannis.

The analysis is based on five discursive strategies associated with the work of Reisigl and Wodak: (1) nomination or referential strategies, (2) predication, (3) argumentation, (4) perspectivization or framing, and (5) intensification or Mitigation. These five categories constitute the principal analytical framework of the study. The analysis focuses on identifying how these strategies are realized linguistically and on interpreting the communicative functions they perform in the context of the selected press conference.

Particular attention is given to how the strategies are used to refer to and characterize political actors and other entities, to formulate and justify political claims, to express particular viewpoints, and to strengthen or weaken the force of statements. An utterance may contain more than one discursive strategy when different linguistic elements within the utterance perform different discursive functions. Therefore, the analysis considers the specific linguistic evidence supporting each identified strategy rather than assuming that each utterance represents only one category.

This study does not attempt to provide a comprehensive analysis of all linguistic, multimodal, historical, or political dimensions of the press conference. Although the five discursive strategies are closely associated with the discourse-analytical work of Reisigl and Wodak and with the Discourse-Historical Approach, the present study does not employ the entire Discourse-Historical Approach as a comprehensive methodological framework. Instead, it specifically adopts the concept of discursive strategies as its principal analytical framework.

Limited historical and political information may be consulted when necessary to clarify the contextual meaning of particular utterances. However, such information functions only as supporting context and is not analyzed as a separate analytical dimension.

The study is also limited to the selected joint press conference. It doesn't systematically explore Trump's or Iohannis's discourse in different speeches, interviews, press conferences, political periods or other communicative events. The comparison between the two speakers is therefore restricted to their discourse within the selected press conference. Consequently, the findings are interpreted within the specific communicative context of the June 9, 2017, joint press conference. They should not be automatically generalized to the overall political discourse or discourse practices of either speaker.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

To establish conceptual clarity, the following terms are defined as used in the present study.

1.6.1 Discursive Strategy

Discursive strategies refer to systematic ways of using discourse through which speakers pursue particular social, political, communicative, or rhetorical purposes. In the present study, the term specifically refers to the five discursive strategies associated with the work of Reisigl and Wodak: nomination or referential strategies, predication, argumentation, perspectivization or framing, and intensification or Mitigation (Reisigl & Wodak, 2001, 2009). These five strategies constitute the principal analytical

categories used to identify and interpret how linguistic choices function within the political discourse examined in this study.

1.6.2 Nomination or Referential Strategy

Nomination and referential strategies concern how social actors, groups, institutions, events, and other entities are linguistically named or referred to in discourse. Such strategies may be realized through personal names, pronouns, institutional labels, collective nouns, national or political categories, and other referential expressions. In the present study, nomination is examined to identify how political actors and other relevant entities are represented and referred to through particular linguistic choices.

1.6.3 Predication Strategy

Predication refers to how particular qualities, characteristics, attributes, or evaluations are linguistically assigned to social actors, groups, institutions, events, actions, or other entities. Predication may involve positive, negative, appreciative, deprecatory, or otherwise evaluative representations. In the present study, predication is identified through analysis of linguistic expressions that describe or evaluate political actors, groups, institutions, events, actions, or issues within the framework of the press conference.

1.6.4 Argumentation Strategy

Argumentation refers to the discursive means through which speakers justify, support, challenge, or legitimize particular claims, positions, or evaluations. In the present study, argumentation is examined by identifying argumentative relationships through which reasons, warrants, or other forms of justification support claims or positions. Particular attention is given to

how the speakers establish relationships between arguments and conclusions in presenting political positions or evaluations.

1.6.5 Perspectivization or Framing

Perspectivization, or framing, refers to how speakers present events, issues, actors, or propositions from particular points of view and position themselves in relation to what they communicate. It may include linguistic choices that show the speaker's stance, involvement, distance, orientation, or evaluation. In the present study, perspectivization is investigated in an effort to discover how Donald Trump and Klaus Iohannis express certain points of view and position themselves in relation to the issues and propositions presented at the press conference.

1.6.6 Intensification and Mitigation

Intensification and Mitigation are linguistic strategies by which speakers strengthen or weaken the force, degree, emphasis, or commitment of a statement. Intensification increases the force or emphasis of an expression, whereas Mitigation reduces, qualifies, or moderates its force. In the present study, these strategies are identified through linguistic features that strengthen, emphasize, soften, qualify, or reduce the rhetorical force of political statements.

1.6.7 Political Discourse

Political discourse refers to language use produced in political contexts by political actors, institutions, or other participants in political communication. In the present study, political discourse specifically refers to the verbal

discourse produced by Donald Trump and Klaus Iohannis during the 2017 Joint Press Conference at the White House on June 9, 2017.

1.6.8 Political Identity

Political identity is the socially constructed sense of belonging, positioning and self-representation that individuals or groups develop in relation to political communities, values, institutions, roles or interests. Identity can be constructed, negotiated and represented through linguistic choices and discursive practices in political discourse. Political actors may, for example, present themselves as members of particular groups, associate themselves with particular values or positions, or distinguish themselves from other actors. In the present study, political identity refers specifically to the identities constructed and represented by Donald Trump and Klaus Iohannis through their use of discursive strategies during the 2017 Joint Press Conference. Political identity is treated as an interpretive outcome or discursive function of the five analytical strategies rather than as a separate analytical category.

1.6.9 Joint Press Conference

A joint press conference is a public institutional communicative event in which two or more political representatives appear together to make statements and respond to questions from members of the press. In the present study, the term refers specifically to the joint press conference between Donald Trump and Klaus Iohannis held at the White House on June 9, 2017.

1.7 Research Design

This section describes the research method, data source, research instrument, data collection, and data analysis procedures used in the present study.

1.7.1 Research Method

The study was a qualitative descriptive study employing a deductive discourse analysis procedure. A qualitative approach was considered appropriate, as the study aimed at identifying, classifying, and interpreting the use of discursive strategies in political utterances, rather than testing statistical hypotheses. The analysis has been conducted on linguistic data and their communicative context, focusing on the linguistic realization and discursive functions of the strategies identified.

The study adopted a deductive analytical procedure as the five discursive strategies, namely, nomination or referential strategies, predication, argumentation, perspectivization or framing, and intensification or Mitigation, were identified as analytical categories prior to the systematic coding of the data. The relevant utterances were then classified according to the strategy or strategies they realized.

The methodological design was consistent with the research question: how were discursive strategies used in the 2017 Joint Press Conference of Donald Trump and Klaus Iohannis? Thus, the main purpose of the study was to describe and interpret the linguistic realization of the five strategies and the communicative functions they served in the selected political discourse.

1.7.2 Data Source

The primary data consisted of verbal utterances produced by Donald Trump and Klaus Iohannis during their joint press conference at the White House on June 9, 2017. The principal data source was the selected authoritative transcript of the joint press conference. The transcript was the main source of text because it held a written record of what was said during the event.

Where necessary, the transcript was cross-checked with the available video recording of the press conference to verify the wording, speaker attribution and the order of particular utterances. The video recording was used only as a subsidiary source for verification and was not considered a separate object of multimodal analysis. The data were limited to the utterances uttered by Donald Trump and Klaus Iohannis, since the research question addresses the discursive strategies employed by the two political leaders. Statements or questions produced by journalists and other participants were not treated as primary analytical data. However, such material could be considered as contextual information when necessary to clarify the communicative context of a particular response.

The transcript, therefore, served as the principal textual basis for identifying and analyzing the five discursive strategies: nomination or referential strategies, predication, argumentation, perspectivization or framing, and intensification or Mitigation.

1.7.3 Research Instrument

In qualitative research, the researcher serves as the primary research instrument because identifying, classifying, interpreting, and contextualizing discourse requires analytical judgment. In the present study, the researcher was therefore responsible for reading the data, identifying relevant linguistic features, assigning analytical categories, interpreting their communicative functions, and comparing the patterns found in the two speakers' discourse.

To support systematic analysis, a coding sheet was used as a supplementary research instrument. The coding sheet was developed based on the five analytical categories associated with Reisigl and Wodak's discursive-strategy framework. Relevant information, such as speaker, utterance, identified strategy or strategies, linguistic evidence, contextual interpretation, and communicative function, was written down.

1.7.4 Data Collection

The data collection process was conducted through documentary and textual data collection. The procedure included several stages. First, the researcher received the transcript of the 2017 Joint Press Conference between Donald Trump and Klaus Iohannis from the chosen authoritative publicly accessible source. Second, the transcript was verified by checking the date, participants, event and speaker attribution. Where necessary, the available video recording was consulted to verify potentially unclear portions of the transcript.

Then, the researcher read the complete transcript several times to develop an overall understanding of the communicative event before beginning the systematic coding process. Fourth, the utterances produced by Donald Trump and Klaus Iohannis were identified and separated from questions or statements produced by journalists and other participants.

After that, potentially relevant utterances were extracted and compiled in the coding sheet. At this stage, the researcher recorded the speaker and the relevant utterance and noted the preliminary analytical category or categories for further examination. Finally, the collected data were organized and prepared for systematic analysis in accordance with the five predetermined discursive strategies.

1.7.5 Data Analysis

The data were analyzed through a deductive qualitative discourse analysis procedure based on the five discursive strategies. The analysis was carried out through a series of systematic and connected stages. The researcher read the transcript several times to become familiar with the communicative context and the linguistic features of the data. This first reading provided a basis to identify potentially relevant utterances. This allowed the researcher to observe them as components of the total communicative event rather than as distinct linguistic units.

In the second phase of the study, the researcher located utterances with linguistic features that potentially related to one or more of the five discursive strategies. The relevant utterances were extracted and put on the coding sheet for further examination. Third, the selected utterances were

coded into five pre-existing analytical categories: nomination or referential strategies, predication, argumentation, perspectivization or framing, and intensification or Mitigation. The classification was deductive, as the categories were pre-established before the systematic examination of the data. However, the coding process did not assume that each utterance could represent only one strategy. An utterance could contain more than one strategy when different linguistic elements within the same utterance performed distinct discursive functions. Each identified strategy was therefore supported by specific linguistic evidence and interpreted according to the function it performed in context.

As the next step, the researcher examined the linguistic realization of each identified strategy. Nomination or referential strategies were examined through forms such as personal names, pronouns, institutional labels, group labels, and other referential expressions. Predication was explored through descriptive and evaluative expressions depicting social actors, events, actions, or issues. Argumentation was studied through argumentative relations in which claims or positions were supported, justified, challenged, or legitimized by reasons, grounds, or other relevant linguistic elements. The analysis of perspectivization or framing was done by examining expressions that indicate the speaker's position, involvement, distance, or positioning relative to the proposition or topic under discussion. Intensification or Mitigation: We looked at linguistic features that intensify, emphasize, soften, qualify, or decrease the force or degree of a statement.

The analysis did not consider the presence of a single word or grammatical form as sufficient evidence for a particular strategy. Instead, the researcher looked at how the linguistic item worked in the utterance and the surrounding discourse. This was particularly important when a linguistic expression might have different functions, depending on the setting in which it was used. Fifth, the identified strategies were interpreted according to the immediate communicative context of the press conference. The interpretation took into account the topic being discussed, the social actors or entities referred to, the position of the speaker and the communicative function of the identified strategy. A contextual interpretation was necessary, as the discursive function of a linguistic expression could not always be read from its lexical or grammatical form alone. The analysis connected the linguistic evidence to the surrounding discourse for a contextually grounded interpretation.

Then, after identifying and interpreting the strategies used by each speaker, the researcher made a comparison of the discursive strategies used by Donald Trump and Klaus Iohannis. The comparison was based on the types of strategies identified, their linguistic realizations and their communicative functions within the common context of the press conference. The comparison was descriptive rather than statistical, since the main aim of the study was to explain how the strategies were used rather than to find statistically significant differences between the two speakers. In case of need, frequency counts were used only as supplementary information to indicate the distribution of identified

instances across the data. These counts were not treated as the primary basis for interpreting the discourse and were not used for statistical hypothesis testing.

Lastly, the researcher linked the findings from the five analytic categories to address the research question. The synthesis considered the patterns identified across strategies, their linguistic realizations, their communicative functions, and the similarities and differences between the discourse of Trump and Iohannis. Thus, the overall analytical process was as follows: identifying relevant linguistic evidence, classifying it according to pre-established strategies, examining linguistic realization, interpreting its communicative function in context, comparing the two speakers, and synthesizing the findings to answer the research question.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter summarizes the theoretical and empirical literature relevant to the analysis of discursive strategies in the 2017 joint press conference between Donald Trump and Klaus Iohannis. In this chapter, we develop the theoretical framework for the analysis of the language used by the two political leaders to represent political actors and issues, express certain viewpoints, justify political positions and construct political relations in the press conference. The discussion is divided into four main sections: Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), approaches to CDA, discursive strategies, and previous studies.

The discussion begins with Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) as the overarching theoretical orientation of this study. CDA is interested in the relationship between discourse and society, for example, how discourse might be used to construct, reproduce, legitimize or contest social relations, power, ideology and political meanings (van Dijk, 1998; Wodak & Meyer, 2001; Fairclough, 1992). CDA is not a single, unified model but rather comprises different theoretical and methodological approaches. The chapter also briefly discusses the approaches associated with Fairclough, van Dijk and Wodak. The objective of this discussion is to place the present study within the broader field of CDA rather than to combine the analytical models of these approaches.

The concept of discursive strategies developed by Reisigl and Wodak is the main analytical framework of the present study. Discursive strategies are systematic ways in which linguistic choices are used to represent and characterize

social actors and issues, to justify political positions, to express particular perspectives, and to enhance or diminish the force of statements. The present study focuses on five discursive strategies: nomination or referential strategies, predication, argumentation, perspectivization or framing, and Intensification and mitigation (Reisigl & Wodak, 2001, 2009). These categories provide the basis for identifying and interpreting the linguistic realization and discursive functions of the strategies found in the data.

The concept of discursive strategies is closely associated with the work of Reisigl and Wodak and has been extensively discussed within the Discourse-Historical Approach (DHA). However, the present study does not adopt DHA as a complete methodological framework. In particular, it does not systematically employ the full range of contextual, historical, and methodological procedures associated with DHA. Instead, the study adopts discursive strategies as its specific analytical framework, using relevant contextual information only to support the interpretation of the linguistic data. This distinction is important because the purpose of the present study is to examine how the five discursive strategies are employed in the selected joint press conference rather than to conduct a comprehensive DHA analysis.

The chapter then discusses each of the five discursive strategies in detail. Nomination or referential strategies are concerned with the naming or referring to social actors and other entities; predication is about the attribution of qualities or characteristics; argumentation is about the justification or legitimization of claims and positions; perspectivization or framing is about the presentation of issues from particular viewpoints; and intensification and mitigation are about the

strengthening or weakening of the force or degree of statements (Reisigl & Wodak, 2009). The discussion of the strategies above sets out the conceptual categories used in the analysis of the utterances of Trump and Iohannis.

Finally, the researcher reviews previous studies to show how CDA and discursive strategies have been used to analyze political and public discourse. The review covers studies employing different approaches to CDA and studies employing discursive strategies in particular ways. Theoretical frameworks, data, and findings of the above are discussed to put the present study in context and clarify the position and focus of the present research. This theoretical and empirical basis is the premise for the analysis of the use of discursive strategies in the Joint Press Conference between Donald Trump and Klaus Iohannis in 2017.

2.1. Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)

2.1.1 Definition and Scope of CDA

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) has emerged as an interdisciplinary field that deals with the relations among discourse, society, power, ideology, and social change. Instead of looking at discourse as a linguistic product, CDA examines the interconnections between language and other forms of semiosis, as well as wider social and political practices. According to van Dijk (1998), Critical Discourse Analysis is a form of discourse-analytic research that is primarily concerned with how social power, dominance, and inequality are enacted, reproduced, and resisted through text and talk in social and political contexts. In this perspective, discourse is not socially neutral because language practices can reproduce or resist unequal social relations (van Dijk, 1998).

Fairclough's approach is also interested in the relationship between discourse and social structures. Fairclough (1992) describes discourse as a kind of social practice and indicates the dialectical relationship between discourse and social structures. From this perspective, discourse is generated by social conditions and at the same time actively contributes to the production and transformation of social relations. Fairclough (1992), therefore, puts textual and linguistic analysis within the framework of a wider study of discourse practices and sociocultural structures. His work shows how the study of language can shed light on how particular social meanings, relationships and forms of power are produced and maintained in discourse.

However, CDA is not a single unified method of analysis. Wodak and Meyer (2001) argue that Critical Discourse Analysis comprises a variety of approaches that have emerged from diverse theoretical traditions and therefore employ a range of concepts, methods, and analytical procedures. Despite these differences, the approaches share a fundamental concern with the relationship between discourse and social phenomena, particularly issues of power, ideology, inequality, identity, and social change (Wodak & Meyer, 2001). CDA is further characterized by Wodak (2014) as a problem-oriented, interdisciplinary research program, which consists of different approaches, each with its own theoretical models, research methods, and research agendas. According to Wodak (2014), these approaches are linked by a shared interest in the semiotic dimensions of power, injustice, and political, economic, social, and cultural change. CDA should thus be understood as a broad critical research perspective, not as a single analytic technique (Wodak, 2014).

The interdisciplinary nature of CDA is particularly significant because discourse is closely related to the social, political, cultural and ideological contexts in which it is produced and interpreted. Wodak and Meyer (2001) stress that critical discourse studies are interested in linguistic structures as well as the social and political conditions in which discourse is embedded. Likewise, van Dijk (1998) claims that the relations among discourse, social cognition, and social structures should be the concern of discourse analysis in understanding how power and dominance can be reproduced in communication. Therefore, CDA looks not only at what is said in discourse but also at how social actors, events, identities, and social relations are represented and how certain meanings can be legitimized or contested.

This is especially true in the setting of political discourse. Political discourse is the linguistic construction of political actors, events, issues, and relationships, and thus can be a site for the expression and negotiation of political positions and social representations. van Dijk (1997) stresses the importance of analyzing political discourse in relation to the political and social contexts in which it occurs, while Wodak (2001) highlights the need to analyze how political actors and social groups are discursively represented. From a CDA perspective, linguistic choices in political discourse can therefore be studied in relation to processes of representation, evaluation, justification and positioning.

This wider understanding of CDA is the theoretical orientation of the present study. CDA offers a critical perspective on the connection between the linguistic choices in the 2017 Joint Press Conference by Donald Trump and Klaus Iohannis and their political and social context. However, CDA is not employed as

the study's specific coding framework. The specific analytical framework is the notion of discursive strategies proposed by Reisigl and Wodak (2001, 2009), particularly nomination or referential strategies, predication, argumentation, perspectivization or framing, Intensification and mitigation. These strategies are closely related to the work of Reisigl and Wodak and have been extensively discussed in the Discourse-Historical Approach (DHA). However, the current study does not take DHA as a full methodological framework. Rather, it is concerned with the five discursive strategies as analytical categories for examining the linguistic representation of political actors and issues, the justification of political positions, the expression of particular perspectives, and the strengthening or weakening of the force of speakers' statements.

