The privilege speeches of Sen. Grace Poe: A critical stylistic analysis

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Abstract

Language has been used in nation-building, propagating political power and unveiling ideologies, which explains why politicians tend to heavily rely on their speeches to persuade the public. Although there have been analyses of political discourse, women's political discourse has not been given much attention, particularly in the Philippines. Hence, this paper examines the selected privilege speeches of a Filipino senator, Sen. Grace Poe, using Jeffries's (2010) critical stylistics and Halliday's (1985) transitivity framework as lens in determining how the textual language functions, along with the transitivity processes prevalent in the corpora, allow her to embody ideologies and depict reality. The study found that the critical stylistic tool of naming and describing is dominant in the speeches as Sen. Poe focuses on proposing solutions based on her own perceptions and opinions. In terms of transitivity processes, the most prevalent is the material process in which Sen. Poe proposes concrete solutions to pressing issues such as oppression and economic recession. The findings of the study may be used to better understand the intents and purposes of privilege speeches delivered by Sen. Poe as a case study of Filipino women legislators.

Keywords: critical stylistics, Philippine politics, political discourse, privilege speeches, transitivity processes

1.   Introduction

Political leaders, across all types of political systems, have heavily relied on their speeches to persuade others of the benefits that will arise from their leadership, as language is a tool for social practice in revealing one's intentions, maintaining societal relations, and reflecting world consciousness (Adjei et al., 2015; Fairclough, 2001; Salvaleon, 2019). In addition,

language is widely used in various fields and is instrumental for nation-building, political independence, and propagation of ideologies (Anastassov, 2018). Hasan (2003) also posits that language use is "to be seen as ideological" (p.439), and that it is not possible to "read off" ideologies from texts since ideologies reside in texts (Fairclough, 1992).

In the realm of politics, privilege speeches are used by politicians to argue, reason, sustain their ideas, show authority, perpetuate ideas, defend people, and promote civil rights and peace (Fairclough, 2001). This example of political discourse exemplifies language that bears ideological underpinnings that has long piqued the interest of scholars.

However, not all political discourse is equally engaging. As cited by Balog (2019), women's political discourse has not been given much attention, particularly in the Philippines. Balog (2019) also claims that only a few have analyzed women's political rhetoric as most recent studies have focused on examining male leaders' political speeches. This possibly stems from the fact that the presence of female politicians in leadership positions in the country is limited (Escartin, 2014, as cited in Balog, 2019). Moreover, history shows that women are underrepresented in national and local elective offices, specifically in high-ranking positions such as president, senate president, and speaker of the house. These positions would enable them to actively participate in crucial decision-making processes and establish strategic directions (Tayao-Juego, 2018).

Looking at the political landscape of the Philippines, the county has had only two female presidents: Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Corazon Aquino; and one female house speaker, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Despite the fact that the Philippines has had a good number of female politicians at the local and the national levels, data indicate that women are still underrepresented in leadership positions (Tayao-Juego, 2018). This may be the reason why there is a dearth of research in the Philippines concentrating on women's political discourse.

In attempting to fill this research gap, studies have anchored on the works of Wodak (1989) and van Dijk (1998) that prove that text reflects the ideology of those who produce it. Applying this approach in the analysis of political discourse, studies have embraced critical discourse analysis methods, particularly critical stylistic analysis, which is a method of examining texts in order to uncover the ideological constructions that rely on transitivity and other textual practices (Jeffries, 2010). Critical stylistics provides linguistic evidence for a possible interpretation of a text based on empirical linguistic evidence.

Further, apart from critical stylistics, the transitivity processes of Halliday (1985) also manifest how certain choices encode the author's ideological perspective, which is influenced by social and cultural institutions. Fowler (1996) underscores that these linguistic codes cannot reflect neutral meaning and definitely show ideologies. Thus, the concept of transitivity, as a semantic system, examines how linguistic texts represent reality, offering diverse lexico-grammatical options influenced by cognitive skills and personal ideologies. Applying these frameworks and contributing to the scant literature on political discourse by women leaders in the Philippines, this paper analyzes the stylistic features, transitivity processes, and ideologies in the privilege speeches of Mary Grace Natividad S. Poe-Llamanzares, popularly known as Grace Poe, who serves as a representative case of female politicians in the Philippines. Apart

from being a senator since 2013, she is also a businesswoman, teacher, and philanthropist. In addition, from 2010 to 2012, she presided over the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB). Her background and policy advocacies, which partly justify the decision to focus on her speeches, are discussed next.

1.1 Sen. Grace Poe, a case study of a female Filipino legislator

Senator Grace Poe attended the University of the Philippines (UP) and Boston College in Massachusetts, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. When she ran for Senator in 2013, she secured a record-breaking 20 million votes. As a legislator, she played a pivotal role in the passage of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act and was the first woman to chair the Senate's Public Order and Dangerous Drugs Committee. Throughout her term, Poe demonstrated an unwavering dedication to protecting the interests of the Filipino populace.

Senator Poe's top legislative priority is ensuring universal access to quality education and adequate nutrition, with a particular focus on children. Her early Senate initiatives, such as the introduction of the Free Lunch Initiative, also exemplify her commitment as a politician and as a leader, as this bill seeks to provide malnourished children in all public schools across the country with free lunches.

Utilizing her background in the entertainment industry, Senator Poe has also proposed legislation to promote film tourism. This initiative aims to establish the Philippines as a leading international film production hub. During her time as the Chair of MTRCB, she advocated for "intelligent media viewing" and implemented a new age-appropriate rating system. This system is intended to enable parents to make informed decisions about their children's viewing habits.

In this study, we examine some of her privilege speeches during her term in 2020 using two core theoretical frameworks.

