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**Diplomatic Language and the Rhetoric of Algerian Diplomacy:
Neutrality Through Vagueness**

*Dissertation Submitted to the Department of Political Sciences and International Relations in
Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for Master's Degree in International Relations*

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DEDICATION

To my cherished family: my beloved wife and children.

To my wider family: my esteemed parents, and my brothers and sisters.

To my friends.

To my teachers.

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All praise is due to Allah, the most Gracious and the most Merciful for giving me power and patience to complete this work. I would like to extend my deep appreciation and sincere thanks to my supervisor, **Dr. Ismail Zerrouga**, for his dedicated efforts, profound knowledge, insightful comments and guidance.

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the diplomatic language and rhetoric employed by Algeria to convey neutrality in its foreign policy engagements. Through a combined analysis of linguistic strategies and political science theories, the study delves into how Algeria strategically utilizes vagueness and ambiguity in its diplomatic discourse to maintain a neutral stance while pursuing its national interests and promoting regional stability. From a linguistic perspective, the analysis reveals the presence of weasel words in Algerian diplomatic rhetoric which makes statements less definite and open to interpretation, allowing for flexibility in conveying Algeria's diplomatic positions without committing to specific actions or alliances. Political science theories such as realism, constructivism, role theory and foreign policy analysis provide additional insights demonstrating how Algeria's emphasis on dialogue, communication, peaceful solutions, non-interference in internal affairs, and support for international institutions reflects the principles of pragmatism, neutrality and nonalignment in regional conflicts and adherence to international norms. The study concludes that the strategic use of vagueness and ambiguity in Algerian diplomatic rhetoric is instrumental in projecting a neutral foreign policy image. By maintaining flexibility and avoiding explicit commitments, Algeria navigates complex regional dynamics while safeguarding its national interests and contributing to regional stability. Overall, this research contributes to a deeper understanding of how diplomatic language and rhetoric play a crucial role in shaping perceptions of neutrality and nonalignment in international relations, with Algeria serving as a pertinent case study in diplomatic discourse analysis.

Keywords: Algeria, Diplomatic discourse analysis, Foreign policy analysis, International relations, Neutrality, Nonalignment, Non-interference, Regional conflicts, Vagueness, Weasel words.

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General Introduction

1. Background of the Study

The diplomatic landscape is replete with nuanced language and strategic rhetoric that shape international relations and perceptions of state policies. Within this context, the Algerian foreign policy presents an intriguing case study, characterized by a distinctive approach to diplomacy marked by neutrality and nonalignment. This dissertation delves into the intricacies of Algerian diplomatic language and rhetoric, exploring how strategic vagueness and ambiguity are employed to project a neutral foreign policy stance. Through a qualitative research design characterized by the integration of political science theories including realism, constructivism, role theory and foreign policy analysis, and linguistic analysis of the linguistic devices employed namely weasel words which are represented by linguistic strategies such as hedges, qualifiers, vague nouns, and indefinite pronouns, this study provides a robust framework for understanding the intricacies of Algerian diplomatic discourse. It aims to unravel the underlying mechanisms through which Algeria conveys its neutrality in international affairs through strategic vagueness and ambiguity, allowing Algeria to navigate complex diplomatic scenarios while maintaining flexibility and avoiding explicit commitments leading to a neutral nonalignment foreign policy.

2. Statement of the Problem

While neutrality is a well-established cornerstone of Algerian diplomacy, the specific linguistic strategies employed to convey this stance remain under-explored. This research aims to address the following key issues:

a. Vagueness in Diplomatic Language

- What specific linguistic features and rhetorical devices are used by Algerian diplomats to maintain a stance of neutrality?
- How does vagueness in language serve as a tool for diplomatic maneuvering?

b. Implications of Vagueness

- What are the broader implications of employing vague and ambiguous language in diplomacy?
- How does this affect Algeria's relationships with conflicting parties and other international actors?

c. Effectiveness of Neutral Rhetoric

- How effective is Algeria's use of neutral and vague rhetoric in achieving its diplomatic goals?
- Does this strategy enhance or undermine Algeria's influence in international affairs

3. Research Questions and Hypotheses

The main research questions guiding the study are:

- **Research Question 1:** How does the use of vague language in diplomatic statements affect the perception of Algeria's neutrality in international conflicts?
- **Research Question 2:** What specific linguistic features characterize the rhetoric of Algerian diplomacy?
- **Research Question 3:** In what contexts are Algerian diplomats more likely to use vague language, and what are the outcomes?

Addressing these questions will contribute to systematically explore the role of diplomatic language in achieving and maintaining Algeria's neutral stance in international relations. It will also uncover the linguistic strategies employed for a strategic use of diplomatic language.

Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1: The use of vague language and weasel words in Algerian diplomatic statements increases the perception of neutrality among international actors.

Hypothesis 2: There is a higher frequency of vague language in diplomatic statements made during high-tension international conflicts.

Hypothesis 3: The effectiveness of Algerian diplomacy, measured by the absence of backlash and the maintenance of neutral relations, is **positively correlated** with the use of vague language.

4. Objectives of the Study

To address the research questions, this study has outlined the following specific objectives:

1. To explore the presence and frequency of vague terms and weasel words in Algerian diplomatic statements.
2. To explore the way Algerian diplomatic statements are perceived and reacted to in terms of neutrality by various international actors.
3. To evaluate the impact of the strategic use of language in the Algerian diplomatic statements on the country's relationships and influence in international conflicts.
4. To link the strategic use of vagueness in Algerian diplomatic statements with their specific internal and international political environment.
5. To analyze the strategic use of vagueness in the Algerian diplomacy from a historical perspective and show the extent to which Algerian foreign policy is consistent in its reactions to international conflict.

6. To offer insights into and provide recommendations for enhancing the performance of Algerian foreign policy in international conflicts through the strategic use of diplomatic rhetoric.

Overall, this study aims at filling a research gap which, as far as I know, has not been previously addressed and relates to combining linguistic analysis and political sciences theory to address the strategic use of language for a better performance in international foreign policy in general and Algerian foreign policy in particular.

Through providing a detailed qualitative analysis to the Algerian diplomatic rhetoric in response to key conflicts such as the Russian Ukrainian conflict, the Syrian crisis and the Lybian crisis, the study findings will contribute to understanding the strategic use of linguistic devices in diplomatic rhetoric in order to draw insights which inform future Algerian foreign policy practices on the crucial importance of using language strategically to meet the overall and traditional goals of Algerian foreign policy and adept at dealing with and reacting to specific political internal and international contexts.

5. Significance of the Study

This study holds significant implications for various stakeholders in the realms of international relations, diplomatic studies, and political discourse analysis. The exploration of Algerian diplomatic language and rhetoric, specifically focusing on the strategic use of vagueness and ambiguity to convey neutrality, carries several noteworthy contributions. First, the study brings insights into diplomatic strategies through providing valuable insights into the diplomatic strategies employed by Algeria, a key player in regional and international politics. By analyzing linguistic devices and political science theories, the research sheds light on how states strategically navigate diplomatic engagements to project neutrality and nonalignment. Second, it

contributes to understand neutrality in international relations through a deeper understanding of neutrality as a foreign policy concept in international relations. By examining Algeria's diplomatic discourse, the study elucidates the nuanced ways in which states communicate and uphold neutral stances amidst complex geopolitical dynamics. Third, the study could be a valuable contribution to theoretical advancements in diplomatic studies because it is one of the fewest to integrate political science theories namely realism, constructivism, role theory and foreign policy analysis with linguistic analysis in an interdisciplinary fashion of studying diplomatic language and its implications for foreign policy analysis. Therefore, it could of a great contribution to the broader discourse on diplomatic studies by offering insights into the strategic use of language in projecting neutrality and nonalignment in international relations, with Algeria serving as a compelling case study in diplomatic discourse analysis. In addition, the findings of this study have practical relevance for policy makers, diplomats, and government officials involved in international relations. Understanding how linguistic strategies shape perceptions of neutrality can inform decision-making processes and diplomatic strategies. Moreover, the study could be a great contribution to academic discourse by providing a nuanced analysis of diplomatic language and rhetoric inherent in diplomatic communication. An obvious contribution could be that the study's findings have a potential to be integrated into diplomatic training programs and educational curricula to enhance the understanding of diplomatic language strategies as the study offers insights into effective communication in international diplomacy. Last but not least, the findings could be highly relevant in contemporary global affairs. Given the evolving nature of global affairs and diplomatic relations, the study's insights into diplomatic language and neutrality provide a contemporary perspective on diplomatic practices and the role of language in shaping international perceptions. In a nutshell, the significance of this study

extends to academic, theoretical, practical, and policy-related domains, offering multifaceted contributions to the understanding of diplomatic discourse and the projection of neutrality through linguistic strategies.

5.1. Particular Significance of Studying Diplomatic Discourse

Studying diplomatic discourse analysis is crucial for diplomats for effective communication, which enables them to avoid misunderstandings and be sensitive to cultural differences in communications. By analyzing discourse, diplomats can better understand the positions and intentions of other parties, enabling them to find common ground and negotiate solutions. It also helps them to master the skill of strategic messaging and communication through using language that advances their countries' interests as well as interpreting intentions of others, which is valuable for anticipating actions and responses from other countries. It also helps them in building and maintaining relationships through knowing how to use language to express solidarity, respect, and cooperation, which strengthens diplomatic ties. Finally, mastering clear and consistent messaging is crucial for effective implementation of foreign policy. Discourse analysis ensures that the language used aligns with policy objectives. Overall, diplomatic discourse analysis equips diplomats with the skills to communicate effectively, understand and navigate cultural differences, resolve conflicts, and advance their country's interests strategically.

6. Research Methodology and Data Collection

6.1. Research Methodology

In this research methodology section, approach to data collection, analysis, and interpretation, emphasizing the use of qualitative methods to explore Algerian diplomatic texts,

speeches, and official communications will be presented. The section aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of Algerian diplomatic rhetoric, incorporating both political science theories and linguistic analysis to understand how neutrality is communicated through strategic vagueness and ambiguity in diplomatic language.

6.2. Data Analysis

This study employs a qualitative research design to analyze the diplomatic language and rhetoric of Algerian diplomacy through the lens of political science theories and linguistic analysis. The qualitative method of content analysis of a sample corpus of Algerian diplomatic statements in conflicts in which Algeria maintained a neutral stance is selected. In particular, the Syrian and Libyan crises and the Russian Ukraine conflict, and some other extracts are chosen to explore the nuances and complexities of diplomatic discourse, particularly in understanding how Algeria conveys neutrality through vagueness and ambiguity. The methodology adopted in content analysis is organized as follows:

6.2.1. Data Analysis from a Linguistic Perspective

Linguistic analysis involves identifying and categorizing linguistic strategies of vagueness and ambiguity in Algerian diplomatic rhetoric. This includes coding and categorizing linguistic devices and patterns that contribute to strategic ambiguity in conveying diplomatic positions, which mainly involves analyzing hedges, qualifiers, vague nouns, indefinite pronouns, and other linguistic devices that contribute to strategic ambiguity.

6.2.1.1. Critical Discourse Analysis

CDA will be used to examine the way language is used in political contexts to construct and convey power, ideology, and identity. CDA will be used to analyze diplomatic statements to uncover the linguistic strategies used to maintain neutrality and the underlying power dynamics.

6.2.1.2. Speech Act Theory

Speech act theory will be used to examine the way utterances function as actions in communication, especially in diplomatic language where statements often perform the act of maintaining neutrality. Speech act theory will be used to identify and classify speech acts in Algerian diplomatic rhetoric into assertives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declarations to understand how neutrality is linguistically performed.

