

A Pragmatic Analysis of Intensifiers in Boris Jonson's Political Interview

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ABSTRACT:

The present study is concerned with English intensifiers as a linguistic means of intensification as a complex phenomenon. This complexity is related to the definition and classification of intensifiers. The current study has been conducted to find a very comprehensive classification of intensifiers to analyze them pragmatically in a systematic framework and get a general picture of the pragmatic functions of the intensifiers in this interview. These pragmatic functions are determined by the modification of both illocutionary force and speech acts, besides showing the effect of intensifiers on the other pragmatic functions. The purpose behind the combination of all the above models is to analyze intensifiers pragmatically in a systematic way in the present study. The aims of the study are the following;(i) investigating the frequent use of intensifiers in this political interview, (ii) investigating the pragmatic function of intensifiers, and (iii) examining how the politicians function/use the intensifiers in this political interview. According to these aims, it is hypothesized that;(i) politicians in their interviews frequently use intensifiers, (ii) investigating that English intensifiers have pragmatic functions, and (iii) they use intensifiers in their political interviews for a specific intended meaning as a way, for instance, to express the degree of their feelings, beliefs, and attitudes of persuasion, agreement or any other pragmatic functions. To achieve the aims and the hypotheses of this study, the researcher has selected Boris Johnson's political interview to analyze pragmatically the intensifiers used by him. The intensifiers are identified depending on the classification of Quirk et al.'s (1985). Two models are adopted for the analysis of the pragmatic functions of these intensifiers to conduct a systematic pragmatic analysis. They are: (a) Bazzanella et al. (1991), Cacchiani (2009) & Holmes (1984) for the analysis of modification for; (i)illocutionary force(ii) speech acts, and (b) Urbanova (2003) for Boosting and Attenuating other pragmatic functions. According to data analysis and discussions, the study finds that interlocutors have used different types of intensifiers for various purposes. It has found that intensifiers that express the modal meaning, and those used in the

content/discourse oriented are higher in frequency than other tendencies. Moreover, it has also found that the intensifiers of both types, amplifiers and downtoners, have been used to modify the dimensions of the illocutionary force of speech acts. According to the aims and the analysis models, the study is qualitatively designed based on the qualitative content analysis procedure. It was only quantitative to identify the individual and the total use of intensifiers in the interview. According to the discussion and the findings of the data analysis, the study has arrived at the following conclusions: 1-The intensifiers are not only used to show the mechanism of modification, but they are also used to show the interpersonal functions such as conveying the speaker's commitment or attitude toward the propositional content or the addressee. 2- The interlocutors use most of the intensifiers to convey the modal meaning. The modal meaning is only used to boost or attenuate the speech acts by both the speaker or the addressee. 3- Using a small number of intensifiers to convey the affective meaning by the politician is due to the fact that they cannot speak about their own private life. Their speech is actually authorized by their party and their coalition.

Key Words: intensifiers, pragmatic functions, modal meaning, affective meaning, modification of illocutionary force , modification of speech acts.

1. Introduction

In human communication, intensification is regarded as a common phenomenon, and there are numerous devices used to achieve the effect of intensity. According to Labov (1985), there are various linguistic devices of intensity, including adverbs of intensity, superlative forms, metaphors, aspects to express intensity, quantifiers used intensively, repetition, prosodic contrast, negative concord, inversion, etc. The intensifiers are the best means for the intensification. In a broader sense, the term intensifier is used as an adverbial modifier of adverbs, adjectives, verbs, participles, quantifiers, prepositional phrases, and nominal expressions (i.e., nouns, noun phrases, and pronouns), which scales downwards and upwards from the assumed norm. Moreover, intensifiers are regarded as the best means to modify the elements as a way to express the psychological states such as the degree of beliefs, feelings or attitudes to show other pragmatic functions such as the degree of agreement, assurance, persuasions and so on. In order to be able to explore the pragmatic features of intensifiers, it is necessary to find a precise definition and classification for them. However, there are different points of view about the definition of the term intensifier and its classification. This causes confusion and creates a problem concerning the study of those intensifiers. Additionally, the reason for selecting intensifiers as a pragmatic study is that most of the previous studies focused only on the syntactic and semantic features, whereas the pragmatic studies of intensifiers are to a certain extent limited and unsystematic. One may say that there is no pure pragmatic study of intensifiers in political interviews. Thus, this study is conducted to bridge this gap and, to be as expected, one of the first attempts in this regard. The study aims at (i) investigating the frequent use of intensifiers in political interviews, (ii) investigating the pragmatic function of intensifiers, and (iii)

