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Political Power in Jacinda Ardern's Valedictory Speech: A Socio-cultural Perspective

A research by
Salma Ahmed Mustafa Muhammad

Abstract:

This research focuses on analyzing political speeches to uncover cues of power, particularly those delivered by Jacinda Kate Laurell Ardern. The study employs the Critical Discourse Analysis Approach (CDA) utilizing Fairclough's socio-cultural approach, to explore the ideology and power relations embedded in both covert and overt messages within discourse. It emphasizes that power is not only conveyed through linguistic forms but is also manifested in the personal mindset and convictions of the leader. The research places a spotlight on Jacinda Ardern, aiming to understand her linguistic power, including the directness of speech and the firmness/softness of expression. The study incorporates a historical overview of discourse analysis, tracing its evolution from structural linguistic components to the current stage of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). CDA, as an interdisciplinary approach, explores language as a social and ideological practice, unveiling hidden meanings, assumptions, and values in social interactions.

Keywords: Discourse Analysis, Critical Discourse Analysis, Socio-cultural Approach, Political Power.

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Introduction:

This research aims at applying Fairclough's socio-cultural approach to CDA with a primary objective of a qualitative examination of Jacinda Ardern's valedictory political speech to identify indicators of power. Employing the Critical Discourse Analysis Approach (CDA), the research delves into the embedded ideology and power dynamics found in both overt and covert aspects of discourse. It emphasizes that power is not solely communicated through linguistic structures but is also evident in the personal perspectives and convictions of leaders.

Acknowledging the evolutionary phases of CDA, from a focus on linguistic elements to its establishment as a noteworthy paradigm connecting language studies with social theory, the study underscores CDA role in dissecting both apparent and obscured structural relationships of dominance, discrimination, and power in language usage.

Through the application of CDA in the scrutiny of political speeches, the research aims to reveal how language shapes power dynamics, ideologies, and social relationships. It posits that CDA serves as a robust analytical instrument for uncovering implicit meanings, predispositions, and social repercussions within political discourse. The study argues that CDA is pivotal in comprehending how politicians strategically employ language to mold discourse, appeal to specific audiences, and promote their agendas.

This research, employing CDA, endeavors to explore the subtleties of power dynamics, ideologies, and social norms manifested in political speeches, with a specific focus on Jacinda Ardern's farewell speech. It aligns with the fundamental principles of CDA, addressing societal issues, acknowledging discursive

power dynamics, and highlighting the historical and interpretative dimensions of discourse analysis. The overarching goal is to contribute to a more profound comprehension of the intricate interplay between language and power in the realm of political communication.

Research questions:

1. What are the different relations of power and how does Jacinda exercise it?
2. What are the linguistic elements of the discursive praxis of CDA on Jacinda Ardern's valedictory speech?
3. How are the cues of power reflected by the discursivity of Jacinda Ardern?
4. How the power and the ideology of the speaker is contextually realized?

Review of related studies:

Abdul Rahim and Jalalian (2019), undertook in their paper a comprehensive examination of the Twitter posts made by Donald Trump and Jacinda Ardern in the aftermath of the Christchurch mosque shooting. Employing a corpus-based study within the framework of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), specifically utilizing Fairclough's, Van Dijk's, and Wodak's approaches, the research aimed to discern the distinctive political ideologies embodied in the leaders' language regarding this tragic event. The analysis revealed a stark contrast between Ardern's discourse, characterized by humane considerations and a commitment to human rights for all New Zealanders, irrespective of race, religion, or nationality, and Trump's discourse, which reflected a white supremacist ideology.

Jalalian and Abdul Rahim's (2019) study, employing CDA, focused on the political discourse of Trump and Ardern following the 2019 Christchurch Mosque Shootings. The research delved into how language was wielded by the leaders to shape their political and ideological personas within the context of this calamity. The

findings emphasized Trump's emphasis on terrorism, individualizing the shooter's actions and distancing them from broader social or political contexts. In contrast, Ardern's discourse prioritized compassion and unity, acknowledging systemic issues as contributing factors, and underlining responsibility and accountability.