1.2. Theoretical Framework

1.2.1. Critical Stylistics

The main theoretical framework employed in this study is critical stylistics. According to Jeffries (2010), critical stylistics examines texts in terms of textual and conceptual meaning to uncover the ideological features of a text. Its goal is to look at both literary and non-literary works to see how they depict reality for the reader or listener. Jeffries (2010) has discovered various flaws in using CDA as a method for analysis. As a result, she has attempted to establish a comprehensive method of examining embedded ideologies that could be present in the text by developing a systematic model of analysis that incorporates stylistic and critical linguistic tools. The critical stylistic tools proposed by Jeffries (2010) are as follows:

(1)   ***Naming and describing***. This tool entails examining the choice of nouns and their modifiers in a text. It analyzes how nouns, adjectives, and postmodifiers are used, and how they are structured within clauses as this textual metafunction helps in understanding the specificity and contexts of the concepts referred to in the text (e.g., *the primitive, old-fashioned building*)

(2)   ***Representing Actions/Events/States***. Looking at the relationship between nouns and verbs shows how the writer expresses various situations in the text and helps the readers understand the dynamic aspect of the narrative or discourse. As such, this specific tool explores how noun phrases represent actions, states, or events (e.g., *the old woman reserved a hundred seats for her party*)

(3)   ***Equating and constructing***. This textual analysis deals with relationships between noun phrases including parallel structures and apposition, showing synonymous and opposite meanings to unravel the nuances in meaning created by these constructions and how they contribute to the overall sense of the text or discourse (e.g., *Lolita, a 60-year old widow, has been suffering from extreme loneliness*).

(4)   ***Exemplifying and enumerating***. To understand the rhetorical devices used by the author for clarification or emphasis (e.g., *two, three or four-parts lists*), one must analyze how examples and items are enumerated as it reveals patterns or homonymy in the language use (e.g., he brought three things in his bag: a *pen, papers, and a wedding ring*).

(5)   ***Prioritizing***. This tool refers to the transformation of grammatical constructions, such as active or passive voice, which may prioritize certain elements in a text and aid the readers to recognize the focus placed on specific actors or actions (e.g., *the scene was sabotaged by the production staff*). As seen in the example, the *scene* was emphasized more than the actor.

(6)   ***Assuming and implying.*** The contextual meaning of the text or discourse could be examined using this tool as exploring the pragmatic level, such as presupposition and implicature, unfolds the author's underlying meanings and intentions beyond the literal meaning of the text (e.g., *if only you have submitted your output on-time, you would have received a higher rating*). This example implies that the subject got a failing grade due to late submission.

(7)   ***Negating.*** Negations may be used as a tool to shape the readers' perceptions and promote an ideology, like fearing, desiring, or believing, building fictional or ideological frameworks that may be present in a discourse (e.g., *he never expected he would make it to the top 10*) . The example negates the initial belief, creating an element of surprise.

(8) ***Hypothesizing.*** The use of modals presents hypothetical realities as the text, through modality, introduces possibilities, uncertainties, or hypothetical situations. Analyzing this rhetorical device may establish the speculative or conditional nature of the discourse (e.g., *if the wind gets stronger, classes <u>will be</u> canceled*).

(9) ***Presenting speech and thoughts of other participants.*** This textual metafunction concentrates on the direct and indirect speech, and thought present in the text, providing insight into the subjects' voice, perspectives, inner thoughts, and dialogues (e.g.,*"<u>I can't wait for their performance</u>," said Justin)*.

(10) ***Representing time, space and society.*** This tool is exhibited through the deictic center (i.e., the point of view in time, space, and social context). These are linguistic cues that guide the readers' attention to specific temporal, spatial, or societal elements in order to uncover layers of meaning and understand the author's intent and the textual context (e.g., *<u>in a quiet town</u>, time seemed to run slowly*).

Generally, critical stylistics serves as a bridge between stylistics, which focuses on linguistic techniques, and critical discourse analysis, which concentrates on powerful contextual aspects of language. It is concerned with the presentation of ideology in language, with the goal of uncovering ideologies hidden under the surface and in the grammatical structure of texts.

1.2.2   Transitivity Analysis

This study also utilized Halliday's transitivity model, which was modified by Machin and Mayr (2012). Specifically, this research focused on investigating the ideational metafunction of language, specifically the transitivity processes composed of the following: *material, mental, behavioral, verbal, relational, and existential*. According to Kondowe (2014), the term "process" is employed in a broader context to encompass all phenomena and verbs. This includes both physical and non-physical occurrences, as well as states and relationships. Table 1 further categorizes each transitivity process.

Table 1

Transitivity and Verb Processes Adopted from Machin and Mayr (2012)

Process	Description	Examples
Material	Material processes are the "process of doing." The two main participants of these processes are the actor and the goal. The actor is the doer of the action, while the goal is the receiver of the action. Sometimes, these processes do not have a goal like intransitive verbs.	arrest, demolish, found, attack, demand, arrive, advance, move They attack the kingdom. She arrived on time.
Mental	Mental processes are known as the "process of sensing." They are composed of three classes: cognition, affection, and perception.	understand, like, see The president understands the situation.
Behavioral	Behavioral processes indicate "psychological and physical behavior." Behavioral processes are a combination of material and mental processes.	taste, dream, breathe, laugh, smile, look, watch She laughs loudly.
Verbal	Verbal processes are verbs that are synonymous to the verb "to say." Verbal processes have three participants: sayer (speaker), receiver (addressee), and verbiage (statement).	explain, claim, mention, announce, proclaim He announced the result of the test.
Relational	Relational processes are expressed by the verb "to be" and "to have." They express "possession, equivalence," and attributes."	become, mean, define, symbolize, has, have It symbolizes peace and unity.
Existential	Existential processes normally use the verb "to be" and other synonymous words such as "exist, arise or occur." They usually show the existence of some phenomena.	to be, exist, arise, occur There are many trees.

1.3   Research Questions

Using critical stylistics by Jeffries (2010) and Halliday's (1985) transitivity process framework as lens to analyze political rhetoric, this study examined the textual-conceptual function and transitivity processes evident in the selected privilege speeches of Sen. Grace L. Poe in the Philippine Senate sessions. Specifically, it sought to answers to the following questions:

1. What critical stylistic tools does Sen. Grace Poe use to embody her ideologies in her privilege speeches?
2. How do the critical stylistic tools help Sen. Grace Poe in addressing her goals as a politician through her privilege speeches?
3. What transitivity processes are prevalent in the privilege speeches of Sen. Grace Poe?

2.   Methodology

2.1   Research Design

The study adopted a qualitative-descriptive design to analyze the language utilized by Sen. Grace Poe in her privilege speeches. Moreover, this research entailed an inductive exploration of the data, aimed at identifying recurring patterns and themes for subsequent categorization, description, and interpretation. Coding was also employed to determine the critical stylistics tools and transitivity processes used by Sen. Grace Poe in her privilege speeches. Data were interpreted and analyzed using the critical stylistic theory proposed by Jeffries (2010) and transitivity and verb processes developed by Halliday (1985), which was modified by Machin and Mayr (2012) as analytical lenses to examine the representation of reality and the ideology embedded in the privilege speeches of Sen. Grace Poe.