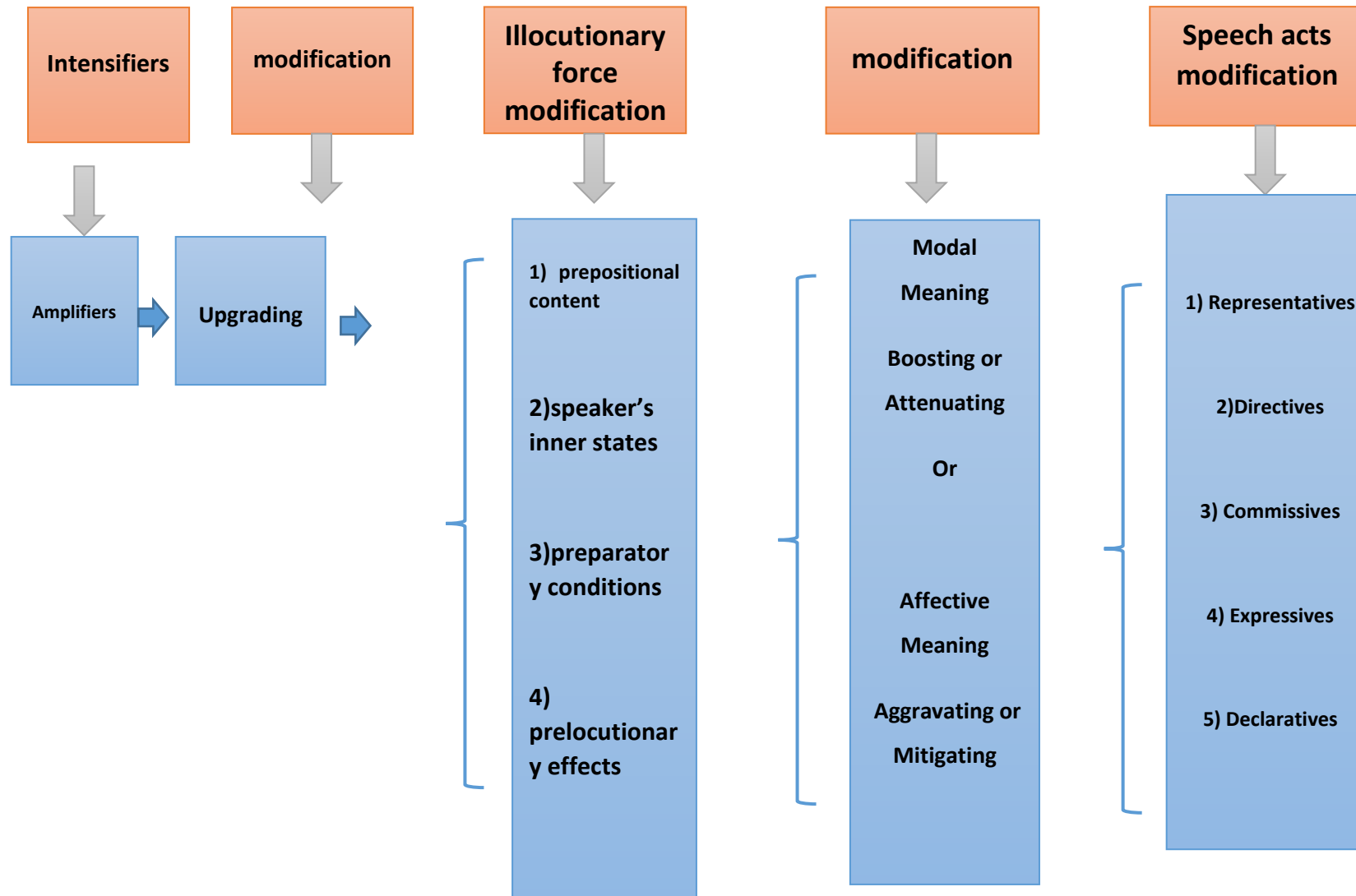
examining how the politicians function/use the intensifiers in this political interview. According to these aims, it is hypothesized that; (i) politicians in their interviews frequently use intensifiers. (ii) English intensifiers have pragmatic functions, and (iii) they use intensifiers in their political interviews for a specific intended meaning as a way, for instance, to express the degree of their feelings, beliefs, and attitudes of persuasion, agreement, or any other pragmatic functions.

This study is confined to analyze the intensifiers as adverbs in regard to pragmatic functions and any other linguistic devices such as those related to phonology (e.g., stress, pitch) and those which are related to syntax (e.g., exclamation, double negative) or any of those that are related to paralinguistic devices (e.g., gestures, facial expressions) will be excluded from this study.

The current study is important because it can help us get a better understanding of how intensifiers are used in political interviews. The researcher of this study believes that a systematic study of intensifying adverbs in political interviews will be a good attempt to contribute to this area of study. It is significant for those who study linguistics in general and pragmatics in particular. It is also significant to those who are concerned with the analysis of the political interviews as well.

1.2 The Model Adopted

The study adopts the classification of Quirk et al. (1985) only to find out, identify, and classify the type of intensifiers. The following two models are adopted for the pragmatic functions of intensifiers, (1) *Modification*, as a pragmatic function, is analyzed in the light of (i) Bazzanella et al. (1999) for illocutionary force modification to explore the role of intensifiers in the mechanism of modification of the illocutionary force, and (ii) Holmes (1984) and Cacchiani (2009a) for modification of speech acts. Figure (1) summarizes the process of the modification of the speech acts by using the intensifiers throughout analyzing procedures. In order to know the reasons or purposes of the modification of speech acts from the assuming norms, the study leads to adopt the (2) Urbanva's (2003) model as a way to identify other pragmatic functions such as the degree of certainty, uncertainty, agreement and so on in the case of the speaker, hearer or content/discourse oriented in order to draw a systematic pragmatic picture for the study.



(1) Framework of Speech Act Modification by Using Intensifiers

1.2.1 Bazzanella et al. (1991): Illocutionary Force Modification

This approach is presented by Bazzanella et al. (1991) to show the role of English intensifiers in both reinforcing or mitigating the illocutionary force from the perspective of Searle in 1 and 2 felicity of conditions and Bazzanella et al. in the third dimension and perlocutionary goals.

- 1) Propositional content
- 2) Speaker's inner states (sincerity conditions)
- 3) Preparatory conditions
 - i. Speaker's commitment
 - ii. Obligations assigned to addressee
- 4) Perlocutionary effects

1.2.2 Cacchiani (2009a) and Holmes (1984): Modification of Speech Act

According to Cacchiani (2009a:235-236), it is possible to draw a distinction between reinforcement, mitigation, and aggravation, in the case of reinforcement where it is not a matter of face-work. However, in the case of mitigation, where the resulting of the act of speech is less risky for the speaker, and aggravation where the resulting act of speech is riskier for the speaker

Holmes (1985) states that there are two different strategies for modification of the illocutionary force, namely boosting and attenuation. The strategy of boosting occurs by the use of what Quirk et al. (1985) call 'amplifiers', whereas attenuation occurs by the use of what Quirk et al. (ibid) call 'downtoners'. She presents reasons about modifying the force of the speech act: Firstly, to convey modal meaning or the attitude of the speaker to the content of the proposition, secondly, to express affective meaning or the attitude of the speaker to the addressee in the context of utterance.