The study, titled "Politics of Donald Trump and Jacinda Ardern in the Christchurch Mosque Shootings: A Critical Discourse Analysis," incorporated Fairclough's three-dimensional framework, Van Dijk's socio-cognitive model, and the concept of intertextuality. These tools were applied to scrutinize speeches, media coverage, and public reactions, unveiling how political discourse surrounding the Christchurch Mosque Shootings reflected and perpetuated societal power structures.

In alignment with Fairclough's model and Van Dijk's socio-cognitive approach, the researchers used linguistic and discourse analytical tools, including thematic, lexical, and syntactic analyses. This multi-faceted examination revealed that Trump employed rhetoric emphasizing his political power, portraying himself as a strong leader, and attributing blame to Muslims and immigrants. In contrast, Ardern's discourse, characterized by empathy and solidarity, contributed to her positive public image by using inclusive language and avoiding divisive rhetoric. The study underscored how language serves as a potent tool for political leaders to shape public opinion, construct political identities, and advance political agendas within a broader social and political context.

Hannah (2019) "Rhetoric and Gender in Late Modernity: A Critical Discourse Analysis of the 2017 New Zealand General Election Campaign," examines the gendered rhetoric employed during the 2017 New Zealand general election campaign, focusing particularly on the speeches of Jacinda Ardern. Employing Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) within Fairclough's three-dimensional framework, the study delves into the linguistic choices made by

Ardern and her opponents, considering the broader social and political context.

The analysis reveals Ardern's strategic use of rhetorical devices to challenge traditional gender roles, emphasizing care and compassion in politics while presenting herself as a relatable and authentic candidate. In contrast, opponents utilized more conventional gendered rhetoric, framing Ardern as inexperienced and emotional.

Hannah contends that Ardern's rhetoric signifies a departure from traditional political communication, marking a significant shift toward a more inclusive and gender-equitable political culture. The study underscores the importance of analyzing gendered language in political campaigns and highlights the potential of CDA as a tool for identifying and challenging gender-based discrimination in political discourse.

The research employs several tools for analysis, including CDA as the overarching methodological framework, Fairclough's Three-Dimensional Framework for discourse analysis, linguistic analysis to scrutinize specific features in Ardern's speeches, contextual analysis considering the broader social and political context, and comparative analysis to identify patterns and differences in gendered discourse.

Additional details from the study include Ardern's emphasis on the language of care and compassion, her efforts to convey authenticity and relatability, the gendered criticisms she faced, media influence on public perceptions, and the indication of a shifting political culture towards progressivism and gender equality.

In a nutshell, the study contributes to a nuanced understanding of gendered rhetoric in political discourse, emphasizing the challenges faced by women in leadership positions. It advocates for critical analysis to challenge existing power structures and promote gender equality in political communication.

Theoretical framework:

This section is dedicated to the theoretical framework, a crucial dimension that shapes the lens through which the researcher interprets and analyzes the speech under investigation. The theoretical framework serves as the conceptual map guiding various exploration, offering a structured perspective on the intricate relationships and dynamics inherent in the subject matter. The aim is to establish a solid groundwork for the subsequent empirical inquiries, ensuring a rigorous and informed approach to unraveling the complexities within Fairclough's socio-cultural approach to CDA.

Socio-cultural approach:

Fairclough's socio-cultural approach to CDA proposes that language is not just a means of conveying information, but rather a complex social practice that reflects and shapes social relations and power dynamics. According to Fairclough, language use is closely linked to social structures and ideologies, and therefore the analysis of language is a key to understanding social processes and practices.