2.1.2 Relevance of CDA to the Present Study

CDA is relevant to the present study since political discourse is an important site where language, power, ideology, representation and social relations intersect. According to van Dijk (1997), political discourse cannot be understood without reference to the political and social contexts of its production. Political actors do not just use discourse to transmit information, but also to communicate political positions and construct representations. Similarly, Wodak (2001) argues that political discourse can be analyzed in terms of the linguistic representation of social and political actors, events and issues. From this point of view, the analysis of political discourse involves studying how linguistic choices are involved in specific representations and interpretations of political reality.

The relevance of CDA is also highlighted by its strong focus on the relationship between discourse and power. According to Van Dijk (1998),

discourse can be involved in enacting, reproducing, and resisting social power and dominance. Similarly, Wodak (2014) describes CDA as a problem-oriented and interdisciplinary research program that analyzes the semiotic dimensions of power, injustice and political, economic, social and cultural change. Therefore, CDA provides a useful theoretical orientation for the study of political language, as it allows us to consider linguistic choices in relation to broader political and social meanings rather than as individual textual forms.

This perspective is particularly applicable to the present study because the data comprise political statements made by Donald Trump and Klaus Iohannis during their 2017 joint press conference. The press conference is a form of political discourse in which the two political leaders discuss bilateral relations between the United States and Romania, as well as issues concerning NATO, defense, security, terrorism, and economic cooperation. Such discourse provides opportunities for political actors to represent themselves and others, characterize political issues, express evaluations, justify positions, and present particular viewpoints. These functions correspond to the broader concerns of CDA with representation, positioning, power, and the construction of political meanings (van Dijk, 1997, 1998; Wodak, 2001).

The present study, in this broader perspective of CDA, specifically focuses on the notion of discursive strategies proposed by Reisigl and Wodak. As Reisigl and Wodak (2001, 2009) put it, discursive strategies are means by which discourse may be used to represent and characterize social actors and phenomena, justify or legitimize positions, articulate specific perspectives and alter the force of statements. These strategies are thus particularly relevant for the present study,

as they offer analytical categories for analyzing how political actors construct representations and communicate political positions through linguistic choices.

The present study thus operationalizes five discursive strategies as a specific analytical framework, namely nomination or referential strategies, predication, argumentation, perspectivization or framing, and Intensification and mitigation (Reisigl & Wodak, 2001, 2009). The strategies under consideration are: nomination or referential strategies, which look at how political actors and others are named or referred to; predication, which concerns the qualities or characteristics that are attributed to them; argumentation, which deals with the justification of claims or positions; perspectivization or framing, which refers to the presentation of issues from particular viewpoints; and Intensification and mitigation, which are related to the strengthening or weakening of the force of statements. The paper investigates the linguistic devices used by Trump and Iohannis in their representation of political actors and issues, in the justification of political positions, in the expression of particular perspectives, and in the construction of political relationships, through the above categories, in the joint press conference of 2017.

Notably, although the concept of discursive strategies is closely related to the work of Reisigl and Wodak and has been discussed extensively within the Discourse-Historical Approach (DHA), the present study does not use DHA as its sole methodological framework. Instead, CDA offers a broader theoretical stance, and the five discursive strategies developed by Reisigl and Wodak provide a specific analytic framework for analyzing the data. This enables the present study to concentrate on the discursive functions and linguistic realization of the five

strategies without claiming to undertake a comprehensive Discourse-Historical Analysis.

2.2 Approaches to Critical Discourse Analysis

Theoretical and methodological plurality is a hallmark of Critical Discourse Analysis, going beyond a single unified analytical model. CDA, as explained by Wodak and Meyer (2001), comprises a range of approaches that have developed from different theoretical traditions and therefore employ different concepts, analytical procedures, and research methods. Meyer and Wodak (2009) also note that the different approaches within CDA diverge in their theoretical assumptions, methodological orientations, and analytical foci, but converge in their critical concern with the relationship between discourse and social phenomena. Wodak (2014) also describes CDA as a problem-oriented and interdisciplinary research program that comprises a variety of approaches, theoretical models, methods, and research agendas.

Approaches often discussed in CDA include those of Norman Fairclough, Teun A. van Dijk, and Ruth Wodak. While these approaches have a general interest in the relation between discourse and society they emphasize different aspects of discourse analysis. Fairclough's approach pays particular attention to the relationship between discourse and social structures, and to the role of discourse in social change (Fairclough, 1992). Van Dijk's socio-cognitive approach examines the relationships among discourse, social cognition, and society, particularly in the study of power, ideology, and social inequality (van Dijk, 1998). In particular, Wodak, in her Discourse-Historical Approach, stresses

the connection between discourse and its social, political, and historical contexts, as well as the representation of social and political actors in discourse (Wodak, 2001; Wodak & Meyer, 2009).

The purpose of the present study is to clarify the study's theoretical position in discussing these three approaches, not to integrate their analytical models. Each of these approaches represents a different perspective within the broader field of CDA: Fairclough (1995, 2001) focuses on discourse and social change; van Dijk (1993, 2000) on discourse, cognition and society; and Wodak (2001; Wodak & Meyer, 2001) gives particular attention to discourse, context and the representation of social and political actors. Therefore, the presentation of these approaches provides a basis for understanding the theoretical landscape of CDA and for identifying the specific analytical perspective adopted in this research.

Furthermore, the present study draws on the notion of discursive strategies as developed by Reisigl and Wodak (2001, 2009). These strategies are closely related to Wodak's work and have been extensively discussed in the Discourse-Historical Approach. However, the present study does not integrate Fairclough's, van Dijk's, and Wodak's analytical models, nor does it adopt the Discourse-Historical Approach as a full methodological framework. The discussion of the three CDA approaches situates the study within the broader field of CDA. However, it does not replace a specific analytical framework for examining the data, namely the concept of discursive strategies. This study examines five discursive strategies: nomination or referential strategies, predication, argumentation, perspectivization or framing, and Intensification and mitigation (Reisigl & Wodak, 2001, 2009).

2.2.1 Fairclough's Approach

Fairclough's approach is closely associated with the relationship between discourse, society, and social change. In *Discourse and Social Change*, Fairclough (1992) conceptualizes discourse as a form of social practice and proposes a three-dimensional model that examines discourse as text, discourse practice, and sociocultural practice. This approach considers linguistic features of texts alongside the processes through which discourse is produced, distributed, and interpreted, as well as the broader social practices in which discourse is embedded. Accordingly, Fairclough's framework is particularly concerned with how discourse contributes to the reproduction or transformation of social relations, power, and ideology. The approach, therefore, provides an important foundation for understanding discourse as socially situated and as potentially involved in processes of social change.

Although Fairclough's approach provides a significant foundation within Critical Discourse Analysis, it is not adopted as the principal analytical framework in the present study. Fairclough's approach is discussed to situate the study within the broader theoretical development of CDA and to clarify its distinction from the framework employed in the analysis. In the present study, we will concentrate on the concept of discursive strategies proposed by Reisigl and Wodak (2009) and will not apply Fairclough's three-dimensional model. These discursive strategies were formulated in the framework of the Discourse-Historical Approach, but the present study does not adopt DHA as a comprehensive methodological approach. Instead, the discursive strategies proposed by Reisigl and Wodak (2009) serve as

the main analytical basis for examining how discourse is used in the joint press conference between Trump and Iohannis.

2.2.2 Van Dijk's Approach

Van Dijk's approach focuses on the relationship between discourse, cognition, and society. His socio-cognitive approach explores the social distribution of knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and mental representations that mediate between discourse and social structures (van Dijk, 1998, 2008). A central aspect of van Dijk's approach is the relationship between micro-level discourse and macro-level social structures. Micro-level concerns discourse, interaction, and language use. Macro-level concerns social groups, institutions, power relations, dominance, and inequality. These levels are not seen as completely separate, as micro-level discourse practices may connect to and participate in larger social processes at the macro level (van Dijk, 1998).

Van Dijk's socio-cognitive perspective is relevant to the study of political discourse, as it provides a framework for analyzing the links between discourse and social structures through cognitive processes. In addition, it can be used to study communicative events, such as political press conferences, to explore the link between language use, social cognition and larger structures of power and ideology. The present study does not use van Dijk's socio-cognitive model as the main analytical framework. It does not systematically address, for example, mental models, social cognition or ideological cognition. Instead, the present study focuses on the discursive strategies proposed by Reisigl and Wodak (2009) as the primary analytical framework for examining their use in the joint press conference between Trump and Iohannis.

2.2.3 Wodak's Approach

A further important perspective within Critical Discourse Analysis is Wodak's approach, particularly the Discourse-Historical Approach (DHA). The DHA stresses the connection between discourse and the historical, political, social and institutional contexts in which discourse is produced and interpreted (Wodak, 2001; Wodak & Meyer, 2009). This perspective moves away from seeing political statements as isolated linguistic forms. Instead, it considers the link between discourse, broader contextual knowledge, and the representation and positioning of social and political actors.

An important contribution of Reisigl and Wodak's work to the present study is the concept of discursive strategies. Reisigl and Wodak (2001, 2009) identify recurring strategies through which social actors and political issues are represented, characterized, justified, positioned, and rhetorically strengthened or weakened. These strategies include nomination or referential strategies, predication strategies, argumentation strategies, perspectivization or framing strategies, and intensification and mitigation strategies. Each strategy provides an analytical category for examining how linguistic choices perform particular discursive functions in the representation and construction of social and political realities.

The present study draws specifically on the concept of discursive strategies proposed by Reisigl and Wodak (2009) rather than adopting the Discourse-Historical Approach as a comprehensive methodological framework. DHA is therefore discussed as the theoretical context in which the concept of discursive strategies was developed. In contrast, the five categories of discursive strategies

provide the specific analytical framework for the present study. This distinction allows the research to focus on the linguistic realization and discursive functions of these strategies during the 2017 joint press conference between Trump and Iohannis, without claiming to conduct a comprehensive DHA analysis.

2.3 Discursive Strategies

The present study's central analytical framework comprises five categories of discursive strategies. Their work largely builds on Reisigl and Wodak and has found wide application in the analysis of political, media, institutional, and other discourses. These strategies were first developed and are often exemplified in research on discriminatory, nationalist, racist, and exclusionary discourse. But their analytical use is not confined to such contexts. In the present study, the term "strategies" is used in a broad sense to investigate the representation and positioning of political actors, as well as the construction of political identities and relationships in political discourse.

2.3.1 Nomination/Referential Strategies

Nomination and referential strategies are how social actors and other entities are named and referred to. Nomination is a strategy of linguistic construction and representation of social actors (Reisigl and Wodak, 2009). personal names, pronouns, institutional categories, national or ethnic categories, membership categorization, metaphors, metonymies and synecdoche can be used for nomination. The choice of any form of reference can bring some social identities, attributes or institutional affiliations to the fore rather than others.

Previous work by Reisigl and Wodak shows that nomination may be involved in the construction of social groups, especially when actors are categorized by national, ethnic, cultural, political, institutional or other features. But nomination does not necessarily lead to negative or discriminatory representations. Its discursive function depends on the context and on the relationship between the referential expression and the actor or entity being represented. In the present study, nomination is therefore examined through the question: *How are political actors and relevant social or institutional groups named or referred to?* The analysis may include references to the United States, Romania, NATO allies, national populations, terrorist organizations, political leaders, institutions, or other actors relevant to the press conference.

2.3.2 Predication Strategies

Predication concerns the attribution of qualities or characteristics to social actors, objects, events, actions, and social phenomena. Reisigl and Wodak (2009) explain that predication involves linguistically assigning qualities or characteristics to social actors and other entities. Such predications may be appreciative or deprecatory, explicit or implicit, and specific or vague. Predication is therefore closely related to evaluation, as political actors may be represented as responsible, courageous, successful, reliable, dangerous, ineffective, or otherwise, depending on the discourse.

The distinction between nomination and predication is analytically important. Nomination concerns who or what is being referred to, whereas predication concerns the qualities or characteristics attributed to that actor or entity. In the present study, predication is examined by asking: *What qualities,*

characteristics, evaluations, or attributes are assigned to political actors and political entities? The analysis distinguishes between explicit linguistic evaluation and interpretations imposed by the researcher. An expression is therefore interpreted as positive, negative, appreciative, or deprecatory only when such an interpretation is supported by its linguistic and contextual environment.

2.3.3 Argumentation Strategies

Argumentation strategies are concerned with how claims, evaluations and representations are justified or legitimized. This strategy is particularly applicable to political discourse, since political actors often formulate arguments that portray certain actions, positions, or representations as reasonable, necessary, legitimate, or justified. Reisigl and Wodak (2009) refer to the importance of topoi for the analysis of political argumentation. A topos is a content-related warrant or a conclusion rule that links an argument or premise to a specific conclusion. Hence, a topos helps to explain the argumentative relation through which a certain premise is presented as sufficient grounds for a particular conclusion.

The literature associated with Reisigl and Wodak identifies various possible topoi, including usefulness or advantage, finances, reality, number, law and rights, humanitarianism, history, justice, culture, responsibility, abuse, burden or weighting, danger or threat, and uselessness or disadvantage. However, these categories should not be applied mechanically. Not every political statement contains an identifiable topos, and a quotation should not be assigned to a particular topos merely because the category appears in the theoretical framework. A topos should be identified when the relationship between an argument and its conclusion can be reconstructed from the discourse. The central analytical

question is therefore: *By what argumentative relation is a particular political claim, evaluation, or representation justified or legitimized?*

Argumentation can also interact with nomination and predication, as arguments can depend on how social actors are named and characterized. These strategies cannot always be considered completely distinct analytical processes, since referential and predication choices may help construct an argument, as Blackledge (2005) demonstrates.

2.3.4 Perspectivization/Framing

Perspectivization or framing is the speaker's positioning regarding the content of an utterance and the vantage point from which an event, actor, or issue is represented. Reisigl and Wodak (2009) connect this strategy to the ways speakers signal their involvement, position themselves, and construct particular viewpoints in discourse. Political actors are not just conduits of information but can also frame an event as a success, a responsibility, a challenge, a common accomplishment, a threat, or another political phenomenon. Such framing constructs a particular view of the presented issue.

It can be achieved by reporting, description, narration, quotation, deixis, pronouns, modality, and other linguistic resources. The analytical task is not merely to recognize the existence of such forms but to establish how they position the speaker and contribute to a particular perspective or framing of the discourse. The present study thus asks: *From which perspective or position is a political actor, event, claim, or relationship represented?* This question is relevant to exploring how Trump and Iohannis construct their perspectives on political issues, as well as their roles and relations during the joint press conference.

2.3.5. Intensification and mitigation

Intensification and mitigation are about changing the force or strength of propositions and evaluations. Reisigl and Wodak (2009) describe these as strategies which speakers can employ to intensify or attenuate the force of what is being said. Intensification is achieved by repetition, emphatic expressions, strong evaluative vocabulary, rhetorical questions, hyperbole, and other rhetorical devices. Mitigation can be achieved through hedging, qualification, modal expressions, down-toning, or other linguistic devices that reduce the categorical or assertive force of an utterance.

The distinction is important in political discourse because the same propositional content can have different rhetorical or pragmatic force, depending on the strength or caution with which it is expressed. So, the current study asks: *How can the force or evaluative strength of a political statement be enhanced or diminished?* The present study concerns the written transcript; thus, the analysis is based on textual and linguistic evidence. No claim is made to features such as pitch, tone, stress, or other prosodic features unless they can be supported by analysis of the original audiovisual recording.

2.4 Previous Studies

Several approaches in Critical Discourse Analysis have been adopted in previous studies on political, institutional, media and cultural discourse. Discursive strategies have been used to analyze political speeches, debates and other forms of public communication, and other studies have used different CDA frameworks to analyze relations between language, power, ideology and social

representation. The studies offer a foundation for reflecting on how linguistic choices can shape political and social meanings.

For instance, Rofiq (2010) studied derogation and euphemization in Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's international speech within a van Dijk-oriented framework. The study illustrated how linguistic choices can be integrated in the representation of in-groups and out-groups in political talk. In a similar vein, Kusmaya (2012) analyzed a debate between Tony Blair and Christopher Hitchens and focused on discursive strategies like derogation and euphemization. The study showed how evaluative and referential choices could contribute to the building of competing positions in political argumentation. These studies are relevant to the present research as they demonstrate the analytical value of studying linguistic strategies in political discourse. However, their specific analytical frameworks and data differ from those adopted in the present study.

Other studies have explored discourse and representation using different CDA approaches. For example, Su'udiyah (2010) investigated the lexical features of *Hotel Rwanda* by applying van Dijk's socio-cognitive approach and demonstrated how lexical choices can construct representations of power and domination. However, the data consisted of a film, so this study differs from the present research, which examines political discourse generated at a real institutional press conference. Likewise, Kholishoh (2010) employed Fairclough's model, combined with Gramscian theory, to examine hegemonic discourse in *Valkyrie*. The study demonstrates the usefulness of linking textual features to broader notions of discourse practice and hegemony. However, its theoretical

orientation differs from the discursive-strategy framework employed in the present study.

Further research by Reisigl and Wodak has demonstrated that discursive strategies can be applied to political discourse. Such studies have examined nomination, predication, argumentation, perspectivization, and Intensification or mitigation as interconnected resources through which political actors, events, and issues can be represented and evaluated. The work of Reisigl and Wodak (2009) is particularly relevant to the present study because it provides the theoretical basis for examining how linguistic choices perform different discursive functions. However, the studies reviewed in the present research differ in their specific political contexts, data, analytical emphases, and research objectives.

The literature reviewed above indicates that discursive strategies can provide useful analytical categories for examining the construction of political meanings and representations. However, several previous studies have focused on contexts involving discrimination, nationalism, immigration, conflict, populism, or ideological opposition. Comparatively less attention has been given, within the studies reviewed for the present research, to the operation of these strategies in a joint presidential press conference involving representatives of allied states. Such a setting provides a different discursive context because political actors may simultaneously construct national identities, diplomatic relationships, shared interests, responsibilities, and political positions without necessarily relying on explicitly antagonistic or discriminatory discourse.

The present study therefore examines the use of discursive strategies in the 2017 joint press conference between Donald Trump and Klaus Iohannis. Rather than assuming that discursive strategies primarily function to construct opposition or exclusion, the study investigates how nomination, predication, argumentation, perspectivization or framing, and Intensification and mitigation are employed to construct political actors, identities, issues, and bilateral or international relationships. The study also considers how the two speakers employ these strategies within the same institutional and political event. In this way, the research extends the application of the discursive-strategy framework to a diplomatic and cooperative political context. It addresses a context that differs from the predominantly conflict-oriented or discriminatory discourse examined in several previous studies.