After consolidating the gathered corpora, the text was reading and rereading to get the sense of the whole. In the analysis, the textual-conceptual functions of the text were identified and examined as to what particular devices were used in order to achieve these functions. The researchers applied the process of intercoding to identify the critical stylistic tools and process types present in the text and unanimously rechecked the coding to ensure that the data were treated with precision and accuracy. From the determined tools and processes, the researchers were able to unpack the representation of reality and the ideologies underlying in the texts. In addition, frequency count or percentage system was used to show the occurrence of critical stylistic tools and transitivity processes from the said corpora.

2.2   Study Corpus

The study focused on analyzing the corpus of privilege speeches delivered by Senator Grace Poe, all directly sourced from the official Senate website (http://senate.gov.ph). Specifically, the researchers focused on Sen. Grace Poe's speeches in December 2020.

Following a method similar to Balog's (2019) corpus identification strategy, the selection of privilege speeches was motivated by the desire to identify persuasive discourse. With this, privilege speeches were chosen as the study corpus since they are ideal for expressing ideologies, asserting power, and persuading audiences. In accordance with this criterion, the corpus for analysis consisted of three privilege speeches. Table 2 provides a summary of the selected speeches included in this research.

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Table 2

Privilege Speeches of Sen. Grace L. Poe

Samples of Privilege Speech	Date of Press Release	Number of Words
PS 1. AMLA Amendments Bill	December 09, 2020	710
PS 2. Sponsorship	December 14, 2020	691
PS 3. FIST Act	December 15, 2020	757
Total No. of Words	2,158	
Average No. of Words per Speech	719.33	

3.   Results and Discussion

This section presents the findings of this study by showing the average occurrence of the critical stylistic tools and transitivity processes evident in the corpora. Samples of speech extracts and implications are further discussed.

3.1   Critical Stylistic Tools

This section presents the critical stylistics tools used by Sen. Grace L. Poe in her privilege speeches. A total of 699 usage of textual language functions was noted in the privilege speeches. Table 3 provides an overview of the cumulative frequency found in Senator Grace L. Poe's privilege speeches during Senate sessions.

Table 3

Average Occurrence of Critical Stylistic Tools Used in Sen. Grace L. Poe's Selected Privilege Speeches

Critical Stylistic tools	Frequency count (f)	Percentage (%)	Rank
Naming and Describing	451	64.52	1st
Representing Actions	40	5.72	3rd
Equating and Contrasting	20	2.86	5th
Exemplifying and Enumerating	9	1.29	10th

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Table 3 continued...

Critical Stylistic tools	Frequency count (f)	Percentage (%)	Rank
Prioritizing	37	5.29	4th
Assuming and Implying	19	2.72	6th
Negating	11	1.57	8th
Hypothesizing	18	2.57	7th
Presenting the speech and thoughts of other participants	84	12.01	2nd
Representing time, space, and society	10	1.43	9th
Total	699	100	

3.1.1   Naming and Describing

For Jeffries (2010), there are different ways by which texts might name the world. This is probably why the critical stylistics tool of naming and describing was the most evident among all the textual conceptual functions used by the speaker in the corpora. In fact, the researchers found that it was used 451 times, amounting to 64.52% of all the stylistic tools used. In naming, there may be more than one way of representing and referring to a specific subject (Jeffries, 2010), and this was clearly in the corpora because the use of this tool revealed how the speaker and the other parties view specific things. Moreover, according to Jeffries (2013), it shows how a person unavoidably presents a concept based on his perceptions. Specifically, in the chosen texts, this tool identifies the prejudices and biases of Sen. Grace Poe with regards to the three issues discussed, namely: toll expressway policies, the Financial Institutions Strategic Transfer Act (FIST ACT), and the Anti-Money Laundering Act.

Because these texts are privilege speeches, which aim to help the government officials execute their functions without fear of prosecution, civil or criminal, Sen. Poe maximized its use to prove that her opinion regarding the matters that she raised is right, which calls for the Senate, her target audience, to carry out necessary actions supporting her stand.

In this study, the researchers identified the use of the stylistics tool of naming and describing by searching for nouns and the words that accompany the said part of speech such as adjectives, postmodifiers, clauses, and the nominalized verbs. The underlined words below are examples of how the speaker used this specific textual language function in her speeches.

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Mr. President, the FIST Act is seen to help cushion the adverse impact of the pandemic to our financial sector. (PS2)

Traffic jams and toll booth problems should be the least of their concerns. (PS1)

For instance, other member-countries and the whole of the European Union will impose an "enhanced due diligence" or EDD on Filipino nationals and businesses that transact within their channels. (PS3)

In the example, the underlined words contain nouns, along with the words modifying them. These words are adjectives that could be in the form of article adjectives, descriptive adjectives, quantitative adjectives, etc. This stylistic tool enabled the readers to capture the most important details of Sen. Grace Poe's speech, allowing them to further understand the solutions and amendments proposed by the senator. Given that privilege speeches are well-suited for expressing strong ideologies, asserting influence, and persuading audiences, this stylistic choice played a crucial role in highlighting key points and enhancing their impact. Through this approach, readers were skillfully guided to focus on the most important aspects of Sen. Poe's discourse. In addition, this stylistic tool not only made her speeches more accessible, but also empowered the audience to critically evaluate and engage with her suggested initiatives.

3.1.2   Representing Actions

Jeffries (2013) found that a speaker's choice of a verb has an inevitable effect on the way a proposition is portrayed and that it can have significant ideological implications as well. In the chosen corpora, Sen. Poe represented actions by using words that express actions and events which are denoted by transitivity choices. This stylistic tool shows the semantic function of a noun phrase concerning verbal elements (Jeffries, 2016).

Using this textual conceptual function, Sen. Poe was able to express the situations according to actions, events, or states that led her to produce the content of her speech. According to Jeffries (2016), this tool reveals how a speaker expresses what is happening by focusing on the processes that took place in the given situation. In a way, it aims to show who shoulders the responsibility of the resulting action (Jeffries, 2016). Moreover, in the study, the researchers noted 40 uses of this representing actions stylistic tool, which comprises 5.72% of language conceptual functions used. This allowed Sen. Poe to create a picture of the event by focusing on the actions being taken by parties involved in the issues that she has discussed in her privilege speeches. Following is an example of how the researchers identified this tool.

This resolution seeks **to address** the issues at hand by **calling** for the suspension of the implementation of DOTr Department Order No. 2020-12.