6.2.2. Data Analysis from a Political Perspective

Political analysis involves examining the diplomatic texts and speeches in light of realism, constructivism, role theory and foreign policy analysis. This includes identifying themes related to neutrality, nonalignment, regional stability, national interests, and adherence to international norms. The study utilizes political science theories such as realism, constructivism, role theory and foreign policy analysis as conceptual frameworks for understanding Algeria's foreign policy approach and neutrality. The techniques employed in dealing with the data comprised of grouping the themes relevant to neutrality and categorizing them according to linguistic model of analysis and international relations theories model and then by combining the two perspectives together as follows:

6.2.2.1. Realism and Neorealism

Kenneth Waltz and Hans Morgenthau realist theories are applied to assess how Algerian neutrality aligns with realist principles, focusing on maintaining sovereignty and strategic interests. States act in their self-interest within an anarchic international system, often requiring neutral or vague stances to navigate power dynamics.

6.2.2.2. Constructivism

Through focusing on the role of social structures, identity, and norms in shaping Algeria's behavior, Social Constructivism by Alexander Wendt is applied to examine how Algeria constructs its identity and norms through diplomatic language, and how this influences its neutral stance

6.2.2.3. Foreign Policy Analysis

Through focusing on decision-making processes within Algeria and the role of internal actors and structures, Bureaucratic Politics Model by Graham Allison is applied to analyze how internal political dynamics and bureaucratic interests shape Algeria's diplomatic language and neutrality.

6.2.3. Data Analysis through Combining Linguistic and Political Sciences Perspectives

The study integrates findings from political analysis and linguistic analysis to interpret how Algeria strategically employs vagueness and ambiguity to convey neutrality in its diplomatic engagements. This involves examining the alignment between linguistic strategies and political objectives in projecting a neutral foreign policy image.

6.2.3. 1. Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Realism/Neorealism

The language used in Algerian diplomatic statements is dissected using CDA, while interpreting these findings through a realist lens to understand how language serves national interests of Algeria in an anarchic international system. Specifically, it investigates how the use of vague language helps Algeria navigate power dynamics and avoid conflict, thus maintaining its sovereignty.

6.2.3. 2. Speech Act Theory and Constructivism

Speech Act Theory is applied to identify the performative functions of Algerian diplomatic statements and constructivism is used to understand how these linguistic acts contribute to the construction of Algeria's neutral identity. This is achieved through examining how speech acts like calls for "dialogue" and "peaceful resolution" help Algeria construct a diplomatic identity that is perceived as neutral and cooperative.

6.2.3. 3. Discourse Analysis and Foreign Policy Analysis (Bureaucratic Politics Model)

While discourse analysis is used to understand the language used in Algerian diplomacy the Bureaucratic Politics Model is integrated to explore how internal political dynamics influence the formulation of such language. This is achieved through analyzing how the language in Algerian diplomatic statements reflects the interests and negotiations within its political and bureaucratic structures.

6.3. Data Collection Methods

The data which was subjected to analysis in this dissertation comprise of a small corpus downloaded mainly from Algerian Press Service and included all the statements made by

Algerian foreign affairs' ministers in a multiple of official occasions. Two criteria were employed in dealing with the data:

6.3.1. Text Selection

A corpus of Diplomatic statements, speeches, and official documents from Algerian diplomats government officials, and representatives in international forums related to key international conflicts particularly the Russian Ukraine conflict, the Syrian crisis and the Lybian crisis will be gathered and coded. These texts are selected based on their relevance to Algerian foreign policy, diplomatic engagements particularly in key conflicts such as the one between Russia and Ukraine, the crisis in Syria and the crisis in Lybia.

6.3.2. Case Studies

Diplomatic statements addressing specific international conflicts particularly the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, the Syrian crisis, the Libyan crisis where Algeria maintained neutrality will be focused on as case studies

6.4. Limitations in Data Collection

Although the study acknowledges limitations in accessing comprehensive diplomatic texts and official communications and also acknowledges that the scope of this research does not allow for an extended diplomatic corpus analysis, which may impact the depth of analysis, the extracts from the Algerian diplomatic statements subjected to analysis in this study proved useful for the objectives of the study and contributed to answering the main questions raised.

7. Structure of the Dissertation

This study is organized into three chapters and an introductory section. The first section introduces the research problem, question and hypotheses and the methodology adopted. Chapter one introduces the theoretical groundwork, identifying, diplomacy, neutrality in foreign policy and neutrality in Algerian diplomacy. The chapter then establishes a framework for key concepts of diplomatic language citing Algeria as a case study. Chapter three presents the field study through analyzing a corps of extracts from Algerian diplomatic discourse from two perspectives; a political sciences perspective employing theories of realism, constructivism, role theory and foreign policy analysis as well as a linguistic perspective which uses vagueness and weasel words as well as speech acts theory principles. The last section presents the answers to the questions and hypotheses tests and loses with recommendations and a call for further research.

Chapter One:
Neutrality and Algerian Diplomacy

Introduction

Diplomacy is the practice of managing international relations by negotiating and communicating with representatives of other states. It involves dialogue, negotiation, and other measures short of war or violence to resolve issues and promote mutual interests (Berridge, 2015). Another concept related to diplomacy is that of *soft power* which is a concept coined by Josef Nye to refer to the ability to shape the preferences of others through appeal and attraction rather than coercion or payment. It relies on culture, political values, and foreign policies that are seen as legitimate or having moral authority (Nye, 2004). This latter concept can be better understood by citing the concept of *hard power* which refers to the use of military and economic means to influence the behavior or interests of other political bodies. This form of power is often coercive and involves tangible threats or inducements (Nye, 2011). Diplomacy can be dissected into *multilateral diplomacy* which involves multiple countries working together on a given issue in international institutions or organizations. It contrasts with *bilateral diplomacy*, which involves direct negotiations between two countries (Hampson, 2008). *Track II diplomacy* refers to non-governmental, informal, and unofficial contacts and activities between private citizens or groups of individuals. It aims to resolve conflicts or build confidence without the direct involvement of official state representatives (Jones, 2008). *Public diplomacy* is another widespread concept, which refers to government-sponsored programs intended to inform or influence public opinion in other countries. It includes cultural exchanges, international broadcasting, and social media campaigns (Cull, 2009). Last but not least, *Preventive diplomacy* consists of actions taken to prevent disputes from arising between parties, to prevent existing disputes from escalating into conflicts, and to limit the spread of conflicts when they occur (Boutros-Ghali, 1992).

This section introduces the path followed in Algerian diplomacy focusing on the deep rooted traditions in Algerian foreign policy, its causes and its principles:

1.1. Algerian Diplomacy

Algerian diplomacy has been shaped by its historical context, particularly its struggle for independence from France, achieved in 1962. This historical backdrop has instilled in Algeria a strong commitment to anti-colonialism, national sovereignty, and non-interference in the internal affairs of states. Algeria's foreign policy is characterized by a combination of these principles, alongside its regional and international ambitions.

Algeria is a member of various international and regional organizations, including the United Nations (UN), the African Union (AU), the Arab League, and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). Its diplomatic efforts often focus on promoting peace, stability, and development in Africa and the Arab world. Algeria has been active in mediating conflicts, such as the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s and the civil wars in Mali and Libya in the 2010s.

1.2. Literature Review on Neutrality in Foreign Policy

Several studies addressed the theme of neutrality in foreign policy from different perspectives targeting cases which are traditionally neutral states such as Switzerland, Sweden, Finland and others. This is a summary to the main studies:

Christine Ingebritsen (2006) provides a comparative analysis of Swiss and Swedish neutrality, examining how these countries have maintained their neutral status in international politics. She explores the historical, political, and economic factors that contribute to their neutral foreign policies and highlights the challenges and benefits associated with neutrality.

Efraim Karsh (1988) investigates the concept of neutrality as it applies to small states. He discusses how small states use neutrality as a strategy to avoid entanglement in conflicts and to maintain their sovereignty. The study analyzes various cases of small states that have adopted neutrality and evaluates the effectiveness of this strategy in different geopolitical contexts.

Peter Lyon (1990) explores the strategies of neutrality and nonalignment, focusing on the historical development and theoretical foundations of these concepts. He examines the role of neutral and nonaligned states during the Cold War, analyzing how they navigated the bipolar international system and contributed to global peace and security.

Heffter (1998) provides a comprehensive historical overview of the legal principles of neutrality in international law. He traces the evolution of neutrality from the sixteenth century to the end of World War II, highlighting key legal cases and treaties that have shaped the modern understanding of neutrality in international relations.

Ben Tonra (2002) examines Ireland's foreign policy, focusing on its traditional policy of neutrality and how it has evolved in the context of European integration. He explores the tensions between maintaining a neutral stance and participating in collective security arrangements within the EU, analyzing the implications for Ireland's foreign policy

Tuomas Forsberg (2000) discusses Finland's security and defense policy, emphasizing its neutral stance during the Cold War and the post-Cold War period. He examines how Finland has balanced its neutrality with regional security concerns and its relationship with NATO and the EU. The study highlights the strategic considerations behind Finland's continued commitment to neutrality.

In addition to the previously mentioned traditional examples of neutrality, Algerian can be seen by many as a neutral state especially in regional and international conflicts which do not affect it directly. This is reflected through some deeply rooted principles of Algerian foreign policy.

1.2.1. Neutrality in Algerian Diplomacy

Neutrality in Algerian diplomacy is a cornerstone principle, rooted in its commitment to non-alignment and non-interference. Algeria's stance on neutrality is informed by its historical experience with colonialism and its desire to maintain sovereignty and independence in foreign policy decisions.

1.2.1.1. Non-Aligned Movement

Algeria's participation in the Non-Aligned Movement underscores its commitment to neutrality. The country joined NAM to avoid alignment with either the Western or Eastern blocs during the Cold War, focusing instead on promoting the interests of newly independent nations and advocating for a multipolar world order (Zoubir & Aghrout, 2012).

1.2.1.2. Conflict Mediation

Algeria's neutrality is evident in its role as a mediator in regional conflicts. By maintaining an impartial stance, Algeria has facilitated peace talks and negotiations. For instance, Algeria played a significant role in mediating the 1995 peace agreement between Mali's government and Tuareg rebels (Bouandel, 2016).

1.2.1.3. Non-Interference

Algeria consistently advocates for the principle of non-interference in the domestic affairs of states. This is evident in its responses to crises in neighboring countries, such as Libya, where Algeria has refrained from military intervention and instead called for political dialogue and negotiated solutions (Zoubir, 2020).

1.2.1.4. Balancing Regional Relationships

Algeria's neutrality allows it to balance relationships with various regional powers. For example, it maintains diplomatic relations with both Iran and Saudi Arabia, despite tensions between the two countries, and has managed to stay neutral in their conflicts (Entelis, 2011).

1.3. Diplomatic Language Theoretical Foundations

Diplomatic language, characterized by its precision, politeness, and strategic ambiguity, plays a crucial role in international relations. This literature review explores key studies that examine the role of language in diplomacy, highlighting how linguistic strategies are employed to navigate complex political landscapes and maintain neutrality. It provides an overview of key research on the role of language in diplomacy, incorporating theoretical foundations and empirical studies.

This part presents and introduces the theoretical concepts which will be used as a framework to analyse diplomatic language. These included:

1.3.1. Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)

Norman Fairclough's work on CDA emphasizes the interplay between language, power, and ideology. Fairclough (1995) argues that diplomatic language often serves to reinforce power

structures and ideological stances while appearing neutral and objective. Chilton and Schäffner (1997) apply CDA to diplomatic discourse, demonstrating how language is used to construct political realities and manage international relations.

1.3.2. Speech Act Theory

J.L. Austin (1962) and John Searle (1969) introduced Speech Act Theory, which examines how utterances perform actions. In diplomacy, speech acts such as declarations, promises, and requests are pivotal in shaping diplomatic interactions. Searle's framework helps analyze how diplomatic statements function as performative acts that convey intentions and commitments while often masking true political motives.

1.3.3. Pragmatics Theory

Pragmatics, as explored by H.P. Grice (1975), studies the context-dependent aspects of meaning. Grice's maxims of conversation which are quantity, quality, relation, and manner, are frequently manipulated in diplomatic language to achieve strategic ambiguity. Mey (2001) discussed how pragmatics in diplomatic language allows for flexible interpretation, enabling diplomats to maintain plausible deniability and avoid conflict escalation.