CHAPTER III

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The results and discussion concerning the discursive strategies deployed by Donald Trump and Klaus Iohannis during the Joint Press Conference at the White House on June 9, 2017, are presented in this chapter. The analysis refers to the five discursive strategies by Reisigl and Wodak. These are Nomination or referential strategies, Predication, Argumentation, perspectivization or framing and Intensification and Mitigation. These strategies are used as analytical categories for the analysis of the use of linguistic choices in the representation of political actors and issues, in the expression of particular points of view, in the justification of political positions, and in the regulation of the force of political statements.

The findings are presented based on linguistic evidence from the utterances of Trump and Iohannis. Each datum is analyzed by identifying the relevant linguistic expressions, determining the discursive strategy or strategies they realize, and explaining their discursive functions in the immediate context of the press conference. The analysis does not assume that every datum falls into a single category since a single utterance may realize multiple discursive strategies. Rather, each strategy is characterized in terms of the linguistic evidence and the function the strategy serves in the utterance and surrounding discourse.

This chapter is organized according to the five analytical categories. The analysis first presents the use of Nomination or referential strategies, followed by Predication, Argumentation, perspectivization or framing, and Intensification and

Mitigation. The findings from Trump and Iohannis are examined within the same analytical framework to identify patterns in how each speaker employs the strategies. Selected data are presented and discussed in this chapter, while the complete set of identified data is provided in the appendix.

Overall, the analysis aims to answer the research question: "How are discursive strategies employed in the 2017 Joint Press Conference of Donald Trump and Klaus Iohannis?" The discussion, therefore, focuses on the linguistic realization and discursive functions of the strategies rather than on conducting a comprehensive Discourse-Historical Analysis.

3.1 Research Findings of Discursive Strategies

Datum 1

“Defeating ISIS and other terror organizations is something I have emphasized all during my campaign and right up until the present”.

In this statement, Trump employs Nomination and Predication strategies to refer to and characterize actors involved in terrorism. The name "ISIS" is a Nomination because Trump names an existing organization by its name. The term "other terror organizations" broadens the reference to a broader category of organizations. The determiner other shows that ISIS is constructed as one of a larger group of actors rather than a single actor in isolation.

The phrase "terror organizations" also functions as a predication, as it attributes a particular characterization to the entities it mentions. Trump does not use a more general term, such as "organizations" or "groups", but calls them "terror organizations." This lexical choice casts the entities as actors associated

with terrorism and assigns them a negative evaluative characterization. Within the wider discussion of counterterrorism, the characterization helps portray them as actors who are a security concern.

The phrase "I have stressed all throughout my campaign and right up until this point" foregrounds Trump as the political actor who has consistently stressed the issue. The first-person pronoun "I" is not enough for perspectivization; rather, the relevant issue is how the clause constructs Trump as personally linked to the persistence of the counterterrorism agenda. When analyzed as perspectivization, this expression locates the issue in the perspective of Trump's personal politics and foregrounds his agency in addressing terrorism.

So, the datum mainly shows Nomination and Predication through the words "ISIS" and "terror organizations". At the same time, the final clause can also be read as a kind of perspectivization, as Trump explicitly places himself as the actor who has always been focused on counterterrorism. These terms are used in a way that constructs terrorism-related actors as negative and counterterrorism as an issue that Trump frames as a continuing part of his political agenda.

Datum 2

Datum 2 concerns Trump's reference to Qatar through the expression "the nation of Qatar" as shown in the statement:

"The nation of Qatar, unfortunately, has historically been a funder of terrorism at a very high level, and in the wake of that conference, nations came together and spoke to me about confronting Qatar over its behavior."

The statement above predicates, as a main discursive strategy. The expression "a funder of terrorism at a very high level" is an important one because it attributes a negative and politically salient feature to Qatar. The Predication is introduced by the formulation 'The nation of Qatar', which explicitly identifies Qatar as the social actor being characterized. At the same time, the evaluative adverb "unfortunately" sets up a negative stance toward the following characterization. More importantly, the noun phrase "a funder of terrorism" does not simply refer to Qatar, but rather ascribes to the country a particular identity in relation to terrorism – constructing Qatar as an actor associated with the financing of terrorism. The degree expression "at a very high level" further enhances the characterization by increasing the force of the Predication by presenting the alleged involvement as substantial rather than marginal. Also, the use of "historically" expands the description to more than one current event and makes the alleged behavior a long-standing pattern. The Predication, here, portrays Qatar in a bad light in the broader political context of the statement. This is because the earlier part of the script mentions the summit of over 50 Arab and Muslim leaders as a meeting where the participating states agreed to stop supporting terrorism, including financially.

Argumentation strategy is another strategy in the later part of the same utterance, especially in "in the wake of that conference, nations came together and spoke to me about confronting Qatar over its behavior." The phrase "in the wake of that conference" establishes a temporal connection between the summit and the subsequent reaction to Qatar. The clause "nations came together and spoke to me about confronting Qatar" also introduces the reactions of other nations as the

grounds for the speaker's subsequent position, adding to the supportive grounds. Trump doesn't make the characterization of Qatar a personal assertion at all. Instead, he adds to his account the reactions of other countries that are reported, and this provides an external basis for the decision to confront Qatar. The phrase "over its behavior" assumes further that Qatar's behavior is deserving of a political response, without repeating the earlier characterization.

Thus, the utterance combines a primary Predication strategy, which frames Qatar through the negative characterization "a funder of terrorism at a very high level," with an additional Argumentation strategy, through which the reported reactions of other nations are invoked to support the decision to confront Qatar. Thus, Datum 2 portrays Qatar as a negatively characterized political actor, and at the same time it legitimizes the subsequent call for confrontation by framing the response as based on concerns expressed by other nations.

Datum 3

"I want to call on all other nations to stop immediately supporting terrorism. Stop teaching people to kill other people. Stop filling their minds with hate and intolerance."

In Datum 3, Argumentation is a major discursive strategy, in particular in the sequence of imperatives "stop immediately supporting terrorism", "Stop teaching people to kill other people" and "Stop filling their minds with hate and intolerance". The argument is not made by an explicit connective like because or therefore, but by a series of propositions establishing what nations ought to do in response to terrorism. The first phrase, "I want to call on all other nations," is a

direct political appeal to the following imperatives. Conversely, the adjective "other" is contextually important because it extends the previous discussion to a larger set of states beyond Qatar.

The verb "stop", used in each of the three clauses, functions as a command, defining the ending of certain practices as the necessary response to the problem of terrorism. The objects of these directives, "supporting terrorism", "teaching people to kill other people", and "filling their minds with hate and intolerance", progressively expand the practices related to terrorism, from material or political support to forms of ideological influence. This construction serves as a rationale for the speaker's larger argument that fighting terrorism requires states to not only stop financial support, but also to stop the transmission of violence, hatred and intolerance. The adverb 'immediately' further reinforces the formulation by removing temporal distance from the requested action and infusing the directive with a sense of urgency. The repetition of "Stop" at the beginning of successive clauses also adds to the force of the appeal through parallel imperatives.

Argumentation is the main strategy in this sense, but Intensification also works through lexical and syntactic repetition and the temporal adverb immediately, which increases the urgency of the suggested response. This reading is bolstered by the context around it: Trump depicts the funding of terrorism as something to be solved, and names his choice to call on Qatar to stop its funding, leading up to this statement; immediately following this statement, Trump states that defeating ISIS and other terror organizations has been a focus of his campaign and presidency. In general, Datum 3 uses argumentation and intensification

language to present the cessation of support for terrorism as an urgent and widely applicable course of action for countries beyond Qatar.

Datum 4

"For Qatar, we want you back among the unity of responsible nations. We ask Qatar, and other nations in the region to do more and do it faster."

The Predication is the main discursive strategy in Datum 4, as expressed by the phrase "responsible nations". It presents a positive characterization of the political group Qatar is asked to bring together. The phrase "the unity of responsible nations" establishes a normative distinction between nations represented as responsible and Qatar, which is represented as currently outside that unity. The adjective "responsible" is especially important because it is not merely a neutral description of the nations; it confers a positive political and moral attribute on them in relation to the previous discussion of terrorism. In this context, responsibility refers to the behavior expected of states in the fight against terrorism and the financing of terrorism.

The phrase "we want you back" also casts Qatar as an actor that could rejoin this collective, rather than as one forever expelled from the international community, as the speaker put it. Not only does "We ask Qatar and other nations in the region to do more and do it faster" ask Qatar to do more, but it also sets a higher expectation for states in the region to do more. The phrases "do more" and "do it faster" overstate the scope and urgency of the action being asked for, without actually naming any concrete measures. The comparative 'more' and the

temporal expression 'faster' add another Intensification function, by framing the current efforts as insufficient in terms of scope and speed.

The request is also linked to the previous argument on the need to stop financing terrorism, and therefore the utterance is part of a broader Argumentation in which collective action is framed as necessary to combat terrorism. The context of the sequence is important here: Trump said defeating ISIS and other terrorist organizations is a priority and summarized the response needed as "stop the funding, stop the teaching of hate and stop the killing" before this statement. The statement on Qatar, therefore, goes through identifying the problem, stating the desired response and then addressing Qatar and other countries in the region directly. In essence, Predication is the chief mechanism by which Datum 4 creates "responsible nations" as a positively valued collective and places Qatar within it. The additional intense and argumentative components also suggest that a quicker and more aggressive reaction is anticipated to terrorism.

Datum 5

"I want to thank Saudi Arabia, and my friend, King Salman, and all of the countries who participated in that very historic summit."

In Datum 5, the dominant discursive strategy is Nomination. In this data, there are explicit nominations of "Saudi Arabia", "King Salman" and "all of the countries" that attended the summit. These are expressions which point to particular political actors and a larger collectivity of states involved in the event, and therefore the social actors to whom the speaker addresses his acknowledgment. This Nomination is particularly evident in the shift from the

concrete national actor, "Saudi Arabia," to the individual political actor, "King Salman," and finally to the collective category, "all of the countries." This development expands the recognition from a single state and its leader to the larger set of states participating in the event.

The phrase "my friend, King Salman" also casts a positive personal image of the Saudi head of state. "my friend" is not a core Nomination, but serves as a relational descriptor that frames King Salman within a positive personal and political relationship of 'friendship' with the speaker. In this sense, Predication is an added strategy, for the expression "my friend" endows the nominated actor with a positive relational quality and does not simply identify him. The phrase that very historic summit is also positive in its evaluation of the summit through the use of the adjective historic. This is intensified through the use of very and presents the summit as politically significant.

Furthermore, the use of the first-person formulation "I want to thank" foregrounds the speaker's personal position toward the nominated actors and their participation, thus introducing an element of Perspectivization (cf., e.g., Mühleisen 2001) where the event is explicitly presented from the speaker's evaluative position. The recognition is significant here because it follows Trump's call for Qatar and other countries in the region to "do more and do it faster," pulling Saudi Arabia and the summit's participants into a wider discussion of collective efforts to combat terrorism.

Thus, Datum 5 mainly employs Nomination to highlight Saudi Arabia, King Salman, and the participating countries as important political actors. At the same

time, further predication and perspectivation elements construct these actors and the summit in a positive evaluative frame.

Datum 6

"It was truly historic. There has never been anything like it before and perhaps there never will be again."

Intensification is the most frequent discursive strategy in Datum 6, in which a string of highly evaluative statements is used to heighten the perceived importance of the summit. The adjective "historic" makes the event special and important, and the adverb "truly" emphasizes this. The following comment further intensifies this: "There has never been anything like it before", which presents the meeting as unprecedented. The phrase "perhaps there never will be again" projects this evaluation into the future, implying that the event may be a unique one, and not to be repeated.

The absolute construction "there has never been" and the future-oriented "there never will be again" delimit a broad temporal frame in which the peak is an exception in the past and maybe in the future. At the same time, the marking "It was truly historic" is clear enough to make the appraisal an explicit self-evaluation of the speaker, which allows Perspectivization to play the role of an additional method. Trump does not assess the value of the summit from the outside, but looks at it from his own perspective.

The evaluative emphasis is also repeated in the reference to "that very historic summit" immediately before, so that the positive description is not only introduced once, but is continued through subsequent clauses. Datum 6: The

summit is an unusual political event. Perspectivization shows that this increased appraisal is uttered from the speaker's viewpoint.

Datum 7

"Hopefully, it will be the beginning of the end of funding terrorism. It will, therefore, be the beginning of the end to terrorism. No more funding."

The central discursive approach of Datum 7 is Argumentation. This is most clearly demonstrated in the connective "therefore", which logically links the expected outcome of the summit to the overarching aim of countering terrorism. Hopefully, that will be the beginning of the end of sponsoring terrorism. It said the conference could be a turning point in the struggle to cut off or halt the funding of terrorists. The next sentence is an extension of this thought. It says, " It will, therefore, be the beginning of the end of terrorism. " The implication is that if we stop funding terrorism, then terrorism will start to go away. The particularly interesting discourse marker is "therefore", signaling an inferential relation: the proposed cessation of financing is presented as leading to the higher goal of stopping terrorism.

The last phrase, 'No further funding', makes the argument into an epigrammatic categorical statement, thus transforming the expectation set up above into a short political demand. Another technique is the Intensification through repetition of the phrase 'the beginning of the end', which adds considerable historical weight to the expected outcome. The phrase "No more funding" is short, definitive, and elliptical, reinforcing the message.

"Hopefully", right away adds a layer of Mitigation, turning the projected outcome into an expectation, not a fact. This is important because the speaker is not saying the summit has ended funding terrorism. Instead, he is presenting the summit as a hoped-for start to such a process. The pairing of "Hopefully" with the "therefore" that follows makes for an interesting move from a tentative projection to a stronger causal formulation. This is supported by the accompanying script: The statement follows Trump describing the summit as "truly historic" and "perhaps one of a kind," connecting the extraordinary representation at the summit with the political fallout expected to come from stopping the funding of terrorism.

Finally, datum 7 uses Argumentation to connect the expected result of ending the funding of terrorism to the larger goal of ending terrorism. At the same time, Intensification increases the expected salience of this outcome and, hopefully, provides a small buffer by labelling the Prediction as an expectation rather than a certainty.

Datum 8

"I also want to thank the Romanian people for everything they contribute to our common defense and to the fight against the evil menace of terrorism."

The main discursive strategy in Datum 8 is Nomination, because the social actor is explicitly identified and acknowledged as the Romanian population through the phrase "the Romanian people". The language replaces "the Romanian people" as collective actors in the Romania–United States relationship, rather than referring to the state of Romania as an abstract entity. The nominal expression is

then complemented by a relative construction "for everything they contribute to our common defense and to the fight against the evil menace of terrorism", which specifies the forms of contribution of this collective actor. The verb "contribute" places the Romanian people in the position of active, not passive, participants in security cooperation. The possessive expression 'our common defense' makes defense a shared responsibility between the speaker's country and Romania. In particular, this characterization adds, via the phrase 'the evil menace of terrorism', Predication as another strategy. The adjective evil and the noun menace have a very strong negative charge for terrorism, presenting it as a threatening and morally condemned phenomenon and not only a security problem.

The phrase also stresses the difference between the positive Romanian people who are said to contribute to the fight, and the negative phenomenon against which they are fighting. The surrounding discourse supports this construction: Trump has previously emphasized the need to stop funding terrorism and described the defeat of ISIS and other terrorist organizations as a top priority. The overall Datum 8 is depicted on the Nomination, highlighting the Romanian people as active participants in collective security. At the same time, the further Predication of terrorism as an "evil menace" reinforces the positive role attributed to Romania in the wider fight against terrorism.

Datum 9

"Romania has been a valuable member of the coalition to defeat ISIS, and it's the fourth-largest contributor of troops in Afghanistan. There, 23

of your citizens have paid the ultimate price. And America honors their sacrifice."

The main discourse strategy used in Datum 9 is Predication, positively portraying Romania as "a valuable member of the coalition to defeat ISIS". The word "valuable" directly reflects the Romanian membership in the coalition, signifying that its contribution is important and useful to the common fight against ISIS. Further qualification of the Predication is provided in the comment that Romania is "the fourth-largest contributor of troops in Afghanistan." Here, Romania is defined by a particular comparative position among the military contributions of coalition partners.

Instead of giving an overall positive evaluation of the word 'valuable', the speaker provides a quantitative ranking, which offers a more precise basis for classification in the discourse. This ranking is also an additional Intensification, as "fourth-largest" underscores the level of Romania's military contribution and improves Romania's representation as an engaged security partner. The phrase "23 of your citizens have paid the ultimate price" takes the emphasis off institutional contribution and places it on human sacrifice. The expression "paid the ultimate price" refers to the death of individuals (in this case, Romanian citizens) without using the word "died." The word "ultimate" emphasizes the gravity of the sacrifice being honored.

The final line, "America honors their sacrifice, " rounds off the positive image by explicitly stating the appreciation of the United States to the Romanian people. Trump's recognition of the Romanian people's contribution to "our common defense" and the fight against terrorism is part of a broader framing of

Romania as a cooperative security partner. The Predication in datum 9 enhances the representation of Romania's military contribution and sacrifice by the quantitative expression 'fourth-largest' and the mention of 'ultimate price', thereby constructing Romania as a valuable and meaningful contributor to international security.

Datum 10

"I want to recognize President Iohannis for his leadership in committing Romania this year to increase its defense spending from 1.4 percent of GDP to over 2 percent."

The main discursive strategy used in this utterance is Prediction, that is, the positive attribution of the quality of "leadership" to President Iohannis. The concrete linguistic evidence is the noun 'leadership', which functions as an evaluative predicate and attributes a positive political feature to Iohannis. The speaker says that Iohannis is not only the president of Romania, but also a leader who has shown political commitment by increasing Romania's defense spending.

Thus, the phrase "for his leadership" is a positive characterization of Iohannis, linking him to initiative, responsibility and commitment. The verb phrase "committing Romania" reinforces further the predicational construction and frames Iohannis as an active political agent in charge of a major policy choice. The Nomination's strategy also works through the explicit invocation of "President Iohannis" and the collective national reference "Romania". This yields a relation between a political actor and the state whose policy decision he is articulating. The combination allows, in a discursive way, the construction of a

positive image of Iohannis, but also the justification of the increase of Romania's defense spending as a sign of responsible membership in the NATO alliance.

The numerical contrast 'from 1.4 per cent of GDP to over 2 per cent' also gives a tangible expression of the magnitude of the change, rather than leaving the claim at a purely evaluative level. This comment should be seen in light of NATO's post-2014 focus on moving toward the 2% defense spending guideline and on greater burden sharing among member states. NATO's own records show that Romania was expected to meet the 2% benchmark in 2017. Thus, the main predication strategy presents President Iohannis as a responsible and praiseworthy political leader. He and Romania are relevant actors in the wider debate on NATO defense commitments because of a potential strategy of an additional nomination.

Data 11

"We hope our other NATO allies will follow Romania's lead in meeting their financial obligations and paying their fair share of the cost of defense. Nevertheless, I will say this: because of our actions, money is starting to pour into NATO. The money is starting to pour in. Other countries are starting to realize it is time to pay up, and they are doing so. Very proud of that fact."

