

The Use of Body Language in Inaugural Address made by the US President

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Abstract- Numerous studies have been conducted to date to support the idea that body language, in particular, plays a significant impact in the communicators' ability to communicate in a second language. The most obvious conclusion is that when it comes to communication, body language may express just as many meanings, if not more. A presumption is that communication processes will work best if communicators are aware of all body language employed in various communication contexts. The purpose of this research is to examine the body language used by U.S. president Joseph Biden Jr. during his inaugural speech in order to give readers clear, concrete examples of how body language is employed in professional settings. The results provide insight on how body language may be used in English language social communication, particularly for educational purposes. In order to thoroughly analyse the data and illuminate all facets of the president's body language, the author will transform the speech from President Biden's inaugural address using specific techniques. The main conclusions of this study include the two significant aspects of body language used by the Presidents in his important event: he has a tendency to use hand gestures rather than smiles to build audience attraction, and more importantly, he consistently uses dominant hands in associations with describing the good things with positive valences and non-dominant hands in describing the bad things with negative valences.

Index Terms- Inaugural Address, US President, Body Language, Gestures, Facial Expression

I. INTRODUCTION

Languages have historically been the primary means by which groups have cooperated, survived, and developed. These tools may differ between this sort of monster and others. For example, marine animals like dolphins and seals use their noises to establish linguistic links with others in their societies; mammalian species like lions and dogs may bark or grind as a kind of communication. Another instance of birds singing is to request assistance or to attract other birds of the same species. There might be hundreds of distinct languages in the globe, each with its own distinctive sort of language.

However, the human language systems are the most important and superior ones. Human language systems have long been linked to a variety of essential components, including gestures, sounds, motions, and symbolic objects. The first language to be spoken in the globe is still a hot issue for debate despite the numerous ideas that have been made about its beginning, location in time, techniques, and conditions of manifestation.

Scientists' attempts to identify the first language that appeared are where languages initially developed, and there is still more work to be done if the world is to continue. Scientists have employed a variety of methods as instruments to discover the truth. The "Continuity theories" make up the first strategy. The underlying premise of these ideas is that languages cannot be reduced to a single form that serves as the origin of the final forms employed in contexts today. As the basis for the subsequent formation of lines of languages, our primate ancestors should have produced several pre-linguistic systems. Each language may emerge independently from those systems in their living and communication environments based on factors such as demographic, racial, and living situations.

The "Discontinuity theories," a different category of hypotheses, make the assumption that languages have distinctive traits and should have emerged during the course of human evolution.

The idea that languages may develop through the interaction of social interactions, appearances, experiences, and alterations is another crucial one (Ulbek, 1998). The crucial point of agreement among these ideas is that language is a versatile instrument that may significantly advance human communication. Numerous cultural, communal, and social duties can be performed for the benefit of humanity.

Conversation should be acknowledged as the most significant means by which people transmit information, regardless of the language they use. In social interactions, this component serves as the basic means of communication. The characteristics and modes of engagement may differ for each ethnic group. For instance, there may be distinct disparities in the body, signal, and behavioural languages of Westerners and Vietnamese people. The comprehension of people learning a particular language, like English, might be greatly improved by a thorough, practical, and useful research of all elements of language uses and qualities.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Body language and nonverbal communication

Body language may be defined as ‘all communication other than language’ in its most basic form (Andersen, 1999, p. 2). This statement's main implication is that body language includes other communicators' attempts to communicate additional meanings to the recipient using body motions or symbols. According to Hsiao and Rashvand (2011), body language reflects the signals that communicators want to transmit and how they anticipate being received.

As a result of this definition, the language may be converted into symbols and utilised across borders. For instance, when a guy extends his arm above his head while simultaneously extending his muscles, he is likely attempting to alleviate his muscles of their ennu. However, when he makes this kind of movement in a classroom, he is expressing his desire to ask a question and is utilising body language to do it. According to this portion of the definition, not all bodily behaviours qualify as nonverbal communication. The codes produced by the communicator's body, such as facial expression, vocal changes, touches, space, physical appearance, and the setting in which the communication took place, are included in the second meaning of body language, sometimes known as “other than words”. This concept also restricts the use of body language or nonverbal communication to communication between people, obviating the need for animal information transmission or intrapersonal communication.

2. Elements of nonverbal communication

• Gestures

In nonverbal communication, there are four types of gestures to be used: the illustrators, regulators, emblems, and affect displays (Kelly, Manning and Rodak, 2008).