1.2.3 Urbanova (2003): Other Pragmatic Functions of Amplifiers and Downtoners

Urbanova (2003) presents a dichotomy, namely, accentuation and attenuation. The notion of accentuation occurs by the use of what Quirk et al. (1985) call 'amplifiers', whereas attenuation occurs by the use of what Quirk et al. (ibid) call 'downtoners'. It can be understood that this model is based on semantic meaning. Urbanova (2003:68) suggests another classification that is related to the relationship of boosting and attenuating with discourse meaning. She suggests that accentuation and attenuation can be classified into three groups as the following:

1-hearer-oriented

2-speaker-oriented

3- (a)-discourse-organizing (for accentuation)

(b)-content-oriented (for attenuation)

Other linguistic devices serve to classify the intensifiers in these three oriented, for example, the first person pronoun (e.g., I), the second person pronoun (e.g., you), and the existential there (e.g., there is/are) are used to identify the intensifiers with the speaker, hearer, and with the content/discourse oriented respectively.

2.1 Speech Act Theory

Huang (2007:2) defines pragmatics as “the systematic study of meaning by virtue of, or dependent on, the use of language.” He also states that implicature, presupposition, speech act, deixis, and reference are the central components of inquiry of pragmatics. Archer et al. (2013: 35) state that the speech act is the cornerstone of pragmatics since it is the major part. Levinson (1980:5) states that the speech acts theory is the topic that attracts several scholars from different fields of knowledge. Bruner (1975) and Bates (1976), cited in Levinson (ibid), state that psycholinguists, for instance, have argued that the acquisition of speech acts may be preconditioned for the acquisition of the language. Levinson (1983:374), on the other hand, also adds that the study of some pragmatic areas such as the speech acts and their uses and social deixis are contributed with other disciplines such as sociolinguistics, then Levinson (ibid.) adds that the relation between pragmatics and psycholinguistics is represented by the cognitive psychology and other theories such as theories of language processing and production. Austin (1962) introduces in his collective lectures three components of the speech act, which are locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary. Sassen (2005:34) mentions that “Searle follows Austin in claiming that the speech act is the basic unit of communication”. Accordingly, it is also stated that Searle presents four components of speech act. They are the following; (i)The utterance act, (ii)the propositional act, (iii)The illocutionary act, and (vi)the perlocutionary act. It can be noted that Searle’s components of illocutionary and perlocutionary acts are parallel to those presented by Austin, but the difference is only in their names. Searle classifies the speech acts into five main categories as following –Representatives, Commissives, Directives, Expressives, and Declaratives. The intensifiers can be used as a strategy for strengthening or softening all five classes of speech acts. Their effects are either welcome to the hearer or not. The concepts boosting and attenuating can be modified by the alternative linguistic device, which is intensifiers (amplifiers and downtoners).

2.2 Political Interviews

The media's political interview is crucial in this study. Hannan (1986), cited in Scannell (1991:77), defines it as “one of the most important ways in which the political debate is conducted”. Hannan regards the interview as the fundamental way in which the audience perceive the leaders and present themselves on the political interviews on television or on the radio.

Garvey and Rivers (1982:157) give a difference between the television and radio interview in the case of audiences. The audience of the radio will notice the physical device of the interviewee, such as the tone of voice and the length of time which takes to answer the question by the interviewee. On television, the audience can notice the facial expressions and body language of the interviewee. The camera can give the audience a view of the subject’s face or hands that even the interviewer does not get during the interview. Holmes (1984:350) states that the kinesics and

paralinguistic devices such as Gestures, body posture, facial expression, hesitations, pauses, and tone of voice which may modify illocutionary force. However, this study excludes these devices and focuses only on linguistic devices (e.g., intensifiers), which is the topic of this study. Thus, there is no problem in selecting the data on television or on the radio.

3.1 Methodology

The study is conducted to identify the existence and the type and frequency of intensifiers in this interview and to show its effect on the utterances, speakers, and hearers oriented as a way to show their pragmatic function. The frequent use of intensifiers is needed to know their types and individual subtypes in this interview as well as to show the different usage of intensifiers in the interview. This means that this research is qualitative more than quantitative, and the frame of this study is based on using words more than numbers; thus, it is conducted by ‘qualitative method research design’. More precisely, the qualitative method is based on the content analysis of the data collection. The data were collected from the political interview; before uploading the data concerned with the interview from the websites, the researcher has followed several techniques in collecting data as follows: (i)The researcher selected the websites after several visits and made sure that these websites are international and reliable, (ii)The researcher made sure that the interview is authentic in order to identify the linguistic devices without modification, (iv)The researcher identified the utterances that have intensifiers in this interview in order to analyze them pragmatically. These utterances have been given numbers. (v)The researcher prepared data for Analysis.

3.2 Data Analysis Procedures

The researcher sums up the process of analyzing the data collected according to the models adopted in several steps: firstly, collecting and identifying the existence and the type of the intensifiers that were used by the interlocutors in their interviews. The classification of Quirk et al. (1985) was adopted to implement this procedure, and in addition to that, this classification is helpful to identify the literal meaning of the intensifiers in order to understand their intended meaning. Secondly, after collecting and classifying the intensifiers, the analysis followed the first model by Bazzanella et al. (1991) for the role of intensifiers in modification of the illocutionary force, and the combination of two models Cacchiani (2009) and Holmes (1984) to show the role of intensifiers in modification of speech act either boosting or attenuating and finally, the Urbanova's(2003) model to show the purpose behind the modification of speech acts.