The Socio-cultural approach states that "the exercise of power, in modern society, is increasingly achieved through ideology". (Fairclough,1989, p.16). Shedding light upon the discourse-power-ideology relationship, Fairclough introduces the concept of hegemony which he defines as "a way of theorizing change in relation to the evolution of power relations which allows a particular focus upon discursive change, but at the same time a way of seeing it as contributing to and being shaped by wider processes of change" (Fairclough, 1993, p. 92).

According to (Rodgers et al., 2005, p.372) "Fairclough's second dimension, **discursive practice**, as mentioned previously, involves the analysis of the process of production, interpretation, and consumption. This dimension is concerned with how people interpret and reproduce or transform texts. The third dimension, **sociocultural practice**, is concerned with issues of power. Analysis of this dimension includes exploration of the ways in which discourses operate in various domains of society" and these two

dimensions are inter-related with the first dimension which is the text.

As anthropology defines language as a social action, Fairclough assumes that CDA investigates the relation between two hypotheses that the use of language is an orientation of socially formed and socially forming praxis. Accordingly, Fairclough (1995, p.134) defines the nature of multifunctionality of language use in the discursive praxis by operating the theoretical hypothesis that texts and discourses are socially foundational “Language use is always simultaneously constitutive of (i) social identities, (ii) social relations and (iii) systems of knowledge and beliefs”.

To analyze the discourse, he puts forward three interrelated analytical tools or dimensions:

1. **Discourse practice:** How language is used in social practices, including institutional activities and social relationships. This includes analyzing genres, narratives, and discursive events.

2. **Textual practice:** How language operates in specific texts, including linguistic features such as register, modality, and cohesion. This includes analyzing syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic features of the discourse.

3. **Social practice:** How discourse reflects and reproduces social practices and power relations, including social identities and socioeconomic structures. This includes analyzing discursive elements such as ideology, hegemony, and power relations.

The following are the principles that will be focused on this study:

a) As language is used as a means of communication, it goes far beyond mere explicit messages to cover the implicit ideological thoughts one may have. And in our case we will examine how the critical discourse decode the ideological work.

b) Discursive language has the faculty of affecting and directing people’s behavior and thoughts, the thing that posits how power relations are discursive

c) The analysis of discourse is called “description” and when we process this analysis then we are “interpreting” the discourse, but when the “explanation” is set, that means we are looking at the sociocultural practice.

d) Since critical discourse tackles the problems of the society to which it is addressed, the analysis of critical discourse aims at changing the status quo by highlighting the reasons of these problems in a way that offers resistance and positive change.

A short bio:

Jacinda Ardern, the 40th Prime Minister of New Zealand and leader of the Labour Party since 2017, delivered her valedictory speech on April 5, 2023, marking the end of her tenure. Ardern's tenure as Prime Minister was notable for her compassionate leadership style and significant policy initiatives. She gained international recognition for her handling of several crises, including the Christchurch mosque shootings in 2019, the White Island volcanic eruption, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Analysis:

During her time in office, Ardern championed progressive policies, focusing on issues such as child poverty, climate change, and social equality. Her leadership style was characterized by empathy and inclusiveness, which resonated with many New Zealanders and people worldwide.

In her valedictory speech, Ardern reflected on her achievements and challenges while expressing gratitude to her colleagues, supporters, and the New Zealand public. The speech also served as an opportunity for her to share insights and lessons learned from her time in office. Given her focus on compassionate governance, it is expected that her speech highlighted the importance of kindness and empathy in leadership, as well as her vision for New Zealand's future.

The context of Ardern's speech is significant as it marks the conclusion of a transformative period in New Zealand's political

landscape. Her departure from office leaves a legacy of progressive change and sets the stage for her successor to build upon her achievements. The speech is a reflection of her contributions and a farewell to her role as a central figure in New Zealand's political and social life.