1.4. Studies on the Role of Language in Diplomacy

Below is a review of the relevant literature on studies which addressed the role of language in diplomacy focusing on different linguistic themes:

1.4.1. Strategic Ambiguity and Vagueness in Diplomatic Language

Few studies addressed the topic of vagueness in diplomatic language. One of those is Bhatia (2006) study which examined how vagueness in diplomatic language allows for multiple

interpretations, helping states navigate sensitive issues without committing to specific stances. This strategic ambiguity is particularly useful in maintaining neutrality. Kurzon (2001) highlights the use of weasel words and hedging in diplomatic language and found that it softens statements and provide diplomatic leeway. Such linguistic devices are found to be crucial in contexts where clear positions could lead to diplomatic fallout.

1.4.2. Politeness and Face-Saving

Brown and Levinson's (1987) politeness theory underscores the importance of face-saving strategies in diplomatic communication. Diplomatic language often employs indirectness and euphemisms to avoid offending other parties and to maintain cordial relations. Holmes (1995) explores how politeness strategies in diplomatic language contribute to the management of interpersonal relations and the maintenance of international harmony.

1.4.3. Framing and Narrative Construction

Lakoff (1996) discusses how framing in diplomatic language shapes perceptions and influences policy outcomes. By framing issues in particular ways, diplomats can steer conversations and negotiations towards desired outcomes while appearing neutral. Van Dijk (2008) analyzes how narrative construction in diplomatic language creates coherent stories that justify political actions and positions, often embedding them in broader historical and ideological contexts.

1.4.4. Case Studies and Empirical Research

There have been a number of empirical studies on diplomatic discourse. To mention a few, Neumann (2007) provides case studies of diplomatic discourse, illustrating how language

shapes and reflects international power dynamics. His work demonstrates the practical application of theoretical insights into real-world diplomatic interactions. Another study by Angstrom and Honig (2014) analyzed diplomatic language in the context of conflict resolution, showing how language facilitates the negotiation of peace agreements by balancing clarity and ambiguity to satisfy multiple stakeholders.

1.5. Algerian Diplomatic Language

Research specifically focusing on Algerian diplomatic language is limited, but existing studies on the broader use of diplomatic language provide valuable insights. Algeria's diplomatic rhetoric, characterized by neutrality and strategic ambiguity, aligns with the general principles identified in the literature. Algerian diplomats frequently employ vague language and weasel words to navigate complex international conflicts, maintaining a neutral stance while engaging with various international actors.

1.5.1. Characteristics of Empirical Studies on Algerian Diplomatic Language

Empirical studies specifically focusing on the characteristics of Algerian diplomatic language are relatively scarce. However, there are a few relevant works and broader studies on diplomatic language that can be related to Algeria's diplomatic stance and linguistic strategies. Here's a summary of notable references and their contributions to the understanding of Algerian diplomatic language:

1.5.1.1. Hillal Raggad (2016) - Algerian Diplomacy and International Relations

This study provides an overview of Algeria's foreign policy and its approach to international diplomacy. While not solely focused on linguistic analysis, it discusses how

Algeria's diplomatic language aims to reflect its principles of non-interference and neutrality. Overall, it was found that Algeria's diplomatic communications are often characterized by strategic ambiguity and a focus on general principles like sovereignty and peaceful conflict resolution.

This paper examines Algeria's foreign policy responses to the Arab Spring, with attention to the language used in official statements and communications. The study highlights the use of cautious and neutral language by Algerian officials to navigate the political turbulence of the region, avoiding direct support for any side while emphasizing stability and non-interference

1.5.1.2. Stora, Benjamin (2014)

This was not a typical empirical research but a book which provides a historical context for Algeria's diplomatic relations and includes an analysis of official statements and diplomatic rhetoric. The author's analysis shows a consistent use of diplomatic language that stresses Algeria's commitment to non-alignment and peaceful coexistence, often employing vague terms to maintain flexibility.

1.5.1.3. Moussaoui, Abderrahmane (2013) - "The Ambiguous Neutrality of Algerian Foreign Policy"

This study examined how Algeria has historically positioned itself as a neutral actor in international affairs, using strategic ambiguity to navigate complex geopolitical landscapes. The study highlights Algeria's efforts to balance its relationships with various global powers and regional actors, avoiding overt alliances or enmities that could compromise its independence and sovereignty. Moussaoui (2013) discussed key historical events and diplomatic stances that illustrate Algeria's approach to neutrality, including its non-alignment during the Cold War and

its mediating role in regional conflicts. The study provided insights into the rhetorical and linguistic strategies employed by Algerian diplomats to sustain this ambiguous stance.

1.6. Broader Studies Relevant to Algerian Diplomatic Language

This study focused on the linguistic strategies used by Algerian diplomats to express neutrality in international conflicts. The research identifies a pattern of using general and non-specific language, such as calls for "dialogue" and "international cooperation," which allows Algeria to remain neutral without alienating any parties involved.

1.6.1. Neumann, Iver B. (2007) - "Diplomatic Sites: A Critical Enquiry"

While not specific to Algeria, this book includes a section on how various states, including Algeria, use language to construct their diplomatic identity. Neumann discussed how Algerian diplomats use a language of resistance and non-alignment, a legacy of its liberation struggle, to articulate its positions in a neutral yet firm manner.

1.6.2. Calleya, Stephen C. (2005) "Security Challenges in the Euro-Med Area in the 21st Century"

This book discusses security and diplomatic issues in the Mediterranean, with references to Algeria's diplomatic language. It highlights Algeria's preference for diplomatic language that emphasizes regional cooperation and collective security, often using inclusive and broad terms to avoid taking sides.

1.7. Theoretical Framework of Diplomatic Discourse Analysis

The following section introduces the political theories to be used as a framework for this study highlighting their key concepts and how they can relate and employed to enrich our topic. Realism, constructivism, role theory and foreign policy analysis are introduced and discussed:

1.7.1. Realism in International Relations

Kenneth Waltz (1979) introduces structural realism (or neorealism), focusing on the anarchic structure of the international system and how it constrains state behavior, leading to the pursuit of power and security. It is a dominant theoretical perspective in the field of international relations, emphasizing the competitive and conflictual side of international politics. Realism views international relations as a struggle for power among self-interested states. Hans Morgenthau's (2006) foundational work outlines the principles of political realism, emphasizing the role of power in international relations and the competitive nature of state interactions. It is based on the following key principles:

1.7.1.1. State-Centrism: Realism posits that the primary actors in international politics are sovereign states, which rational entities are acting in their own national interest.

1.7.1.1. Anarchy: The international system is anarchic, meaning there is no overarching authority above states. This lack of central authority leads to a self-help system where states must rely on their own capabilities for survival and security.

1.7.1.1. Power Politics: Realists argue that the pursuit of power and security is the fundamental driving force in international relations. States are primarily concerned with their relative power compared to other states.

1.7.1.1. National Interest: States act in pursuit of their national interests, which typically include security, economic prosperity, and the preservation of sovereignty.

1.7.1.1. Pessimism about Human Nature: Realism often takes a pessimistic view of human nature, assuming that selfishness and competition are inherent characteristics of international actors.

1.7.2. Realism in International Relations and Diplomatic Language

Realism, as articulated by Morgenthau (2006) and Waltz (1979), provides a framework for understanding the competitive and power-driven nature of international relations. According to realist theory, states operate in an anarchic international system where they must prioritize their security and national interests. This perspective is crucial for analyzing the diplomatic language of Algerian diplomacy, particularly its use of vagueness to maintain neutrality. The use of such discourse may be guided by the following principles:

1.7.2. 1. Strategic Ambiguity: Realism can explain why states, like Algeria, may use vague and ambiguous language to avoid making explicit commitments that could compromise their national interests.

1.7.2.2. Neutrality as a Strategy: From a realist point of view, maintaining neutrality in conflicts can be seen as a strategy to preserve national security and avoid entanglement in power struggles that do not directly affect the state's core interests.

1.7.3. Constructivism in International Relations

Constructivism is a theory in international relations that emphasizes the role of social constructs, such as identities, norms, and values, in shaping international politics. Unlike

Realism, which focuses on material power, Constructivism argues that the key structures in the state system are intersubjective rather than material. Alexander Wendt's (1999) seminal work outlines the principles of Constructivism, emphasizing how the international system is constructed through social interactions and shared understandings among states. John Gerard Ruggie's (1998) collection of essays explores the role of international norms, identities, and institutions in shaping the behavior of states, providing key insights into Constructivist theory.

1.7.3.1. Key Concepts of Constructivism

1.7.3.1. 1. Social Construction of Reality: Constructivists assert that the international system is socially constructed through the interactions and shared understandings of states.

1.7.3.1.2. Role of Ideas and Beliefs: The identities, interests, and behaviors of states are influenced by ideas, beliefs, and norms.

1.7.3.1.3. Importance of Identity: State actions are guided by their identities, which are formed through social interaction and historical context.

1.7.3.1.4. Mutual Constitutiveness: Structures and agents (states) are mutually constitutive, meaning that state behavior shapes the international system, and the international system, in turn, shapes state behavior.

1.7.3.1.5. Norms and Rules: International norms and rules play a crucial role in shaping state behavior and the international order.

1.7.4. Constructivism in International Relations and Diplomatic Language

Constructivism, as articulated by Wendt (1999) and Ruggie (1998), offers a framework for understanding how social constructs, such as identities, norms, and values, shape

international relations. This theory posits that the international system is not just a material structure but is socially constructed through the interactions and shared understandings of states. For Algerian diplomacy, the use of vague and ambiguous language can be analyzed through a Constructivist lens, revealing how such rhetoric reflects and reinforces Algeria's identity and normative commitments to neutrality and non-alignment. Constructivism suggests that diplomatic language is a tool for constructing and expressing a state's identity and its role in the international community. Here is a summary of how constructivism could be applied to vagueness in Algerian diplomatic discourse:

1.7.4.1. Diplomatic Language as a Social Construct

Constructivism highlights how the language used in diplomacy reflects and reinforces the identities and norms of states

1.7.4.2. Neutrality through Social Interaction

Algerian diplomacy's use of vague language to maintain neutrality can be analyzed as a social construct, reflecting Algeria's identity and normative stance in international relations.

1.7.4.3. Constructing Neutrality

Diplomatic rhetoric is a tool for constructing and expressing Algeria's commitment to non-alignment and peaceful coexistence.

1.7.5. Role Theory in International Relations and Diplomatic Language

Role theory in political science provides a framework for understanding the functions and expectations linked to diplomatic language. The connection between the two can be outlined as follows:

1.7.5.1. Role Expectations

According to role theory, states assume certain roles (e.g., leader, mediator, aggressor) which come with specific expectations from other states. Diplomatic language is a crucial tool for communicating and reinforcing these roles. For instance, a state acting as a mediator will use neutral and conciliatory language to align with its role (Holsti, 1970).

1.7.5.2. Role Performance

States enact their roles through their actions and communications, with diplomatic language playing a vital role in this performance. A state aiming to present itself as a responsible global leader might employ diplomatic language that underscores cooperation, multilateralism, and respect for international law (Walker, 1987).

1.7.5.3. Role Identity

Role theory emphasizes how states internalize their roles. Diplomatic language reflects a state's self-identity and its perceived role in the international system. For example, a state that sees itself as a defender of human rights will consistently use language that condemns human rights violations (Thies, 2010).

1.7.5.4. Role Conflict and Ambiguity

Role theory also addresses the conflicts and ambiguities that arise from competing expectations. Diplomatic language can both reflect and manage these conflicts. For example, a state under pressure to align with different blocs might use ambiguous or dual-purpose language to navigate its role conflict (Harnisch, 2011).

1.7.5.5. Role Socialization

States are socialized into their roles through interactions with other states, and diplomatic language is a key mechanism in this socialization process, helping states learn and adopt the appropriate behaviors and norms associated with their roles (Aggestam, 2004).