• *Illustrators*: contains the behaviors which can complement or accentuate the verbal messages used in communication. Generally, this contains the parts of the body such as the natural hand and the body gestures used by the communicator that can help to describe the content of the speech, such as smiling, gesturing, smiling, or pointing. They have the same meaning to the verbal content, and even enhance them for better effects. The Illustrator would be very helpful for the learners of English, since it can describe more the meaning which the speaker is trying to transfer. In another example, when asking for a direction, the speaker uses to point to the appropriate direction.

• *Regulators*: is another type of gesture as in figure 2 used in interpersonal communication to point out the personal turn or procedure in communication. In social communication, turn-taking has its important role in determining the interaction pattern of the communication, so that each participant can have his or her meaning of the meaning and intention of the speaker. In most social affairs, this used to be done unconsciously and smoothly, as it can convey the intention of both the listener and the speaker for the coming session of the communication (Duncan, 1972, 1974). Most of the time, turn-taking in conversation is conducted by transition signals. It is important that the participants should understand the use of the transition signal, otherwise the conversation may be interrupted and the meaning of the conversation can be limited.

• *Emblems*: are the nonverbal behaviors used by the participants that can be translated into an underlying message. They can be substitute for words, and the verity can change from this culture to

another one. For the good understanding of the meaning of those elements in nonverbal communication, the learners of every language should learn all the possible meaning of those emblems.

• *Affect Display*: is another type of expression of the body that can be used by the communicators to express the personal emotion at the very time. Most of the time, this type of expression can be communication through the movements of the facial expression such as smiling, laughing, or crying. However, the norm of expressing emotion can change from one culture to another.

• Facial Expression

Another tool used in nonverbal communication is the facial expressions, which can further help the communicator with conveying more meaning of the communication. Knapp and Hall (2006, p. 260) provided us with the meaning of facial expression that “The face is rich in communicative potential. It is the primary site for communication of emotional states, it reflects interpersonal attitudes; it provides nonverbal feedback on the comments of others; and some scholars say it is the primary source of information next to human speech. For these reasons, and because of the face's visibility, we pay a great deal of attention to the messages we receive from the faces of others.”

The face can be used as the primary tool in interaction to manage the progress of communication, to complement the responses, or to replace a possible speech. The process of communication can be continued or closed with facial expression. Besides, the movements of the face can imply the thoughts of the communicator to qualify the messages or to complement them.

Depending on the specific cultural aspects, there have been the “display rules” to be followed by the communicators to be considered socially and situationally appropriate. For each specific culture, there are the norms to define the level of emotion to be expressed in communication through intensification, simulation, de-intensification, neutralization, and masking (Ruch, Hofmann and Platt, 2013).

The applications and integration of the above elements of facial expression of each culture can vary from this one to another, so that the communicator can have the most effective manner in social or interpersonal communication.

• Eye behaviors

The eyes used to be called “the window to the soul”. Thus, in interpersonal communication, the eyes used to be focused more than the other parts of the body. This is due to the unconscious perception of the highly expressive nature, which can very helpfully to send and receive the communicating messages in face-to-face communication. By the fact that the eye has a higher probability of being noticed in communication, it has more prominent interaction signal to convey meanings.

Richmond and McCroskey (2000) describe the uses of the eyes to help us to control interactions, elicit the attention of others, and show an interest of the specific piece of information being transferred. There are two types of eye behaviors to be identified and deployed into social affairs, including eye contact and eye gazing. Eye contact occurs in communication when people participating into the communication looks into the eyes of the others, while gazing can occur anytime a person look at another (Andersen, 1999).

According to Knapp and Hall (2006), gazing itself has five functions in communication, such as Regulating the flow of conversation, monitoring feedback, reflecting cognitive activity,

expressing emotion, and communicating the nature of interpersonal relationship. All the above elements of gazing have their specific roles in contextualizing the verbal message and to complement the understanding of the piece of information being exchanged.

3. Relationships between verbal and nonverbal communication

Ekman & Friesen (1969) defined that there are six ways in which the verbal and nonverbal communication can relate to another. Base on those means, the nonverbal communication can replace verbal communication in several situations: repeating, contradicting, complementing, accenting, and regulating the verbal communication.

The meaning of “replacement” is that nonverbal communication can substitute for verbal communication. For instance, in case we are asked for agreement or not for a particular subject, there are many times we just need to nod or not, instead of trying to utter the word “yes” or “no” for our opinion of it.