> *Second, foreign FISTCs shall not be allowed **to take part** in the **bidding** and foreclosure of real property. (S2)*

In the examples, the words emphasized in bold letters indicate how the speaker employs the stylistic tool of representing actions. It is important to note that these words are categorized as verbals, which assume a verb form but do not inherently function as verbs. For instance, "to address" and "to take part" act as the direct objects of the respective sentences, thus assuming a nominal role. Additionally, the terms "calling" and "bidding" serve as objects of the preposition, signifying their nominal function as well. The researchers discerned the application of this tool by identifying and annotating the use of these grammatical constructs like verbals within the corpus. By examining the accomplishments attained by Sen. Poe through her privilege speeches, one can gain a comprehensive understanding of the contextual framework and the broader scope of an issue. In light of this, it is reasonable to suggest that this pivotal stylistic tool serves to alert and educate readers about the matters Sen. Poe is addressing, while also allowing for a nuanced interpretation of the subject at hand.

3.1.3   Exemplifying and Contrasting

Although there were only nine examples of exemplification and enumeration or 1.29% observed in the speeches of Sen. Grace Poe, it was evident that these lists were used to further explain her main points and illustrate her key points. According to Jeffries (2006), one of the most important things that a text can do is establish sense relations between lexical items to deepen its meaning and purpose, which was achieved by the writer of the corpora because her linguistic choices allowed her to expound her message by providing a number of comprehensive, clear, and well-explained examples (Jeffries, 2013).

Moreover, the researchers were only able to mark a few lists since the speaker only focused on a number of important points such as providing a solution to some of the issues being experienced by motorists, promoting the FIST ACT to the Senate, and endorsing the Anti-Money Laundering Act. Additionally, this tool of exemplifying and enumerating in critical stylistics was found by the researchers by looking for two, three, or four-part lists. An example of these lists is provided below.

> *Third, we improved the functions of the AMLC by (1) enhancing its investigative powers through express powers of deputization, power to apply for search warrant, and power to obtain information on ultimate beneficial ownership;(2) authorizing it to implement targeted financial sanctions on proliferation financing; (3) authorizing it to preserve, manage or dispose assets subject of asset preservation order and judgement forfeiture; and (4) prohibiting the issuance of injunctive relief against freeze orders and forfeiture proceedings under its jurisdiction. (PS3)*

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The example shows that Sen. Poe explained her proposal on how the functions of Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) can be improved by citing a number of ways, which she has presented through a list that allowed her to focus on expressing her stand regarding the matter. Utilizing this stylistic approach likely aided readers in better grasping Sen. Poe's message conveyed in her speeches. Furthermore, the lists mentioned by the senator also allowed them to extensively and accurately interpret the privilege speeches.

3.1.4   Prioritizing

Within the three privilege speeches, a total of 37 sentences were identified as employing the stylistic tool of prioritizing. This accounts for approximately 5.29% of the significant stylistic tools observed in the corpus. When crafting sentences, writers and speakers make deliberate choices on which information to accentuate and emphasize, and this can be accomplished through techniques like utilizing the active or passive voice (Jeffries, 2013). Furthermore, according to Jeffries (2010), this conceptual tool is focused on how participants in an utterance are given prominence through their placement in the texts.

After analyzing the corpus, it was found that Sen. Poe used 30 sentences in active voice and seven sentences in passive voice, which showed that she opted to focus on the doer of the action rather than the object presented in her statements. This also indicates that she intends to highlight the individuals and organizations invested in the issues she discusses. Moreover, it also demonstrates her desire for the audience to recognize and comprehend the actions taken by these stakeholders in relation to the issues and concerns she sought to address in her speeches.

In this study, the stylistic tool of prioritizing was marked by the researchers by looking at the number of sentences in active and passive voice. Some of these sentences are found below.

> *Active: The bicameral conference committee agreed to use the Senate version as the working draft since the House adopted most of the provisions in our version. (PS2)*

> *Passive: Specific periods were lowered to prevent delay in offloading of assets. (PS2)*

In the given examples, the sentence in active voice allowed Sen. Poe to focus on the bicameral conference committee, the subject, and the doer of the action. On the other hand, in the second sentence, the doer of the action was not mentioned, allowing the speaker to focus on the specific periods, which also serve as the subject of the sentence. This choice in sentence structure highlights the significance of the time periods being discussed by placing them at the forefront of the statement. Through this tool, the readers can easily identify the problem that needs to be addressed since this stylistic function only highlights the important aspect of an issue.

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3.1.5 Equating and Contrasting

The researchers were able to note this critical stylistic tool in the three speeches with a frequency count of 20 or 2.86%. This makes it the third most prominent textual concept contributing to the formation of meaning in terms of equivalence and opposition. It was achieved by the speaker by expressing the two different sides of the issues that she has talked about in all her speeches. Jeffries (2013) also mentioned that language can be used to represent things that people see as equivalent and as contrasting. He further explained that words and grammatical structures can be utilized to express how one perceives the world, which could be the same or different from others.

In all three speeches, Sen. Poe did not only inform her audience about the issues being tackled, but she also persuaded them to believe her and see where she is coming from, regardless if this is in support or disapproval of the actions being taken by various individuals or organizations. The researchers identified this stylistic tool by looking for synonyms and antonyms used by the speaker. The words in bold letters below show an example of how equating and contrasting function was observed in the texts.

> *Resolve all other issues for a better **cashless and contactless** toll system. (PS1)*

> *Together, this gives the borrower at least 120 days **to pay off or renegotiate** a loan and prevent the transfer of the asset to a FISTC... (PS2)*

In the given example, the researchers classified the two words to be synonymous based on the context that was presented by the speaker. A cashless and contactless toll system would refer to an arrangement where physical touch would be absent since cards and modern technologies will be used. Moreover, both "to pay off" and "renegotiate" signify giving options to the borrower by providing them with assistance, allowing them to avoid the repercussions of not being able to pay within the expected period. This stylistic tool allowed Sen. Poe to help her audience realize and interpret both sides of the story and to prove that her judgments were rightfully done and expressed and that she was not biased in coming up with her decisions.