4.1 DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

This interview is conducted in BBC news between the interviewer Laura Kuenssberg and the conservative leader and prime minister Boris Johnson. In this interview, The Member of Parliament discussed his Brexit strategy and defended his right to privacy, as well as his character and political past. The interview consists of (4038) words, and it contains (82) adverbs as intensifiers used by the participants.

Depending on Quirk et al.'s (1985) classification of the intensifiers, this interview includes the following intensifiers found in Table (1) below with their frequencies.

Table (1) Distribution of Categories and the Frequent use of Intensifiers by Quirk et al. (1985).

N.	Intensifiers	Quirk et al. (1985)	Frequency
1	Absolutely	maximizer	2
2	Probably	compromizer	1
3	More	booster	4
4	Actually	maximizer	10
5	Really	booster	7
6	Obviously	maximizer	1
7	Very	booster	14
8	Just	diminisher	7
9	Plainly	maximizer	1
10	Broadly	maximizer	1
11	Basically	maximizer	1
12	at all	minimizer	1
13	kind of	compromizer	4
14	Particularly	booster	1
15	So	booster	7
16	confidently and seriously	booster	1
17	Totally	maximizer	1
18	Simply	maximizer	1
19	most	maximizer	2
20	a bit	diminisher	4
21	Almost	approximator	1
22	Enough	compromizer	1
23	Possibly	diminisher	2
24	Partly	approximator	2
25	Highly	booster	1
26	Only	diminisher	3
27	Too	maximizer	1
Total			82

The table shows that the participants use different types of intensifiers. They are about twenty-seven types of intensifiers that are used in this interview. The most frequent use of intensifiers is the booster very

then the maximizer actually, and then followed by diminisher just and booster so. The rest of the intensifiers have a low frequency.

4.1.1 Modification

4.1.1.1 Illocutionary Force Modification

According to Bazzanella et al. 's (1991) perspective, the amplifiers and the downtoners types are used to upgrade or downgrade the various dimensions of the illocutionary force, as it is shown below.

(A)The propositional content: The intensifiers of this interview play the main role in modifying this dimension either up or down, and with this modification the illocutionary force is either upgraded or downgraded accordingly, as in the following:

(i) Upgrading the propositional content

The propositional content of the illocutionary force can be upgraded by the intensifiers such as boosters, maximizers, and minimizers; for example, the politician and the interviewer use the booster type such as 'more' as in 'more affordable' in (27), and the minimizer 'at all' as in 'not true at all' in (10) which are used to upgrade the propositional content of the illocutionary force to either pay positive face or increase the degree of the certainty to the hearer.

(ii) Downgrading the propositional content

Besides the upgrading of the propositional content, this dimension can also be modified down by the use of the downtoners types such as; diminishers, approximators, and comprimizers. The usage, for example, of the compromiser types such as 'properly' as in 'properly protected' in (1) by the politician, the approximator such as 'almost' as in 'almost seems' in (30) by the interviewer, and the diminisher such as 'a bit' as in 'a bit left' in (36) by the politician is clearly seen. They are used to downgrade the promotional content of the illocutionary force as a way to express the positive face to the hearer.

(B) Speaker's inner states (sincerity conditions)

The occurrence of the upgrading and downgrading of the speaker's inner states/sincerity conditions is by the intensifiers of both types amplifiers and downtoners. For example, the amplifiers types of intensifiers such as the maximizer 'absolutely' as in 'absolutely serious' in the exchange (1), the booster 'more' as in 'more difficult' in (1), are used to upgrade the sincerity conditions of the politician as a way to pay positive face to the hearer. However, the diminishers 'just' and 'possibly' as in 'just said' in (14), and as in 'possibly can' in (34) are used by the politician to pay positive face to the hearer and to downgrade his inner states of the illocutionary force.

(C)Preparatory conditions

The study identifies two conditions according to this dimension. They are:

(i)Speaker's commitment

The amplifiers and downtoners types of intensifiers are served to either 'strengthen the speaker's commitment' or 'weaken the speaker's commitment'. It can be notified that the interlocutors, for example, the use

of the amplifiers types such as the boosters like the maximizers ‘absolutely’, ‘actually’, and ‘too’ as in ‘absolutely serious’ in (1), ‘actually all’ in (29), and ‘too long’ in (38) for the upgrading of their commitments to the illocutionary force of speech acts. However, the use of the downtoners types such as the diminisher ‘just’ as in ‘just do’ in (23) is used to downgrade the politician’s commitment to the illocutionary force.

(ii) Obligations assigned to addressee

In addition to the upgrading and downgrading of the speaker’s commitment, the obligation assigned to addressee of the illocutionary force, can also be modified to upgrade or downgrade by using various types of the intensifier. For example, the booster ‘really’ as in ‘really be’ in (16), and the booster ‘so’ as in ‘so much’ in (23) is used by the interviewer for upgrading her obligation assigned to addressee of the illocutionary force. However, the downtowner types such as the diminisher ‘just’ as in ‘just wish’ in (6), and the compromiser ‘enough’ as in ‘lucky enough’ in (32) are used by the interviewer to downgrade the obligation assigned to addressee of the illocutionary force.

(D) Perlocutionary effects

The intensifiers cannot only modify the dimensions of the illocutionary force, but they can also upgrade or downgrade the effect of the perlocutionary of the speech act. For example, the amplifiers type of intensifiers such as the booster ‘very’ in ‘very carefully’ in (3), and ‘very different’ in (12) are used to upgrade the desired perlocutionary effect of the speech acts. However, the downtoners type of intensifiers such as the diminisher ‘just’ as in ‘just always’ in (36), the compromiser ‘kind of’ as in ‘kind of hard’ in (11) are used to upgrade the effect of the perlocutionary of speech acts.