Nonverbal communication can also repeat verbal communication for enhancements. In saying “yes” or “no” to words, people can also shake their heads or nod simultaneously. The situation is much like when nonverbal communication can substitute the verbal communication. However, substitution has the other meaning that in conducting nonverbal form, people do not need to speak out the word while people can still understand the conversation. Contrarily, “repeating” means that the speaker needs to say the words out loud and nonverbal communication can enhance the meaning or implications of the ideas. Sometimes, verbal and nonverbal communication can contradict each other. For instance, there are also many social situations that people say the positive opinion of the objects, while the facial expression conveys the contradict meaning of his opinion. This may due to the suppression or hesitation in social communication that we may have encountered.

Nonverbal communication can also complement verbal communication in social situations. For example, people may say that they have had a tough day, while the movements and facial expressions proved that they have had to work very hard under pressure. Although the movements of the shoulders and the facial expressions can convey a lot of meaning in communication, the association with the words spoken out loud can help the participants to constitute the meaning of the speaker on their own. Additionally, there are times that nonverbal communication would simply accent the specific part of the spoken verbal communication. For instance, in describing a progress being implemented, the speaker may use the nonverbal communication movements to describe the particular step as punctuating or stopping, so that the listener can clearly know where they are going on. Such movements can also emphasize the importance of the words being spoken out.

Finally, nonverbal communication can also regulate verbal communication. In association with the backchannel communication, there are a lot of rules that nonverbal communication can help the communicators to take turns and choose the suitable role in verbal communication. In those situations, nonverbal communication can help the communicators to organize and control the effectiveness of the conversation.

4. Significance of nonverbal communication in social activities

Although to date, there have been a lot of information available for the significance of nonverbal communication in conducting social activities, scientific comparisons of verbal and nonverbal communication indicated that the vast majority of conversational messages communicated are nonverbal (Friedman, 1978). According to the information given in this study, the estimated amount of information to be communicated in nonverbal forms accounts for the range of 65% to 95% of the total number of messages conveyed. This fact can be ironic, as we compare it with the perception that people will mostly consciously deploy and appreciate verbal communication in interacting and judging the others (Ekman, 1985).

Nonverbal communication should be recognized as the essential part, the “hidden dimension” of communication as the second, silent language to be used in social activities (Hall, 1973). Generally, if one is to miss attentions to the nonverbal behaviors in communication, there are a lot of chances that he or she would much of the content of the communication and the real information to be conveyed. This proved that active observation in social communication is essential for effectiveness of communication.

However, so far, there have been no schools or classes for nonverbal behaviors. Despite the fact that this type of communication can contribute much to the effectiveness of communication in our social activities, most aspects of nonverbal communication acquired and deployed in our communication are done in real living experience. We can have the chances to manage or analyze the nonverbal meanings conveyed from our parents, families, friends of partners, things regarding to nonverbal communication used to be conducted informally and implicitly (Hall, 1973; Matsumoto, Frank and Hwang, 2013).

5. Applications of body gestures in nonverbal communication

The gestures used in nonverbal communication can be categorized as the hand movements (can be associated with the movements of the face and the body as well). They used to be used for the two main purposes: to make illustrations of the content of the speech and to convey more of the verbal meaning. Most of the time, gestures are very interesting, since they can be recognized as forms of embodied cognition, or they are the movements that can express some kind of thought or the process of thinking of the speaker (Kinsbourne, 2006).

Bouissac (2006) also defined that gestures can be combined with the physical anatomy and cognitive and language capabilities of communication. The application of the gestures can help the communication process to be more effective and quickly, since the meanings can be conveyed beyond words uttered of the language used (Capirci & Voltera, 2008). Gestures can also help to increase the cognitive load of the particular person when he is thinking of what to be said next (Goldin – Meadow, Nusbaum, Kelly & Wagner, 2001). For instance, when being asked to count, with counting, ones can count more quickly and accurately with the number of objects required (Carlson, Avraamides, Cary & Strasberg, 2007).

Besides, gestures can also help to smooth the interpersonal communication (Chartrand & Bargh, 1999) and increase the remembering abilities of the communicators (Butterworth & Beatie, 1978). Thus, gestures can be recognized to be able to increase the mental and efficient abilities of the speakers in social communication.

III. METHODOLOGY

The main aims of this study were to elaborate the different roles of hand gestures and facial expressions of President Joseph Biden and to investigate the differences in the uses of dominant and non-dominant hands in relation to his valences to the good or bad things.

The findings of this study will be exploited to test the validity of the hypotheses:

- The Presidents have the tendency to use more body movements as elements of body languages than facial expressions.

- Different uses of dominant and non-dominant sides of the body of the presidents, according to the nature of the object in the speeches and the valences.

To collect and analyze the necessary data for this study, the specific demonstrations of the US President in the inaugural address, Jopseph Biden Jr. in 2021 were presented and analyzed for his roles in the event.