President Donald Trump talks about the financial contributions of NATO member states during a joint press conference with President Klaus Iohannis of Romania. The statement is strategically based on Argumentation as the main strategy and Predication as the main supporting strategy. Argumentation is the main rhetorical strategy of Trump, and he develops a normative claim based on

the topos of burden/responsibility and the topos of causality/success. He couches defense spending in nominal terms such as "financial obligations" and "paying their fair share", thus exposing member contributions as legally and morally binding debts rather than voluntary gestures.

Also, the causal clause "because of our actions" is a topos of causality. This is an argumentative device that directly links the financial influx to the diplomatic pressure of his administration. This logic allows Trump to justify aggressive pressure on allies, but also to take credit for NATO's fiscal revitalization. Predication is another way of evaluating the behavior of social actors and redefining institutional relationships at the same time. Instead of using traditional diplomatic channels, Trump uses the cognitive verb "realize" and the colloquial phrasal verb "pay up" to force the member states to modify their defense budgets. The verb "realize" places the onus of past negligence or willful ignorance on the allies. At the same time, 'pay up' shifts the formal diplomatic register to a commercial register, in which member nations are cast as recalcitrant debtors, subject to enforcement measures.

The present result is also described as a great economic victory, with the hyperbolic predicate "money is starting to pour into NATO," which is immediately repeated verbatim. This combination of strategies, within the wider context of the script, redefines the transatlantic alliance as transactional. Trump links Romania's observance and its military expenditure over 2 per cent of GDP to his broader campaign for other members to keep their end of the bargain on historic commitments that have yet to be met ("pay back... money from many,

many years passed"). He portrays his presidential intervention as the only lever strong enough to bring allies to heel.

This datum thus shows how Argumentation and Predication interact dynamically to turn foreign policy discourse into a narrative of financial accountability and personal political triumph. Argumentation provides the causal rationale to validate demands and assert success, while Predication defines allies as debtors in default and glorifies Trump's enforcement as an ineluctable consequence.

Datum 12

"As you know, I have been an advocate for strengthening our NATO Alliance through greater responsibility and burden-sharing among member nations. And that is what is happening. Because, together, we can confront the common security challenges facing the world."

Trump's comments placed collective responsibility at the heart of his characterization of NATO's security function. The argumentative power of the datum is most present in the expressions of "greater responsibility" and "burden-sharing". These expressions frame the security of the alliance as a responsibility to be shared among member states. Hence, Argumentation is the main discursive strategy, whereas Predication contributes to the positive representation of Trump's position and the outcomes of his approach.

The nominal expressions "greater responsibility" and "burden-sharing" evoke the topos of responsibility/burden by introducing a more equitable distribution of obligations as a prerequisite for maintaining the alliance's

collective security function. The formulation is not simply about paying money; it makes responsibility itself the essence of the relationship between the individual member states and the alliance as a whole. The causal conjunction "Because" emphasizes this reasoning, introducing the rationale for increased burden-sharing: "together, we can confront the common security challenges." The modal verb 'can' is particularly pertinent to the topos of capability in this context, as it demonstrates that collective action is a capacity that can be attained through collaboration. Therefore, the argumentative relation that arises can be read as: the greater the shared responsibility, the greater the collective capacity to respond to common security challenges.

Predication is present in the way that Trump renders visible his own role and the developments connected to his policy position. The predicate noun phrase "an advocate for strengthening our NATO Alliance" provides a positive self-characterization, presenting Trump as an actor committed to strengthening the alliance. The formulation links his identity to strengthening NATO, rather than just saying he likes it. The representation is further strengthened by "And that is what is happening," in which Trump presents the development he has described as an ongoing reality. Thus, the construction changes the discourse from one of policy intention to one of observable progress. The phrase "facing the world" emphasizes the collective action represented by the alliance taking on challenges that are beyond the interests of any individual member state.

It becomes clearer how the two methods are related if we look at the argumentative and predicational aspects in turn. The rationale for greater responsibility and burden-sharing links shared commitments to collective security

and competence. Predication, however, gives this argument a positive personal and institutional framing by portraying Trump as a supporter of stronger relationships and by implying that the development in question is already underway. We need to frame burden sharing not as a financial ask, but as a reflection of the greater ability of NATO partners to act together in the face of common threats.

More broadly, the press conference language allows Trump to frame his stance on alliance contributions as a matter of shared security. His emphasis on "greater responsibility" and "burden-sharing" is focused on the sharing of responsibilities. "together we can confront" stresses, similarly, the collective capacity that this kind of cooperation is meant to cultivate. It is, therefore, consistent with an Argumentation-Predication relationship, for burden-sharing to be a requirement and an element of a wider rhetoric of alliance responsibility, common competence and institutional strengthening.

Datum 13

"Mr. President, I want to applaud your courage and your courageous efforts in Romania to fight corruption and defend the rule of law. This work is necessary to create an environment where trade and commerce can flourish and where citizens can prosper. I look forward to working with you to deepen the ties of both commerce and culture between our two countries."

President Klaus Iohannis was in a very positive evaluative mood following Trump's statements on Romania's internal reforms. Predication is especially

salient in the linguistic choices used to characterize Iohannis and his rule. Argumentation levels are improved by linking the value of anti-corruption efforts to wider economic and social benefits.

The description of Iohannis is constructed from a set of positive valuations, particularly 'courage' and 'courageous'. These lexical choices give personal courage to the Romanian president for his attempts to "fight corruption" and "defend the rule of law". Just as important are the attendant verb phrases, by which Iohannis is shown not only as a political office-holder but as an active participant in the battle against corrupt practices and the promotion of legal principles. Here, Predication links his character traits to concrete political actions, thus creating a picture of leadership based on courage and commitment to the rule of law. The verb "applaud" explicitly states Trump's approval of Iohannis' work and thus supports the positive image of Iohannis.

The argumentative dimension is the following claim: "This work is necessary for the purpose of helping create an environment in which commerce and trade can flourish and in which citizens can prosper." The statement draws on the topos of advantage/usefulness in that anti-corruption work and rule of law-strengthening are presented in terms of their useful consequences. The causal logic is rather straightforward. Institutional reform is associated with an environment conducive to thriving trade and commerce and subsequently to the citizens' prosperity. Moreover, the deployment of terms such as 'flourish' and 'prosper' accentuates the positive implications of this work, enabling the discourse to present anti-corruption as not only a matter of governance but also of wider economic and social utility.

Thus, the two strategies work at different but complementary levels. The Predication of courage, active reform and protection of the rule of law gives a positive portrait of Iohannis. Argumentation then offers a pragmatic justification for the significance of these efforts by tying them to positive economic and social outcomes. This relationship adds a functional dimension to the praise. The positive features attributed to Iohannis are linked to a wider justification of why his reform agenda matters.

The context for this link between domestic governance and bilateral relations is also growing stronger. He said afterwards that Mr. Trump had praised Mr. Iohannis's fight against corruption, which was "strengthening bonds in both commerce and culture". The proximity of these themes' places governance and bilateral cooperation in the same discursive frame, and suggests the significance of domestic institutional conditions for the wider development of Romania's relationship with the United States. So, the discussion moves away from the definition of a political leader to the wider benefits of his reform measures and the deepening of bilateral relations.

The interplay of Predication and Argumentation finally furnishes the datum with the evaluative and justificatory function. The Predication presents Iohannis in terms of the positive qualities of courage and active commitment to the rule of law; the Argumentation claims the usefulness of such efforts by linking them to flourishing commerce and citizen prosperity. The combination thus frames anti-corruption and rule-of-law measures as both positively valued forms of governance and as practices related to broader economic and social benefits.

Datum 14

“Romanians have made many contributions to the United States and to the world. Very notable among them was Nobel Prize laureate Elie Wiesel, who was born in Romania and, sadly, passed away almost one year ago. Furthermore, I understand that earlier this week, the American Jewish Committee presented President Iohannis with its highly prestigious Light unto the Nations Award for his work to advance Holocaust remembrance and education in Romania. I join the AJC in saluting your leadership in that vital cause.”

In this statement, President Donald Trump acknowledges Romania's historical and cultural significance as well as President Klaus Iohannis's efforts in Holocaust commemoration. The analysis concerns the link between the basic discursive strategy of Predication and the secondary approach of Nomination. Predication is particularly evident in the favorable evaluative language used to characterize Romania's contributions and Iohannis's efforts. Nomination, by contrast, indicates specific persons, organizations and monuments through which the representations are formed.

Such adjectives foreground predication as "very notable", "very prestigious Light unto the Nations Award", and "vital cause". The adjective phrase "very notable" carries a positive connotation, portraying Romania's historical and cultural accomplishments as valuable and deserving of acknowledgement. The reference to the "very prestigious Light unto the Nations Award" also raises the profile of the acknowledgement awarded to Iohannis's efforts. At the same time, the phrase "vital cause" underscores the significance of remembering the

Holocaust. The positive comments are reinforced by the phrases "very notable" and "very prestigious". Furthermore, the phrase "saluting your leadership" positively portrays Iohannis by clearly recognizing his leadership on the commemorative cause. Trump's linguistic choices not only refer to his involvement; they also constitute it as significant and deserving of public recognition.

The image is completed with a nomination that clearly identifies the social and institutional actors involved in these historical and commemorative references. The words "Nobel Prize winner Elie Wiesel" link the personal identity with the institutionalized achievement, so the phrase describes Wiesel as both a person and a globally recognized individual. Additionally, the explicit reference to the "American Jewish Committee" introduces a well-known institutional participant. The name of the Award itself, the 'Light unto the Nations Award', tells us the type of honor we're looking at. The nominations offer concrete points of reference that tie Romania, Iohannis, Wiesel and the AJC to a larger conversation about historical memory. These choices of reference are especially important in the discourse of communal memory, where the act of naming specific people and organizations can be used to build up and spread particular representations of the past.

The latter is particularly visible in the fact that some nominations serve as the referential basis of positive Predication, due to the interplay of the two strategies. For instance, "Elie Wiesel" is not just a man from history. His Nomination as a "Nobel Prize laureate" differentiates him at the same time and confirms his laureate status. Again, in the Nomination of the "American Jewish

Committee" and the "Light unto the Nations Award", the commemorative context in which Iohannis's actions are evaluated is described. Predication adds the evaluative dimension, whereas Nomination identifies the social actors and entities to which these evaluations belong.

Within the broader framework of the statement, these techniques shift the emphasis from safety and economic collaboration to historical remembrance and cultural acknowledgement. The image of the US–Romania relationship has a commemorative dimension, with references to Wiesel, Holocaust remembrance and the AJC. The chosen language is not only descriptive of the partnership as a military or economic cooperation, but also integrates historical figures, institutions, and acts of remembrance as relevant features of the bilateral relationship. Overall, the datum demonstrates the interaction between Predication and Nomination in constructing a positive image of Romania and President Iohannis through allusions to cultural contributions, historical remembrance, and institutional acknowledgement. Predication provides the evaluative dimension, with expressions such as "very notable", "very prestigious" and "vital". Moreover, Nomination identifies the people, institutions, and forms of recognition through which these evaluations are expressed. It is their interaction that allows for the statement to stand for the contribution of Romania and Iohannis's commemorative work to a wider discussion of historical and cultural importance.

Datum 15

"The people of Romania have endured many, many hardships, but they have made a truly remarkable, historical journey. The future of Romania and Romania's relationship with the United States is very, very bright."

"Through this statement, President Donald Trump encapsulates Romania's history of resilience and lays the foundation for the future of diplomatic relations between the United States and Romania. The statement is a particular interaction between the central strategy, Predication, and the key supporting strategy, Nomination. Trump mainly uses Predication to attribute strong evaluative properties to the history of Romania and its foreign relations with the United States. Trump's employment of the active predicate "have endured" to intensify the noun phrase "many, many hardships" depicts the Romanian population as having survived past hardships of history. The evaluative simultaneously negates this sympathetic characterization: "a truly remarkable, historical journey" where the positive predicate intensifier "really" and the adjectives "amazing" and "historical" modify Romania's post-communist transition to democracy: a monumental achievement.

Trump also repeatedly employs the intensifier phrase "very, very bright" in describing a positive political outlook for the future of bilateral relations. Such predicative choices give diplomatic language an emotional character, turning an abstract political alignment into an inspiring story of common progress. Another way of simultaneously binding social actors is Nomination, creating a single two-sided entity. Trump refers to the citizens of Romania as a collective, a dignified and united actor, rather than a distant geopolitical entity, by using the phrase "The people of Romania". The term "Romania's relationship with the United States" is a nominal phrase that further explicitly frames the bilateral relationship as separate and still ongoing. The nomination strategy connects Romania's future with the future of the United States, so that the interdependence and strategic

convergence between the two will be enhanced on the international stage. The specific strategy implementation in the press surrounding context conference script is to give a firm diplomatic closure before going to Q&A. Trump made a strong case that NATO members should do more for defense before. This time, he softens the blow by putting it into perspective with Romania's history of struggle and by expressing full confidence in Romania's future. It's a hard message, but it's delivered in warm words and soothing language. The press conference ended on a note of mutual goodwill and faith.

This datum shows how Predication and Nomination work together to create emotional solidarity and to present positive bilateral relations. Nomination Predication, in addition to explicitly linking Romania's national trajectory with resilience and success, describes the U.S.-Romania partnership as a "strong, united diplomatic alliance.

Datum 16

"President Iohannis, I thank you for your leadership, and I thank you again for being here today. I look forward to strengthening our alliance with your country and our bonds with your people. The relationship has been good, but now it's stronger than ever."

The statement includes President Donald Trump thanking President Klaus Iohannis and stressing the continued strength of the US-Romania alliance. In this discussion, we are concerned with the relation between Predication (the main discursive strategy) and Nomination (a subsidiary strategy). The Predication is realized through evaluative expressions that qualify positively Iohannis, the

bilateral alliance and the current state of diplomatic relations. The Nomination also identifies the political and collective actors in these relationships.

Such expressions as 'thank you for your leadership', 'look forward to strengthening' and 'has been good, but now it is stronger than ever' are examples of Predication. Iohannis is happy to hear the words "Thank you for your leadership" because they are a direct recognition of his leadership. Trump is not only acknowledging Iohannis' presence, but he is also associating him with a kind of political leadership that Trump admires. Meanwhile, "look forward to strengthening" conveys an optimistic view of the future of the bilateral relationship and the desirability of continued cooperation. "Has been good, but now it is stronger than ever" is a comparative phrase that compares the relationship over time. The adjective 'good' provides a positive baseline, and the comparative 'stronger than ever' takes this appraisal up a notch, indicating that the relationship is now stronger than it has ever been in the past. Thus, the predication choices build the bilateral relationship, which evolves positively in time.

This evaluation is complemented by the Nomination, which indicates the social actors and collective entities that are part of the relation. The direct address "President Iohannis" is the way in which the Romanian president is identified as the addressee of Trump's appreciation. Another connection between Iohannis and a positive evaluation of leadership is "your leadership". At the collective level, the possessive constructions 'our alliance with your country' and 'our bonds with your people' yield separate referential categories for the two sides of the relationship. The use of the words 'country' and 'people' to refer to Romania as a state and its

citizens opens up the conversation to more than just the two politicians. These nominations indicate that the relationship involves not just governmental actors, but larger national and collective actors.

The interaction between Predication and Nomination is particularly noticeable in the objectification process of nominated actors with positive evaluation. President Iohannis" also leads to "leadership" and "our alliance" and "your country" and "your people" are part of a bigger story of improving bilateral relations. Therefore, Nomination is the referential framework for positive Predication, and Predication is the evaluative dimension that gives these actors and relationships their particular discursive characterization. This interaction is consistent with the wider understanding of Nomination and Predication as closely interrelated strategies for the representation of social actors and the attribution of qualities to them.

These linguistic choices serve to frame Trump's statement positively in a wider context as a closing statement. The emphasis is on gratitude, leadership, strengthening and an increasingly strong relationship. The emphasis is on cooperation and continuity. The final remarks are not only about the bilateral relationship as such regarding specific policy issues but also its wider relational dimension, including leaders, countries, peoples and the alliance itself.

Datum 17

"President Trump, thank you so much for the words you found for Romania, for the Romanian people, and for me. Thank you very much for

the invitation to be here today with you. And thank you so much for arranging this nice weather in this place."

There is an obvious expression of gratitude to President Donald Trump at the beginning of President Klaus Iohannis's speech, so it makes a polite and appreciative introduction to the joint press conference. This data analysis shows an interaction between Predication and Nomination. Predication represents the positive representation of the host and the meeting. Nomination structures the social actors whom Trump's comments address.

The positive characterization can be seen in the repetition of 'thank you so much' and 'thank you very much', which emphasizes the thankful tone of Iohannis's answer. These expressions are not Predication in a grammatical sense but the recurrences of these expressions contribute to a positive characterization of Trump as a host with remarks and receptions appreciated by the Romanian president. The joke about "arranging this nice weather in this place" just cements the positive image and credits Trump for the positive atmosphere of the meeting. The playful wording removes the formality of the diplomatic setting, adding an interpersonal warmth that makes the host look good and approachable.

The sequence "for Romania, for the Romanian people and for me" opens a different discursive function. The Nomination classifies the relevant social actors into three referential categories: the state, "Romania"; the collective population, "the Romanian people"; and the individual speaker, "me". The references are grouped together with the national and collective aspects coming before Iohannis's individual stance, thereby linking his personal answer to the wider Romanian community. The formulation not only makes the speaker an individual addressee

of recognition, but also situates him within a national and collective hierarchy of reference. The direct address “President Trump” also maintains the formal interpersonal relationship established by the press conference setting and the institutional identities of the two speakers.

In addition, the surrounding discourse assigns another function to these linguistic choices. The reply echoes the host’s earlier assessment, but in a friendly and diplomatic manner. Iohannis's thank-you gesture follows a compliment from Trump for Romania. Thus, the positive portrayal, together with a well-organized reference, facilitates a smooth transition from Trump’s comments to Iohannis’s following comments on the bilateral relationship.

Usually, the interaction between Predication and Nomination results in a discourse of diplomatic appreciation. Predication helps to describe the atmosphere of the meeting and the host. A nomination, in contrast, builds the relationship between the individual speaker, the Romanian people, the Romanian state, and the American president. The interaction allows Iohannis to adapt his reply both as a personal thank-you gesture as well as a statement in the larger institutional context of the bilateral relationship of the two countries.

Datum 18

"Mr. President, I'm very glad that we had such a good meeting. And this is due to your strong leadership, and this is also due to our strong partnership. Obviously, the fact that we celebrate 20 years of strategic partnership this year is important for both our nations, and it is important

to know — and this is what I want to underline — that this partnership with the United States of America shaped Romania as it is today."