3.1.6 Assuming and Implying

This tool was exhibited in Sen. Grace Poe's privilege speeches. Based on the analyzed text, there were instances of assuming and implying as a critical stylistic tool with a frequency count of 19 or 2.27%. This particular tool involves pragmatic functions as it is associated with presuppositions and implicatures. Jeffries (2016) believes that there are some features of implicature which fit into the interpersonal (pragmatic) level of meaning. Looking at the privilege speeches, it can be noticed that there were cases of assumptions made by Sen. Poe in order to depict a reality and establish different issues. Consider the speech extracts below:

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> *We are all familiar with what's currently happening - we've seen the photos*
> *on social media, we've heard the news on the radio. Our toll plazas have*
> *become parking lots due to the hasty implementation of the Department of*
> *Transportation Department Order No. 2020-12 and its related issuances*
> *requiring cashless transactions in toll expressways. (PS1)*
> *The traffic jams they cause extend to nearby cities and municipalities*
> *which, in turn, paralyzes local economies. (PS1)*

In the examined instances, the researchers analyzed the pragmatic and textual facets embedded within the corpora. The pragmatic elements manifested subtly, conveying implicit meanings pertaining to the contemporary status of metropolitan traffic and toll expressway transactions. Conversely, the textual elements assumed prominence in Senator Poe's portrayal and elucidation of the pressing societal concerns. Her perspective on these issues manifested through the deployment of figurative devices, including metaphorical expressions (e.g., characterizing traffic congestion as *parking lots*) and personification (attributing the capacity to *paralyze local economies*). Through the adept utilization of these stylistic devices, readers were afforded the opportunity to discern the underlying implications of the issues at hand, thereby enhancing their comprehension of the reality encapsulated within these concerns.

3.1.7   Negating

Negations were also present in the privileges speeches as this was used 11 times, comprising 1.57% of the tools evident in the texts. Negating operates between semantic and pragmatic meanings on a textual level. This particular tool refers to syntactic triggers such as the particle *not* with dummy auxiliary verbs *do*, *does*, *did,* and other auxiliaries, or *no* as a modifier of nouns and the adverbial *never*. According to Jeffries (2016), negating can portray mental images of the negated ideology, and promote and enhance an ideology like fearing, desiring, or believing, for a reader. True enough, in the speeches of Sen. Poe, it evokes a negative reality. This usage implies the politician's negative view on the issue of cashless transactions in expressways. Refer to the excerpts below:

> *Department Order 2020-12 does <u>not</u> seem to take into account the*
> *preparedness of our toll expressway service providers to comply with such*
> *an order (PS1)*
> *. . . three million (vehicles) do <u>not</u> have RFID stickers. (PS1)*
> *…And what we are seeing now is <u>not</u> yet the full impact of the pandemic. (PS2)*

The use of negation is a powerful strategy used ideologically since it indicates suggestibility and evokes positive or negative meanings (Abdel-Moety, 2018). The presented extracts suggest negative emotions due to the abovementioned facts. For instance, the effectiveness of the department order, the number of vehicles with Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) stickers, and the unprecedented impact of the pandemic. These

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realizations of by Sen. Poe, escalate as a national concern, and indicate a sense of dismay as this ideology was constructed through the use of negation, *not.* Through the use of this stylistic tool, the readers of Sen. Poe's privilege speeches were able to interpret the stand of the senator in various issues and problems. The readers of the speeches swiftly discovered how Sen. Poe disagreed with and opposed various opinions using this tool.

3.1.8   Hypothesizin

As purported in the study, the researchers found some occurrences of hypothesizing as a critical stylistic tool in the chosen texts with a frequency count of 18 or 2.57%. The author's use of modality, which includes signals of changing degrees of certainty regarding the propositions communicated as well as the kinds of obligations and commitments she attaches to the utterances, defines the category of hypothesizing (Abdel-Moety, 2018). Hence, the modals were put into account by the researchers in terms of classifying this stylistic tool. In presenting the level of certainty on the issue, Sen. Poe uses modality expressed in a linguistic form to reveal her degree of belief in the proposition expressed, specifically, through auxiliary modal verbs. This was evident in the following examples below:

> . . .the Philippines <u>will</u> incur a "reputational risk" that <u>would</u> certainly result in reduced investor and lender confidence. (PS3)
> This <u>might</u> result in perpetual ownership of land which is in violation of Republic Act 7042 or the Foreign Investments Act. (PS2)
> We <u>can</u> only imagine the domino effect that this <u>would</u> trigger to all of our local industries. (PS3)

It is interesting to note from these examples how the author expresses her certainty on the issue and highlights the probable results that might happen. Jeffries (2013) proposes that modality is the aspect of language that allows us to hypothesize. Certain words like 'could' and 'must', allow us to express the possibility or desirability of something happening. Apparently, this matches the researchers' analyses as to how the author creates a strong degree of certainty by employing expressions of modality. Moreover, Jeffries (2013) explains that modality tends to express how desirable or necessary a speaker/writer thinks something is. It can be inferred from the privilege speeches that the readers may see Sen. Poe's political stance and her viewpoint on the issues she addressed because of the modals present in the text. Modal verbs, serving as linguistic markers of probability, necessity, or possibility, play a pivotal role in conveying the author's attitudes and stance towards the subject matter. In the context of these speeches, the modals act as linguistic cues, providing readers with insights into Sen. Poe's ideological orientation and the level of conviction she attaches to her statements.

In the realm of political discourse analysis, the study of modals within privilege speeches becomes imperative for unraveling the underlying rhetorical nuances. This analytical approach illuminates the intricate interplay between language, ideology, and

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persuasion, offering valuable insights into the rhetorical devices employed by political figures to influence public opinion and garner support for their perspectives.

3.1.9 Presenting the Speech and Thoughts of Other Participants

Evidently, the data reveal that the corpora also contain speech and thoughts of other participants. In fact, it was used 84 times or 12.01% in the three speeches, making this category the second most noticeable critical stylistic tool in the text. This technique, known as speech and thought presentation, refers to the way a speaker or writer conveys the words or ideas of another. The choices made in this regard are pivotal in shaping the reader or listener's perception of the represented party (Jeffries, 2013).

