Phraseoterms in the political discourses of British politicians before and after the 90s

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Abstract

The purpose of this manuscript is to bring the phraseoterm phrases used in the political discourses of The UK politicans. The definition of phraseoterm phrases and the approach to code or dog-whistles term used in politics even earlier, tell us that these terms are not new for our study, but phraseoterm phrases are units that make the discourse more vivid and colourful. We have made a comparison between the phraseoterm phrases used by the British politicians before and after the 90s, we have brought out the characteristics of the phraseoterm phrases used and the common phraseoterm phrases used by them. We have provided the classification of phraseoterm phrases in political phraseoterms such as: *Fifth Column*, *a Puppet Government*; historical phraseoterms such as: *The Treaty of Rome*; *Marshall Aid; The Rambouillet Accords;* biblical phraseoterm such as: *The Tower of Babel*; *The Valley of Death*; Literary phraseoterms is: *Orwellian Nightmare*. Their usage by the post-90s generation of politicians also has a tendency and importance for politics.

Keywords: phraseoterms, code words, dog-whistles term, political phraseoterms, historical phraseterms, biblical phraseoterms, literary phraseoterms etc.

Introduction

They are called "*phraseological units*", or "*phraseological identities*"[1], "*phraseological phrases*"[2], "*true or semantic idioms*[3]", but with their proper term phraseoterms are known only by the researcher Franz Joseph Haussmann (2007). He was the first to point and name these other units of phraseology, and for this he has his special merit. However, although these terms are often taken as collocations, these combinations cannot be taken as such. This freedom has been given by Haussmann's study who, in his research on phraseology and especially for collocations, has discovered that some dichotomous units, mostly nouns, adjectives, and sometimes prepositions, but not verbal element, the meaning of which can not be conveyed by the meaning of the constituent elements separately but by their common meaning, they acquire a new meaning, these units are classified and qualified as Phraseoterme (frazeoterma) to which we do not have a semi-tactile autonomic basis: "*kann diesen Kombinationen kaum Kollokationsstatus zuerkannt werden, vielmehr sind sie als Phraseoterme[4] einzustufen…* Above all, Hausmann argues that their understanding does not derive from the given

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[1] Vinogradov, V. V. (1947). 'Ob osnovnyx tipax frazeologiceskix edijic v sovremennom russkom-jazyke': V. V. Vinogradov, Izbrannyje trudy: leksikologija i leksikografija. Moskva: Nauka.
[2] Strassler, J. (1982), Idioms in English: a Pragmatic Analysis. Tubigen: Gunter Narr Verlag..
[3] Makkai, V. B. (1972), Phonological Theory: Evolution and Current Practice, New York: Holt.
[4] Hausmann, Franz Josef (2007c): Lexicographie française et phraséologie. In: Hausmann (2007a), 128.

compositional but is lexicalized.

Even in Albanian, in his study, J. Thomai[5] acknowledges that if these phrases or multiple units whose meaning lead to their recursion, re-meaning, then, this is a living definition of phraseoterms: *multiple nouns units with a frozen syntax that name a new meaning or recursion of a new phenomenon, unlike the meaning of the constituent elements*.

In the study of political speeches we have studied phraseoterm to show that their presence is not by casual, they are not merely a theory on paper; they are living words that are used in dictionaries, in everyday language, in literature, in history as well as in politics. But these phrases have been studied in politics before, but are called a codex language used by politicians, mentioned for the first time by scholar Morin R. (1988)[6]. He quotes that: "**code words**"[7] are also called dog whistles and they are related to sending a message that can only be heard by the audience whose members have *sensitive ears*. In itself, the dog whistle " al. "*Fishkëllima e qenve*", is a political message in which a coded language is used which implies a thing for the population in general, but there is a resonance plus, a difference and more specific resonance for a particular subgroup.

The analogy of the *dog whistle* term comes as a result of high-frequency whistling which is heard only by dogs and cannot be captured as a signal by humans, therefore we say that in politics is a kind of *coded language* that refers to only one group certain people. Unlike code words, which are used by some professions, whistling is used only in politics, where the message referred to as dog-whistle has a comprehensible meaning for a wider audience.

In their speeches, all leaders have tried to give a colorful view of the country's historic events and have spoken clearly about their decisions about the country's future. Because of the same events and themes, and more so when it comes to the leaders of a country like the United Kingdom, there will certainly be similarities or phrases with the same or synonymous elements in the sense. Phraseoterms are these so important elements consisting of two elements that convey a certain kind of message to a part of the audience to grasp implicit meanings through them.

We found it useful to make a comparison between the politicians in the early 1990s and, respectively, of W. Churchill and M. Thatcher and the post-90s politicians of the UK.