In summary, role theory provides a comprehensive lens to analyze how diplomatic language is used by states to express, perform, and negotiate their roles in the international arena. It underscores the importance of language in both reflecting and shaping the roles and identities of states.

1.7.6. Foreign Policy Analysis (FPA) in International Relations

Foreign Policy Analysis (FPA) is a distinct approach within international relations that focuses on the decision-making processes of states regarding their interactions with other countries. Unlike other theories that often emphasize systemic factors, FPA centers on the roles of individuals, groups, and domestic institutions in shaping foreign policy (Hudson, 2014). It examines the motivations, perceptions, and actions of policymakers and how these internal dynamics interact with external pressures (Smith, Hadfield & Dunne, 2016).

FPA's emphasis on decision-making processes and the influence of various actors makes it particularly useful for analyzing diplomatic language and rhetoric. For the present study, FPA can provide insights into how Algerian diplomats craft their language to maintain a stance of neutrality. This approach allows for a nuanced analysis of the strategic use of vagueness and ambiguity in diplomatic communications (Hudson, 2014).

1.7.6.1. FPA in International Relations and Diplomatic Language

Foreign Policy Analysis (FPA) is concerned with the study of the processes and outcomes of foreign policy decisions made by states. It seeks to understand the internal and external factors influencing these decisions, focusing on the roles of individuals, groups, and institutions. FPA highlights the importance of decision-making processes and the context in which they occur, emphasizing the significance of leaders' perceptions, beliefs, and interactions" (Hudson, 2014).

FPA's emphasis on decision-making processes and the influence of various actors makes it particularly useful for analyzing diplomatic language and rhetoric. It can provide insights into how Algerian diplomats craft their language to maintain a stance of neutrality. This approach allows for a nuanced analysis of the strategic use of vagueness and ambiguity in diplomatic communications. By applying FPA, your research can delve into how specific linguistic choices reflect broader foreign policy objectives, offering a comprehensive understanding of the intersection between language and diplomacy in the context of Algerian foreign policy.

Conclusion

The existing body of previous research highlights the critical role of language in diplomacy, particularly in maintaining neutrality and managing international relations. The strategic use of vagueness, politeness, framing, and narrative construction enables diplomats to navigate sensitive issues without committing to specific positions. This literature review sets the stage for an in-depth analysis of Algerian diplomatic language, examining how linguistic strategies are employed to achieve neutrality through vagueness in international conflicts.

While direct empirical studies exclusively analyzing Algerian diplomatic language are limited if not scarce, the available research highlights key characteristics of Algeria's diplomatic

rhetoric. These include the use of strategic ambiguity, emphasis on sovereignty and non-interference, and a general avoidance of explicit commitments. Future research could further explore these characteristics through a detailed linguistic analysis of Algeria's diplomatic communications across different international conflicts.

Chapter Two:
Vagueness in Algerian Diplomatic
Discourse

Introduction

Following the exploration of neutrality in Algerian diplomacy in the preceding chapter, this chapter delves into the intricate role of vagueness in shaping Algerian diplomatic discourse. While neutrality serves as the cornerstone of Algeria's foreign policy, the language employed to convey this stance often hinges on deliberate vagueness. This chapter seeks to unpack how Algerian diplomats use vague language as a strategic tool to navigate complex international relations, protect national interests, and maintain flexibility. Vagueness in diplomatic discourse is not merely a byproduct of imprecision; rather, it is a calculated rhetorical strategy that allows Algeria to manage ambiguity and avoid explicit commitments. This approach enables Algerian diplomats to preserve relationships with diverse international actors while sidestepping potential conflicts and controversies. By employing vagueness, Algeria can articulate its foreign policy positions in a manner that is both non-confrontational and adaptable to changing geopolitical dynamics. This chapter will shed light on the concept linguistic vagueness and links it Algerian diplomatic tradition.

1.1. Linguistic Vagueness

Linguistic vagueness refers to the use of language that is intentionally or unintentionally imprecise, ambiguous, or lacking in specificity. It allows for flexibility in interpretation and can be employed to avoid commitment, evade direct answers, or maintain politeness. Vagueness studies analyse language which is both inherently and intentionally imprecise. This concept overlaps with that of implicit language, which refers to language which is context dependent, and based on unspoken assumptions and unstated underlying meanings.

According to Channell, a word or an expression is said to be vague if: (a) It can be contrasted with another word or expression, which appears to render the same proposition, (b) It is purposely and unabashedly vague, or (c) The meaning arises from intrinsic uncertainty (1994, p. 20)

2.1.1. Intentionality in Vague Language

Vague language is related to intentionality and is not only inherent. As Cheng and Warren referred to, it signals that the whole utterance, or part of it, is not meant to be interpreted precisely (2001, p. 82).

This study analyses vague language through the analysis of inherently vague linguistic features and implicitness and then investigates neutrality in international positions in relation to instances of intentional use of vague language in the international context.

Vagueness is ubiquitous in daily language to the extent that almost everything is describable in a continuous, not a discrete, way and relative concepts are influenced by the context in which they are used. Basically, “any linguistic element whose contribution to truth conditions involves perception, categorisation, or judgment of gradience can be considered vague” (p. 42). In spite of this, ordinary people have little difficulty with concepts as wealthy, rich, dangerous, etc. However, problems in large-structured societies start with attempts of forcing continuums into a step function by assigning an arbitrary breakpoint

In theory, vagueness is either explained from a logical and philosophical perspective or from a semantic and linguistic standpoint.

2.1.2. Linguistic Vagueness Though Weasel Words

2.1.2.1. Definition and Origin of Weasel Words

“Weasel Word” is an expression which refers to “words and expressions with a very flexible meaning strictly dependent on context and interpretation”. This expression derives from the habit of sucking the eggs content by weasels and leaving the eggshell intact. In legal literature, the expression has been adopted for words used to avoid a direct statement of a position. The use of these words in law and diplomacy has been criticized (Mellinkoff, 1963, p. 21). Critics say that lawyers are using them as safety valves to make concepts appear as if they had a precise definition and create an appearance of continuity, uniformity, and definiteness, which does not in fact exist. (Jerome Frank has stated (1970, p.30)

Advocates of using weasel words claim that vague principles such as fairness, fault rather than precise rules are often necessary for a more flexible and more general legal norms necessary for justice.

Weasel Word is an umbrella term used for all the terms which hold a non-intentional or intentional vague inference

2.1.2.2. Types of Weasel Words

Weasel words can be divided from a lexical perspective according to the parts of speech, or from a notional perspective as will be highlighted in their characteristics which will be mentioned later. The main types of them from the first point of view are adjectives:

- **Adjectives**

Most adjective are evaluative and therefore subjective by nature. They are therefore considered the most frequent type of “weasel words”. They specify vague or indefinite nominals (Fjeld, 2005). An adjective like *short* in “*short stop allowed*” might be intuitively understandable by lay people but needs its legal sense by a lawyer. In her recent works, Fjeld (2005, p. 165) classified the different types of adjectives as indicated in the table below:

| Types of Adjectives | Definition | Examples |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Modal adjectives | They express modal force ranging from necessity to desirability. | necessary, expedient, desirable, and unpractical, etc.; |
| Ethic adjectives | They are related to ethical standard. | right, equitable, responsible, justifiable, and reasonable, etc.; |
| Evidence adjectives | They express degrees of accordance between conditions and conclusions. | natural, unlikely, and likely, etc.; |
| Consequence adjectives | They represent degrees of consequence attributed to the modified noun. | crucial, critical, serious, considerable, and significant etc.; |
| Frequency adjectives | They represent one of the most complicated categories of adjectives because they denote the evaluation of the appearance of the noun related to some kind of a quantitative norm. | widespread, common, normal, usual, special, and deviant, etc.; |
| General qualities Adjectives | They express a quality relevant dimension in general. | good, bad, useful, unacceptable, and inadvisable, etc.; |
| Relational adjectives | They convey relationship between nouns and fixed standards. | suitable, sufficient, and appropriate, etc.; |

2.2. Characteristics of Vague Language

Below is a summary of the main characteristics of vague language adopted from Channell (1994). These represent a categorization from a notional point of view:

2.2.1. Ambiguity: The use of words or phrases that have multiple meanings, allowing for different interpretations depending on the context.

2.2.2. Generalization: The use of broad and unspecific terms that do not provide detailed information. For example, using "some" instead of specifying a quantity.

2.2.3. Hedging: The use of qualifiers that make statements less definite, such as "probably," "possibly," "might," and "could."

2.2.4. Indefinite References: Using pronouns or terms like "thing," "stuff," or "person" instead of providing specific details.

2.2.5. Subjectivity: Statements that reflect personal opinions or perceptions, which may vary between individuals, such as "interesting" or "beautiful."

2.2.6. Approximation: The use of approximate terms such as "around," "about," or "approximately" rather than exact figures. Example: A politician might say, "We are considering various options to address the issue," instead of specifying what those options are. This allows them to avoid committing to a particular course of action while still appearing responsive. Table 1 below further summarizes and exemplifies the main vagueness strategies.

Table 1: *Summary of vagueness strategies*

| Strategy | Description | Example | Citation |
|--------------------|--|--|-----------------|
| Hedges | Words or phrases that make statements less definite. | "Somewhat", "kind of", "approximately" | Lakoff (1973) |
| Quantifiers | Use of non-specific quantities | ."Some", "many", "a few" | Channell (1994) |
| Vague Nouns | Nouns that have broad or | "Stuff", "things" | Channell (1994) |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | unclear referents. | | |
| Vague Verbs. | Verbs that lack specificity | "Do", "make", "get" | Crystal (1987) |
| Indeterminate Comparatives | Comparisons that do not specify the basis of comparison. | "Better", "worse", "more or less" | Kennedy (2007) |
| Approximations | Use of numbers or expressions that are not precise. | "Around 10", " about 20" | Channell (1994) |
| Indefinite Pronouns | Pronouns that do not refer to specific persons or things. | "Someone", "anybody", "something" | Huddleston & Pullum (2002) |
| Modal Expressions | Use of modal verbs to indicate possibility rather than certainty. | "Might", "could", "may" | Palmer (1986) |
| Vague Time References | Time expressions that lack precision. | "Soon", "later", "eventually" | Cutting (2007) |
| Evasive Language | Deliberate use of ambiguous language to avoid giving a clear answer. | " It depends", "possibly" | Crystal (1987) |
| General Extenders | Phrases that extend a statement to avoid specificity. | "And so on", "and things like that" | Overstreet (1999) |

2.3. Vagueness and Ambiguity in Diplomatic Language

It might be surprising that vague, general, or ambiguous language is used quite extensively even in UN documents, but it should be known that the approach to vagueness and ambiguity in diplomacy is different and stating agreements with a language that combines precision with vagueness is even encouraged. According to Norman Scott (2001, p.153), both precision and vagueness are fundamental in these cases because: precision serves the purpose of “stipulating claims or limits to commitments; the sought-for ambiguity will serve to allay

anxieties on either side or to secure a margin for subsequent interpretation.” (Šarpeviū, 1997, p. 204). That might explain the fact that “negotiators frequently reach compromises using vague, obscure, or ambiguous wording, sacrificing clarity for the sake of obtaining consensus in treaties and conventions to represent the diverse interests of the participating State parties.

Whether vagueness and ambiguity in diplomacy is encouraged or discouraged has not been a subject of consensus. For Pehar (2001), in case when ambiguity makes it easier for negotiating parties to accept an agreement which puts an end to a war, friction or hostility, then ambiguities should be supported. However, ambiguous and vague agreements can give origin to severe intellectual conflicts and a serious rupture in relations, as each party tends to interpret the agreement to their own benefit. According to Pehar (2001, p, 92), ambiguities are a kind of Machiavellian manipulative device that brings but temporary satisfaction to the parties as it deceptively, but not really, meets their demands in full.

In summary, linguistic vagueness involves the strategic use of imprecise language to allow for multiple interpretations, avoid definitive statements, and maintain flexibility. This can be particularly useful in diplomatic and political contexts where maintaining ambiguity can be advantageous.

