



THAI NGUYEN UNIVERSITY
Socialist Republic of Vietnam



BATANGAS STATE UNIVERSITY
Republic of the Philippines

**LITERARY AND RHETORICAL DEVICES USED IN SPEECHES
OF SELECTED WORLD LEADERS**

A Dissertation
Presented to the
Faculty of the Graduate School
Batangas State University
Batangas City, Philippines

In Partial Fulfilment of the
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Doctor of Philosophy
Major in English

by

NGUYEN THI HONG MINH
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APPROVAL SHEET

This dissertation entitled **“LITERARY AND RHETORICAL DEVICES USED IN SPEECHES OF SELECTED WORLD LEADERS”** prepared and submitted by **NGUYEN THI HONG MINH** in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy major in English has been examined and is recommended for Oral Examination.

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ABSTRACT

Title: LITERARY AND RHETORICAL DEVICES USED IN SPEECHES OF SELECTED WORLD LEADERS

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Summary

This study analyzed the literary and rhetorical devices used in speeches of Ho Chi Minh, Margaret Thatcher and Barack Obama and the implication of their ideologies to the thinking of young people and their appreciation of literature. Likewise, this paper aimed to identify the ideologies reflected in the speeches of the selected world leaders; the themes of existence, patriotism, humanism, inner peace and moral principle as manifested in the selected speeches of the foregoing world leaders; the rhetorical devices and literary techniques used in their speeches; and the implications of their ideologies to the thinking of the young people and their appreciation of literature.

The study employed the qualitative method of research in analyzing the literary techniques and rhetorical devices used by the selected world leaders in



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the representative literary works chosen. Likewise, this analysis used the thematic, historical, sociological and philosophical approaches as the bases for analysis. The study was supported by John L. Austin's Speech Act Theory and Herbert Paul Grice's Conversationalist Doctrine.

This paper also involved content analysis, which is a systematic technique in analyzing message content and message handling. The text analysis in this research centered on pattern seeking and the extraction of meaning from Ho Chi Minh's, Margaret Thatcher's and Barack Obama's selected literary narrative or image data. Substantial effort was focused on the task of recording texts or making notes through concepts and categories; linking and combining abstract concepts; extracting the essence; organizing meaning; analyzing and interpreting the quoted lines; and drawing conclusions.

The essential features in the treatment of materials were considered in the study. The general norms by which all literary pieces can be measured for evaluation and analysis served as the researcher's guide in the selection of works that were included in this study.

The representative literary works analyzed were: Ho Chi Minh's *Selected Articles and Speeches*, Margaret Thatcher's *Collected Speeches* and Barack



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Obama in His Own Words. The said selections were chosen because of their correlation with the aforementioned theme and subthemes and the literary and rhetorical devices that were utilized in the speeches. Moreover, the study drew the implications of the ascertained ideologies to the thinking of young people, and also in their appreciation of literature.

Findings of the study revealed that Ho Chi Minh, Margaret Thatcher and Barack Obama all share a common ideology of building a peaceful and prosperous country for their fellowmen as gleaned in their selected works. The said world leaders share some common themes in their speeches, which confirm their existence, show their patriotism and humanism towards their countrymen. The selected world leaders' speeches reveal to the world the fulfilment of their aspirations, as reflected by inner peace and likewise understood in their messages that contain their moral principles. All themes mentioned above, as can be seen in their work, were established by the world leaders as methods of educating their people.

Likewise, they have employed rhetorical devices namely ethos, logos and pathos in order to persuade their audiences. Likewise, they have utilized a number of literary techniques such as figurative language, symbolism and flashback in their speeches in order to gain access to the public's beliefs.



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The study also revealed that the ideologies of these world leaders, as manifested in their speeches, have great potential to influence young people and guide them in building and shaping their thinking. Their speeches illustrated the manner by which various literary and rhetorical devices help them attain their objective of sharing their messages to others, and influence their own thoughts, beliefs or ideology as well as motivating the Vietnamese youth's appreciation of literature.



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DEDICATION

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Nguyen Thi Hong Minh



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