❖ **Political phraseoterms**

Political phraseoterm: *Fifth Column* does not have a direct meaning: *The fifth column*, but in its figurative sense, is "an enemy", therefore we say that by this explanation this is a phraseoterm, where besides figuration there is a different meaning from the united meaning of the constituent elements. Among the most popular political phrases that have been echoed over the years have been those used by W. Churchill that we are mentioning:

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[5] Jani Thomai, Fjalori frazeologjik i gjuhës shqipe, XVI, XVII.
[6] Richard Morin, (1988). Behind the Numbers: Confession Of a Pollster. The Wall Street Journal, October 16.
[7] Justin Khoo, Code words in political language.

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- *The Great Dominions*: "Side by side, unaided except by their kith and kin in <u>the great Dominions</u> ...[8]…";
- *Fifth Column*: "Parliament has given us the powers to put down <u>Fifth Column</u>[9]";
- Game of chess:" *...and a fearful <u>game of chess</u> proceeds from check to mate by which the unhappy players seem to be inexorably bound."* ;
- *A puppet Government*;

These phrases used by W. Churchill remain echoed in reference not only to subsequent British politicians, but also to the world leaders of different states.

❖ **Historical phraseoterms**

Historical phraseoterms will be called those phraseoterms that contain events, conferences, historical gatherings and treaties among nations, which are built with a name, primarily a country name and the word "*treaty*", "*conference*" which contain the meaning of the gathering together with some states to reach a decision.

- *The Treaty of Rome*;
- *The Maastricht Treaty*", M. Thatcher[10];
- *The Helsinki Conference* A held meeting on a particular issue among political leaders, M. Thatcher[11].
- *The Treaty of Westphalia*: "*…for a different philosophy in international relations from a traditional one that has held sway since <u>the treaty of Westphalia</u> in 1648;* Tony Blair: [12]";
- *The October agreements*;
- *The Rambouillet Accords*: "*He must agree to the proposals set out in <u>the Rambouillet Accords</u>, including a NATO led ground force. Tony Blair*[13]
- *Geneva Process*: "<u>Geneva Process</u>: *on 30 June 2012, ….to issue a Communique (see annex) setting out a plan for resolving the conflict in Syria";*
- *Around the table:* "*Many across this House rightly said how vital it is to have all the key regional players <u>around the table</u> …";*
- *Publicity Coup*: "*…because we will not hand a <u>publicity coup</u> to ISIL*", David Kameron[14].
- *The Peace Corps*: "*Just as from America in the 1960s came <u>the Peace Corps</u> which … . "* Gordon Brown[15];

❖ **Literary phraseoterms**

These are phrase phrases that are taken from a literary personage, which contains a story in itself which can be held in two denominational limbs and convey the message <u>of its history within the c</u>ontext used, for example: *Orwellian's nightmare: "Let Labour's*

[8] W. Churchill, The Few, August 20, 1940. House of Commons.
[9] W. Churchill, We Shall Fight on the Beaches, June 4, 1940. House of Commons.
[10] M. Thatcher, art mentioned.
[11] M. Thatcher, What's wrong with politics?, 11 October, 1968 Speech in Conservative Political Centre (CPC) Lecture.
[12] https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2004/mar/05/iraq.iraq.
[13] https://www.theguardian.com/world/1999/mar/23/balkans.tonyblair.
[14] David Cameron's full statement calling for UK involvement in Syria air strikes;http://www. telegraph.c o.uk/news/pol itics/david-cameron/12018841/David-Camerons-full-statement-calling-for-UK-involvement-in-Syria-air-strikes.html.
[15] https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2005/dec/13/labour.uk Gordon Brown on liberty and the role of state, at Chatham House.

Orwellian nightmare of the Left be the spur for us to dedicate with a new urgency our every ounce of energy and moral strength to rebuild the fortunes of this free nation", M. Thatcher.[16]

❖ **Biblical phraseoterms**

Even these phrases contain in themselves a story of all the events or decisions cited by the Bible:

- *Messianic zeal: "All of that can get contorted so that people think you act according to some messianic zeal",* Toni Blair.
- *Valley of Death: "But I have also learned an even deeper lesson. Even when walking in the Valley of the Shadow of Death, the Jewish people were determined to remain a light unto the nations",* G. Brown.
- *Tower of Babel : "that it is a true temple of peace in which the shields of many nations can someday be hung up, and not merely a cockpit in a Tower of Babel",* W. Churchill[17].
- *The Tower of Babel,* M. Thatcher[18].