President Klaus Iohannis's response highlights the favorable outcome of the bilateral meeting and the ongoing significance of the U.S.-Romania Strategic Partnership. The discourse is built on Predication, reinforced by Argumentation, and is meant to provide favorable images of Donald Trump, the bilateral relationship, and Romania's progress in relation to the relationship.

All of the evaluative features of the summit, of Trump's leadership, and of the bilateral alliance are predictive. This positive description of the meeting is achieved through the adjective "good" and the repeated adjective "strong" in "strong leadership" and "strong partnership," which further emphasize the positive description of both Trump and the bilateral relationship. These evaluations connect Trump to the proper kind of leadership and characterize the alliance as strong and substantial. The recurrence of 'strong' also underscores the positive opinion. This is because it ascribes the same feature to both the political leadership and the bilateral connection, therefore associating the perceived efficacy of the leader with the strength of the partnership.

Predication also occurs in the verb-like phrase "shaped Romania as it is today". The verb "shaped" points to the United States as a dynamic, formative force in the present shaping of Romania. The statement tries to link the alliance to the current context in Romania, thus giving it a wider historical significance than just US diplomatic collaboration. Thus, the statement describes the United States as a focal actor in Romania's development, and characterizes the cooperation as a

long-term process. This predication framing creates salience for the bilateral relationship in addition to the daily diplomatic encounter.

An argumentative dimension is added, which complements the above, especially through the topos of causality and the topos of advantage/utility. The repeated use of the causal conjunction 'due to' creates a clear link between the positive developments mentioned by Iohannis and the causes he ascribes to them. The causal construction connects the outcome of the bilateral engagement to Trump's leadership and the strength of the partnership. It therefore offers a rationale for the favorable judgment constructed through Predication.

The argument is thus about positive description but also about the partnership and its leadership as a contributor to desirable outcomes. The topos of benefit/usefulness is especially visible in the description of the alliance as "important for both our nations". Iohannis also stressed the value of the relationship for both Romania and the United States, describing it as a win-win, not a one-way street. The mention of the 20th anniversary also situates this judgment in the wider history of bilateral collaboration. Furthermore, the position marker "this is what I want to emphasize" clearly communicates the importance Iohannis places on this part of the relationship. It is not simply another date in the calendar; the anniversary is an opportunity for both countries to underscore the ongoing relevance of their relationship.

The Predication is harmonious with the Argumentation in the larger discourse, and it creates a very positive image of the U.S. - Romania relations. The Predication also ascribes to Trump the elements of strength, efficacy and historical significance associated with cooperation and U.S. involvement in

Romania's development. Argumentation supplies the causal, pragmatic justification for these assessments, tying the relationship to positive effects and common national objectives. Together, they allow Iohannis to speak about the bilateral relation as historically important and valuable at present.

Hence, the data exemplifies how Predication and Argumentation collaborate to strengthen the legitimacy and enduring importance of the U.S.-Romania Strategic Partnership. Predication creates positive images of the primary actors and their relationship; the visuals are linked to causal grounds and the perceived benefits of ongoing bilateral cooperation through Argumentation. Iohannis does not regard the alliance as a formal diplomatic agreement but as a friendship of historic importance, whose value continues to increase, to the benefit of both countries.

Datum 19

"Romania, a solid democracy with a solid and sustainable economic growth. Romania which stands together with the US troops in Afghanistan. We stand together in Iraq. Mr. President, this partnership contributed greatly to what Romania is today. And this partnership was and is very important."

President Klaus Iohannis stresses Romania's democratic, economic, and military importance in relation to its strategic partnership with the United States, according to the data. The discourse is mainly focused on Predication sustained by Argumentation in an effort to portray Romania as a stable and loyal ally and to emphasize the long-lasting importance of the bilateral partnership.

The positive evolution of Romania's domestic prosperity and military engagement shows the importance of Predication. Romania's economic and institutional development is positively evaluated by means of the repeated evaluative adjective "solid" and the expression "sustainable economic growth". These possibilities portray Romania as a stable and resilient country, the development of which is linked to democratic consolidation and sustainable development. Romania's need for outside help, but also Romania's own ability and success. The use of Predication is thus a way of projecting a favorable image of Romania, particularly when considering the country's stability, progress, and institutional strength.

Romania's description of its contribution to the military shows a similar pattern, with the repeated wording "stands together with..." and the inclusive phrasing "We stand together. Such military-technical terms are characteristic of Romania's role as an active partner in joint military efforts with the United States. Other concrete circumstances in which this solidarity is said to have been exercised are found in the references to Afghanistan and Iraq. Iohannis stressed that Romanian forces are "standing together" with their American counterparts, saying Romania is not only a treaty ally, but also an ally that has fought together in combat missions. The choices of predications are therefore indicative of dedication, solidarity, and practical participation in Romania.

Based on this positive representation, the Argumentation then uses the topos of advantage/usefulness in an effort to establish the practical value of the US–Romania alliance. The direct connection between bilateral cooperation and Romania's development is given by the words "this partnership has contributed a

lot to what Romania is today". Thus, the alliance is portrayed as providing substantial benefits to Romania and, therefore, as the foundation for its ongoing significance.

This logic is further supported by the temporal construction, "was" and "is very important", which extends the relevance of the relationship to other temporal dimensions. The word "was" shows the meaning to the importance of the past, while the word "is" gives that significance into the present. Iohannis speaks about the collaboration not as something that has ended and is of lesser importance, but as an ongoing relationship that still has a lot to offer Romania.

More generally, the use of the above-mentioned techniques helps the image building of Romania as an active player in the U.S.-Romania relationship. Predication is concerned with evaluative and action-oriented linguistic choices in the interests of the country's stability, economic development, and military solidarity. The Argumentation offers a pragmatic reason for continuing the partnership, connecting it with the development of Romania and its strategic interests. References to Romania's participation in Afghanistan and Iraq are also concrete examples of the military involvement of the country alongside the United States, reinforcing this characterization.

Thus, Predication and Argumentation together produce Romania as a stable, dedicated, and contributing ally and legitimize the ongoing relevance of the US-Romania Strategic Partnership. Predication reinforces the positive image of Romania and its contributions. Argumentation links the contributions and the national success of Romania to the continued utility of the bilateral relationship. The evidence therefore suggests that the alliance is not just a relationship of

formal commitments to alignment, but one based on Romania's proven economic, democratic and military engagement.

Datum 20

"And I think this partnership not only has to continue; this partnership has to become stronger. This partnership has to define our bilateral relation, and this partnership has to contribute to solve so many problems."

The primary linguistic source for the interpretation of Argumentation in this datum is the repetition of the deontic modal word "has to." The four-fold presentation of the construction ("has to continue," "has to become stronger," "has to define," "has to contribute") gives the statement a strong normative force. The future development of the U.S.-Romania Strategic Partnership is thus presented as a necessity, rather than as merely desirable. This trend reinforces the topos of need, where the felt need to solve difficult international problems serves as the motive for the increase and widening of bilateral cooperation. The statement goes on to elaborate on this rationale: "has to contribute to solving so many problems". The continuation and deepening of the partnership are linked to the expected ability of the collaboration to address wider international challenges. Iohannis said that the development of bilateral relations is therefore a reasonable response to the challenges of the times.

But necessity is not the only issue in the debate. The topos of usefulness/advantage is also applied in the sentence, as stronger cooperation is tied to its role in alleviating problems. The regular modal construction shows what

the partnership should do, and the phrases "define our bilateral relation" and "contribute to solving so many problems" suggest the reason for the value of this development. The underlying argumentation relation, then, is between the need to reinforce the partnership and the advantages that improving its capabilities can provide. For Iohannis, bilateral cooperation is not an end in itself, but has a realistic purpose, linking a stronger alliance with the capacity to address a wider range of international issues.

Thus, Predication itself provides a more active and meaningful identity for the partnership. The first clause below begins with the repeated nominal subject "this partnership", which emphasizes the bilateral relationship and makes it the grammatical subject of the acts involved in defining relations and addressing challenges. Thus, the verbs "define our bilateral relation" and "contribute to solving so many problems" give the partnership agency and usefulness. The predication choices present the Strategic Partnership as an active paradigm, able to change bilateral relations and contribute to solve larger problems, instead of a static diplomatic structure. Then, Predication reinforces the persuasive point of it being worth it to bolster the partnership. The link is offered as having the capacity to generate real political outcomes.

More generally, the interaction between the two strategies is a wider vision for the Strategic Partnership. Argumentation provides reasons for keeping and developing the relationship, which is important and useful. And Predication then makes the partnership active, Predication consequential in the actions with which it is connected. The mix changes the U.S.-Romania relationship from an alliance based only on security to a broader cooperation, including bilateral coordination

and responses to international concerns. This data point further points to the partnership as a successful strategy for tackling larger issues, therefore supporting the need to deepen it.

Datum 21

"President Trump, you mentioned terrorism. I'm very glad that, due to your strong leadership, NATO decided to go against terrorism. Your involvement made so many nations conscious of the fact that we have to share the burden inside NATO. And this is why Romania also decided — and if I'm right, I think this is the first country during your mandate to step up to 2 percent of GDP for defense spending."

In this data, President Klaus Iohannis acknowledged the influence of Donald Trump on NATO's counterterrorism agenda while explaining Romania's decision to increase its national defense spending. The argument revolves mostly around Argumentation, with Predication as a backup, to connect Trump's leadership, collective burden-sharing, and Predication's enhanced defense commitment.

The argumentation framework is especially evident in the causal link between Trump's engagement and subsequent modifications to the defense commitments of NATO countries. The line "due to your strong leadership" plainly connects the growing awareness of collective security duties to Trump. The clear argument is marked with the connective, "And this is why". These linguistic choices maintain the topos of causality, in which a particular action or development is depicted as giving rise to a subsequent consequence. "So many nations conscious of the need to share the burden" has been the result of Trump's

leadership, Iohannis argues, equating presidential leadership with a larger consciousness of collective duty. It is in this chain of causality that the allusion to Romania's choice to raise defense spending to 2 per cent of GDP arises. Increased awareness of common security duties is presented as the result of increased national contributions to collective defense.

This line of thought also brings in the topos of the burden, especially in the phrase "share the burden". Thus, responsibility for defense is presented as something that should be more evenly distributed among NATO members rather than unduly borne by a single player. Thus, the increase in Romania's defense expenditure might be seen as the assumption of its fair share of the common security burden. Iohannis does not regard the budget increase as an exclusively internal financial decision, but also as part of a broader context of shared responsibility. Argumentation connects Trump's leadership, the increasing awareness of burden-sharing, and Romania's commitment to defense in a continuous chain of explanation.

Predication adds another layer by attributing specific attributes and capacities to the social actors represented in the discourse. The evaluative noun phrase "strong leadership" positively evaluates Trump and foregrounds the perceived success of his political action. The action-oriented term supports this depiction: "go against terrorism", which frames Trump as an agent who takes a proactive position against a serious security danger. The language resources contribute to an image of Trump as a strong leader with a focus on security, and to behavior related to a change in NATO's strategic orientation.

Likewise, the qualification "the first country in your mandate to move to 2% of GDP" is an upside for Romania. The use of the ordinal term the first country puts Romania in a special position among NATO members. The phrasal verb 'step up' frames the increase in defense spending as a conscious, active response. The language is less about Romania meeting a defense spending obligation and more about the country being an early and active contributor to collective defense. This ordinal classification, along with the action-oriented verb, thus provides a relatively salient position to Romania in the discourse. The interaction of Argumentation and Predication constructs the relation between leadership, collective responsibility and national action.

Argumentation is the logic of justification. From the Romanian point of view, Trump's leadership is seen as raising awareness of burden sharing, thus legitimizing an increase in defense spending. The Predication further assists this by stating that Trump is a 'strong' leader in the fight against terrorism, and that Romania is the first country to increase its contribution to 2 per cent of GDP. Therefore, it is a datum of Romania's commitment to defense not only in increased spending, but also in a responsible and proactive contribution to the collective NATO security. And the link between the two strategies is a validation of Trump's leadership and the importance given to the decision of Romania to invest in its military.

Datum 22

"A significant part of this defense spending is going into strategic acquisitions. And I hope, President Trump, that we find good ways

together to make good use of this money."

With this declaration, President Klaus Iohannis shows how Romania's increased defense budget can be used in practice through bilateral cooperation. The statement is a support strategy based on Argumentation and Predication. Iohannis does not regard the expenditure on defense as a financial obligation, but justifies it with the topos of advantage/usefulness. The mention of "strategic acquisitions" links Romania's growing defense budget to concrete procurement actions, while the call on President Trump to "find good ways together to make good use of this money" frames the money allocated as resources capable of creating tangible gains through bilateral cooperation. This argument puts defense spending in terms of not only advancing Romania's security interests, but the broader interests of the partnership.

Another argument in favor of Iohannis is that the possibility of cooperation in the area of defense procurement is also linked to financial resources. The phrase 'make good use of this money' implies that the benefits of the increased defense budget depend on how effectively it is translated into real strategic outcomes. The fundamental logic of the topos of advantage/usefulness is to link the distribution of resources to the benefits that can be gained from their effective use.

The Romanian commitment to spend 2% of GDP on defense is thus discursively reframed from an expenditure that needs to be justified into a resource that can be used to support strategic cooperation and economic engagement. It also demonstrates the defense budget as an area where Romania

and the United States can further common interests. This is an issue of the bilateral relationship.

Predication introduces another dimension: it assigns positive, desirable qualities to the implied use of Romanian financial resources. The term "strategic acquisitions" is nominal, and it presents the planned expenditure as purposeful and strategic rather than as undifferentiated military expenditure. The repeated adjective "good" in phrases such as "good ways" and "make good use" also contributes an evaluative dimension to the description of the way in which the funds are to be used. These expressions deliver a distribution of resources that is adequate, effective and beneficial. Thus, Predication supports the argumentative strategy, lending positive evaluative meaning to the proposed use of the defense budget.

If we put the statement within the framework of the Strategic Partnership between the U.S. and Romania, these strategies are even more relevant. "Defense spending is not only a national commitment, but also an opportunity for concrete bilateral cooperation", said Iohannis. Argumentation shows the use of the money through strategic cooperation, and Predication describes in positive and purposeful terms the intended use. Therefore, Predication between the two strategies makes Romania's defense budget a resource that can be used simultaneously for both security cooperation and broader bilateral economic engagement.

Datum 23

In this datum, President Klaus Iohannis addresses Romania's strategic

position on NATO's border and proposes expanding the alliance into the *economic sphere*. The complete quotation is:

"Romania is very conscious of the fact that we stand on the Eastern Flank and we heavily rely on your partnership, President Trump, because we cannot stand there without the US We cannot stand there alone. On the other hand, our partnership has a huge opportunity to step up not only in security matters, but also in commercial and economic matters. And this is very important."

The Argumentation is the central part of the statement. The Perspectivation and Predication are the support. The force of the argument depends on the topos of threat/danger and the topos of advantage/usefulness. The causal marker "because" connects the security claim to the parallel negative constructions "we cannot stand there without the U.S." and "we cannot stand there alone," thereby presenting U.S. support as necessary for Romanian security. The repeated use of 'cannot' connotes the limitations of autonomous action. The "opposite" transition leads to economic considerations. Iohannis thus broadens the scope of the partnership to economic engagement, describing the relationship as mutually beneficial in several areas by highlighting cooperation "not only on security ... but also in commercial and economic matters."

The contextualization of Romania's position in a certain geopolitical context shows the perspective of the speaker. Iohannis' anchoring of the partnership in a concrete spatiality foregrounds Romania's position on the eastern flank of NATO: "we stand on the Eastern Flank" and "cannot stand there alone. This is proven by

the transition from the direct mention of "Romania" to the first-person plural forms "we" and "our" ("we heavily rely", "our partnership").

The use of such pronoun's grounds the speaker in the national perspective he articulates, and casts the security relationship as a collective concern. Thus, perspectivation places the wider argument in the Romanian specific geopolitical context. Further characterization of this position is given by Predication. Romania is called the "Eastern Flank" due to its strategic geographic location and "heavily relies" on the importance of allied support for the country's security. Economic cooperation is also described as "a huge opportunity" and "very important" to emphasize the great value and importance of expanding commercial and economic relations. Such predication choices thus construct security cooperation and economic engagement as important aspects of the bilateral partnership.

All three strategies share the common denominator of the geopolitical importance of Romania and the wider rationale of the preservation and enhancement of the US-Romania Strategic Partnership. Argumentation provides the rationale for US security engagement and broader economic cooperation. Perspectivation contextualizes that rationale in terms of Romania's position in the Eastern Flank of NATO. Predication provides evaluative meaning to the security and economic aspects of the relationship. And this is how the excerpt makes of the partnership the security of Romania and broadens it to cooperation of a commercial and economic nature.

Datum 24

In this passage, President Klaus Iohannis speaks at a press conference about

the apparent conflict between transatlantic military obligations and European defense integration. The complete statement is:

"NATO and the European Union do not have to compete against each other. They have to work together. They have to work in such a manner as to produce synergistic effects. Make NATO stronger. Make European stronger. Make the United States of America stronger."

The statement combines Argumentation as a main discursive strategy and Predication as a subsidiary strategy. Iohannis develops a normative and pragmatic Predication in favor of institutional cooperation, using the topoi of necessity and advantage/usefulness. The use of the reiterated deontic construction "have to" in "have to work together" and "have to work in such a manner" compared with "do not have to compete" denies the assumption that NATO and the European Union have to work as competing institutions. Instead, Iohannis turns institutional alignment into a necessity and an advantage. He advocates for collaboration in an effort to achieve "synergistic effects. This argumentative construction legitimizes a stronger European defense capacity by presenting it as a means of strengthening the collective defense of the wider alliance, rather than as a challenge to NATO.

This is also supported by the Predication, which brings a positive and empowering result to the main actors involved. In the parallel imperatives "Make NATO stronger", "Make European [Europe] stronger", and "Make the United States of America stronger", Iohannis predicates the adjective "stronger" on NATO, Europe and the United States. The constant use of the comparative adjective sets a generic positive trajectory in which more strength is a common gain, not a competitive gain for one actor over another. In this way, Predication

strengthens the case for institutional cooperation to simultaneously enhance NATO, European defense, and US strategic interests.

In the wider context of the statement, the relation between Argumentation and Predication shows the need for and the benefits of institutional cooperation. Iohannis sees European defense integration as complementary, not contradictory, to transatlantic security interests, and makes clear that the United States has a stake in a stronger European and NATO defense capacity. Thus, this datum demonstrates Argumentation and Predication working together to justify institutional cooperation: Argumentation offers reasons why cooperation is preferable to competition. Predication describes the positive consequences expected for NATO, Europe and the United States. This combination ultimately produces a synergy around a common strategic objective in which the strength of one actor is perceived to support the strengths of the others.

Datum 25

"And this is what we decided, President Trump and I, to make our partnership stronger, better, more enduring. And this will lead very soon to an enhanced economic exchange — to better commerce. And this is what we all decide and what we wish, because we are responsible, President Trump and I, not only for security. We are responsible for the well-being of our citizens. And this is what we are deciding to do. Thank you so much, President Trump."