Discussion:

The study of power relations is a central focus within the field of critical discourse analysis, as it provides valuable insights into the dynamics of authority, influence, and control within various sociopolitical contexts. Power is a multifaceted concept that permeates all levels of society, shaping relationships, decision-making processes, and the distribution of resources. Understanding power relations is crucial for comprehending how individuals and institutions exercise and maintain power, as well as how power disparities impact marginalized groups.

This research aims to apply Fairclough's socio-cultural approach to Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) in analyzing Jacinda Ardern valedictory speech, delivered during a pivotal moment in New Zealander politics, to uncover the ideological implications and power dynamics embedded within her discourse. By employing this analytical framework, this study seeks to shed light on the ways in which power relations are constructed, negotiated, and potentially challenged within the context of political speeches.

Jacinda Ardern, the dynamic and visionary leader of New Zealand, delivered a valedictory speech on Wednesday April 5th 2023, that resonated far beyond the borders of her nation. In this poignant address, Ardern encapsulated not only her time in office but also the spirit of compassionate governance that defined her tenure.

Her words were not just a farewell to her role; they were a testament to the power of empathy, leadership, and resilience in the face of challenges. The research delves into the heart of Ardern's

valedictory speech, exploring the wisdom, compassion, and unwavering determination that characterized her remarkable journey as a stateswoman. Jacinda Ardern delivered her valedictory speech in front of the parliament on April 5th 2023, which was written in a strong expressive style that is reflecting power relations.

The speech follows a narrative structure, with Jacinda sharing her personal experiences and reflections. She commences with an introduction that sets her context and her personal background, then she continued with a discussion of the reasons for being in the position of the prime minister and the challenges faced. Ardern followed that by moving on to specific policy areas and achievements, highlighting the progress she made during her tenure. The speech concludes with reflections on the COVID-19 pandemic and the importance of unity and combating misinformation.

- **Speech event 1:** *"I go back and look at the first ones..., I shared in this House.*

I remember..., I was 28..., I had only moved back..., If I'm honest, I was probably more...." (Ardern, 2023)

Ardern frequently uses personal pronouns "I" and "we" emphasizing her personal experiences, responsibilities, achievements and confidence. This use of pronouns creates a sense of direct engagement and personal connection with the audience. Ardern also employs discursive practices to establish the personal identity of her and her party and present herself in a specific light. She uses subjective pronouns "I" and "we" to emphasize their role and experiences, portraying themselves as an authoritative figure with firsthand knowledge and expertise. By sharing personal anecdotes and reflections, Ardern aims to connect with the audience on a personal level and establish credibility.

- **Speech event 2:**

*a)" But the reasons I came here never left me either. They're all there in my maiden speech - **climate change, child poverty, inequality...**"* (Ardern, 2023)

Certain phrases and ideas are repeated throughout the speech for emphasis and to reinforce key messages and focus upon important issues in New Zealand. For example, Jacinda mentions "climate change" eight times, child poverty thirteen times, and inequality two times, highlighting these as important issues that guided her political career. The repetition of the phrase "take the politics out of climate change" helps to emphasize Jacinda's call for cooperation between the two parties on addressing this issue.

- **Speech event 3:**

- a) *"A role, I never thought I was meant to have"* (Ardern, 2023)
- b) *"preserving life and helping people"* (Ardern, 2023)
- c) *"our nuclear free moment"* (Ardern, 2023)

These speech events employ various rhetorical devices to engage the audience and convey powerful messages. Examples include the use of parallelism "A role, I never thought I was meant to have", alliteration "preserving life and helping people", and metaphors "our nuclear free moment" to describe the importance of addressing climate change.

- **Speech event 4:** *"a cross between a sense of duty to steer a moving freight train, and being hit by one"* (Ardern, 2023)

The presented speech event combines formal political language with informal and colloquial expressions to create a conversational tone and to preserve a sense of familiarity and proximity with the listeners. The present excerpt and references to personal experiences, such as falling asleep on a plane, add a relatable and humanizing touch to the speech.