4.1.1.2 Modification of Speech Acts

According to the perspectives of Holmes (1984) and Cacchiali (2009a), the majority of intensifiers used in this interview convey a modal meaning, indicating that the speaker wants to share his viewpoint and attitude on the proposition. Interlocutors use intensifiers, which have a modal meaning, to convey particular scalar either to boost or attenuate different types of speech acts.

1- I would make sure that we have a plan that will convince our European friends and partners that we are absolutely serious about coming out, and the key things that you got to do are to take the bits of the current withdrawal agreement.

In the above utterance, Boris uses the maximizer ‘absolutely’ to boost the representative speech acts of asserting

1- I think the money is more difficult.

At the same exchange, Boris uses the booster ‘more’ to boost the representative speech act of guessing.

6-But if you want to be prime minister you have to tell people how, you can’t just wish it to be true.

In this utterance, the interviewer uses the diminisher ‘just’ to attenuate the representative speech act of arguing.

11- There was a very good report just today by Shanker Singham and many others looking at the modalities of how to do this.

The booster ‘very’ is used by Boris in this utterance to boost the assertive speech act of asserting.

16- would you really be willing as prime minister to face the consequences of no deal which could mean crippling tariffs on some businesses?

The booster ‘really’ is used to boost the directive speech act of asking that is directing from the interviewer to the interviewee.

22- But my key point though is that the minute you start talking about your family or your loved ones, you involve them in a debate that is it is simply unfair on them.

The maximizer ‘simply’ is used by Boris to boost the representative speech act of disagreeing.

28-Why do so many conservatives worry about you sticking to your word or being careless with the truth?

The interviewer uses the booster ‘so’ to boost the direction speech act of asking.

However, there are only two utterances that contain the intensifier ‘very’ for the affective meaning. It is used in the context by the interviewer to prime minister Boris as in the following utterance:

39-LK: Thanks very much. Thank you very much indeed. (boosting the expressive speech act of Thanking positively).

According to Cacchiali (2009a), the majority of intensifiers in the interview are used to strengthen the speech acts to convey and make the utterances more confident and reliable; nevertheless, there are only two utterances that include the intensifier ‘very’, which is used by the speaker to boost the expressive speech act of thanking positively, thus resulting in a mitigating impact. Table (2) demonstrates the distribution of intensifiers with various types of speech acts in this interview.

Table (2) Distribution of intensifiers in modifying of speech acts

Speech acts	Maximizers	Boosters	Approximators	Compromisers	Diminishers	Minimizers.
guessing		1				
Arguing	3	2				
asserting	4	15	2	1	3	
clarifying		2				
Giving opinion	1	1		1		
justifying	2	6		1	1	
accusing	1	1	1		5	
disagreeing	1					
denying	1			1		
Stating	3	1				
Asking	1	3		2	4	
promising	1	1			1	
suggesting	1					
thanking		2				
refusing	1					

predicting		1				
agreeing	1					
disagreeing						1
reporting					2	
frequency	21	35	3	6	16	1

Table (2) illustrates the distribution of different types of intensifiers in modifying different types of speech acts. As it is shown that the amplifiers instead of downtoners, are used to modify the speech acts of thanking, guessing, disagreeing, stating, suggesting, predicting, and agreeing. And the downtoners instead of amplifiers types are used to modify the speech acts of reporting and disagreeing. It is also shown that the boosters types of amplifiers are the most popular types of amplifiers for modifying various kinds of speech acts such as asserting, justifying, and asking. The other types of amplifiers show the lowest ratio in modification. The diminisher types of downtoners, on the other hand, are the most frequent use in modifying different types of speech acts such as accusing, asking and, asserting. While the other types of downtoners show a low ratio of distribution in modification.

4.1.2 Other Pragmatic Functions

According to Urbanova's (2003) model, it has been found that intensifiers express both accentuating and attenuating functions throughout the text. Intensifiers that are used with a boosting or accentuating function are more active than those with an attenuating function. The following table summarizes the frequent use of intensifiers which boost the elements in three groups: speaker-oriented, hearer-oriented, and discourse-oriented.

Table (3) Boosters' Classification and their Distributions in the Interview with their Frequencies

Booster	Total
Speaker-oriented	16
Hearer-oriented	13
Discourse-oriented	27
Total	56

According to the interview, this table reveals that the category of the discourse-oriented booster is the most frequent type used in this interview. These intensifiers occur in 27 instances. Then, they are followed by speaker-oriented boosters. Their level of occurrence is not so frequent; it shows only 16 instances. The least frequent use of boosters according to their contribution to discourse meaning is hearer-oriented boosters, and it shows a slight difference from that in speaker-oriented. It is only 13 times in the whole interview.

As discussed previously in this study, boosters may serve a variety of pragmatic functions throughout political interviews. Urbanová (2003:72-73) distinguishes several functions such as emphasize, assurances, degree of agreement and certainty, and the subjectivity of judgment and opinion. All these functions occur in the case of the speaker, hearer, or discourse-oriented.

In the case of speaker-oriented, it can be noted that the interlocutors use various types of intensifiers to show the previous functions in this interview, for instance:

1- "we are absolutely serious about coming out and the key things that you got to do are to take the bits of the current withdrawal agreement"

In this utterance, Boris uses the maximizer 'absolutely' as a way to increase the degree of a certain quality of the utterance to express his attitude and the attitude of his party toward the message.

3- "we need obviously for both sides to come together; they've not got 29 Brexit MEPs in Strasbourg"

The maximizer 'obviously' in this utterance is used by Boris to express his certainty and confidence in order to assure the audience about the truthfulness of his message.