From the analysis of the researchers, it was quite obvious that the privilege speeches were mostly written in direct speech due to the fact that it contains an exact or verbatim account of what the senator expressed. Furthermore, the presence of the first-person pronoun *I* makes the corpora direct and personalized. Consider the sentences below:

> *I am firmly putting forward a resolution that addresses a current situation that has proven to be extremely inconvenient and oppressive to all motorists going to and coming from Metro Manila and nearby provinces. (PS1)*
> *I now have the privilege to report to the body the approved version of our bill. (PS2)*
>
> *I would like to take this opportunity to express my utmost gratitude to Sen. Franklin Drilon and his team for generous contributions during the drafting of this bill. (PS3)*

From these examples, presenting speech and thoughts was clearly evident in Sen. Grace Poe's speeches as privilege speeches are intended for the representatives of the people to carry out their duties without fear of civil or criminal penalties. Hence, senators need to craft persuasive speeches and accurately grasp the sentiments and viewpoints of others when delivering privilege speeches. As what Fairclough (2001) believes, these government officials use political speeches to argue, reason, support their beliefs, stay in power, oppress people and nations, build and propagate ideas, defend people in their needs, and even promote civil rights and peace. This would mean that the author's choice of presenting style is determined by the manner in which he wishes to express meaning. Combining features of quoted and reported speech allows the author to express stance, thought and speech in an unlimited way (Abdel-Moety, 2018). As found in the texts, Sen. Grace Poe provides the collective decisions and agreements of her colleagues in creating senate resolutions. Using this stylistic tool, the readers of Sen. Poe's privilege speeches were able to note how sincere the senator was in her intent. Furthermore, the tool allowed the senator to make her delivery more personalized and direct.

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3.1.10   Representing Time, Space and Society

The researchers were able to find only 10 occurrences of representing time, space, and society as a critical stylistic tool, comprising 1.43% of language conceptual functions used. The words (and phrases) in a language that allow a speaker or writer to place their utterances in time, space, and human society are referred to as deixis. In most cases, the meaning of these terms can be changed. They include words for place, time, tense, and person (Abdel-Moety, 2018). They have two main functions: first, they create "deictic projection" (Jeffries, 2013), which enables readers to place themselves in the position of the author; second, they help the author occupy the "deictic centre" of the text or the central point refers to the time and space in which the speaker or writer exists, and their social positioning. These linguistic units were seen in the following extracts:

> . . .*all motorists going <u>to and coming from Metro Manila and nearby provinces</u>. (PS1)*
> . . .*this gives the borrower <u>at least 120 days</u> to pay off or renegotiate a loan and prevent the transfer of the asset to a FISTC. (PS2)*

The underlined portions may be regarded as deictic expressions that indicate time and places which can be considered as a tool of representing time and society. In order to make sense of the world around us, our default assumption is that we occupy this deictic centre (Jeffries, 2013). Deictic expressions allow Sen. Poe and the readers of her speeches to create a picture of a particular world, and to identify the ways in which time, space and people relate within that world.

3.2   The Role of Critical Stylistics Tools

In the analysis of her privilege speeches, a range of stylistic tools and their corresponding functions employed by Sen. Poe to effectively convey her ideas were uncovered. Table 4 summarizes the roles of critical stylistics tools used in the examined privilege speeches. Moreover, the table presents the ideologies that were expressed and presented by the speaker using these textual language functions, together with the linguistic devices that the researchers identified using the given framework.

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Table 4

Summary of Textual Languages Functions Presented in the Corpora

Tools	Ideology Embedded in the Privilege Speeches	Devices
Naming and Describing	Proposing a solution based on one's perception and opinion	Nouns and the words that accompany the said part of speech like adjectives, postmodifiers, clauses, and the nominalized verbs
Representing Actions	Deepening one's understanding to visualize presented actions, events and processes	Verbals (gerunds and infinitives)
Equating and Contrasting	Raising awareness by presenting two different faces of an issue	Synonyms and antonyms
Exemplifying and Enumerating	Clarifying one's stand by providing a comprehensive explanation	Two-, three-, or four-part lists
Prioritizing	Emphasize and highlight specific information of the issue	Use of active and passive voice
Assuming and Implying	Depicting a reality and establishing the issues	Pragmatic level - figurative language
Negating	Showing contradiction by expressing negative emotions	Use of 'not' with auxiliary verbs
Hypothesizing	Expressing possibilities to draw a line between certainty and suspicion	Modal verbs
Presenting the speech and thoughts of other participants	Influencing the target audience by offering personal stance and collective arguments	Direct and indirect speech
Representing time, space, and society	Creating a picture of the world through words that include time, space, and human society	Deictic expressions

The critical stylistic tool of naming and describing uses nouns, adjectives, postmodifiers, clauses, and the nominalized verbs to articulate ideas precisely and shape reader comprehension while the tool of representing actions employs gerunds and infinitives to enhance reader grasp of the narrative, providing vivid imagery and insight. Equating and contrasting, on the other hand, presents dual facets of an issue using synonyms and antonyms, which fosters critical thinking that leads to heightened ideological awareness and a nuanced understanding of complexities. Moreover, exemplifying, and enumerating use lists to systematically breakdown concepts, clarifying ideological standpoint.

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In addition, while the critical stylistics tool of prioritizing emphasizes specific information within an issue through active and passive voice constructions and directs attention, highlighting key discourse aspects and shaping ideological perception, the tool of assuming and implying employ figurative language to vividly depict reality and establish issues, which fosters nuanced understanding. Furthermore, negating accentuates contradictions and challenges prevailing notions using "not" with auxiliary verbs. In addition, the tool of hypothesizing uses modal verbs to introduce predictions encourages readers to evaluate scenarios critically and consider their ideological implications.

Additionally, presenting others' speech and thoughts, as a critical stylistic tool, influences the target audience through personal stances and collective arguments, employing direct and indirect speech. This integrates diverse perspectives, enhancing ideological discourse. Lastly, the tool of representing time, space, and society utilizes deictic expressions to situate readers in specific contexts, fostering a deep sense of connection and understanding.

Overall, this intricate interplay of linguistic tools and ideological underpinnings within the discourse underscores the richness of language in conveying nuanced perspectives and shaping readers' ideological interpretations. Through a meticulous analysis of these tools, scholars and readers alike can unravel the layers of meaning embedded within the text, revealing the complex relationship between language, ideology, and discourse.

3.3 Transitivity Processes

This section presents the prevalent transitivity process used in the privilege speeches and how Sen. Poe used this in her political rhetoric and discourse. There are a total of 79 transitivity process types found in the corpus. Table 5 shows the frequency of these transitivity processes.

Table 5
Frequency Count of Transitivity Processes in Sen. Grace L. Poe's Selected Privilege Speeches

Transitivity Process	Frequency	Percentage
Material	50	63.29
Relational	13	16.46
Mental	9	11.39
Existential	3	3.80
Behavioral	2	2.53
Verbal	2	2.53
Total	79	100

As can be gleaned from Table 5, the most frequent transitivity process found in her speeches were the material processes, followed by relational and mental processes. Filho

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(2004, as cited in Kondowe, 2014) claims that the representation of our world is achieved through a set of processes with their participants and circumstances in which they unfold. Thus, the implied meanings in the privilege speeches were revealed through the analysis of this study.