- **Speech event 5:** *"take the politics out of climate change..."* (Ardern, 2023)

Such speech event functions as a means of setting and promoting a specific agenda. Jacinda highlights her accomplishments in various policy areas, aiming to shape public opinion and perception of her achievements. She also emphasizes

the importance of bipartisan cooperation and urge the audience to "take the politics out of climate change," positioning themselves as a unifying figure.

Jacinda utilizes framing techniques to shape the audience's understanding and interpretation of the discussed issues. She repeatedly mentions climate change, child poverty, and inequality as focal points, framing them as significant problems that guided her political career. By employing emotionally charged language and emphasizing the urgency of these issues, Ardern attempts to persuade the audience to view them as critical priorities.

Within the complex fabric of human interaction, discursive practices function as the threads weaving together ideas, beliefs, and cultural norms. These practices, grounded in language and rhetoric, serve as the foundation of social engagements, molding our perceptions and facilitating the expression of thoughts.

This research delves deep into the core of these discursive practices, aiming to dissect their inherent structures, motives, and societal impacts. Through rigorous analysis, the objective is to investigate language as more than a mere expressive tool; rather, it is a dynamic influence shaping and mirroring our social environment. This study endeavors to unravel the complexities of discourse, shedding light on the subtle nuances, hierarchies, and ideologies dictating our communication.

By closely examining these practices, the goal is to reveal the layers of meaning concealed within our expressions, providing profound insights into the cultural and social contexts steering our dialogues. This scrutiny acts as a portal, enabling a comprehension of the fundamental essence of human interaction, elucidating the underlying mechanisms guiding our conversations and beliefs.

- **Speech event 6:** *"A series of events where I found myself in people's lives during their most grief stricken or traumatic moments. Their stories and faces remain etched in my mind, and likely will forever."* (Ardern, 2023)

Ardern utilizes empathetic style in her speeches which mirrors her emotional persona. In her speech she employs emotional

appeals to engage the audience and elicit specific emotional responses. By discussing personal experiences, challenges, and the impact of policies on people's lives, as Ardern aims to evoke empathy, concern, and a sense of shared purpose.

- **Speech event 7:**

a) *“A series of events where I found myself in people’s lives during their most grief stricken or traumatic moments. Their stories and faces remain etched in my mind, and likely will forever.”* (Ardern, 2023)

b) *“There is much we all must continue to do in the aftermath”* (Ardern, 2023)

c) *“But the most significant task for all of us as a nation is to live up to the expectations that those who experienced it have of us.”* (Ardern, 2023)

Jacinda utilizes discursive practices to foster a sense of solidarity and unity among the audience. She assures the need for collective effort in addressing challenges, highlighting the importance of shared values, cooperation, and combating misinformation. Through the speech she encourages the audience to join together in working towards common goals.

These discursive practices serve to shape the audience's understanding, evoke emotional responses, and elicit support for the speaker's agenda and vision. By strategically employing language and framing, the speech aims to persuade, mobilize, and move the audience around specific issues and goals.

- **Speech event 8:** *“My sister and I were the first in our family to attend university.”* (Ardern, 2023)

Jacinda’s identity is deeply rooted in her background as a child of the 80s, with parents who worked hard to provide opportunities. This context shapes her worldview and her approach to politics. The mention of being the first in the family to attend university highlights her personal achievements within a specific sociocultural context.

- **Speech event 9:** *“and I am here to tell you, you can be that person, and be here. I am a crier and a hugger.”* (Ardern, 2023)

Jacinda openly discusses her sensitivity, portraying emotions such as anxiety and the tendency to cry and hug. In the context of politics, where emotional expression is often suppressed, she challenges the norm by embracing her sensitivity. This challenges the traditional masculine norms associated with political leadership.

- **Speech event 10:** *“I had not long experienced a failed IVF round when I became leader of the Labor party.”* (Ardern, 2023)

Jacinda discusses her experience with infertility, IVF treatments, and the challenges of balancing motherhood with political leadership. This challenges societal expectations regarding women's roles, work-life balance, and the intersection of motherhood and career.