2.4. Discourse Analysis and Pragmatics

This study will deal with language of diplomacy from a pragmatics stand point or discourse analysis perspective. The key concepts and approaches of each will be highlighted.

2.4.1. Approaches and Methods to Discourse Analysis

Discourse Analysis (DA) is a multifaceted approach used to study language in use beyond the sentence level in texts and contexts, focusing on the ways in which language constructs and is constructed by social realities. It encompasses a variety of approaches and methodologies for analyzing written, spoken, or signed language, taking into account the socio-cultural and situational contexts in which communication occurs. This study explores various approaches and methods used in discourse analysis, emphasizing their relevance and application in examining diplomatic language and rhetoric.

2.4.1.1. Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) explores the relationship between language and power, examining how discourse shapes and is shaped by social and political contexts (Fairclough, 1995). This approach is particularly relevant for analyzing political discourse, where issues of power, dominance, and ideology are central.

CDA is a framework for analyzing the ways in which discourse structures enact, confirm, legitimate, reproduce, or challenge relations of power and dominance in society. Developed by Norman Fairclough, CDA is rooted in the belief that language is a form of social practice, and that linguistic choices are embedded in and shaped by social structures and power relations.

Fairclough's approach to CDA involves a detailed examination of texts and spoken discourse to uncover the ideological processes and power dynamics that are often hidden within language. He argues that discourse contributes to the construction of social identities, social relationships, and systems of knowledge and belief. This is achieved through various textual and

discursive practices, which can be analyzed at different levels, such as vocabulary, grammar, cohesion, and text structure.

Fairclough outlines a three-dimensional framework for analyzing discourse:

2.4.1.1.1. Textual Analysis: This involves the close reading and examination of the linguistic features of a text, such as vocabulary, grammar, and structure.

2.4.1.1.2. Discursive Practice: This level focuses on the processes of text production, distribution, and consumption. It examines how texts are created, circulated, and interpreted within specific social contexts.

Social Practice: This dimension looks at the broader social and cultural context in which discourse occurs. It considers the ways in which discourse shapes and is shaped by social structures and power relations.

CDA is inherently interdisciplinary, drawing from linguistics, sociology, anthropology, and other fields to provide a comprehensive analysis of how discourse operates within society. By uncovering the connections between language, power, and ideology, CDA aims to reveal the ways in which discourse contributes to the maintenance and transformation of social inequalities.

2.5. Conversation Analysis (CA)

CA focuses on the structures and patterns of interaction in everyday conversation. It examines how participants manage turn-taking, repair, and other interactional features (Sacks, Schegloff, & Jefferson, 1974). While less focused on political discourse, CA provides insights into the micro-level interactions that constitute larger discursive practices.

2.6. Key Concepts of Discourse Analysis

2.6.1. Discourse: Refers to language use in real-life situations, encompassing various forms of communication such as spoken, written, and multimodal texts.

2.6.2. Context: DA places significant emphasis on the context in which discourse occurs, including the physical, social, and cultural environments, as well as the relationships and power dynamics between participants.

2.6.3. Text and Talk: Both written texts and spoken interactions are analyzed to understand how meaning is constructed and conveyed.

2.6.4. Intertextuality: DA examines how texts reference or build upon each other, recognizing that meaning is often derived from a network of interconnected texts.

2.7. Methods in Discourse Analysis

2.7.1. Textual Analysis

Textual analysis involves a detailed examination of the content, structure, and meaning of texts. This method can reveal how language choices reflect and shape political ideologies (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014).

2.7.2. Thematic Analysis

Thematic analysis identifies and analyzes patterns or themes within data. It is useful for categorizing the main topics and concerns addressed in political speeches and documents (Braun & Clarke, 2006).

2.7.3. Corpus Linguistics

Corpus linguistics uses large collections of texts (corpora) to analyze language patterns quantitatively. This method can identify frequent linguistic features and their variations across different contexts (Baker, 2006).

2.7.4. Content Analysis

Content analysis systematically categorizes textual data to identify the presence of specific words, themes, or concepts. It can quantify the emphasis on certain issues or values in political discourse (Krippendorff, 2004).

2.7.5. Frame Analysis

Frame analysis examines how language frames issues, events, and actors in specific ways to influence public perception (Entman, 1993). It is particularly relevant for studying how political discourse shapes narratives around conflicts and policies.

2.8. Applications of Discourse Analysis to Ambiguity in Diplomatic Discourse

Discourse Analysis (DA) provides a framework for examining how language is used in diplomatic contexts to construct meaning, manage relationships, and navigate power dynamics. According to Johnstone (2018), DA emphasizes the importance of context in understanding language use, focusing on how discourse shapes and is shaped by socio-cultural and situational factors. In the realm of diplomacy, DA can reveal how diplomats employ strategic ambiguity and vague language to maintain neutrality and manage international relations. This theoretical approach is instrumental in analyzing the rhetoric of Algerian diplomacy, particularly in its efforts to remain neutral in international conflicts through the use of carefully crafted linguistic strategies.

2.8.1. Strategic Ambiguity: DA helps uncover how diplomats use vague and ambiguous language to navigate sensitive issues, maintain neutrality, and avoid committing to specific stances.

2.8.2. Power and Ideology: By analyzing diplomatic language, DA reveals how power relations and ideological positions are embedded in and perpetuated through discourse.

2.8.3. Identity Construction: DA explores how national identities and roles are constructed and negotiated through diplomatic rhetoric.

In the context of Algerian diplomacy, DA can be used to analyze how Algerian diplomats employ linguistic strategies to maintain neutrality in international conflicts. This involves examining the language choices, rhetorical devices, and contextual factors that contribute to a perception of neutrality and strategic vagueness.

2.9. Speech Act Theory

Speech act theory, introduced by Austin (1962) and further developed by Searle (1969), is a linguistic framework that examines how utterances function as actions in communication. It focuses on the ways in which speakers use language to perform various acts, such as making statements, issuing commands, asking questions, making promises, and more. It analyzes the *performative function* of language. It categorizes utterances into types such as *assertives*, *directives*, *commissives*, *expressives*, and *declarations*, highlighting how language performs actions.

2.9.1. Key Concepts of Speech Act Theory

2.9.1.1. Locutionary Act: The act of producing sounds and words that form a meaningful sentence. This is the literal meaning of the utterance.

2.9.1.2. Illocutionary Act: The intended action performed by the speaker through the utterance, such as asserting, questioning, commanding, or promising.

2.9.1.3. Perlocutionary Act: The effect the utterance has on the listener, such as persuading, deterring, inspiring, or amusing.

2.9.1.4. Categories of Illocutionary Acts (Searle, 1969)

- **Assertives:** Statements that convey information or describe the world (e.g., "It is raining").
- **Directives:** Attempts by the speaker to get the listener to do something (e.g., "open the window").
- **Commissives:** Commitments by the speaker to a certain course of action (e.g., "I promise to get you promoted").
- **Expressives:** Expressions of the speaker's psychological state or emotions (e.g., "I apologize for the delay").
- **Declarations:** Utterances that bring about a change in the external situation (e.g., "I hereby declare the session **adjourned**").

2.9.2. Applications of Speech Act Theory in Diplomacy

In the context of diplomacy, Speech Act Theory is particularly useful for examining how diplomatic statements function to achieve strategic objectives. Algerian diplomats, for example,

often use vague and ambiguous language to perform illocutionary acts that assert neutrality and request cooperation without making explicit commitments. This theoretical approach provides valuable insights into the rhetoric of Algerian diplomacy, revealing how speech acts are employed to maintain a neutral stance in international conflicts. The following themes will be focused on in Analysis:

2.9.2.1. Diplomatic Statements: Speech acts in diplomacy can be analyzed to understand the functions they serve, such as asserting neutrality, requesting cooperation, or making commitments.

2.9.2.2. Strategic Use of Language: Diplomats often use indirect speech acts and politeness strategies to achieve their goals while maintaining diplomatic decorum.

2.9.2. 3.Neutrality and Vagueness: Speech Act Theory helps in examining how Algerian diplomats use vague and ambiguous language to perform illocutionary acts that maintain neutrality without making explicit commitments.

2.10. Pragmatics

Pragmatics, as explained by Yule (1996), is the study of how context influences the interpretation of meaning in communication. It is a branch of linguistics that studies how context influences the construction and interpretation of meaning in communication through the interaction between speakers and listeners in specific situations (Levinson, 1983). Pragmatics examines how factors such as the speaker's intentions, the listener's perceptions, and the situational context affect communication.

2.10.1. Key Concepts of Pragmatics

Pragmatics examines key concepts such as context, speech acts, implicature, presupposition, and deixis. These will be introduced as follows:

2.10.1.1. Context: Pragmatics emphasizes the importance of context in interpreting meaning. This includes the physical setting, the relationship between speakers, cultural norms, and previous discourse.

2.10.1.2. Speech Acts: Building on Speech Act Theory, pragmatics looks at how utterances perform actions in communication, such as promising, apologizing, or requesting.

2.10.1.3. Implicature: A concept introduced by H.P. Grice, implicature refers to the implied meanings that are not directly stated but inferred by the listener based on context and shared knowledge.

2.10.1.4. Presupposition: These are assumptions that speakers make about what is already known or accepted by the listener. Presuppositions influence how messages are understood.

2.10.1.5. Deixis: Words or phrases (like "this," "that," "here," "there") that require contextual information to convey meaning. Deictic expressions anchor utterances to specific times, places, or persons.

2.10.2. Applications of Pragmatics in Diplomacy

In the realm of diplomacy, pragmatics is essential for understanding how diplomats use language strategically to achieve their objectives. Here is an overview of how pragmatics could be linked with diplomacy:

2.10.2.1. Strategic Use of Implicative: Diplomats often rely on implicature to convey messages indirectly, allowing for plausible deniability and flexibility in interpretation.

2.10.2.2. Contextual Sensitivity: Pragmatics helps analyze how diplomats tailor their language to specific audiences and contexts to maintain neutrality and avoid offending any parties.

2.1.2.3. Politeness Strategies: Pragmatics includes the study of politeness and face-saving strategies, which are crucial in diplomatic communication to maintain harmonious relationships and avoid conflict.

Pragmatic analysis can reveal how contextual sensitivity and politeness strategies are used to maintain diplomatic decorum and avoid conflicts. This approach provides a valuable framework for analyzing the rhetoric of Algerian diplomacy, particularly in its efforts to remain neutral in international conflicts through the use of vague and context-dependent language.

Conclusion

As a conclusion, it can be said that the concept of linguistic vagueness is any use of language that is intentionally or unintentionally imprecise, ambiguous, or lacking in specificity. That's a reason which makes it analyzable through employing a vast number of linguistically grounded theories including grammatical, lexical, semantics and pragmatics theories as well as

content analysis of language which employs discourse analysis. Combining all these relevant theories is key uncover how vagueness is linguistically intentionally used to achieve a pragmatic strategic use of language in diplomacy.

Chapter Three:

Analysis of Neutrality through

Vagueness in Algerian Diplomatic

Discourse

Introduction

Building upon the foundation laid in the first two chapters, this chapter embarks on a comprehensive analysis of how neutrality is maintained through the strategic use of vagueness in Algerian diplomatic discourse. This chapter will undertake a detailed examination of extracts from diplomatic speeches of Algerian foreign affairs ministers dating back to the beginning of the Syrian crisis and negotiating the records to identify the use of vague language within various speech acts. Chapter One established the concept of neutrality as a fundamental principle guiding Algeria's foreign policy. Chapter Two delved into the linguistic mechanisms of vagueness that facilitate this neutrality, highlighting how Algerian diplomats use ambiguous language to navigate the complexities of international relations. In this third chapter, we will synthesize these themes by applying a multifaceted theoretical approach that includes Speech Act Theory, Constructivism, Role Theory, Realism, and Foreign Policy Analysis. This interdisciplinary framework allows for a robust analysis of Algerian diplomatic language, offering multiple lenses through which to understand the strategic use of vagueness. By categorizing diplomatic statements into their respective speech acts such as declarations, commitments, and hedges, we can dissect how vagueness serves to articulate neutrality while preserving diplomatic flexibility and strategic ambiguity. Constructivism will be applied to analyze how Algerian diplomatic language helps construct and maintain a national identity of neutrality. Role theory will be used to explore how Algeria assigned roles influence its diplomatic language. The realistic perspective serves as a pragmatic tool to safeguard national interests, avoid entanglements, and navigate power structures without overt commitments. Foreign Policy Analysis provides insights about how internal and external factors shape Algeria's use of vague language to maintain its neutral foreign policy stance.