18- "Of course that's right Laura. It's not just up to us, it's up to the other side as well. And there is an element of course, a very important element of mutuality and co-operation in this".

This type of boosting device is used by the prime minister to increase the degree of agreement and to express understanding, and show his positive stance to the message conveyed by him.

1- "I think the money is more difficult".

2-"I think on both sides of the Channel there's a really different understanding of what is needed".

These types of boosters, 'more' and 'really' are used by Boris to increase his beliefs and express his subjectivity in order to make the utterance highly assertive to show his involvement and persuasiveness.

The most frequent function of boosters in this interview is the content-oriented emphasis, for instance:

3- "They're watching this very carefully"

7-: "Well, they do actually, in very large measure they do".

31-: But so often people worry that you're just a bit scrappy with the truth,

37- "The Guardian - highly reputable newspaper"

This type of boosting device is used to emphasize various parts of the message and pieces of information in a given utterance.

The main reason behind the highest level of occurrence of this function can be interpreted as a deliberate attempt by politicians to emphasize some parts of their utterances over others, thus making the message more understandable and clearer to listeners.

The lowest frequent use of emphasis is related to the hearer-oriented. In this interview, the hearers use the intensifiers with different degrees to emphasize the message that they want to send, for instance;

8-"LK: But as one big solution to the Irish border question which as you suggest is absolutely at the root of this, there is no solution ready right now".

10-"But what you're basically saying is"

10- "You're not giving us anything concrete that actually suggests it's possible".

37- "And you really think you can do that when some people see you as the most divisive politician?"

It can be noted that both the interviewer and the prime minister use the different types of amplifiers that function as a booster as a way to direct attention to the hearer and emphasize specific parts of the message, which supports the hearer to concentrate on the speaker's utterances.

In addition to accentuating, the attenuating functions are also used in this text. The following table shows the frequent use of the intensifiers, which have the main role in attenuating. They are classified into three groups:

Table (4) Attenuators' Classification and their Distributions in the Interview with their Frequencies

Attenuator	Total
Speaker-oriented	6
Hearer-oriented	8
Content-oriented	12
Total	26

The above table shows that intensifiers that function as the attenuators of the content-oriented are the most commonly used during the interview. They occur in 12 times in the whole interview. Then, they are followed by hearer-oriented attenuators. Their level of occurrence is smaller, with just eight instances. Finally, the least frequent use of attenuators according to their contribution to discourse meaning is speaker-oriented attenuators, which appear only six times in the whole interview.

In the case of content-oriented, the pragmatic function of the attenuators in this area are used by the interlocutors to make their content's message less prominent as a way to send specific pragmatic functions, for instance;

4- "There is no kind of deal without the backstop, an insurance policy for Northern Ireland"

12- "and why do you think they would do that when if the UK had just walked away from a deal that has taken them three years to put together?"

36- "but it was about huge parts of Britain feeling that they didn't have the same advantages, the same care, the same love, as London and the southeast, and that they were being a bit left behind".

37- "And Jeremy Corbyn only understands one half of that. He's only interested in taxation and spending".

It can be noted that the interviewer and the prime minister use different kinds of downtoners that function as attenuators or as a linguistic device that are used by the interlocutors to increase the attenuators that are related to the content of message as a way to indicate the degree of uncertainty and evasiveness of the speaker.

The second most frequent function of attenuators in this interview is hearer-oriented devices, for instance:

21- "Can you just tell us what happened at your partner's home a couple of nights ago?"

The interviewer uses the diminisher 'just' as a way to soften the illocutionary force of utterances to express positive politeness.

6- "But how do you do that? Because you're right - everybody wants a solution to this. But if you want to be prime minister you have to tell people how, you can't just wish it to be true".

31- "you're just a bit scrappy with the truth",

32- "If you're lucky enough to become prime minister, will you be a different kind of politician?"

The linguistic devices such as the diminisher 'just' in the utterance (21), 'a bit', given in (31), and compromizer 'enough' and 'kind of' found in (32) are used by the interlocutors in the case of hearer-oriented as a way to express uncertainty that is specified towards the hearer. This type of attenuator is not so frequent since the interviewer and the prime minister concentrate more on the linguistic devices that are related to the content of their messages and not on the hearer or speaker so much.

The lowest frequent use of attenuator is related to the speaker-oriented. In this interview, the speakers use the intensifiers with a different degree to soften the message that they need to send, for example:

14- "You've got to understand, Laura, listening to what I just said, that is not where I want us to end up".

34- "I think because of the failures of the political class, lost a sense of purpose and lost perhaps a bit of a sense of self belief".

The linguistic devices of these utterances are used by the interlocutors as a way to express the speaker's doubts and uncertainty concerning the propositions.

4.2 Findings of Data Analysis

1-The intensifiers of both amplifiers and downtoners are used by the politician in this interview. But it can be seen that the politician tends to use amplifiers about twice the number of intensifiers compared to those of downtoners.

2-The intensifiers of both types are used to modify various dimensions of illocutionary force of speech acts.

3-The politician engaged in this interview uses the intensifiers of both types: amplifiers and downtoners for the modal meaning to strengthen and weaken the illocutionary force of speech acts.

4-The intensifiers used in the affective meanings have the lowest frequent use in the interview. It can be found in only one or two utterances in the whole interview.

5-Only the amplifiers type of intensifiers is used for the affective meanings by the interlocutors.

6-As mentioned above, the lowest frequent use of intensifiers is in affective meanings for mitigation type. However, the aggravation type is shown zero in the interview.

7-The frequent use of intensifiers used by the politician in the discourse or content-oriented of both booster and attenuator functions is higher than that of the speaker or hearer-oriented in all interviews.