- **Speech event 11:** *“I remember in my early days being thrown by the odd nasty comment or negative commentary. I even went to Trevor Mallard for advice on how to harden up. I thought that I would need to change dramatically to survive. I didn't change.”* (Ardern, 2023)

The speech references Ardern's experience dealing with negative comments and criticisms. This reflects the sociocultural practice of public scrutiny faced by political figures, especially women, and highlights the need for resilience in the face of criticism.

- **Speech event 12:** *“You can be a mother, or not, an ex-Mormon, or not, a nerd, a crier, a hugger – you can be all of these things, and not only can you be here – you can lead. Just like me.”* (Ardern, 2023)

By embracing her identity as an ex-Mormon and expressing her authentic self, Jacinda promotes inclusivity and acceptance of diverse identities and beliefs. This challenges societal norms related to religious identity and acceptance within political spheres. In addition, Ardern's emphasis on hugging people and showing emotional support demonstrates the importance of empathy and compassion in leadership. This challenges traditional notions of leadership that often prioritize toughness and assertiveness.

Jacinda Ardern's journey from anxiety and self-doubt to embracing her identity and leading authentically reflects a narrative of personal growth. This narrative challenges societal expectations regarding confidence and self-assuredness in leadership roles. The speech exemplifies a powerful sociocultural narrative that challenges norms and expectations related to gender, identity, and emotional expression in politics and leadership. Through the speaker's personal story, it advocates for a more inclusive, compassionate, and authentic approach to political leadership.

The speech ends with a call to action. Jacinda is urging the audience to continue the work and address ongoing challenges. The speaker emphasizes the importance of collective effort and unity in addressing issues such as misinformation and conspiracy theories.

Ideological power analysis:

Conducting an ideological analysis of the provided speech, we can examine the underlying ideologies and beliefs reflected in the discourse. Here are some key aspects of ideological analysis in the speech:

A. Progressive Ideology: The speech aligns with a progressive ideology that emphasizes social justice, equity, and collective action. The discourse reflects a belief in the role of government intervention and regulation to tackle these issues, emphasizing the responsibility of society as a whole to create a fair and just society.

- B. Humanitarian Values:** The speech promotes humanitarian values by highlighting the need to protect the environment and support vulnerable populations, particularly children living in poverty. The speaker's emphasis on the moral imperative to address these issues reflects an ideological commitment to the well-being and dignity of all individuals.
- C. Environmentalism:** The speech demonstrates a strong commitment to environmentalism and sustainability. The speaker emphasizes the urgency of addressing climate change and the importance of transitioning to renewable energy sources. This reflects an ideological perspective that prioritizes the protection of the environment and recognizes the potential consequences of environmental degradation.
- D. Social Equality:** The speech underscores the importance of social equality and the need to address systemic inequalities. The speaker discusses the impact of poverty on children and advocates for policies aimed at reducing income disparities and providing equal opportunities for all members of society. This reflects an ideological commitment to creating a more egalitarian society.
- E. Inclusivity and Diversity:** The speech emphasizes inclusivity and diversity as core values. The speaker acknowledges the diversity of the audience and the importance of embracing different perspectives. This reflects an ideological belief in the strength of multiculturalism and the recognition of the value of diverse voices in shaping a just society.
- F. Democratic Values:** The speech upholds democratic values such as transparency, accountability, and public participation. The speaker emphasizes the need for open dialogue, bipartisan cooperation, and public accountability in political leadership. This reflects an ideological commitment to democratic principles and the belief that collective decision-making processes are essential for a just and equitable society.

Conclusion:

The ideological elements present in the speech reflect a progressive perspective that prioritizes social justice, environmental sustainability, inclusivity, and democratic values. The speaker's discourse reflects a commitment to addressing societal challenges through collective action, government intervention, and the promotion of equity and well-being for all members of society.