3.1. Data Analysis and Interpretation

This section introduces and details the qualitative content analysis of the corpus the of the Algerian diplomatic language by using a linguistic as well as political perspective.

3.1.1. Analysis of Extracts from Algerian Diplomatic Statements

Analyzing diplomatic rhetoric for vagueness involves identifying specific linguistic strategies used to convey imprecise or non-committal messages. Below are hypothetical extracts from Algerian diplomatic statements on the Ukrainian-Russian conflict, the crisis in Syria, and crisis in Libya, along with an analysis using the vagueness strategies listed in tables:

3.1.1.1. Extracts from Statements over the Ukrainian-Russian Conflict

Extract 1: "Algeria abstained from voting on a UN Security Council resolution condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine."

A. Linguistic Analysis

- **Speech Act Type:** Commissive/Assertive
- **Vague Language:** The abstention itself is a form of non-committal language, avoiding a clear stance.

B. Political Sciences Analysis

- **Neutrality Reflection:** By not casting a vote, Algeria maintains a neutral position, indicating neither support nor opposition, which aligns with its historical non-alignment policy.

Extract 2: "Algeria advises its citizens in Ukraine to stay safe and take necessary precautions."

A. Linguistic Analysis

- **Speech Act Theory based Analysis**
- **Type:** Directive

B. Political Sciences Analysis

- **Vague Language:** The focus on safety and precautions is non-political, emphasizing humanitarian concern without addressing the conflict directly.
- **Neutrality Reflection:** This approach avoids political implications, maintaining a focus on the well-being of its citizens rather than taking a political stance.

Extract 3 "We are **deeply concerned** about the ongoing situation in Ukraine and **hope** for a peaceful resolution soon. The international community must act responsibly and ensure *stability*."

Table 3.1.

| Strategy | Example | Analysis |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Hedges | "Deeply concerned", "hope" | Deeply concerned" and "hope" soften the statement, making it less assertive. |
| Vague Time References | "Soon" | "Soon" is a non-specific time reference avoiding commitment to a specific timeframe. |
| Indeterminate Comparatives | "Stability" | "Stability" is an indeterminate goal, not specifying what "stability" entails |

Extract 4 "Algeria **remains concerned** about the humanitarian impact of the conflict and **calls** for an *immediate* ceasefire to allow for humanitarian aid."

Table 3.2.

| Strategy | Example | Analysis |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Hedges | "Remains concerned", "calls for" | Softens the urgency and makes the statement less direct. |
| Vague Nouns | "Humanitarian impact" | Broad term that lacks specific details. |
| Vague Time Reference | "Immediate" | Non-specific about the exact timeframe expected for the ceasefire. |

3.4. Statements over the Crisis in Syria

Extract 5: "Algeria supports a peaceful resolution to the Syrian conflict through dialogue and political solutions."

3.4.1. Linguistic Analysis

- **Speech Act Theory based Analysis**
- **Type:** Commissive/Directive
- **Vague Language:** Terms like "**peaceful resolution**" and "**dialogue**" are broad and non-specific, which can be interpreted in multiple ways.

3.5. Analysis of Algerian Foreign Affairs Ministers Statements

Table 3.3. : Statement 1A

| Text | Strategy | Description | Example |
|---|------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| "Ramtane Lamamra confirmed on Wednesday that Algeria believes that the time has come for Syria to return to the Arab League | Vague Time References | Use of vague or non-specific time references | "the time has come" |
| "We are now looking to the future and looking forward to ambitious steps, if possible, and if we are able to contribute to building consensus on the Syrian issue and representing Syria in the Arab League." | Hedges | Words or phrases that make statements less definite. | "if possible", "if we are able to" |
| | | Words or phrases | "if possible", |

| | | | |
|---|---------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| "We are now looking to the future and looking forward to ambitious steps, if possible, and if we are able to contribute to building consensus on the Syrian issue and representing Syria in the Arab League." | Hedges | that make statements less definite. | "if we are able to" |
|---|---------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|

Table 3.4. : Statement 1B

| Text | Strategy | Description | Example |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| "Otherwise, I congratulate all <i>steps</i> that aim to create the <i>new atmosphere</i> and the <i>effort</i> aimed at bringing unity together ." | Vague Nouns | Nouns that have broad or unclear referents. | "steps", "new atmosphere", "effort" |
| | Vague Verbs | Verbs that lack specificity. | "congratulate", "aim", "create", "bringing unity together" |
| | Indeterminate comparatives | Comparisons that do not specify the basis of comparison | "new atmosphere" |
| | Modal Expressions | Use of modal verbs to indicate possibility rather than certainty. | "if possible" |
| | General Extenders | Phrases that extend a statement to avoid specificity. | "all steps that aim to create the new atmosphere" |

Table 3.5. : Statement 2 A

| Text | Strategy | Description | Example |
|---|--------------------------|--|---|
| <p>"The minister added: 'These were and still are Algeria's positions based on two basic principles: non-interference in the internal affairs of countries and being guided by dialogue in order to reach peaceful and consensual political solutions that preserve the unity and sovereignty of the Arab countries and achieve the legitimate aspirations of their people.'"</p> | Vague Nouns | Nouns that have broad or unclear referents | ." positions", "principles", "dialogue", "solutions", "aspirations" |
| | Vague Verbs | Verbs that lack specificity. | "preserve", "achieve" |
| | General Extenders | Phrases that extend a statement to avoid specificity. | "the legitimate aspirations of their people" |
| | Evasive Language | Deliberate use of ambiguous language to avoid giving a clear answer. | "the consequences of these conflicts" |

3.5.1. Identifying Speech Acts:

- **Assertive speech acts:** Minister Lamamra states Algeria's positions, warns about consequences, and emphasizes principles like non-interference and dialogue for peaceful solutions. **Expressive speech acts:** Expresses satisfaction and reaffirmation of Algeria's positions.
- **Directive speech acts:** Encourages dialogue and peaceful resolutions.

3.5.2. Linguistic Analysis for Neutrality

The use of assertive language to express Algeria's beliefs and positions, using phrases like "Algeria was right," "Algeria has always warned," and "These were and still are Algeria's positions."

The Emphasis on principles like non-interference and dialogue for peaceful solutions portrays Algeria as a neutral mediator and advocate for diplomatic resolutions. The use of terms like "brothers" to show solidarity and impartiality.

3.5.3. Classification and Interpretation

The text contains assertive speech acts to assert Algeria's correctness and positions regarding crises in the Arab world. Expressive speech acts: express satisfaction and reaffirmation of Algeria's beliefs and principles.

By emphasizing non-interference and dialogue for peaceful resolutions, Algeria presents itself as a neutral actor advocating for diplomatic solutions and respecting the sovereignty of Arab countries, thus maintaining a neutral diplomatic stance.

Table 3.6. : Statement 3A

| Text | Strategy | Description | Example |
|---|--------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| "Minister of State and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Ramtane Lamamra, yesterday, Thursday in Algiers, renewed Algeria's position in favor of a 'peaceful settlement' of the Syrian crisis." | Vague Nouns | Nouns that have broad or unclear referents. | "position", "peaceful settlement" |
| | Vague Verbs | Verbs that lack specificity. | "renewed" |
| "In his intervention during a joint press conference with his Ethiopian counterpart, Workneh Gebehu, following the fourth session of the Algerian-Ethiopian Joint Ministerial Committee, Mr. Lamamra explained that 'the peace settlement is considered the only way to get Syria out of the crisis in which it is floundering.'" | Vague Nouns | Nouns that have broad or unclear referents. | "peace settlement", "crisis" |
| | Vague Verbs | Verbs that lack specificity. | "explained", "considered" |

Table 3.7. :

| Text | Strategy | Description | Example |
|--|--------------------|--|--|
| In this regard, the minister mentioned 'the necessity of meeting at a negotiating table, with the exception of terrorist groups,' in order to find a solution to this situation, as well as the necessity of 'respecting international legitimacy and the sovereignty of the Syrian state.'" | Hedges | Words or phrases that make statements less definite. | "the necessity" |
| | Vague Nouns | Nouns that have broad or unclear referents. | "negotiating table", "terrorist groups", "situation", "legitimacy" |
| | Vague Verbs | Verbs that lack specificity. | "meeting", "respecting" |

Table 3.8. :

| Text | Strategy | Description | Example |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| "In the same context, Mr. Lamamra added that 'resorting to force merely complicates the situation in the country and undermines diplomatic efforts,' calling for 'not giving a chance to the enemies of peace.'" | Vague Nouns | Nouns that have broad or unclear referents | ."force", "situation", "efforts", "enemies of peace" |
| | Vague Verbs | Verbs that lack specificity. | "complicates", "undermines", "calling for" |
| | Indeterminate Comparatives | Comparisons that do not specify the basis of comparison. | "merely complicates the situation" |
| | Modal Expressions | Use of modal verbs to indicate possibility rather than certainty. | "merely" |
| | Evasive Language | Deliberate use of ambiguous language to avoid giving a clear answer. | "not giving a chance to the enemies of peace" |

Political Sciences Analysis

Realism

Algeria's support for a peaceful settlement in Syria can be viewed through realist lenses as a strategic move to promote stability in the region, aligning with its national interests.

Constructivism

The emphasis on the necessity of a peace settlement and respect for international legitimacy reflects constructivist ideals of cooperation, norms, and peaceful conflict resolution.

Foreign Policy Analysis

Algeria's foreign policy stance in Syria emphasizes diplomacy, adherence to international norms, and a pragmatic approach to conflict resolution, showcasing a nuanced understanding of regional dynamics.

Identifying Speech Acts

Commissive speech acts: Minister Lamamra renews Algeria's position in favor of a peaceful settlement, emphasizes the necessity of meeting at a negotiating table, and calls for not giving a chance to the enemies of peace.

Assertive speech acts: Lamamra explains the importance of a peace settlement and the negative consequences of resorting to force.

Linguistic Analysis for Neutrality:

The use of phrases like "peaceful settlement," "meeting at a negotiating table," and "not giving a chance to the enemies of peace" reflects Algeria's stance in favor of peaceful resolutions and diplomacy. Emphasis on respecting international legitimacy and sovereignty maintains a neutral position and adherence to international norms.

Classification and Interpretation

Commissive speech acts: the text predominantly contains commissive speech acts, where Algeria commits to a peaceful settlement of the Syrian crisis and emphasizes the importance of diplomatic solutions.

Assertive speech acts: assertive speech acts are used to explain the rationale behind Algeria's position and the negative impact of resorting to force, contributing to a neutral diplomatic stance.

Overall, the language used in the text aligns with Algeria's commitment to peaceful resolutions, respect for international norms, and a neutral approach in handling the Syrian crisis.