The written transcripts and the videos of the 2021 US inaugural addresses were obtained from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qVTWAEkqcZE>. In the collection and analysis procedure of the study, the spoken texts and gestures of the speech of the president were coded since the objective was to make identifications of the emotional valences used with the spoken clauses and to determine the specific uses of the right or left hands with the spoken clauses, which could be negative or positive

The result from the analysis of the video was presented in Table 1 below could help to identify the possible relationships between the emotional valences and the uses of the dominant or non-dominant hands of the President.

Table 1. Spoken clauses used by President Biden in the analysis

SPOKEN CLAUSES USED BY PRESIDENT J. BIDEN WITH VALENCES		
Hand	Valence	Utterance
Left	Positive	"You can keep your health insurance"
Right	Positive	"And I will be the preseident of all Americans"

In this step, the video of their inaugural address was divided into many smaller clips, which would associate with the number of 323 clauses. Those clauses were both negative and positive; with each clip would be a clause. The length of each clip would last from the first words of the clause to the ending ones. The author would only view the clips in order while listening to each speech, which can help to ensure the fact that the clips can supply the author with the right verbal materials. The result of the analysis is that there were 235 clauses were used with at least one gesture.

Among this large number of gestures used, there were the left, right or both hands of the Presidents associated with their clauses. Among the number of 235 clips, 85 of them (36%) were associated with more than one hand gestures, with a number of 437 gestures used. They would be helpful for our analysis later. In the above number of gestures used by the two presidents, more than half of them completed with just one hand.

In the second approach to the uses of those gestures of the president, the author would view the videos while listening to the

above number of clips. For this aim, the author would choose a number of 125 gestures of the presidents for analyzing. This author would not know which gestures were made during the positive or negative valences of the clauses, and the content of the clips cannot have affection to the identifications of the author. As a result, he could not be affected by his knowledge for the experimental predictions of the study of those gestures.

IV. RESULTS

The final result of the study offered the author with the fact that there has been the strong relation between the valences of the spoken clauses used, which can be negative or positive, and the hands uses in associations with the speeches. Those hand gestures could be both dominant and non-dominant. In this result, the domain hands were used much more times than the non-dominant ones, which was also most double the number of non-dominant hands used. The dominant hands gestures were used for almost all the positive valence of the speeches, and the non-dominant hands were mainly used in associations with the negative valences of speeches. For President Biden, the uses of right-hand gestures were for also most all the positive valence clauses, and the gestures made by the left hand were for the clauses with negative valences. Such findings provide the author with the fact that the association between the uses of left and right hand gestures with the valences of clauses was established. In figure 1, the uses of left and right hands of President Biden were shown:

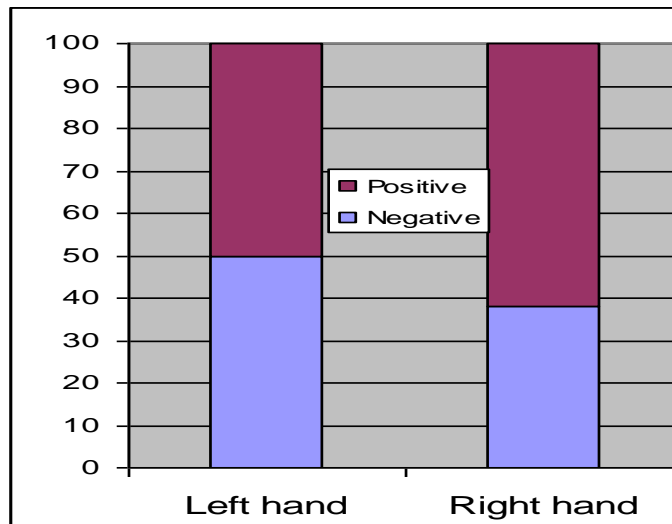


Figure 1. The uses of left and right hands of President Biden
As can be seen in Figure 1, with President Biden, the uses of the dominant hand gestures were identified to be more than twice to be made in the clauses with positive valence than the uses of non-dominant hands for the negative valence clauses.

V. DISCUSSION

The findings of the above hand gestures of President Biden helped the researcher to identify the expected pattern of them, which was that the uses of the dominant hands gestures would strongly

associate with the clauses describing the good things in their speeches, while the non-dominant ones were mostly used to talk about negative things. By the definition of Casasanto (2009) that people would implicitly associate the good things with their dominant side and bad things with their non-dominant side, the above pattern can be enhanced more with this finding. Thus, the significant of the work of Casasanto was increased, since it was mostly based on the laboratory tests. The presidential politics context in the uses of those gestures was much significant for such pattern of the study of hand moments in speeches.