3.3.1   Material Processes

Material processes were the most prevalent in Sen. Poe's privilege speeches. This process simply refers to an *actor* and *goal* and expresses physical actions and certain events through the use of different verb forms (e.g., *elect*, *get*, *give*). According to Zhang (2017), material processes are processes of 'doing' which gives the audience a feeling of power and strength and as described by Liping (2014), this is typically the most frequently used transitivity process in political speeches because they could objectively present facts, reasons, and feelings, making the political discourse persuasive. This is important in a privilege speech since senators have to manifest their power and ideology in their language through persuading people (Balog, 2019). The following extracts show how Sen. Grace Poe used this process in resolving pressing issues by proposing a solution.

> **Resolving pressing issues by proposing a solution**
>
> *I am firmly putting forward (material process) a resolution that addresses a current situation. . .* (PS2)
>
> *Create (material process) a policy on dormant accounts and the accumulated amounts that is expected to pile up. . .* (PS2)
>
> *We are implored (material process) to immediately act on it by the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering. . .* (PS1)
>
> *. . . we included (material processes) the commission of tax crimes and violation of the Strategic Trade Management Act. . .* (PS1)
>
> *. . . they can help (material processes) businesses and save jobs in return.* (PS3)
>
> *Third, specific periods were lowered (material process) to prevent delay in offloading of assets.* (PS 3)

      The material processes used by Sen. Poe in the first and second extracts showed the senator's actions in response to the hurried implementation of Department of Transportation D.O. No. 2020-12 and its related issuances requiring cashless transactions in toll expressways. Sen. Poe believes that this current situation is oppressive and inconvenient to all motorists

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going to and coming from Metro Manila and nearby provinces. It was prevalent from the extracts that the material processes that were frequently used may manifest how eager she is to craft a policy that would address this current issue and protect people that would be affected. For third and fourth extracts, the issue of money laundering was discussed as a form of national economic emergency due to the very serious economic costs. Similar to the first two extracts, the material processes may exhibit Sen. Poe's initiative to resolve this serious economic matter. The material processes found in the extracts may display Sen. Poe's development of solutions that would address financial concerns of the country due to the verbs used. The preponderance of material process in the extracts manifested how Sen. Grace Poe used this transitivity process in her discourse to resolve pressing issues such as oppression and economic and financial matters in the country by coming up with a concrete solution.

3.3.2   Relational Processes

The data reveals that relational processes were the second most prevalent transitivity processes in the field text. Thompson (2004) states that relational processes as the process of being in the world of abstract relations. Normally, an abstract relationship that occurs between two process-related participants is considered, which can be classified into two types: *attributive* and *identifying*. This is true enough as this present study was able to describe how Sen. Poe employed relational processes in her privilege speeches. She used relation processes to explain some implications that could surface out of the problem. Below are the following extracts that show this theme:

Explaining some implications that could surface out of the problem

It would be financially risky (relational process) for government to be involved in acquiring non-performing assets. . . (PS3)

This is (relational process) to remove apprehension among investors over being sued for something. . . (PS3)

It has (relational process) implications which we must avoid as much as we can. . . (PS 1)

His invaluable assistance is (relational process) truly instrumental in the realization of our collective goal. . . (PS1)

From the first two extracts, it can be noted how Sen. Poe utilized relational processes to give well-thought inferences as to the agreement settled by both panels on the proposed Financial Institution Strategic Transfer Act. She asserted the significance of the agreement and what it could contribute for the government and Filipino people. Same manifestations

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may be also viewed in the third and fourth extracts where she identified the possible scenarios if measures are not immediately acted on Anti-Money Laundering Amendment Bill, in order not to incur "reputational risk" that would definitely result in reduced investor and lender confidence in the Philippines. The prevalence of relational processes in her political rhetoric may give us a notion that she used this type of process to explain and provide implications that may arise from the economic issues. This may suggest that Sen. Grace Poe does assert her ideas with the use of relational processes as there is a need for her to be assertive since a political discourse such as rendering a privilege speech is persuasive in nature.

3.3.3   Mental Process

The third most frequent transitivity process in the corpus is a mental process. The meanings of feeling or thought are encoded by mental processes. The two basic elements in this process are *sensor* or the participant involved in the mental process and *phenomenon* or the entity which is felt, thought, or perceived by the sensor. The following extracts below show the preponderance of mental processes in Sen. Poe's selected privilege speech which may imply that she used mental processes to realize a certain issue:

> <u>**Awakening one's consciousness by realizing the issue**</u>
>
> *Department Order 2020-12 does not seem (mental process) to take into account the preparedness of our toll expressway service providers. . .* (PS2)
>
> *At the outset, we can already see two major issues. . .* (PS2)
>
> *. . .we've seen the photos on social media, we've heard the news on the radio*. (PS2)
>
> *. . .we recognize the need to also assist borrowers, but lowered the period of restructuring. . .* (PS3)

Based on these extracts, the use of mental processes in Sen. Poe's privilege speech unpacked the implied meaning in the corpus. From these excerpts, it is evident that Senator Grace Poe employed this technique in her speech of privilege to raise awareness by acknowledging and recognizing the issue. This was accomplished through the use of mental transitive verbs such as "seem," "see," "heard," and "recognize." All these verbs make up a mental clause that indicates perception. This may imply that Sen. Grace Poe's political rhetorical pattern perhaps, realizes a certain issue in order to promote awareness and consciousness.

Another notable feature in the extracts is the use of the pronoun "we". It may presumably suggest that the senator emphasizes that the issue of inconvenience and

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oppression to motorists and the predicament on money laundering may affect not just her but several Filipinos. This may be the reason why Sen. Grace Poe was inclusive in arousing one's consciousness. Zhang (2017) claims that the first personal pronoun "we" indicates that the speakers want to invite individuals to act together and include as many people as possible in their stance. Hearing this will make listeners unconsciously accept the speaker's point of view and will have the same stand. Hence, the very purpose of a privilege speech.