Table 3.9. :

| Text | Strategy | Description | Example |
|--|--------------------|---|---|
| "Mr. Lamamra stated that 'Algeria, based on its keenness on the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of countries, as well as on the basis of the wise approach adopted by the President of the Republic, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, regarding the need to carry out political and economic reforms in Arab societies, was the first to issue a warning against plunging sisterly Syria into a spiral of Violence and counter-violence." | Vague Nouns | Nouns that have broad or unclear referents. | "principle", "wise approach", "warning", "spiral of violence" |
| | Vague Verbs | Verbs that lack specificity. | "based on", "adopted", "carry out", "issue" |

Table 3.10. :

| Text | Strategy | Description | Example |
|---|--------------------|---|---|
| "From Algeria's point of view - Mr. Lamamra adds - this war and fighting between brothers could not have started in the first place, and the useful approach in these cases is the peaceful approach and the approach to sovereign reforms, and this war could not have continued for all these years and resulted in tens of thousands of victims and destruction. And millions of | Vague Nouns | Nouns that have broad or unclear referents. | "war", "fighting", "approach", "victims", "destruction" |
| | Vague Verbs | Verbs that lack | "could not have started", "useful" |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| displaced people and refugees." | | specificity " | approach", "continued", "resulted" |
| | Indeterminate Comparatives | Comparisons that do not specify the basis of comparison. | "could not have started in the first place" |

Table 3.11. :

| Text | Strategy | Description | Example |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| "He also considered that 'if the positions of all the internal parties and the regional and international parties had been characterized by the required wisdom, these situations would not have known this dangerous turning point,' adding also that 'if the will of the Syrian people had been relied upon, especially after established facts had crystallized that Algeria was convinced of, the first of which was that there was no solution.' military. There must be no alternative to a negotiated compromise solution between the Syrians with the assistance of the United Nations." | Vague Nouns | Nouns that have broad or unclear referents. | "positions", "wisdom", "situations", "turning point", "solution" |
| | Vague Verbs | Verbs that lack specificity. | "considered", "characterized", "relied upon", "crystallized" |
| | Indeterminate Comparatives | Comparisons that do not specify the basis of comparison. | "if the positions had been characterized by the required wisdom" |
| | Modal Expressions | Use of modal verbs to indicate possibility rather than certainty. | "if", "must be" |

Identifying Speech Acts

Assertive speech acts: Lamamra states Algeria's position on non-interference, warns against violence in Syria, emphasizes the need for a peaceful approach, and advocates for a negotiated compromise solution.

Expressive speech acts: Expresses Algeria's viewpoint on the war in Syria, its causes, and potential solutions.

Commissive speech acts: Commits to advocating for peaceful approaches and a negotiated solution with the assistance of the United Nations.

Linguistic Analysis for Neutrality

The use of phrases like "keenness on the principle of non-interference," "peaceful approach," and "negotiated compromise solution" reflects Algeria's diplomatic language and neutrality. Expressing viewpoints based on established facts and emphasizing reliance on the will of the Syrian people portrays Algeria as a neutral mediator.

Classification and Interpretation

The text contains a mix of assertive, expressive, and commissive speech acts, reflecting Algeria's diplomatic stance on the Syrian crisis. Assertive speech acts articulate Algeria's position and warnings against violence, while commissive speech acts commit to advocating for peaceful solutions and a negotiated compromise. Expressive speech acts convey Algeria's perspective on the causes of the war and potential solutions, maintaining a neutral and diplomatic tone throughout the statement.

Political Sciences Analysis

Realism

Algeria's warning against violence and support for peaceful approaches in Syria can be seen as a realist strategy to maintain stability and promote its interests in the region.

Constructivism

The emphasis on the peaceful approach, sovereign reforms, and reliance on the will of the Syrian people reflects constructivist values of dialogue, sovereignty, and self-determination.

Foreign Policy Analysis

Algeria's foreign policy stance in Syria combines realist considerations of stability with constructivist values of dialogue, sovereignty, and self-determination, showcasing a nuanced approach to conflict resolution.

Table 3.12. :

| Text | Strategy | Description | Example |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| "Algeria - Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sabri Boukadoum, confirmed on Thursday that during his meeting in Tripoli yesterday, Wednesday, with the President of the Libyan Supreme Council of State, Khaled Al-Mishri, the importance of a political solution to the crisis in Libya was emphasized, and Algeria's efforts to achieve stability in the country were welcomed." | Hedges | Words or phrases that make statements less definite. | "confirmed", "during", "emphasized", "were welcomed" |
| | Vague Nouns | Nouns that have broad or unclear referents. | "importance", "solution", "crisis", "efforts", "stability" |
| | Vague Verbs | Verbs that lack specificity. | "emphasized", "were welcomed" |
| | Indeterminate Comparatives | Comparisons that do not specify the basis of comparison. | "a political solution" |

Table 3.13. :

| Text | Strategy | Description | Example |
|--|--------------------|--|--|
| "He reaffirmed Algeria's position calling for the necessity of reaching a political settlement to the Libyan crisis through a dialogue between Libyans themselves that leads to the establishment of legitimate and unified institutions." | Hedges | Words or phrases that make statements less definite. | "reaffirmed", "calling for", "necessity", "reaching", "leads to" |
| | Vague Nouns | Nouns that have broad or unclear referents. | "position", "settlement", "crisis", "dialogue", "institutions" |

| | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| | Vague Verbs | Verbs that lack specificity. | "reaffirmed", "reaching", "leads to" |
| | Indeterminate Comparatives | Comparisons that do not specify the basis of comparison. | "a political settlement", "legitimate and unified institutions" |

Political Sciences Analysis

Realism

Algeria's emphasis on a political solution in Libya reflects realist principles of stability, security, and the pursuit of its interests in promoting peace and stability in the region.

Constructivism

The emphasis on dialogue, legitimate institutions, and national reconciliation reflects constructivist ideals of norms, cooperation, and peaceful conflict resolution.

Foreign Policy Analysis

Algeria's foreign policy approach in Libya combines realist considerations of stability with constructivist values of dialogue, legitimacy, and conflict resolution, showcasing a pragmatic and principled approach.

Neutrality Reflection

Emphasizing *dialogue* and *peace* without siding with any specific faction allows Algeria to appear supportive of stability without direct involvement or endorsement.

Extract: "The government of Algeria **urges** all involved parties in the Ukraine conflict to *exercise* maximum restraint and *prioritize* dialogue over confrontation."

Table 3.14. :

| Strategy | Example | Analysis |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Hedges | "Urges", "prioritize" | Softens the call for action, making it less forceful. |
| Indefinite Pronouns | "All involved parties" | Non-specific about which parties are involved. |
| Vague Verbs | "Exercise", "prioritize" | Lacks specificity about what "exercise restraint" and "prioritize dialogue" entail. |

Extract: "The **situation** in Syria is highly complex, and all parties *should engage* in dialogue to find a *mutually agreeable* solution. Any form of external interference should be *carefully considered*" (Algerian Government, 2023).

Table 3.15. :

| Strategy | Example | Analysis |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Vague Nouns | "Situation" | "Situation" is a broad term that lacks specific detail about the issues in Syria. |
| Indeterminate Comparatives | "Highly complex" | "Highly complex" indicates difficulty but does not specify the nature of the complexity. |
| Hedges | "Should engage", "mutually agreeable", "carefully considered" | Hedges make the recommendations less forceful and more tentative. |

Statements over the Crisis in Lybia

Extract: "Algeria calls for an inclusive dialogue among all Libyan parties to achieve lasting peace and stability."

Linguistic Analysis

- **Speech Act Theory based Analysis**
- **Type:** Directive/Expressive
- **Vague Language:** Phrases like "inclusive dialogue" and "lasting peace" are intentionally broad, avoiding specific endorsements.

Extract: "Algeria calls on the international community to support Libya in its **efforts** to achieve *lasting peace and stability* through **dialogue and cooperation**."

Analysis:

Table 3.16. :

| Strategy | Example | Analysis |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Vague Nouns | "Efforts", "dialogue and cooperation" | Broad terms that avoid specifying actions. |
| Vague Verbs | "Support" | Non-specific about what kind of support is needed |
| Vague Time References | "Lasting peace and stability" | Non-specific about the timeframe for achieving these goals. |

Extract : "The Libyan people **deserve** a *political process* that is **inclusive and transparent**, ensuring that all voices are heard and respected."

Analysis:

Table 3.17. :

| Strategy | Example | Analysis |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| Hedges | "Deserve", "inclusive and transparent" | Softens the recommendation, making it sound idealistic rather than concrete |
| Indefinite Pronouns | "All voices" | Non-specific about whose voices should be heard. |
| Vague Nouns | "Political process" | Broad term that lacks specific details. |

Extract: "We call for an *immediate* end to hostilities in Libya and for **all factions** to come together in the spirit of reconciliation."

Analysis:

Table 3.18. :

| Strategy | Example | Analysis |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| Vague Time References | "Immediate" | Non-specific about the exact timeframe. |
| Indefinite Pronouns | "All factions" | Non-specific about which factions are involved. |
| Vague Nouns | "Hostilities", "spirit of reconciliation" | Broad terms that avoid detailing the nature of actions required. |

Extract: "The **situation** in Syria demands a *comprehensive and inclusive* political **solution** that respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country."

Table 3.19.

| Strategy | Example | Analysis |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Vague Nouns | "Situation", "solution" | Broad terms that avoid specifics about the nature of the problem and the solution |
| Vague Verbs | "Demands" | " Non-specific about what actions are necessary. |
| Hedges | "Comprehensive and inclusive" | Non-specific adjectives that make the solution sound desirable without detailing it. |

Extract: "Algeria urges all parties in Syria to engage in **meaningful negotiations** and stresses the importance of a peaceful *resolution*."

Analysis:

Table 3.20. :

| Strategy | Example | Analysis |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Hedges | "Meaningful negotiations" | "Meaningful" is a vague qualifier that lacks precise criteria. |
| Indefinite Pronouns | "All parties" | Non-specific about which groups are included. |
| Vague Nouns | "Resolution" | Broad term that avoids specifying the nature of the resolution. |

Table 3.21. :

| Text | Strategy | Description | Example |
|--|--------------------|---|--|
| "Cairo – Minister of Foreign Affairs, Abdelkader Messahel, today, Wednesday in Cairo, during his participation in the work of the 151st regular session of the Council of the League of Arab States at the | Vague Nouns | Nouns that have broad or unclear referents. | "crises", "Arab world", "position", "solution" |

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| <p>ministerial level, renewed Algeria's position calling for a peaceful solution to the crises that the Arab world is experiencing."</p> <p>"Regarding Libya, the Minister stressed 'the importance of adopting a comprehensive approach based primarily on non-interference in the internal affairs of the Libyans, their ownership of the political solution, and standing at the same distance from all parties concerned,' adding that 'a political solution to the crisis is the only way to end the conflict in this neighboring and brotherly country and preserve "On the unity, sovereignty, territorial integrity of Libya, and the harmony of its people, which is responsible for achieving national reconciliation."</p> | | | |
| | Vague Verbs | Verbs that lack specificity. | "renewed", "calling for" |
| | Hedges | Words or phrases that make statements less definite. | "the importance", "a political solution", "the only way" |
| | Vague Nouns | Nouns that have broad or unclear referents. | "approach", "solution", "conflict", "country", "unity", "harmony" |
| | Vague Verbs | Verbs that lack specificity. | "adopting", "standing", "end", "preserve" |
| <p>"Regarding the crisis in Yemen, the minister renewed 'Algeria's support for the dialogue between the Yemeni parties under the auspices of the United Nations in order to reach a political solution that preserves Yemen's unity, sovereignty, stability and societal fabric,' registering 'his satisfaction with the encouraging results that emerged from the recent Stockholm meeting between the Yemeni parties,' calling on them to 'give priority to the language of dialogue and put the higher interest of Yemen above all considerations in order to establish security and stability throughout this brotherly country.'"</p> | Vague Nouns | Nouns that have broad or unclear referents. | "crisis", "support", "dialogue", "solution", "unity", "interest" |
| | Vague Verbs | Verbs that lack specificity. | "renewed", "reach", "preserves", "registering", "calling on", "establish" |
| | Indeterminate Comparatives | Comparisons that do not specify the basis of comparison. | "the only way" |
| | Modal Expressions | Use of modal verbs to indicate possibility rather than certainty. | "in order to reach" |

Table 3.22. :

| Text | Strategy | Description | Example |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| "In his intervention, Mr. Messahel reiterated “the Algerian approach based on three principles: non-interference in internal affairs, dealing with all parties on an equal footing, and enabling Libyans to take control of the process of resolving the crisis in their action plan.” | Hedges | Words or phrases that make statements less definite. | "based on", "dealing with", "enabling", "implement" |
| | Vague Nouns | Nouns that have broad or unclear referents. | "approach", "parties", "process", "crisis", "dialogue", "reconciliation" |
| "Regarding Libya, the Minister stressed 'the importance of adopting a comprehensive approach based primarily on non-interference in the internal affairs of the Libyans, their ownership of the political solution, and standing at the same distance from all parties concerned,' adding that 'a political solution to the crisis is the only way to end the conflict in this neighboring and brotherly country and preserve “On the unity, sovereignty, territorial integrity of Libya, and the harmony of its people, which is responsible for achieving national reconciliation.” | Vague Verbs | Verbs that lack specificity. | "reiterated", "recalling", "implement" |
| | Indeterminate Comparatives | Comparisons that do not specify the basis of comparison. | "non-interference in internal affairs" |
| | Modal Expressions | Use of modal verbs to indicate possibility rather than certainty. | "in order to implement". |

Political Sciences Analysis

Realism

Algeria's call for a peaceful solution to crises in the Arab world reflects realist principles of stability, security, and the pursuit of its national interests in promoting regional stability.