❖ **Political mutual phraseoterms**

The phrase *"Iron Curtain*" was used by all British politicians:

- *"In return we had hoped for the freer movement of people and ideas across the Iron Curtain",* M. Thatcher[19].
- *"From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an Iron Curtain has descended across the continent",* W. Churchill[20].
- *"I reached political maturity as the Cold War was ending, and the world as going through a political, economic and technological revolution.",* Toni Blair[21].
- *"…the end of communism, and the dark days of the Iron Curtain…",* Theresa May[22].
- *"And 20 years later, in the 1980's, America led by President Reagan refused to accept the fate of millions trapped behind an Iron Curtain,...",* Gordon Braun[23].

Renaissance or Revival of Political Parties and the Economy of the Country, M. Thatcher and J. Major are referred to as the synonym term:

- *A long sleep*[24] *:* here refers to a passive period without action: *In the meantime, the Conservative Party has the vital task of shaking the British public out of a long sleep.* M. Thatcher.
- *Nasty sleeping*[25]: refers to the claims of laborers who think that they are also plans

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[16] M. Thatcher, art i cit.

[17] W. Churchill, The Sinews of Peace (Iron Curtain Speech), March 5, 1946, Westminster College, Fulton, Missouri.

[18] M. Thatcher, Europe's Political Architecture, 15 Maj, 1992, Speech in Hague.

[19] M. Thatcher, The lady's not for turning, ["The Reason Why"], 10 Tetor, 1980, Speech to Conservative Party Conference.

[20] W. Churchill, The Sinews of Peace, (Iron Curtain Speech), March 5, 1946, Westminster College, Fulton, Missouri.

[21] https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2007/may/10/labourleadership.labour2.

[22] https://www.conservatives.com/sharethefacts/2017/10/theresa-mays-conference-speech

[23] http://www.telegraph.co.uk/neës/politics/gordon-broën/4938252/Gordon-Browns-speech-to-Congress-the-full-text.html

[24] M. Thatcher, "Britain Awake" 19 Janar, 1976, Fjalimi I Margaret Thatcher në Kensington Town Hall.

[25] http://www.britishpoliticalspeech.org/speech-archive.htm?speech=137Leader's speech, 1991

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of the Government on the National Health Service: *"But while this was happening out front, there was something thoroughly <u>nasty seeping</u> from under the platform..."*; John Mayor.

❖ **Phraseoterms that address to the terrorist threat**

After the 90s, Britain and the whole world were facing a social plague that would initially affect America and then Europe throughout the world: terrorism. A struggle clothed in the vanguard of religion would attract all men, children, women to the sacrifice and selflessness of their lives for some slogans and religious ideas that were fed by malicious terrorist groups called ISIS. After the horror that the US experienced from the collapse of the Twin Towers in the morning of September 2001, the whole world woke up with a common enemy ready to fight. In connection with this wound of today's society, not a few politicians, to say all the politicians of the world feel involved in this threat. For them already, this is a global war and they speak in global terms. Gordon Brown also stated that:

"*If we apply these values of freedom, responsibility and justice to the modernization and renewal of British institutions and the issues that carry them, then we will find it easier to cope with the challenges of globalization that we have before"*[26].

<u>Global threat</u>
- Toni Blair: *Global threat*[27]: *It is because it was in March 2003 and remains my fervent view that the nature of <u>the global threat</u> we face in Britain…;*.
- *Global threat*[28]: *"…with greater international consensus that ever before on the <u>global threat</u> posed by ISIL"; The terrorist threat: "This highlights, I think, a significant problem when discussing <u>the terrorist threat</u> that we face".* David Cameron.
- *The terrorist threat: "All of us in Europe face the challenge of cross-border crime, a deadly <u>terrorist threat</u>, and the dangers presented by hostile states".* Theresa May.

<u>Islamic extremism</u> .
- *The first was the increasing amount of information about <u>Islamic extremism</u> and terrorism that was crossing my desk".* Toni Blair[29]
- *"Islamist extremism*[30] *is a political ideology supported by a minority". A global war: "We need to argue that prophecies of <u>a global war</u> of religion pitting Muslims against the rest of the world are nonsense".* David Cameron.

<u>Nuclear weapons</u> .
- John Mayor: *Nuclear weapons*[31] : *"…we must destroy Iraq's <u>nuclear weapons</u> capacity"*.
- Toni Blair: *Nuclear weapons*[32]: *"The second was the attempts by states … to develop*

John Major (Conservative).

[26]   http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/gordon-brown/4938252/Gordon-Browns-speech-to-US Congress-the-full-text.html.

[27] https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2004/mar/05/iraq.iraq.

[28] David Cameron's full statement calling for UK involvement in Syria air strikes.

[29] https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2004/mar/05/iraq.iraq.

[30] David Cameron', art I cit.

[31] https://blogs.spectator.co.uk/2017/02/john-majors-brexit-speech-full-transcript.