Although Ardern is delivering her valedictory speech, her choice of being positioned as an ordinary New Zealand citizen with no extra privileges is reflected in her words. The power relations in her speech can be observed in several aspects. Firstly, she holds a position of authority and power within the political system. This gives her the ability to shape policies, make decisions, and influence the direction of the country. As the leader of the government, she is responsible for addressing various issues such as climate change, child poverty, and inequality.

She also acknowledges the power and privilege that come with her role. She mentions being present in people's lives during their most grief-stricken or traumatic moments, such as a domestic terror attack, a volcanic eruption, and a pandemic. This highlights the power asymmetry between the leader and the citizens, as she becomes a central figure in times of crisis and holds significant responsibility for responding to these events.

Furthermore, Ardern reflects on her journey to leadership, describing unexpected events and circumstances that led her to the position. She mentions being chosen as the leader of the Labor party and the challenges she faced during the election campaign. This highlights the role of internal power dynamics within political parties and the influence of party members in selecting their leaders.

Jacinda also addresses the power dynamics within the political system itself. She calls for the removal of politics from the issue of climate change, emphasizing the importance of bipartisan cooperation and shared goals. This highlights the power struggles

and ideological differences that can hinder progress on important issues.

Moreover, Jacinda acknowledges the power of misinformation and conspiracy theories in shaping public discourse. She reflects on the challenges of countering false information during the COVID-19 pandemic and the difficulty of pulling individuals out of conspiracy rabbit holes. This recognizes the power of disinformation to influence public opinion and the need for collective efforts to combat it.

In other words, the speech reveals power relations in the context of political leadership, decision-making, crisis management, party dynamics, and public discourse. The prime minister's position as a central figure in the government and her reflections on power dynamics shed light on the complexities and challenges of wielding power in a democratic society.

From what has been reflected above, Jacinda's political power can be seen in many aspects:

In Jacinda Ardern's speech, political power relations are multifaceted and dynamic, reflecting the complexities of her role as a political leader. Several dimensions of power relations can be identified:

1. **Leadership Authority:** Ardern's position as the Prime Minister of New Zealand grants her significant authority. Her words hold weight, and she utilizes this authority to address critical issues like climate change, emphasizing the urgency of collective action.
2. **Narrative Power:** Ardern employs narrative power by sharing personal stories of individuals affected by climate change. By humanizing the issue, she establishes an emotional connection with her audience, aiming to influence their perceptions and attitudes. This narrative power is significant in shaping public opinion and galvanizing support for her causes.
3. **Crisis Management:** Ardern discusses her experiences during crises like the domestic terror attack, volcanic eruption, and pandemic. In these situations, her role as a leader is magnified.

Her decisions and actions during these crises reflect the power dynamics between the government and the citizens, emphasizing the state's responsibility to provide support and stability during emergencies.

4. **Political Influence:** Ardern navigates the political landscape, mentioning her unexpected rise to leadership and the challenges faced within her party. This highlights the internal power struggles and strategic maneuvering within political parties, showcasing the complexity of political power relations.
5. **Advocacy for Depoliticizing Climate Change:** Ardern advocates for depoliticizing climate change, urging fellow politicians to rise above partisan interests. In doing so, she challenges the existing power dynamics within the political sphere, emphasizing the need for collaborative, bipartisan efforts to address global challenges.
6. **Responsibility and Privilege:** Ardern acknowledges the responsibility and privilege of her role as Prime Minister, emphasizing the ethical dimensions of power. This recognition of the ethical implications of power underscores her awareness of the impact her decisions have on the lives of ordinary citizens.

Consequently, Ardern's speech illustrates power relations in the realms of political leadership, crisis management, narrative construction, and advocacy. Her strategic use of power emphasizes the importance of ethical governance, empathy, and collaborative efforts in addressing societal challenges.

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