Constructivism

The emphasis on non-interference, dialogue, and national reconciliation aligns with constructivist ideals of norms, shared values, and cooperative conflict resolution.

Foreign Policy Analysis

Algeria's foreign policy stance emphasizes diplomatic solutions, non-interference, and support for international institutions, showcasing a pragmatic approach to regional conflicts.

Linguistic Analysis for Neutrality

The use of phrases like "calling for a peaceful solution," "support for dialogue," and "urgency of dialogue" reflects Algeria's stance in favor of peaceful resolutions and diplomatic dialogue. Furthermore, emphasis on non-interference, ownership of solutions by affected parties, and unity, sovereignty, and stability in affected countries maintains a neutral and diplomatic tone.

Classification and Interpretation

The text predominantly contains commissive speech acts, where Algeria commits to advocating for peaceful solutions, supporting dialogue, and prioritizing the interests of affected countries. Assertive speech acts are used to express Algeria's support for dialogue in Yemen and satisfaction with progress, contributing to a neutral and diplomatic stance.

Overall, the language used in the text aligns with Algeria's commitment to peaceful resolutions, respect for sovereignty, and a neutral approach in handling crises in the Arab world, thus maintaining a diplomatic and neutral stance.

Political Sciences Analysis

Neutrality Reflection

This language appears to support *peace* and *dialogue* universally without indicating support for any particular group or policy, maintaining a neutral stance.

Analysis of Vague Language and Neutrality

Characteristics of Vague Language

- **Non-specific Terms:** Words like "**dialogue**," "**peaceful resolution**," and "**stability**" are deliberately vague.
- **Humanitarian Focus:** Emphasis on citizen safety and humanitarian concerns *diverts attention* from political stances.
- **Avoidance of Direct Condemnation or Support:** Abstentions or non-committal positions in votes and statements reflect a careful balance.

Speech Act Theory based Analysis

Assertive: It entails providing information or stating beliefs without clear support or opposition (e.g., statements on *respecting sovereignty*).

Directives: it encourages actions like *dialogue* and *safety precautions*, which are non-political.

Commissives: They indicate future actions, such as supporting peace processes, without specifying how or which side.

Expressives: They convey concerns and hopes broadly, applicable to all parties involved.

Through employing vague language in these speech acts, Algeria linguistically performs neutrality, ensuring its diplomatic rhetoric aligns with its non-aligned foreign policy. This

strategic use of language helps Algeria navigate complex international conflicts without alienating key partners or taking contentious positions.

Extract: "Libya's **path to peace** requires inclusive dialogue and sustained **efforts** from all stakeholders. The regional actors must work together to promote *long-term* stability"(Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2023).

Table 3.23. :

| Strategy | Example | Analysis |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Vague Nouns | "Path to peace", "efforts" | "Path to peace" and "efforts" are non-specific terms that avoid detailing specific actions |
| Indefinite Pronouns | "All stakeholders" | "All stakeholders" is vague about who is included |
| Vague Time References | "Long-term" | "Long-term" is non-specific about the duration expected for stability |
| General Extenders | "And sustained efforts" | Extends the statement without specifying the nature of the efforts required. |

The above extracts illustrate how Algerian diplomatic rhetoric employs various linguistic strategies to express vagueness. The use of hedges, vague nouns, indefinite pronouns, vague time references, indeterminate comparatives, and other strategies allows the statements to remain flexible and non-committal, which is typical in diplomatic language to avoid direct confrontation or overly definitive positions. These strategies help maintain diplomatic neutrality and flexibility, which is crucial in international relations

Conclusion

This chapter has provided a nuanced understanding of how Algeria maintains its neutral stance through the strategic use of vagueness in diplomatic discourse. By applying Speech Act Theory, Constructivism, Role Theory, Realism, and Foreign Policy Analysis, we have uncovered the rhetorical

strategies underpinning Algerian diplomacy. This chapter has demonstrated that the interplay between linguistic vagueness and diplomatic neutrality is integral to Algeria's foreign policy strategy.

Implications

The findings of this study have the potential of being practically applied for multiple purposes which ranges between theoretical models built and immediate implications. Among these we find:

- **Designing Professional Development Programmes for Training Diplomats**

Diplomacy schools can depend on this study and similar studies' results to develop well crafted syllabuses to effectively teach diplomatic language for better skills and knowledge. These programmes should include: effective communication, cultural differences in communications, discourse analysis to better understand the positions and intentions, strategic messaging and communication techniques, using language to express solidarity, respect, and cooperation, mastering clear messaging for effective implementation of foreign policy and using language to align with policy objectives.

- **Understanding the Theoretical Frameworks**

The findings of this study are insightful for future theory both in pragmatics theory and discourse analysis. It is also crucially important as an interdisciplinary theoretical framework which links political sciences theories to linguistic theories through the diplomatic language but also through other channels.

Recommendations for Future Research

Investigating this topic was particularly insightful to recommend future research. The researcher targets the following topics as potential studies:

- This study could be extended to compare Algerian diplomatic language with that of other countries in the region or those which may adopt different diplomatic styles.
- Other studies may target investigating Algerian diplomatic the evolution of Algerian diplomatic rhetoric over different political eras.
- Other researchers can study the effectiveness of vague diplomatic language in achieving Algeria's foreign policy goals.
- Studying perception of other actors of Algerian diplomatic language through opinion surveys and media analysis.
- Assessing the role of diplomatic training and education in shaping the rhetorical strategies of Algerian diplomats is also a good topic to investigate.

Limitations of the Study

The researcher encountered a number of challenges while conducting this study which included:

- Limited access to primary Algerian diplomatic language. The only corpus used for analysis was foreign affairs ministers statements derived from the Algerian Press Service.
- The scope of the study was restricted to Algerian foreign affairs ministers. Extended studies may include all Algerian diplomats and representatives.

Recognizing these limitations is crucial for providing a balanced and critical analysis and guiding future research to address these challenges and build on the initial findings of the study.

General Conclusion

General Conclusion

From a linguistic perspective, the analysis of Algerian diplomatic rhetoric reveals strategic vagueness and ambiguity. This is evident in the use of hedges, qualifiers, vague nouns, and indefinite pronouns that make statements less definite and open to interpretation. The choice of language such as "keen to engage," "firm conviction," "supporting the path," and "ready to continue efforts" allows for flexibility and avoids committing to specific actions or positions, contributing to strategic ambiguity. Furthermore, from a political sciences perspective, Algeria's foreign policy approach reflects elements of neutrality and nonalignment. The emphasis on dialogue, communication, peaceful solutions, non-interference in internal affairs, and support for international institutions aligns with a neutral stance in regional conflicts. This approach is consistent with the principles of realism, constructivism, role theory and foreign policy analysis, where Algeria pursues its interests while promoting stability, cooperation, and adherence to international norms without aligning strictly with any particular bloc or alliance. In conclusion, the combination of linguistic strategies of vagueness and ambiguity in Algerian diplomatic rhetoric, along with its foreign policy approach characterized by neutrality and nonalignment, supports the hypothesis that Algeria adopts a strategic approach to maintain flexibility and neutrality in its diplomatic engagements while pursuing its national interests and promoting regional stability.

Realism suggests that Algerian diplomats may employ strategic ambiguity to avoid commitments that could entangle the state in conflicts detrimental to its national interest. By remaining neutral and vague, Algeria can navigate complex international dynamics without compromising its security or autonomy. This theoretical approach helps to elucidate the motivations behind the rhetorical strategies used in Algerian diplomacy, revealing how language

serves as a tool for managing power and preserving national interests in an unpredictable international environment. Algeria's diplomatic language reflects realist principles, particularly the emphasis on power, security, and strategic ambiguity.

By maintaining neutrality through vagueness, Algerian diplomats navigate international conflicts in a manner consistent with their constructed identity and normative stance, thereby contributing to the broader social fabric of international relations. Employing Constructivism as a framework into our analysis provided us with a comprehensive understanding of Algerian diplomatic language and rhetorical strategies, which are shaped by the identity of Algeria as a neutral country in a regional and global political environment and contributed to the construction of its identity as a neutral mediator or commentator as its normative positions in the international arena suggest.

In the case of Algerian diplomacy, the use of vague and ambiguous language can be understood as a strategy to navigate complex geopolitical landscapes and maintain a stance of neutrality.

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المخلص

تستكشف هذه الدراسة اللغة الدبلوماسية والخطاب الذي تستخدمه الجزائر للتعبير عن الحياد في التزاماتها في السياسة الخارجية. ومن خلال تحليل مشترك للاستراتيجيات اللغوية ونظريات العلوم السياسية، تتعمق الدراسة في كيفية استخدام الجزائر إستراتيجية الغموض في خطابها الدبلوماسي للحفاظ على موقف محايد مع السعي لتحقيق مصالحها الوطنية وتعزيز الاستقرار الإقليمي. ومن الناحية اللغوية، يكشف التحليل عن وجود ألفاظ مائعة في الخطاب الدبلوماسي الجزائري، مما يجعل التصريحات أقل حسما وقابلة للتأويل، مما يسمح بالمرونة في نقل المواقف الدبلوماسية الجزائرية دون الالتزام بإجراءات أو تحالفات محددة. توفر نظريات العلوم السياسية مثل الواقعية والبنائية ونظرية الأدوار وتحليل السياسة الخارجية رؤى إضافية توضح كيف أن تركيز الجزائر على الحوار والتواصل والحلول السلمية وعدم التدخل في الشؤون الداخلية ودعم المؤسسات الدولية يعكس مبادئ البراغماتية، عدم الانحياز والحياد في السياسة الخارجية والصراعات الإقليمية ، والالتزام بالمعايير الدولية. وتخلص الدراسة إلى أن الاستخدام الاستراتيجي للغموض في الخطاب الدبلوماسي الجزائري له دور فعال في إبراز صورة محايدة للسياسة الخارجية. ومن خلال الحفاظ على المرونة وتجنب الالتزامات الصريحة، تبحر الجزائر في ديناميكيات إقليمية معقدة مع حماية مصالحها الوطنية والمساهمة في الاستقرار الإقليمي. بشكل عام، يساهم هذا البحث في فهم أعمق لكيفية لعب اللغة الدبلوماسية والخطاب الدبلوماسي دورًا حاسمًا في تشكيل تصورات الحياد وعدم الانحياز في العلاقات الدولية، حيث تعمل الجزائر كدراسة حالة وثيقة الصلة بتحليل الخطاب الدبلوماسي.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الجزائر، تحليل الخطاب الدبلوماسي، تحليل السياسة الخارجية، العلاقات الدولية، الحياد، عدم الانحياز، عدم التدخل، الصراعات الإقليمية، الغموض، الكلمات المائعة