3.3.4   Existential, Behavioral and Verbal Process

As revealed in the data, transitivity processes such as existential, behavioral and verbal processes were the least prevalent in Sen. Grace Poe's selected privilege speeches. Existential processes are used to demonstrate that something happens or occurs (Machin & Mayr, 2012) whereas behavioral processes are used to exemplify a speaker's mental and physical actions. (Wang, 2010). One possible explanation for the limited use of these elements in political discourse may be attributed to Zhang's (2017) assertion, which posits that they primarily pertain to commonplace human physiological and psychological actions like breathing, coughing, and smiling. In a debate setting, the focus is evidently not on the behavior of individuals but rather on the substantive issues at hand. As a result, Balog (2019) emphasizes that these functions might not carry the persuasive weight necessary to sway opinions.

Existential process

> *Before us is (existential process) an important measure that requires our immediate attention*. (PS1)

> *. . .the Philippines will incur a "reputational risk" that would certainly result.* (PS1)

Behavioral process

> *The FIST Act is seen to help cushion the adverse impact of the pandemic to our financial sector*. (PS1)

> *. . .let us ease the burden caused by the foregoing issuances on our fellow Filipinos*. (PS2)

Verbal process

> *This representation already said before but let the records be clear. . .* (PS2)

> *I dare say that it is a necessity.* (PS2)

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The discussion above underscores the significance of employing specific frameworks and text analytic tools, elucidating how these methodologies facilitate a comprehensive understanding of textual content and the readers' perceptions of the depicted reality. Within the realm of critical discourse analysis, a robust analytical tool emerges, focusing on elucidating the fundamental questions of "who or what does what to whom or what?" This tool meticulously identifies the key elements of discourse, namely the actor, action, and aim, thereby illuminating the intricate web of relationships embedded within the text. According to Jeffries (2015), the exploration of linguistic choices becomes imperative due to their capacity to engender diverse meanings, underscoring the multiplicity of interpretations that texts can offer. Furthermore, the insights of Halliday (1985) enrich our understanding of linguistic processes as intricate products rooted in our perceptions of the world. These processes are inherently shaped by social and cultural constructs, wherein participants—represented by animate or inanimate noun phrases—operate within specific circumstances delineated by adverbial and prepositional phrases. This nuanced perspective emphasizes the intricate interplay between language, society, and cognition, shedding light on the complex dynamics that underpin the creation and interpretation of textual meaning.

In sum, these findings indicate the layered nature of textual analysis, emphasizing the need for a multifaceted approach that delves into linguistic choices, social constructs, and cognitive processes. Researchers and analysts can unravel the intricate meaning within texts by harnessing these frameworks and analytic tools as this may not only focus on what the text conveys conceptually but also how readers perceive the depicted reality. This holistic understanding, rooted in rigorous linguistic analysis and contextual interpretation, is critical in illuminating the complexities of human communication and textual representation.

3.4   Functions of the Transitivity Processes

Table 6 summarizes how transitivity processes were utilized by Sen. Grace Poe in her privilege speeches to achieve her goal in delivering a political discourse. Specifically, it presents the functions of these processes in representing the reality of the speaker.

Table 6
Summary of Textual Languages Functions Presented in the Corpora

Transitivity Processes	Representation of Reality
Material processes	Resolving pressing issues by proposing a solution
Relational processes	Explaining some implications that could surface out of the problem
Mental processes	Awakening one's consciousness by realizing the issue

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The proactive resolution of urgent problems through the suggestion and implementation of practical solutions is based on how reality is represented in the world of material processes. This strategy offers a practical, hands-on approach to tackling issues that are prevalent across society. By using material processes, people and organizations actively engage in the outside environment to confront problems head-on and bring about change. These steps may offer a clear solution to the urgent issue and directly address the concrete situation. Moreover, this approach of representation also places a strong emphasis on the value of action-oriented tactics and how they might change the way we see the world.

On the other hand, relational processes explore the complex implications that result from a specific issue as a means to represent reality. In this situation, it is crucial to clarify the linkages and implications that may arise from an issue. With this strategy, the emphasis is shifted from finding rapid solutions to comprehending the complex web of connections and outcomes that issues can cause. Making intelligent, well-informed decisions is prompted by this increased understanding of the intricacies of the relationships. Thus, relational interactions may promote a deeper understanding of the complex nature of problems, which enables society to anticipate and mitigate future issues.

The representation of reality can be examined through a unique lens that is provided by mental processes, and the expansion of one's consciousness is crucial in this case. As a result of realizing and internalizing the nuances of a problem, people have transformative experiences that alter their perspectives. Moreover, initiating paradigm shifts, creating empathy, and cultivating a feeling of shared responsibility also depend on mental processes. In this instance, the portrayal of reality is around the profound personal change that results in societal change. Thus, mental processes may act as stimuli for awareness and empathy in order to provide the groundwork for a society that is more just and caring.

These various transitivity processes provide an array of opportunities for understanding and interacting with reality. While relational processes may clarify complex consequences and mental processes would spark transformational change among people and civilizations, material processes may offer practical solutions. Despite the contrasts, each strategy makes a substantial contribution to Senator Poe in addressing urgent problems and promoting a more compassionate and enlightened global community.

4.   Conclusion

The study provides a detailed analysis of Sen. Grace Poe's privilege speeches, with an emphasis on the critical stylistic tools and transitivity processes employed. The researchers discovered four predominant critical stylistic tools that shaped the rhetorical landscape of these speeches through rigorous analysis: *naming and describing, presenting the speech and thoughts of other participants, representing actions,* and *prioritizing*. Among these, *naming and describing* emerged as the most dominant tool, enabling Sen. Poe to freely express her opinions and propose solutions to the discussed issues.

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In addition, the study examined transitivity processes and found that *material processes* were the most frequently used, which indicates Sen. Poe's tendency to propose concrete solutions to urgent issues. *Relational processes* were the second most prevalent, indicating her confidence in explicating the implications of the issues. *Mental processes* were also evident, serving to heighten awareness and awareness of the discussed issues.

In conclusion, this study's findings highlight the complex interplay between linguistic choices and rhetorical intent in Sen. Grace Poe's privilege speeches. The predominance of naming and describing, coupled with the strategic use of transitivity processes, reveals a deliberate and effective approach to communicating her perspectives and advocating for concrete solutions. While the research provides valuable insights into Sen. Poe's rhetorical strategies, the researchers recommend that future studies examine a bigger corpus consisting of speeches by other women government leaders in the Philippines. Exploring a broader scope and broadening the analysis of political discourse by female politicians in this Asian country could yield even deeper insights into the nuanced role of language in political discourse by Filipino female political leaders.

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