Additionally, there was also another important implication of the finding of this study, which was that the two presidents have used their hands to describe the series of their feelings during the content of the speeches. With good observations of the hand gestures of them, the analysis of this study could help to identify the emotions and attitudes of the speakers about the objects to be described in speeches. However, there was also the requirement that the observer should have good knowledge of the handedness of the two Presidents to have good results of the observations.

With references to the Table 2, the number of the uses of non-dominant hand gestures for the negative-valence clauses was outnumbered by the uses of non-dominant hand gestures for the clauses with positive valences. The non-dominant hand gestures can be used for the more sensitive index of the attitudes of the speakers. Although the non-dominant hands can be more informative to the listeners in daily settings, they have been proved to be too numerous for effective analysis.

Table 2. Number of right and left-hand gestures during clauses with positive and negative emotional valence used by President Biden with his gestures

Valence	Left hand gestures	Right hand gestures	Total number
Negative	18	59	77
Positive	20	94	114
Total	38	153	191

The numbers of hand gestures used by President Biden could not be effectively recognized in temporal/numerical order for the intentions of the President to talk about the good or bad things. This can be associated with a number of reasons. The first one is that there was no evidence in the transcripts that the President had the tendency to talk about the good things before the bad ones. The second reason was that this study would only analyze the gestures used in the speeches to express the ideas with single valence. The clauses with mixed valences were also removed from the analysis. The third reason was that the temporal/numerical orders of the good and bad objects were counterbalanced, with the interactions were identified to be independent to the others. The final reasons was that there were many experiments to prove that the temporal and numerical primacy are associated with the left side of the speakers, which should be stable within a culture, and not vary according to the handedness of the speakers (Dehaene, Bossini & Giroux, 1993). Finally, it is important to consider whether the President were aware of the association between hand and valence in their gestures, and whether conscious awareness of gesturing with one hand or the other could account for these results. This is possible in principle, but unlikely for two reasons.

First, although people rarely speak aloud without knowing that they are speaking, they often gesture without realizing that they

are gesturing (Goldin-Meadow, 2003). Thus, much of the time, the President may not have been aware that they were gesturing at all — let alone that they were gesturing so as to produce the observed valence-handedness relationships. Second, it is plausible that the President could have received coaching on how to gesture; perhaps they were even acquainted with historical treatises on gesture during oratory, which suggest favoring the right hand, and using the left hand only to express bad things (Austin, 1962). Such coaching could potentially contribute to the pattern found in right-handers, but not in left-handers; there is no reason to suspect that left-handers were coached to display the opposite pattern — against the classical practices of orators, and against everyday linguistic and cultural conventions.

Conclusion

The first hypothesis of the study has been proved to be true, that the president had the tendency to deploy more body gestures than facial expression in their official events such as the inaugural addresses. The result of the first analysis between the frequency of using hand movements and facial expressions of the presidents could prove the validity of this. This can be explained by the nature of these events, which used to embrace a lot of audiences and the atmosphere is very large. Thus, the uses of facial expressions can only bring limited effects to the level of attractiveness of the presidents, as well as the attention and understanding of the audiences.

Secondly, sides of the body were proved to have strong correlation with the valence of the presidents, for which they have the tendency to use the dominant side of the body with gestures when describing positive objects, and the non-dominant side in talking about contrary things. Through the second analysis of this study and the based literature, this fact can be explained by the nature of the communicators in their uses of body language in social communication, not excluding the presidents in their official events.

In the second study of the uses of the left and right hands of President Joseph Biden Jr. in his inaugural addresses, the result was obvious that there has been strong relation between the valence of the spoken clauses and the uses of left and right hands. More specifically, right-handed people would use the right hand in their gestures to describe positive things, and the left-handed people would use the left hands in describing the negative things, and vice versa.

Either consciously or unconsciously, the use of hand gestures would change, according to the valence of the objective in the speeches. Based on the valence of the speaker to the good or bad things in the speech, the dominant gestures would have more than twice tendency to be used by the presidents. Thus, from the above findings, we can judge that the initiative prediction of the author that the different uses of dominant and non-dominant sides of the body of the presidents, according to the nature of the object in the speeches and the valences has been proved to be accurate for the hand behaviors of the President Biden. Analyze and understand all the provided review comments thoroughly. Now make the required amendments in your paper. If you are not confident about any review comment, then don't forget to get clarity about that comment. And in some cases there could be chances where your paper receives number of critical remarks. In that cases don't get disheartened and try to improvise the maximum.

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