In this information, President Klaus Iohannis concludes his initial remarks by alluding to the strategic partnership as "a collective executive obligation,"

highlighting "economic prosperity and the welfare of the populace. The statement is generally argumentatively structured but sustained by Nomination and Perspectivation, so as to legitimize closer bilateral cooperation and to create an image of shared leadership. In the arguments, Iohannis constructs a moral, pragmatic justification for the escalation of bilateral relations, referring to the topos of responsibility and the topos of causality/advantage.

The phrase "we are responsible" and the conjunction "because" are normative declarations that national leaders' responsibilities go beyond conventional security considerations. The contrastive wording "not only for the security" but also "responsible for the well-being of our citizens" (emphasis added) makes this argument more appealing as it broadens the definition of the executive responsibility to economic welfare. Moreover, Iohannis uses causal and predictive logic in the statement 'this will very soon lead to an enhanced economic exchange-to better commerce'. He sees the bilateral decisions as pragmatic measures to generate concrete economic advantages for both countries.

Nomination and Perspectivation, which provide a common, balanced view on leadership. These two factors support the point. The repeated use of "President Trump and I" and first-person plural pronouns "we" and "our" in such phrases as "our partnership," "we all decide," and "our citizens" discursively constructs both leaders as co-actors in bilateral decision-making. This referential model makes Iohannis an active and equal partner, not a subordinated partner. In the use of 'we' and 'our citizens, ' the reference group is extended from the two presidents to the wider political community, and the executive decisions are framed as for the good

of the collective and the public good. This is consistent with the common view that bilateral cooperation is a shared responsibility.

The tactics together make a nice wrap-up to the larger context of the news conference, reinforcing its major themes of security, economic progress, and shared responsibility. Iohannis' warm "Thank you so much, President Trump" is diplomatically respectful but also humanizes the bilateral relationship. The statement links residents' everyday well-being to the cooperation of executives, thus making the relation strategically important as well as socially relevant. In sum, the data illustrate how Argumentation, nomination, and Perspectivation are used to legitimate the executive's decision-making and to build an image of bilateral unity. Here, Argumentation provides pragmatic and normative reasons for cooperation. Through nomination and perspectivation, the leaders are constructed as joint policymakers and their programs as serving common public interests.

3.2 Discussions

The objective of this study is to analyze the discursive strategies employed in President Donald Trump's and President Klaus Iohannis's joint press conference. Drawing on the findings in the previous chapter, five discursive strategies, i.e., Nomination, Predication, Argumentation, Perspectivization, and Intensification/Mitigation, were identified. The analysis shows that the strategies are not used independently. Rather, they often communicate with each other in an effort to create representations of political actors, to justify political positions, to

accentuate certain issues, and to construct a perspective on the US-Romania relationship.

Results show that Predication and Argumentation are the most salient strategies in the data. Predication is used to describe social actors, political actions, and events in either positive or negative terms, whereas Argumentation is used to provide reasons and justification for political positions and decisions. Nomination is used to identify and foreground relevant social actors. At the same time, Intensification, Perspectivization and Mitigation are tools for the construction of meaning through enhancement of evaluations, presentation of specific perspectives or control of the degree of commitment to a proposition.

The combination of these strategies demonstrates that the press conference is not just a communicative event where the two presidents exchange information. It is also a discursive space in which political identities, responsibilities, security concerns, and diplomatic relationships are constructed. Trump and Iohannis, through their linguistic choices, construct the security threat of terrorism, the importance of NATO burden-sharing, the value of Romania as a strategic partner, and the strength and mutual benefit of the U.S.-Romania relationship.

The Use of Predication in Constructing Political Actors

One of the most significant methods in the joint news conference is predication. It is used to ascribe certain characteristics to social actors, institutions, events, and political issues. The results indicate that Predication can produce both negative and positive depictions, depending on the performer or problem in question.

Trump's description of terrorism and terrorist actors is overwhelmingly negative. For instance, the phrase "*ISIS and other terror organizations*" where the term "*terror organizations*" is not merely naming the organizations but is negatively characterizing them. The organizations are shown as actors connected to terrorism, bloodshed and risks to security. The sheer usage of the term "other" also positions ISIS into a bigger range of terrorist organizations and terrorism is presented as a common and worldwide threat.

And Trump's criticism on Qatar is right in the same ballpark, labeling it as "a funder of terrorism at a very high level." This statement adversely identifies Qatar by financing terrorism. The usage of "unfortunately" further sets up a negative evaluative position, while "at a very high level" heightens the characterization. Predication, therefore, is not used to characterize Qatar, but to establish a particular political portrayal of the country in relation to terrorism.

Trump, however, also uses positive Predication in representing Romania and President Iohannis. Romania is viewed as a relevant actor in international security cooperation. Trump recognizes Romania as "a valuable member of the coalition to defeat ISIS" and its troop contribution in Afghanistan. These statements present Romania as a dependable and active security partner.

Similarly, Trump applies positive Predication to depict Iohannis' leadership. His allusions to Iohannis's "courage" and "courageous efforts" to fight corruption and defend the rule of law portray Iohannis as a courageous political leader. Thus, Iohannis's representation is tied to democratic government and institutional transformation.

Iohannis also makes use of positive predication. An example is his assessment of Trump as a man with "strong leadership." This phrase casts Trump as a strong leader who has made NATO focus on terrorism and burden-sharing through his political engagement. He also uses favorable words when describing Romania, such as "solid democracy" and mentions of "solid and sustainable economic growth". Moreover, Iohannis employs Predication to present the bilateral partnership as robust and valuable. Romania's relations with the United States are politically significant and economically favorable, with descriptors such as "strong partnership," "a huge opportunity," and "very important."

The results therefore highlight the important significance of Predication in the creation of political identities. Negative Predication is mostly used to capture troublesome people and security threats. Conversely, Positive Predication is utilized to construct the identities of cooperative political players and to strengthen the image of the US–Romania collaboration. In this sense, Predication enables a process of distinction in which political players are positioned on particular ideals such as cooperation, responsibility, leadership and security.

The Use of Argumentation in Legitimizing Political Positions

The second primary strategy identified in the data is Argumentation. The analysis demonstrates that both Trump and Iohannis utilize Argumentation to explain, justify, and legitimize political viewpoints. There is considerable argumentation on NATO, on the defense budget, on terrorism, and on bilateral co-operation. Trump frequently appeals to Argumentation over NATO burden-sharing. "greater responsibility and burden-sharing among member nations" is a testament to the centrality of responsibility in his position. He further relates

burden-sharing to collective security through the causal relation implied by "Because we can tackle the common security challenges facing the world together".

Trump's argument can be interpreted as a link of responsibility and securitization. NATO countries are expected to do more, as it's considered important to handle common security challenges. This implies that Trump's call for more defense spending is a helpful contribution to strengthening NATO. Trump's claims about the financial contributions of NATO countries can also be understood as a type of argument. The references to financial duties and paying their fair share helped to frame the military payments as responsibilities that member states should be fulfilling. In this discussion, money is tied to how the alliance operates and is strengthened.

Iohannis also utilizes logic when he speaks about the defense spending of Romania. The most egregious example is his assertion that Trump's leadership caused countries to realize the need to "share the burden inside NATO," and then to explain that Romania's decision to increase defense spending to 2% of GDP was the consequence of that. The terms "due to your strong leadership" and "this is why" establish a causal connection between Trump's leadership, NATO's burden-sharing principle, and Romania's choice to spend more on defense. Romania's choice is thus shown as a rational answer to broader security responsibilities and not to an external duty.

In Argumentation, Iohannis also calls for the continuation and deepening of the U.S.-Romania cooperation. He argues on the grounds of mutual benefit, saying the collaboration should be deepened and cooperation will produce

"enhanced economic exchange" and "better commerce." The continuation of the partnership is good for security. It is also said to be good for economic development.

Another extremely important example is when Iohannis talks about NATO and the European Union. "The two institutions don't have to be competitors; they have to work together," he argues. The modal construction "have to" is reiterated, giving a sense of the need to cooperate. He then relates cooperation to the generation of "synergistic effects." The reasoning structure implies that European defense cooperation is complementary to NATO rather than competitive with it.

Thus, argumentation is a technique of political legitimization. Both speakers employ cause and effect, necessity, responsibility, and benefit to make their political ideas sound rational and justifiable. While Trump mostly used Argumentation to pressure burden-sharing and security, Iohannis is more inclined to utilize responsibility to justify cooperation, shared responsibility, and the expansion of bilateral connections.

The Use of Nomination in Constructing Social Actors

Nomination is used to identify and foreground the social actors in the political discourse. The results demonstrate that the strategy is employed to construct the participants of the press conference as relevant actors in the discourse of international security and bilateral cooperation. Trump cites several political and social actors, including Romanian President Iohannis, the Romanian people, NATO members, Saudi Arabia, King Salman, Qatar, ISIS, and other terrorist organizations. These citations establish the participants and entities that are located in particular political relations.

The nomination of "President Iohannis" is especially important as it repeatedly brings the Romanian president to the center of the bilateral relationship. The reference is often encountered within the framework of positive Predication, as when Trump praises Iohannis's leadership and efforts to fight corruption. Nomination and Predication are thus working together: Nomination tells us who the actor is, and predication tells us how the actor is represented.

Trump's mention of "the Romanian people" also broadens the representation beyond the president. Romania is built up not only as a political institution, but also as a collective social actor engaged in international security efforts. In a similar way, Nomination is used by Iohannis to establish the connection between the two political leaders. The phrase "President Trump and I" is especially telling because it portrays the two presidents as acting in concert. This construction is further strengthened by the repetition of "we" and "our" in the phrases "our partnership" and "our citizens." These referential choices allow Iohannis to build the bilateral relationship as a relationship of joint agency. The partnership is not a relationship where one president takes action, and the other only reacts. Instead, the two leaders are portrayed as part of joint decision-making. Thus, Nomination is involved in the construction of political relationships by deciding which actors are brought to the fore and how they are related to specific political actions and assessments.

The Use of Intensification in Strengthening Political Evaluations

Some judgments are intensified to increase their power. This method is less than Predication and Argumentation, but it is significant when speakers wish to stress political successes, events, dangers or expectations. Intensification is clearly

seen in Trump's appraisal of the summit as "truly historic". The word 'historic' already puts a lot of weight on the event, and the adverb 'truly' adds to this. The phrase "There has never been anything like it before, and perhaps there will never be again." stresses this Intensification. They called the summit "extraordinary and perhaps unique." Trump also resorts to Intensification to indicate positive attributes of political actors and events, as in "very proud", "very important", "very, very bright". These expressions reinforce the evaluations and underline the positive representation

Trump's rhetoric on terrorism is also showing indications of heating up. The repetition of the call-to-action structures ("Stop immediately supporting terrorism", "Stop teaching people to kill other people") stresses the urgency of his political message. The adverb "immediately" intensifies the desire.

Iohannis also uses Intensification, for example, with "a huge opportunity" and "very important". Such words increase the relevance of collaboration in the economic field between Romania and the US. His frequent use of "have to" also reinforces his case with the implication that cooperation is a requirement, not an option. Intensification thereby increases the rhetorical force of Predication and Argumentation. This technique is more focused on political propositions and judgments.

The Use of Perspectivization in Expressing Political Standpoints

Perspectivization is used to position political statements from a certain point of view. The results indicate that the two speakers employ this strategy to foreground their individual or national perspectives. Trump frequently employs first-person constructions to convey his own perspective, as in "I want to thank,"

"I want to recognize," "I look forward," and "I am very proud." These constructions explicitly mark his utterances as evaluations from his own perspective. The use of the first person is important because Trump often portrays himself as an active political actor in the events discussed. Thus, his political activities, assessments, and achievements are foregrounded in the discourse.

Iohannis uses Perspectivization in a slightly different way. He frequently employs the words "we" and "our" to state his perspective. In the statements "we stand on the Eastern Flank" and "we cannot stand there alone", for example, Iohannis is presenting the geopolitical situation from the perspective of Romania as a frontier NATO state. This construction is important because it allows Iohannis to stress Romania's security dependence on the United States while at the same time positioning that dependence within a discourse of partnership. Instead of presenting Romania as a vulnerable state, he presents Romania as a broader strategic partnership.

So, the step from "Romania" to "we" is important. Whereas the first one positions the country as a political entity, the first-person plural form allows Iohannis to speak as the collective voice of Romania and its people. Thus, perspectivization is part of the construction of political identity and standpoint. Trump's perspective highlights his role as an active political leader, whereas Iohannis's emphasizes Romania's geopolitical position and the collective nature of the bilateral relationship.

The Use of Mitigation in Regulating Political Commitment

Mitigation appears less frequently in the data, but its presence demonstrates that the speakers do not always express political propositions with absolute

certainty. Instead, certain statements are linguistically moderated. One clear example is Trump's use of “hopefully” in the statement concerning the possibility that the summit would become “the beginning of the end of funding terrorism.” The use of “hopefully” indicates the desired outcome is projected as an expectation rather than a fact.

This strategy is particularly important to future political outcomes. By using Mitigation, Trump avoids presenting an anticipated outcome as an absolute certainty. However, the Mitigation is immediately followed by stronger argumentative and categorical formulations, including “therefore” and “No more funding.” This demonstrates that Mitigation can operate alongside Intensification. The speaker can acknowledge uncertainty concerning the future while simultaneously expressing a strong desired political direction.

Therefore, Mitigation functions as a strategy for regulating the degree of commitment to a proposition. Its relatively limited occurrence in the data also indicates that the press conference discourse generally favors strong political evaluations and assertive Argumentation.

The Interaction among Discursive Strategies

The results show that the five strategies are interrelated. Their significance increases when they collaborate rather than work independently. The combination of nomination and predication is especially important in the construction of political actors. Nomination names the actor; predication ascribes a certain quality to that actor. Trump, for example, refers to Iohannis as “President Iohannis,” and then connects him with courage and leadership. The combination thus positions Iohannis as a positive political actor.

For example, Argumentation and Predication tend to co-occur. Predication is the characterization in positive or negative terms. Argumentation is the logic that sustains it. Iohannis's description of Trump as "strong leadership" is tied to his claim that the president's engagement helped NATO's burden sharing and Romania's position on defense spending.

Iohannis's discourse is also important in the interaction between Argumentation and Perspectivization. His argument about Romania's dependence on US security support is framed from the perspective of Romania as a state on NATO's Eastern Flank. Thus, this geographical view is the premise of his argument for a partnership with the United States.

Moreover, Intensification often intensifies Predication. Expressions like "very," "truly," and "huge" emphasize the evaluations being communicated. Hence, Intensification can strengthen positive political representations. The findings also show that Mitigation and Intensification can be compatible. Trump's use of "hopefully" diminishes the certainty of the future, and the subsequent expressions amplify the desired political result. This shows that discursive strategies are flexible and may have varying functions in one stretch of discourse. In general, the combination of these strategies produces a discourse that constructs political actors, legitimizes political actions, and fosters diplomatic relationships.

The Differences between Trump's and Iohannis's Discursive Strategies

Both Trump and Iohannis employ the same broad categories of discursive strategies, but the analysis reveals differences in their predominant discursive orientations. Trump's rhetoric is mostly about security, burden-sharing, responsibility, and political achievement. His discourse on terrorism clearly

separates threatening actors from actors involved in counter-terrorism efforts. In his discussion of NATO, he stresses the responsibility on member states to contribute more to collective defense.

Trump also recognizes Romania's and Iohannis' contributions via positive portrayals of them. Romania is seen as a valuable security partner and Iohannis as a leader who has taken meaningful steps in areas like defense spending and domestic governance. Conversely, Iohannis' discourse is more strongly geared toward partnership, cooperation, mutual benefit, and joint responsibility. He discusses security and NATO commitments, but frequently couples these issues with economic cooperation and bilateral development.

The difference is evident in their respective use of Argumentation. Trump's main arguments are focused on why NATO members must contribute more and why burden-sharing must be increased. More often, Iohannis addresses the reasons why Romania should cooperate with the United States and the benefits of this cooperation. However, the differences between their discourses do not lead to completely different representations. Rather, the two discursive orientations are complementary. Iohannis's emphasis echoes Trump's emphasis on responsibility and security, on cooperation and mutual benefit. Taken together, these strategies construct a discourse that frames security and economic cooperation as mutually reinforcing dimensions of the U.S.-Romania relationship.

The Discursive Construction of the US–Romania Partnership

The combination of the discursive strategies ultimately contributes to the construction of the US–Romania strategic partnership. This partnership is expressed in two main dimensions: security and economic cooperation. Security is

built through references to NATO, terrorism, Afghanistan, defense spending, burden-sharing, and Romania's position on the Eastern Flank. It is through these representations that Romania is constructed as an active and responsible member of the transatlantic security system.

At the same time, the partnership is presented as an economic relationship. Iohannis talks specifically about "commercial and economic matters", "increased economic exchange", and "improved commerce". These expressions widen the meaning of partnership beyond military cooperation. The discourse, therefore, defines the relationship between the US and Romania. The two countries are shown working together on defense and security but also looking for economic opportunities.

Positive Predication reinforces this construction. Expressions like "strong partnership", "huge opportunity", "very important" and "stronger" positively build up the bilateral relationship. Then argumentation provides reasons why that relationship ought to be preserved and strengthened, particularly by invoking security, responsibility and economic advantage. The frequent use of "we," "our," and "President Trump and I" reinforces the notion that they are acting jointly. Thus, the discourse not only represents an existing diplomatic relationship, but actively constructs its image as cooperative and mutually beneficial.

Answer to the Research Question

Based on the findings and discussion, the research question: "How are discursive strategies employed in the joint press conference of Trump and Iohannis?" can be answered by stating that the discursive strategies are employed

interactively to construct representations, legitimize political positions and reinforce diplomatic relationships.

Predication is the primary way in which political actors, institutions and issues are represented either positively or negatively. Terrorist organizations and terrorism-related actors are represented negatively, while Romania, Iohannis, Trump and the US-Romania partnership are mostly represented positively. Causal, necessity, responsibility and advantage relations are used in argumentation to justify political positions. This is the strategy used by Trump, in particular to legitimize NATO burden-sharing and collective security, and by Iohannis to justify Romania's defense commitments and to maintain and increase bilateral cooperation.

Nomination points to and highlights relevant social actors, and Perspectivization constructs the personal or national position from which political issues are discussed. Intensification increases the force of particular evaluations and political demands, while Mitigation controls the degree of certainty or commitment to particular propositions. Most importantly, the strategies tend to work in concert. Nomination and Predication combine to construct political identities, Argumentation and Predication combine to legitimize evaluations, and Perspectivization provides the viewpoint from which political arguments are constructed. Intensification is used for strengthening specific representations, whereas Mitigation allows speakers to adjust their commitment to future propositions.