8-The number of intensifiers used in the speaker-oriented is higher than the number in the hearer-oriented in all interviews.

9- It has been found that the attenuators types of intensifiers are used by the politician in three areas; speaker, hearer, and content orientations

5.1 Conclusions

The study has come up with the following conclusions:

The study has significantly concluded that the use of intensifiers might be regarded as a powerful tool by the interlocutors to get the audience's intentions, prompt their feelings, and achieve their aims and interests. The intensifiers of both types; amplifiers and downtoners, are not only used to upgrade or downgrade the quality or quantity of the scaling and showing the mechanism of modification but are also used to show the interpersonal functions such as conveying the speaker's commitment or attitude toward the propositional content or the addressee. This leads to add that the interrelation between pragmatics and psychology is not only shown through the cognitive psychology or the theories of language process or production but also through these devices since these devices(intensifiers) pragmatically have interpersonal functions and express the psychological states as well. The politicians, Boris Johnson, as an example, use most of the intensifiers to convey the modal meaning or their attitude to the propositions. The modal meaning is only used to boost or attenuate the speech acts by both the speaker or the addressee. The speakers boost their speech acts when they know that the hearers are doubtful or hesitant about certain propositions. However, they use the attenuating devices when they might become doubtful about the validity of the information of the proposition. The low member of intensifiers used to convey the affective meaning by the politicians is resulted from not being able to speak about their own private life. Their speech is actually authorized by their party and their coalition. The reason for the disappearance of the use of intensifiers to convey the aggravation type of affective meaning is that the language of most political interviews that are conducted between the interviewer and the politicians is more polite than that in debate interviews among the politicians. Thus, the negative face-work is also disappeared in this type of interview. Only the amplifier types are used to modify the illocutionary force of speech act of thanking since this type of speech act expresses the inner states of the speaker. The reason behind the most frequent use of intensifiers in the case of content or discourse oriented is to reduce the responsibility of the politician for his claim. It is very difficult to determine if he really does not want to express his own attitudes, or he can't talk about his own individual opinion since he represents his own party or a certain group of people. Thus, the interlocutors use intensifiers in this area more than in the case of speaker/hearer-oriented. The number of intensifiers in the case of hearer-oriented is considerably lower than the group of speaker-oriented. The use of intensifiers in speaker-oriented is to indicate a certain degree of involvement in his interactional process. Moreover, the speaker attempts to show that he recognizes what is important and why he modifies

this issue than the addressee as a way to strengthen their position in front of the other.

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Appendix (A)

The Interview between the Interviewer Laura Kuenssberg and Conservative Leader and Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

1-Laura Kuenssberg: So Boris Johnson what would you do on day one in Number 10 to make sure we leave the EU at Halloween?

Boris Johnson: I would make sure that we have a plan that will convince our European friends and partners that we are absolutely serious about coming out and the key things that you got to do are to take the bits of the current withdrawal agreement, which is dead, take the bits that are serviceable and get them done. And that is number one. The stuff about European Union citizens, the 3.2 million, they need to be properly protected. I wanted that done the day after the referendum, you may remember. Their rights should be enshrined in an unconditional way in UK

law, number one. Number two, you should look at the various other things that you could do to make progress with the bits of the withdrawal agreement that we have. I think the money is more difficult. I think the £39bn is at the upper end of the EU's expectations, but there is it, it's a considerable sum. I think there should be creative ambiguity about when and how that gets paid over. The important thing is that there should be an agreement that the solution of the border questions, the Irish border, the Northern Irish border questions, and all the facilitation that we want to produce, to get that done. All those issues need to be tackled on the other side of 31 October during what's called the implementation period.

2-LK: But the implementation period, as it stands, is part of the withdrawal agreement and you've said that you wouldn't sign up to the withdrawal agreement and it's dead. Those two things can't both be true.

BJ: No, because you're going to need some kind of agreement and that's certainly what I'm aiming for in order, as you rightly say Laura, to get an implementation period. And I think, actually, that politics has changed so much since 29 March. I think on both sides of the Channel there's a really different understanding of what is needed. And on our side of the Channel we've got MPs in both the major parties who recognise that their parties face real danger of extinction at the polls and - you know - Labour went backwards in the recent council elections - unless we get Brexit over the line. And so I think there's going to be a willingness to move this thing forward.

3-LK: But what is it...?

BJ: On the other side of the Channel, obviously, where you know they're watching this very carefully and we need obviously for both sides to come together, they've not got 29 Brexit MEPs in Strasbourg. They have the £39bn that they're keen to get. And, frankly, they also want Brexit to be done.

4-LK: They want it done in the EU, but they do not want it done at any cost. And time and again whether it is Jean-Claude Juncker, President Macron, any EU leaders, they have been crystal clear. There is no kind of deal without the backstop, an insurance policy for Northern Ireland. So what evidence do you have you can get around that?

BJ: Because I think that it is what the gentlemen have also said and what people have also said in all European capitals - and of course, in the [European] Commission - is that nobody wants a hard border in Northern Ireland and indeed nobody believes that it will be necessary. And so what we need is to hold that thought, which is true, which is agreed amongst all.

5-LK: It's what people want, but that's very different to what people get, Boris Johnson.

BJ: And make sure that we reach the solutions they are achievable as both sides have said, as the Commission has said. The facilitations that can be reached, make sure that we deal with the solutions to the Irish border

question and any other border questions because the Irish border question in microcosm stands for all the other facilitations that we'll around the EU.

6-LK: But how do you do that? Because you're right - everybody wants a solution to this. But if you want to be prime minister you have to tell people how, you can't just wish it to be true.

BJ: Let me tell you, there are abundant, abundant technical fixes that can be introduced to make sure that you don't have to have checks at the border. That's the crucial thing. And everybody accepts that there are ways you can check for the rules of origin, there are ways you can check for compliance with EU goods and standards, of our goods standards.