[32] https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2004/mar/05/iraq.iraq.

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nuclear weapons programmers...";
- M. Thatcher: _Nuclear war_[33].

Another common phraseoterm among British Prime Ministers of both periods is the **Safe haven,** which they are trying to show their supportive thinking about the circumstances in which Iraq is located.
- _John Mayor: Safe havens_[34]: "_If we had not created those safe havens in Iraq,…_".
- _David Cameron: Safe haven_[35];
- Gordon Brown: _Save heaven_[36]:"_… no safe haven for terrorism_".

Different politicians, in different periods of their leadership, had to make very important decisions for the nation. As such, these decisions are taken in difficult times as they call it otherwise. Often these decisions are characterized by words such as dark, hard, and so on. In their construction these phrases contain a name and an adjective. Since they characterize a difficult period of the country, we have therefore called:

❖   **Phraseoterms in difficult time:**
Dark ages
- David Cameron: _The Dark ages_[37]:"_.…All these atrocities belong to the dark ages_".;
- W. Churchill: _The Dark Ages_: " _…it might well herald a return to the Dark Ages…_[38]"; _The darkest hour_:" _…, the soul of France will turn with comprehension and with kindness to those Frenchmen and Frenchwomen, … who in the darkest hour did not despair of the Republic_[39]";
- M. Thatcher: _Darkening horizons_[40]; here is about the war in Iraque and Iran.
- Gordon Braun: _The hardest days_ [41]: _In the hardest days of the last century, faith in the future kept America alive…_";

❖   _Mutual phraseoterm of "Winds of Change"_
Among different phrases, we have found out that many politicians are referring to each other in the use of the same phraseoterms, so we say that they are common phraseoterms. At different times, politicians in different countries and states need to use phraseoterms that trigger a change, or when they want to talk about a change with their arrival (mainly in election speeches and election platform disclosures convinced their voters). The most striking phrase in this regard is the phrase-winds

[33] M. Thatcher, Britain Awake 19 Janar, 1976,Speech in Kensington Town Hall.
[34] John Major's Brexit speech, art. i cit.
[35] David Cameron's full statement calling for UK involvement in Syria air strikes.
[36] https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2005/dec/13/labour.uk.
[37] David Cameron's full statement calling for UK involvement in Syria air strikes; http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/david-cameron/12018841/David-Camerons-full-statement-calling-for-UK-involvement-in-Syria-air-strikes.html.
[38] W. Churchill, The Finest Hour, The War Situation: House Of Many Mansions, January 20, 1940. Broadcast, London.
[39] W. Churchill, War of the Unknown Warriors, July 14, 1940. BBC Broadcast, London.
[40] M. Thatcher, The lady's not for turning ["The Reason Why"], 10 October, 1980, Speech to Conservative Party Conference.
[41] http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/gordon-brown/4938252/Gordon-Browns-speech-to-Congress-the-full-text.html.

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of change, the ˝*winds of change*," the first use for English Premier Harold Macmillan, who mentioned it in his speech at the South African Parliament , on 3 February 1960.

- *Wind of change: The wind of change*[42] *is blowing through this continent, and whether we like it or not, this growth of national consciousness is a political fact. Harold Macmilan.*
- *Winds of change, W. Churchill.*
- *The storms of change: "…- true, in the face of fear - faithful and amidst the storms of change – constant"*, G. Brown.
- *Turning point: Because this is a turning point for our country. A once-in-a-generation chance to change the direction of our nation for good"*, Theresa May[43].
- *The "U" turn, "U turn if you want to. The lady's not for turning." I say that not only to you but to our friends overseas and also to those who are not our friends"*, M. Thatcher[44].

❖   **Phraseoterm "White paper" ~ State Document**
- *White Paper : "To give them their due, the Government spelled out the extent of the peril in their defense White Paper last year, but, having done so, they drew the absurd conclusion that our defense efforts should be reduced.*[45]. *M. Thatcher.*
- *White Paper,"… must be related to increased productivity due to increased efficiency and effort.' (White Paper on Employment Policy, 1944)"*, W. Churchill[46].
- *White Paper,"..– even in the recent White Paper"*, John Mayor.
- *White Paper, :"Our Housing White Paper set out plans to increase it further, ensuring councils release more land for housing.."*, Theresa May[47].

Phraseoterms are readily available units and as such are readily usable by all other politicians. Phraseoterms give the diversity and color of political discourse. They convey a message and announce a data that can only be analyzed and decomposed by those who know how to elaborate on the meaning of a phraseoterms.

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[42] H. Macmillan, Wind of Change, South African Parliamentary, 3 February, 1960.

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[44] M. Thatcher, art mentioned.

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