In Sum, the employment of these strategies creates a discourse in which terrorism is a major security threat, burden-sharing through NATO is a necessary

responsibility, Romania is a useful and responsible ally, and the U.S.-Romania relationship is a strong, cooperative, and mutually beneficial partnership. Hence, the strategies do not work individually either. Their interaction generates a larger discourse in which security obligations and bilateral cooperation are constructed simultaneously. Trump's discourse foregrounds responsibility and accountability; Iohannis's discourse emphasizes reciprocity and mutual benefit. Despite these differences, both speakers contribute to the representation of the US–Romania relationship as a cooperative strategic partnership.

So, the answer to the research question is that Trump and Iohannis apply Reisigl and Wodak's discursive strategies in a connected way to construct political actors, make positive and negative evaluations, justify security and defense policies, highlight their respective political views, and strengthen the representation of bilateral cooperation. The strategies allow the press conference to function not only as a source of information, but also as a means of constructing political identities and legitimizing specific understandings of security, responsibility, alliance, and partnership.

The results generally indicate that the joint press conference is a discursive negotiation between two closely related but different political orientations. Trump stresses responsibility, financial contributions, counterterrorism and stronger alliance commitments, while Iohannis emphasizes partnership, mutual dependence, shared responsibility and the expansion of bilateral cooperation. What makes the findings important is not the frequency of particular strategies, but how those strategies combine to produce a coherent diplomatic discourse. Nomination and Predication build up identities and

evaluations of social actors. The argumentation turns those representations into justified political positions. Perspectivization regulates the interpretation of political events and the attribution of agency. Intensification and mitigation determine the rhetorical force of the resulting claims.

The discourse creates a relational framework where Romania is constructed as a responsible security partner, the US as a significant strategic actor, and the US-Romania relationship as a partnership in the areas of security, economy, politics, and culture. At the same time, the discourse differentiates between cooperative actors and actors or practices that are represented as threatening international security.

This shows that political discourse is not only a series of statements about political events according to the discursive-strategy framework of Reisigl and Wodak. It is a strategic process in which social actors and political relationships are constructed, evaluated, justified and reinforced continually. In this sense, the joint press conference is an example of how discursive strategies can have multiple functions, including diplomatic politeness, political legitimation, identity construction, and alliance-building.

The discussion also validates the significance of the analysis of discursive strategies in relational terms. Seldom does one strategy give the full political meaning of an utterance. Instead, it is constituted by the combination of Nomination, Predication, Argumentation, perspectivization and intensification/mitigation. This interconnection offers the main reason why Trump and Iohannis construct their respective political positions, sharing a common discourse of strategic cooperation.

To conclude, the joint press conference shows that discursive strategies are used not only to describe the US–Romania relationship but also to actively construct its meaning. Reisigl and Wodak's various discursive strategies are combined in Trump and Iohannis' presentation of responsibility, security, leadership, partnership, and mutual benefit as interconnected dimensions of the bilateral relationship. Their discourse turns the press conference into a site where political positions are communicated, evaluated and justified and diplomatically aligned.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

4.1 Conclusion

In this study, we analyzed the discursive strategies employed in the joint press conference between President Donald Trump and President Klaus Iohannis, drawing on Ruth Wodak's concept of discursive strategies. The analysis reveals that the political discourse of both presidents is not built on isolated linguistic choices. Instead, Nomination, Predication, Argumentation, perspectivization, Intensification, and mitigation jointly function to construct social actors, evaluate political actions, justify policy positions, express particular perspectives, and strengthen or weaken the effect of political utterances.

As for the research question, the findings indicate that discursive strategies operate as integrated linguistic resources for the production of political meanings and the legitimization of the U.S.-Romania relationship. Strategies are applied to characterize political actors and events and to produce specific representations of responsibility, security, cooperation, leadership, and bilateral partnership.

First, Nomination is used to identify and foreground relevant social actors, such as President Trump, President Iohannis, Romania, the Romanian people, NATO, the United States, and other political actors. Nomination is how speakers define who is represented as participating in certain political actions and relations. The strategy, therefore, lays the groundwork for the subsequent assessments and arguments. Romania, for instance, is portrayed repeatedly as an active actor in collective defense. At the same time, Trump and Iohannis are framed as the key

political actors in shaping bilateral and NATO-related cooperation. Thus, the findings suggest a close link between Nomination and the building of political agency and social identity.

Secondly, Predication is used to assign positive or negative qualities to the social actors identified through Nomination. The analysis shows that positive Predication is particularly salient in the representation of Romania, Iohannis, Trump and the U.S.–Romania partnership. Romania's profile is marked by military contributions, defense commitments and contributions to international security efforts, while Iohannis' profile is marked by leadership and political commitment. Also positively characterized are references to Trump's leadership and his role in strengthening NATO cooperation. In contrast, actors related to terrorism are negatively portrayed using expressions that portray them as security threats. This implies that Predication is an important mechanism through which discourse distinguishes between desirable and undesirable political actors or actions.

Third, Argumentation is a key strategy in legitimizing political positions and policy expectations. The results show that both presidents build arguments through relationships of causality, necessity, responsibility, advantage and security. Trump uses Argumentation, especially on issues of counterterrorism, NATO burden-sharing, and defense contributions. In his speech, he linked the strengthening of collective security to the growth of NATO members' responsibilities. Using Argumentation, Iohannis discusses the importance of continuing and strengthening the U.S.–Romania partnership, Romania's defense commitments, and the potential economic benefits of bilateral cooperation. Thus,

both speakers are allowed to frame political positions in Argumentation not simply as opinions but as statements grounded in certain kinds of reasoning.

Fourth, Perspectivization is utilized to present political topics from some points of view. Iohannis's use of the first-person plural words "we" and "our" creates a sense of shared agency between Romania and the United States. His depiction of Romania on the Eastern Flank is a specific geopolitical vantage point from which he voices the importance of U.S. support. At the same time, Trump uses first-person phrasing to characterize political developments and their significance from his perspective. Perspectivization thereby allows speakers to manipulate the presentation of political events, relationships, and duties to the audience.

Fifth, Intensification is employed to strengthen the power of some political representations and arguments. The research demonstrates that Intensification is realized through repetition, evaluative expressions, comparative forms, emphatic word choices, and categorical declarations. Trump uses Intensification to emphasize the historicity of political events, the urgency of counterterrorism efforts, and the scale of the allies' commitment. Iohannis likewise uses high-flown rhetoric to stress the importance of the strategic alliance and the possible rewards of economic collaboration. Such linguistic choices improve the rhetorical force of specific statements and enhance the political meanings of the speech.

The analysis reveals that the discursive methods of Trump and Iohannis contribute to divergent yet complementary depictions of the U.S.-Romania relationship. Trump's rhetoric is highly security-oriented, focusing on counterterrorism, NATO responsibilities, defense contributions, and burden-

sharing. Romania is portrayed in a positive light regarding its military and defense contributions, and the idea of allied responsibility is highlighted as a key element of collective security. Iohannis, in contrast, emphasizes partnership, continuity, mutual accountability, strategic dependence, and economic cooperation. He said in a speech that the relationship with the United States is crucial not just for security but also for economic development and the well-being of the inhabitants.

The two presidents, in their respective speeches, built the U.S.-Romania relationship as a cooperative strategic partnership, but with distinct emphases. Their declarations consistently associate security, defense, responsibility, and economic cooperation. Iohannis's rhetoric broadens the significance of the alliance beyond military treaty cooperation, highlighting the commercial, economic, and security prospects. At the same time, Trump's discourse is centered on NATO's commitments to collective defense and its duties. In this way, the press conference builds bilateral collaboration across a range of interconnected areas, rather than defining the partnership in a single policy area.

The analysis also demonstrates that political legitimization is based on discursive methods. Through Nomination and Predication, the presidents construct certain identities for themselves, their countries, their friends, and other political players. They offer Argumentation to justify specific policies and political expectations. They see it differently. (put up particular perspectives) for comprehending political events. Finally, they control the rhetorical force of their representations through Intensification and mitigation. Taken together, these tactics mean that political utterances can serve simultaneously as descriptions, evaluations, arguments, and diplomatic positions.

Thus, the study finds that Wodak's proposed framework of discursive tactics is a relevant framework for appreciating the formation of political meaning in the joint news conference between Trump and Iohannis. This discourse implies that political communication is not merely the transfer of information. Language is strategically employed to construct social actors, to evaluate, to defend political stances, to communicate ideas, and to support specific understandings of international relations. At this joint press conference, these strategies are making Romania and the United States partners with shared interests in security, defense, collaboration, and economic development.

4.2 Suggestion

Based on the findings and limitations of this study, several suggestions can be proposed for future research.

1. Future research may examine political discourse produced by a wider range of political actors. The present study focuses on Donald Trump and Klaus Iohannis. Further studies could include other political leaders, government officials, or representatives of international institutions to examine how different actors represent the U.S.–Romania relationship and related political issues.
2. Future studies may compare political discourse across different periods. A diachronic study could examine whether the representation of NATO, security, burden-sharing, leadership, and the U.S.–Romania relationship changes in response to different political and historical circumstances.

3. Future researchers may combine political discourse analysis with other approaches. Approaches such as critical metaphor analysis or corpus-assisted discourse analysis could offer perspectives on the linguistic construction of political identities, responsibilities, and international relations.
4. Future studies could also examine audience and reception. Since the present study focuses on discourse produced by political actors, further research could investigate how those representations are interpreted by citizens, journalists, political institutions, or other audiences.
5. Future researchers should continue to consider the historical and political context of political discourse. As historical contextualization is an important component of DHA, examining political statements in relation to the relevant institutional, political, and historical circumstances may provide a broader understanding of how discursive meanings are constructed.

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APPENDIX A

CODING TABLE OF DISCURSIVE STRATEGIES IN THE 2017 JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE OF DONALD TRUMP AND KLAUS IOHANNIS

Datum	Speaker	Relevant Data Excerpt	Linguistic Evidence	Discursive Strategy	Strategy Role	Discursive Function
1	Donald Trump	“ISIS and other terror organizations”	“ISIS”; “other terror organizations”	Nomination	Primary Strategy	Identifies ISIS and other terrorism-related actors as relevant social actors in the discourse.
1	Donald Trump	“terror organizations”	“terror organizations”	Predication	Secondary Strategy	Negatively characterizes the referred actors by associating them specifically with terrorism.
2	Donald Trump	“The nation of Qatar”	“the nation of Qatar”	Nomination	Secondary Strategy	Explicitly identifies Qatar as the political actor being discussed and subsequently characterized.
2	Donald Trump	“a funder of terrorism at a very high level”	“funder of terrorism”; “very high level”	Predication	Primary Strategy	Negatively characterizes Qatar by associating it with terrorism financing and presents the alleged involvement as substantial.
2	Donald Trump	“nations came together and spoke to me about confronting Qatar over its behavior”	“nations came together”; “confronting Qatar”; “over its behavior”	Argumentation	Secondary Strategy	Invokes the reported reactions of other nations as grounds supporting the position to confront Qatar.
3	Donald Trump	“stop immediately supporting terrorism. Stop teaching people to kill other people. Stop filling their minds with hate and intolerance.”	Imperatives “stop”; “immediately”; repetition of “Stop”	Argumentation	Primary Strategy	Presents stopping support for terrorism and related practices as the required response to the problem of terrorism.
3	Donald Trump	“stop immediately”; “Stop teaching”; “Stop filling”	“immediately”; repeated imperative “Stop”	Intensification	Secondary Strategy	Strengthens the urgency and force of Trump's demand for immediate action.
4	Donald Trump	“the unity of responsible nations”	“responsible nations”	Predication	Primary Strategy	Positively characterizes the group of nations represented as responsible and positions Qatar in relation to that category.
4	Donald Trump	“We ask Qatar... to do more and do it faster”	“do more”; “do it faster”	Intensification	Secondary Strategy	Increases the expected scope and speed of action required from Qatar and other regional nations.
4	Donald Trump	“We ask Qatar... to do more and do it faster”	“ask”; contextual link to stopping terrorism funding	Argumentation	Secondary Strategy	Frames increased and faster collective action as a necessary response to terrorism.
5	Donald Trump	“Saudi Arabia”; “King Salman”; “all of the countries”	Proper name; personal name/title; collective reference	Nomination	Primary Strategy	Identifies and foregrounds specific political actors and the wider group of participating countries.
5	Donald Trump	“my friend, King Salman”	“my friend”	Predication	Secondary Strategy	Positively characterizes King Salman through a favorable interpersonal relationship with Trump.
5	Donald Trump	“that very historic summit”	“historic”; “very”	Intensification	Secondary Strategy	Strengthens the positive evaluation of the summit and emphasizes its political significance.
5	Donald Trump	“I want to thank...”	First-person construction “I”	Perspectivization	Secondary Strategy	Foregrounds Trump's personal evaluative stance toward the actors and the summit.

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6	Donald Trump	“It was truly historic. There has never been anything like it before...”	“truly historic”; “never been anything like it”	Intensification	Primary Strategy	Intensifies the representation of the summit as exceptional and unprecedented.
6	Donald Trump	“It was truly historic”	First-person speaker's direct evaluation	Perspectivization	Secondary Strategy	Presents the evaluation of the summit explicitly from Trump's own viewpoint.
7	Donald Trump	“It will, therefore, be the beginning of the end to terrorism”	“therefore”; causal/inferential relation	Argumentation	Primary Strategy	Establishes a causal/inferential connection between ending terrorism funding and the broader goal of ending terrorism.
7	Donald Trump	“the beginning of the end”; “No more funding”	Repetition; categorical formulation	Intensification	Secondary Strategy	Strengthens the projected significance and force of the desired outcome.
7	Donald Trump	“Hopefully, it will be...”	“Hopefully”	Mitigation	Secondary Strategy	Reduces the certainty of the projected outcome by presenting it as an expectation rather than an established fact.
8	Donald Trump	“the Romanian people”	Collective nominal expression “the Romanian people”	Nomination	Primary Strategy	Identifies the Romanian population as a collective social actor and foregrounds its participation in the bilateral security relationship.
8	Donald Trump	“the evil menace of terrorism”	“evil”; “menace”	Predication	Secondary Strategy	Negatively characterizes terrorism as both morally condemned and threatening.
9	Donald Trump	“Romania has been a valuable member of the coalition to defeat ISIS”	“valuable member”	Predication	Primary Strategy	Positively characterizes Romania as a significant and valuable security partner.
9	Donald Trump	“the fourth-largest contributor of troops”	“fourth-largest”	Intensification	Secondary Strategy	Emphasizes the scale of Romania's military contribution through comparative ranking.
9	Donald Trump	“paid the ultimate price”	“ultimate price”	Intensification	Secondary Strategy	Strengthens the representation of the seriousness and gravity of Romanian military sacrifice.
10	Donald Trump	“President Iohannis”; “Romania”	Proper name/title; national reference	Nomination	Secondary Strategy	Identifies Iohannis and Romania as the political actors associated with the defense-spending decision.
10	Donald Trump	“for his leadership” / “committing Romania”	“leadership”; “committing”	Predication	Primary Strategy	Positively characterizes Iohannis as a responsible political leader and active participant in Romania's defense commitment.
11	Donald Trump	“meeting their financial obligations and paying their fair share for the cost of defense”	“financial obligations”; “fair share”	Argumentation	Primary Strategy	Constructs NATO defense contributions as a shared responsibility and justifies greater burden-sharing among member states.

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11	Donald Trump	“because of our actions”	Causal conjunction “because”	Argumentation	Primary Strategy	Establishes a causal relationship between Trump's claimed actions and increased financial contributions to NATO.
11	Donald Trump	“Other countries are starting to realize that it’s time to pay up”	“realize”; “pay up”	Predication	Secondary Strategy	Characterizes allied states as recognizing an obligation and portrays their contributions through a transactional/debt-related frame.
11	Donald Trump	“money is starting to pour into NATO. The money is starting to pour in.”	“pour into”; repetition	Predication	Secondary Strategy	Represents the increase of NATO funding as a substantial and highly visible outcome.
12	Donald Trump	“strengthening our NATO Alliance through greater responsibility and burden-sharing among member nations”	“greater responsibility”; “burden-sharing”	Argumentation	Primary Strategy	Justifies greater shared responsibility as a means of strengthening NATO's collective security capacity.
12	Donald Trump	“I have been an advocate for strengthening our NATO Alliance”	“an advocate for strengthening”	Predication	Secondary Strategy	Positively characterizes Trump as an actor committed to strengthening the NATO alliance.
13	Donald Trump	“your courage and your courageous efforts”	“courage”; “courageous”	Predication	Primary Strategy	Positively characterizes Iohannis as courageous in fighting corruption and defending the rule of law.
13	Donald Trump	“This work is necessary to create an environment where trade and commerce can flourish and where citizens can prosper”	“necessary”; “flourish”; “prosper”	Argumentation	Secondary Strategy	Justifies anti-corruption and rule-of-law efforts by connecting them with economic and social benefits.
14	Donald Trump	“very notable”; “very prestigious”; “vital cause”; “saluting your leadership”	“very notable”; “very prestigious”; “vital”; “leadership”	Predication	Primary Strategy	Positively characterizes Romania's contributions, Iohannis's leadership, and the cause of Holocaust remembrance.
14	Donald Trump	“Nobel Prize laureate Elie Wiesel”; “American Jewish Committee”; “Light unto the Nations Award”	Proper name; institutional name; award name	Nomination	Secondary Strategy	Identifies specific historical, institutional, and commemorative actors/entities that provide referential grounding for the positive representations.
15	Donald Trump	“The people of Romania”; “Romania’s relationship with the United States”	Collective reference; possessive national reference	Nomination	Secondary Strategy	Identifies the Romanian people and the bilateral relationship as central entities in the concluding representation.
15	Donald Trump	“many, many hardships”; “truly remarkable, historical journey”; “very, very bright”	Repetition; “truly”; “remarkable”; “historical”; “very, very”	Predication	Primary Strategy	Represents Romania as resilient and its historical development and future relationship with the U.S. as highly positive.
16	Donald Trump	“your leadership”; “look forward to strengthening”; “good”; “stronger than ever”	“leadership”; “strengthening”; “good”; “stronger than ever”	Predication	Primary Strategy	Positively characterizes Iohannis and represents the bilateral relationship as increasingly strong and desirable.

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16	Donald Trump	“President Iohannis”; “our alliance”; “your country”; “your people”	Proper name/title; possessive and collective references	Nomination	Secondary Strategy	Identifies the political leader, countries, people, and alliance involved in the bilateral relationship.
17	Klaus Iohannis	“President Trump”; “Romania”; “the Romanian people”; “me”	Direct address; national reference; collective reference; first-person pronoun	Nomination	Secondary Strategy	Identifies Trump, Romania, the Romanian people, and Iohannis himself as actors situated within the diplomatic exchange.
17	Klaus Iohannis	“thank you so much”; “thank you very much”; “nice weather”	Repeated gratitude expressions; adjective “nice”	Predication	Primary Strategy	Positively characterizes Trump as a valued host and establishes an appreciative and cordial diplomatic tone.
18	Klaus Iohannis	“such a good meeting”; “your strong leadership”; “our strong partnership”; “important for both our nations”	“good”; repeated “strong”; “important”	Predication	Primary Strategy	Positively characterizes the meeting, Trump's leadership, and the bilateral partnership.
18	Klaus Iohannis	“this is due to your strong leadership”; “this is also due to our strong partnership”; “shaped Romania as it is today”	“due to”; “shaped”	Argumentation	Secondary Strategy	Establishes causal relationships between leadership/partnership and Romania's development, supporting the continuing value of bilateral cooperation.
19	Klaus Iohannis	“a solid democracy with a solid and sustainable economic growth”; “stands together”; “very important”	Repeated “solid”; “sustainable”; “stands together”; “very important”	Predication	Primary Strategy	Positively characterizes Romania as stable, democratic, economically developing, and committed to cooperation.
19	Klaus Iohannis	“this partnership contributed greatly to what Romania is today”; “was and is very important”	“contributed greatly”; “was and is”	Argumentation	Secondary Strategy	Presents the bilateral partnership as beneficial to Romania's development and justifies its continuing importance.
20	Klaus Iohannis	“this partnership not only has to continue; this partnership has to become stronger”; “has to define”; “has to contribute”	Repeated “has to”	Argumentation	Primary Strategy	Uses necessity and usefulness to justify the continuation and strengthening of the strategic partnership.
20	Klaus Iohannis	“this partnership” / “define our bilateral relation” / “contribute to solve so many problems”	Repeated nominal subject; action predicates	Predication	Secondary Strategy	Constructs the partnership as an active and capable framework that can shape relations and contribute to solving problems.
21	Klaus Iohannis	“due to your strong leadership”; “And this is why Romania also decided”	“due to”; “this is why”	Argumentation	Primary Strategy	Establishes a causal relationship between Trump's leadership, collective NATO responsibility, and Romania's increased defense commitment.
21	Klaus Iohannis	“your strong leadership”; “so many nations conscious”	“strong”; “so many”	Predication	Secondary Strategy	Positively characterizes Trump's leadership and represents its influence on NATO members' awareness of shared responsibility.

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22	Klaus Iohannis	“strategic acquisitions”; “find good ways together to make good use of this money”	“strategic”; repeated “good”; “make good use”	Argumentation	Primary Strategy	Justifies the use of increased defense spending by connecting financial resources with practical strategic benefits and bilateral cooperation.
22	Klaus Iohannis	“strategic acquisitions”; “good ways”; “good use”	“strategic”; “good”	Predication	Secondary Strategy	Positively characterizes the intended use of defense spending as purposeful, appropriate, and beneficial.
23	Klaus Iohannis	“because we cannot stand there without the U.S. We cannot stand there alone”	“because”; repeated “cannot”	Argumentation	Primary Strategy	Justifies U.S. security involvement by presenting Romania's geopolitical position as requiring allied support.
23	Klaus Iohannis	“we stand on the Eastern Flank”; “we heavily rely”; “our partnership”	“we”; “our”; spatial expression “Eastern Flank”	Perspectivization	Secondary Strategy	Presents the security issue from Romania's geopolitical standpoint and foregrounds a collective Romanian perspective.
23	Klaus Iohannis	“a huge opportunity”; “very important”	“huge”; “very”	Predication	Secondary Strategy	Positively characterizes the bilateral partnership as highly valuable for expanding security, commercial, and economic cooperation.
24	Klaus Iohannis	“They have to work together”; “have to work in such a manner as to produce synergetic effects”	Repeated deontic “have to”; “work together”	Argumentation	Primary Strategy	Presents cooperation between NATO and the EU as necessary and beneficial for producing synergistic effects.
24	Klaus Iohannis	“Make NATO stronger. Make European stronger. Make the United States of America stronger.”	Repeated “stronger”; parallel imperative constructions	Predication	Secondary Strategy	Positively characterizes the anticipated outcomes of cooperation by associating all three entities with increased strength.
25	Klaus Iohannis	“this will lead very soon to an enhanced economic exchange—to better commerce”; “because we are responsible”	“will lead”; “because”; “responsible”	Argumentation	Primary Strategy	Justifies stronger bilateral cooperation by linking joint decisions to economic benefits and the leaders' responsibility for citizens' well-being.
25	Klaus Iohannis	“President Trump and I”; “our partnership”; “we all decide”; “our citizens”	First-person plural “we”; possessive “our”; explicit “President Trump and I”	Perspectivization	Secondary Strategy	Constructs a shared leadership perspective and presents the two presidents as joint agents responsible for bilateral decisions and public welfare.
25	Klaus Iohannis	“President Trump and I” / “our partnership” / “our citizens”	Personal and collective references	Nomination	Secondary Strategy	Identifies the two presidents and the wider collective community as participants in the partnership and its consequences.

APPENDIX B

REMARKS

Remarks by President Trump and President Iohannis of Romania in a Joint Press Conference

FOREIGN POLICY Issued on: June 9, 2017



Rose Garden

2:51 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: President Iohannis, thank you for being here. It's an honor to welcome such a good friend of America to the White House.

As you know, the people of Romania and America share much in common — a love of freedom, proud cultures, rich traditions, and a vast and storied landscape to call home. The relationship between our two countries stretches back well over a century. But today we especially reaffirm and celebrate our strategic partnership that began 20 years ago next month. That partnership covers many dimensions, including economic, military, and cultural ties. And today we are making those ties even stronger.

Mr. President, your visit comes at an important moment not just in this partnership, but among all of the responsible nations of the world. I have just returned from a historic trip to Europe and the Middle East, where I worked to strengthen our alliances, forge new friendships, and unite all civilized peoples in the fight against terrorism. No civilized nation can tolerate this violence, or allow this wicked ideology to spread on its shores.

I addressed a summit of more than 50 Arab and Muslim leaders — a unique meeting in the history of nations — where key players in the region agreed to stop supporting terrorism, whether it be financial, military or even moral support.

The nation of Qatar, unfortunately, has historically been a funder of terrorism at a very high level, and in the wake of that conference, nations came together and spoke to me about confronting Qatar over its behavior. So we had a decision to make: Do we take the easy road, or do we finally take a hard but necessary action? We have to stop the funding of terrorism. I decided, along with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, our great generals and military people, the time had come to call on Qatar to end its funding — they have to end that funding — and its extremist ideology in terms of funding.

I want to call on all other nations to stop immediately supporting terrorism. Stop teaching people to kill other people. Stop filling their minds with hate and intolerance. I won't name other countries, but we are not done solving the problem, but we will solve that problem. Have no choice.

This is my great priority because it is my first duty as President to keep our people safe. Defeating ISIS and other terror organizations is something I have emphasized all during my campaign and right up until the present. To do that, stop funding, stop teaching hate, and stop the killing.

For Qatar, we want you back among the unity of responsible nations. We ask Qatar, and other nations in the region to do more and do it faster.

I want to thank Saudi Arabia, and my friend, King Salman, and all of the countries who participated in that very historic summit. It was truly historic. There has never been anything like it before and perhaps there never will be again. Hopefully, it will be the beginning of the end of funding terrorism. It will, therefore, be the beginning of the end to terrorism. No more funding.

I also want to thank the Romanian people for everything they contribute to our common defense and to the fight against the evil menace of terrorism. They have their own difficulties with it, and they've come a long way and they're doing a lot. Romania has been a valuable member of the coalition to defeat ISIS, and it's the fourth-largest contributor of troops in Afghanistan. There, 23 of your citizens have paid the ultimate price. And America honors their sacrifice.

I want to recognize President Iohannis for his leadership in committing Romania this year to increase its defense spending from 1.4 percent of GDP to over 2 percent. We hope our other NATO allies will follow Romania's lead on meeting their financial obligations and paying their fair share for the cost of defense. But I will say this, that because of our actions, money is starting to pour into NATO. The money is starting to pour in. Other countries are starting to realize that it's time to pay up, and they're doing that. Very proud of that fact.

As you know, I have been an advocate for strengthening our NATO Alliance through greater responsibility and burden-sharing among member nations. And that is what is happening. Because, together, we can confront the common security challenges facing the world.

Mr. President, I want to applaud your courage and your courageous efforts in Romania to fight corruption and defend the rule of law. This work is necessary to create an environment where trade and commerce can flourish and where citizens can prosper. I look forward to working with you to deepen the ties of both commerce and culture between our two countries.

Romanians have made many contributions to the United States, and to the world. Very notable among them was Nobel Prize laureate Elie Wiesel, who was born in

Romania and, sadly, passed away almost one year ago. And I understand that earlier this week, the American Jewish Committee presented President Iohannis with its very prestigious Light unto the Nations Award, for his work to further Holocaust remembrance and education in Romania. I join the AJC in saluting your leadership in that vital cause.

The people of Romania have endured many, many hardships, but they have made a truly remarkable, historical journey. The future of Romania and Romania's relationship with the United States is very, very bright.

President Iohannis, I thank you for your leadership, and I thank you again for being here today. I look forward to strengthening our alliance with your country and our bonds with your people. The relationship has been good, but now it's stronger than ever.

Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT IOHANNIS: President Trump, thank you so much for the words you found for Romania, for the Romanian people, and for me. Thank you very much for the invitation to be here today with you. And thank you so much for arranging this nice weather in this place.

Mr. President, I'm very glad that we had such a good meeting. And this is due to your strong leadership, and this is also due to our strong partnership. Obviously, the fact that we celebrate 20 years of strategic partnership this year is important for both our nations, and it is important to know — and this is what I want to underline — that this partnership with the United States of America shaped Romania as it is today.

Romania, a solid democracy with a solid and sustainable economic growth. Romania which stands together with the U.S. troops in Afghanistan. We stand together in Iraq. Mr. President, this partnership contributed greatly to what Romania is today. And this partnership was and is very important.

And I think this partnership not only has to continue; this partnership has to become stronger. This partnership has to define our bilateral relation, and this partnership has to contribute to solve so many problems.

President Trump, you mentioned terrorism. I'm very glad that, due to your strong leadership, NATO decided to go against terrorism. Your involvement made so many nations conscious of the fact that we have to share the burden inside NATO. And this is why Romania also decided — and if I'm right, I think this is the first country during your mandate to step up to 2 percent of GDP for defense spending.

A significant part of this defense spending is going into strategic acquisitions. And I hope, President Trump, that we find good ways together to make good use of this money.

Romania is very conscious of the fact that we stand on the Eastern Flank and we heavily rely on your partnership, President Trump, because we cannot stand there without the U.S. We cannot stand there alone. On the other hand, our partnership has a huge opportunity to step up not only in security matters, but also in commercial and economic matters. And this is very important.

Romania is a member of the European Union. And I think it's the best interest of you, Mr. President, to have a strong European Union as a partner. This is vital for all of us. Our relationship, the transatlantic link is vital. The transatlantic link is not about diplomacy, about policy — it's at the basis of our Western civilization. And together, we will make it stronger. Together, we will make it better.

NATO and the European Union do not have to compete against each other. They have to work together. They have to work in such a manner as to produce synergetic effects. Make NATO stronger. Make European stronger. Make the United States of America stronger.

And this is what we decided, President Trump and I, to make our partnership stronger, better, more enduring. And this will lead very soon to an enhanced economic exchange — to better commerce. And this is what we all decide and what we wish, because we are responsible, President Trump and I, not only for the security. We are responsible for the well-being of our citizens. And this is what we are deciding to do.

Thank you so much, President Trump.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you.

Dave Boyer, Washington Times. Dave. Come on, Dave.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. Apologies.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: That's all right, Dave.

Q Mr. President, this morning, on Twitter, you were referring to the testimony of James Comey vindicating you. But I wondered if you could tell us in person, sir, why you feel that his testimony vindicated you when it really boils down to his word against your word. And if you could also tell us, sir, do tapes exist of your conversations with him?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, I'll tell you about that maybe sometime in the very near future. But in the meantime, no collusion, no obstruction. He's a leaker. But we want to get back to running our great country — jobs. Trade deficits, we want them to disappear fast. North Korea, a big problem. Middle East, a big problem. So that's what I am focused on. That's what I have been focused on.

But yesterday showed no collusion, no obstruction. We are doing really well. That was an excuse by the Democrats who lost an election that some people think they shouldn't have lost, because it's almost impossible for the Democrats to lose the Electoral College, as you know. We have to run up the whole East Coast and you have to win everything as a Republican. And that's just what we did.

So it was just an excuse. But we were very, very happy. And frankly, James Comey confirmed a lot of what I said. And some of the things that he said just weren't true.

Thank you very much.

Do you have a question?

Q Thank you. Mr. President, if you could tell us — a couple weeks ago, President Trump was in Brussels at the NATO meeting, and not only was he encouraging NATO members to pay up the 2 percent required of GDP for national defense, but he also was saying that countries, including yours, who had not paid 2 percent in the past should make up for that difference. Do you think that's fair?

PRESIDENT IOHANNIS: I was in Brussels, and I met President Trump and I listened to his speech and I liked it. Because, you see, NATO is based on values, but it is ultimately a military alliance. And you know, military spendings are complicated and you need a lot of money, because NATO is the strongest alliance the Earth ever saw and we want to keep it that way.

So we have to spend money for defense purposes. And spending money means if you're in an alliance, everybody has to spend money. This is called burden-sharing. And I fully agree, Mr. President, to that.

So, of course, some people liked this better, and some didn't like it so much. But it's a simple fact that we have to do this. Not as a purpose in itself; we have to do this to stay strong, to be strong, and to defend our nations.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: One hundred percent correct. And you know, one of the things I was referring to during that speech was the fact that, yes, they haven't paid what they should be paying now, but for many years, they haven't been paying. So I said, do we ever go back and say, how about paying the money from many, many years passed?

Now, I know no President has ever asked that question. But I do. And we're going to make NATO very strong. We need the money to make it strong. You can't just do what we've been doing in the past. So I did say, yes, you haven't paid this year, but what about the past years, the many past years where you haven't paid? Perhaps you should pay some or all of that money back.

You have a question?

Q Thank you. I have a question for President Trump. On the matter of security, sir, many of the countries on the Eastern Flank of NATO, including Romania, see Russia as a threat to the security and the peace in the region. Do you share this vision? And do you think that the United States should act under Article 5, if any of these countries would be under military aggression?

Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, I'm committing the United States, and have committed, but I'm committing the United States to Article 5. And certainly we are there to protect. And that's one of the reasons that I want people to make sure we have a very, very strong force by paying the kind of money necessary to have that force. But, yes, absolutely, I'd be committed to Article 5.

Q Thank you. Mr. President, were there any discussion about the Visa Waiver Program for Romania? Is there a time frame for including our country in this program? Thank you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: We didn't discuss it —

PRESIDENT IOHANNIS: Yes —

PRESIDENT TRUMP: We didn't discuss it. But there would be certainly — it would be something we will discuss.

Mr. President.

PRESIDENT IOHANNIS: I mentioned this issue, and I also mentioned it during other meetings I had, because this is important for us, it's important for Romanians who want to come to the United States. And you see more and more people come, President Trump, from Romania to the United States. Some come as tourists. Some come for business. And those who come for business should be encouraged.

So, the matter of visa waiver would be probably important to discuss. And we all hope that we will advance on this.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Good.

Look at those hands up there, President. Do you have this in Romania, too? I don't know. (Laughter.) I've got the microphone. If I could only sell that. If I could only sell it.

Who would like to ask — should I take one of the killer networks that treat me so badly as fake news? Should I do that?

Go ahead, Jon. Be fair, Jon.

Q Oh, absolutely.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Remember how nice you used to be before I ran? Such a nice man.

Q Always fair. Mr. President, can we get back to James Comey's testimony. You suggested he didn't tell the truth in everything he said. He did say, under oath, that you told him to let the Flynn — you said you hoped the Flynn investigation he could let —

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I didn't say that.

Q So he lied about that?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, I didn't say that. I mean, I will tell you I didn't say that.

Q And did he ask you to pledge —

PRESIDENT TRUMP: And there would be nothing wrong if I did say it, according to everybody that I've read today. But I did not say that.

Q And did he ask for a pledge of loyalty from you? That's another thing he said.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: No, he did not.

Q So he said those things under oath. Would you be willing to speak under oath to give your version of those events?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: One hundred percent. I didn't say under oath — I hardly know the man. I'm not going to say, I want you to pledge allegiance. Who would do that? Who would ask a man to pledge allegiance under oath? I mean, think of it. I hardly know the man. It doesn't make sense. No, I didn't say that, and I didn't say the other.

Q So if Robert Mueller wanted to speak with you about that you would be willing to talk to him?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I would be glad to tell him exactly what I just told you, Jon.

Q And you seem to be hinting that there are recordings of those conversations.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I'm not hinting anything. I'll tell you about it over a very short period of time.

Q When is that?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Okay. Do you have a question here?

Q When will you tell us about the recordings?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Over a fairly short period of time.

Q Why not now?

Q Are there tapes —

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Oh, you're going to be very disappointed when you hear the answer. Don't worry.

Jon, do you have a question for the President?

Q Yes. Thank you. And, President Iohannis, you are no stranger to Russian aggression. Vladimir Putin recently suggested that Romania could be in Russia's crosshairs. How concerned should the world be about Russian aggression in your region? And how concerned should we be here in the United States about what Russia tried to do in our election, sir?

PRESIDENT IOHANNIS: Everybody is concerned. But, you see, being concerned should lead you to being prepared. So in my opinion, we have to be very clear, very simple and very straightforward if we talk about Russia and with Russia. In my opinion, we need dialogue. But, on the other hand, we need what we all together decided in NATO, a strong deterrence. So this combination — strong deterrence and dialogue — should lead towards a solution which is feasible for every part.

Q Hello, Mr. President Trump. You mentioned earlier the anticorruption fight in Romania. It is a matter of high importance in our country. But we see now that the anticorruption fight and the efforts to consolidate the rule of law are sometimes undermined by some politicians — part of what we can call the "Bucharest swamp." Is your administration going to support the anticorruption fight in Romania? And how can you do it? Thank you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, we support very strongly Romania. And therefore, obviously we do support that fight on anticorruption. We will always support that. And we support your President. We think he's done an outstanding job. Very popular, very solid, working very hard. We know everything that's going on. And, yeah, and he's going to win that fight. He's going to win that battle. But he has our support.

Q Do you think corruption in Romania is a problem for the U.S.-Romania partnership and for the American investor — because we still have corruption in Romania, despite this anticorruption fight.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, you do. But I can tell you that there are many American investors right now going to Romania and investing. In fact, I was given a chart just before our meeting, and we have people going over to Romania and investing, and they weren't doing that a number of years ago. So that shows very, very big progress. And there really are a lot of congratulations in store. But a lot of people are investing from our country to yours.

And people love — from Romania — the United States. And they come here a lot, and we're very proud of them.

Thank you all very much.

END

3:18 P.M. EDT