7-LK: But they don't exist yet.

BJ: Well, they do actually, in very large measure they do. You have trusted trader schemes, all sorts of schemes that you could put in to place.

8-LK: But as one big solution to the Irish border question which as you suggest is absolutely at the root of this, there is no solution ready right now.

BJ: You're right, Laura, that there's no single magic bullet. But there is a wealth of experience, a wealth of solutions. And what's changed now is that there is a real positive energy about getting it done.

9-LK: Where's your evidence for that?

BJ: Well, because I think on both sides of the Channel there's an understanding that we have to come out, but clearly Parliament has voted three times against the backstop arrangements that you rightly describe. And at present the UK, and any UK government, with this appalling choice of either being run by the EU whilst being outside the EU, which is plainly unacceptable, or else giving up control of the government in Northern Ireland. There is a way forward which I think, actually, to be fair all the candidates in the Conservative Party leadership contest broadly endorsed, which was to change the backstop, get rid of the backstop, in order to allow us to come out without this withdrawal agreement, and as far as I understand the matter, that is also the position of my remaining opponent.

10-LK: But Boris Johnson, everybody wants this to be sorted. Of course they do. Not least the public. But what you're basically saying is 'we'll cross our fingers because I think the situation is different so we could get a deal done.' You're not giving us anything concrete that actually suggests it's possible.

BJ: No that's not true at all, actually Laura.

11-LK: Well where's your evidence?

BJ: There was a very good report just today by Shanker Singham and many others looking at the modalities of how to do this. This is something that had been worked on extensively for the last three years. There are plenty of checks that you can do away from the border if you had to do them without any kind of hard infrastructure at the Northern Ireland frontier.

12-LK: But do you accept that your plan would require agreement from the European Union, political goodwill, and why do you think they would do that when if the UK had just walked away from a deal that has taken them three years to put together?

BJ: Several reasons. First of all, don't forget, that as I say they got the Brexit MEPs they don't particularly want. They want us out, they've got the incentive of the money. They've also got to understand, Laura, is what has changed and what will be so different is that the intellectual capital that had been invested in the whole backstop had really come from the UK side. We were committed to it. We actually helped to invent it. We were the authors of our own incarceration. Take that away. Change the approach of the UK negotiators and you have a very different outcome.

13-LK: And if you can't do that?

BJ: And simultaneously of course, and you know what I'm going to say, the other tool, the other tool of negotiation that you should use, not only the incentives of getting this thing done, moving it over the line, getting the money across and all the rest, but you have the extra incentive of course that the UK will be ready to come out as you know on WTO terms.

14-LK: And if you cannot get the agreement that sounds like you're crossing your fingers, you are clear we would leave you would take us out at Halloween without a deal an absolute guarantee?

BJ: You have to be, of course, my pledge is to come out of the EU at Halloween on 31 October. And the way to get our friends and partners to understand how serious we are is finally, I'm afraid, to abandon the defeatism and negativity that has enfolded us in a great cloud for so long and to prepare confidently and seriously for a WTO or no deal outcome. You've got to understand, Laura, listening to what I just said, that is not where I want us to end up. It is not where I believe for a moment we will end up. But in order to get the result that we want, in order to get the deal we need, the commonsensical protraction of the existing arrangements until such time as we have completed the free trade deal between us and the EU that will be so beneficial to both sides. The commonsensical thing to do is to prepare for a WTO exit.

15-LK: But unless you can get that deal...

BJ: Now as it happens, by 29 March, a huge amount of work had been done and we had made great progress. There is still as you know some areas that need to be completed some things actually where the kind of level of preparedness is slightly sunk back again.

16-LK: And Boris Johnson are you, would you really be willing as prime minister to face the consequences of no deal which could mean crippling tariffs on some businesses? It could mean huge uncertainty over what on earth happens at the Northern Irish border. It could mean huge uncertainty for people's livelihoods and people's real lives. Now in the real world, as prime minister and I know you dispute how bad it would be, but are you willing to face the consequences of what a no deal might mean for the people of this country?

BJ: In the real world, the UK government is never going to impose checks or a hard border of any kind in Northern Ireland. That's just number one. Number two in the real world the UK government is not going to want to impose tariffs on goods coming into the UK.

17-LK: But it's not just up to the UK...

BJ: Hang on, I'm coming to that point...

18-LK: ... not just up to the UK?

BJ: Of course that's right Laura. It's not just up to us, it's up to the other side as well. And there is an element of course, a very important element of mutuality and co-operation in this. And we will be working with our friends and partners to make sure that we have an outcome that is manifestly in the interests of people, of businesses, communities on both sides of the channel.

19-LK: And you think you could get that through Parliament?

BJ: I do

20-LK: You think you could get a no deal through Parliament?

BJ: Well I do. I mean you've got to be very clear. I think Parliament now understands. That the British people want us to come out and to honour the mandate that they gave us. And I think that MPs on both sides of the House also understand that they will face mortal retribution from the electorate unless we get on and do it. Again, what has changed since 29 March is that my beloved party is down at 17 points in the polls. Labour isn't doing much better as I say with superhuman incompetence Corbyn managed to go backwards in the recent council elections. People want to get this thing done. They want to get it done sensibly. They want to get it done in a way that is generous to European Union citizens in our country and I stress that is the first thing to do. And they want to get it done in a way that allows us to move on which is why I think people are yearning, their yearning for this great Incubus to be pitchforked off the back of British politics. They want us to get on with some fantastic things for this country. And that is what we want to do.

21-LK: OK, well let's move on because there are plenty of things we want to talk on. So let's move on. Can you just tell us what happened at your partner's home a couple of nights ago?

BJ: I... would love to tell you about all sorts of things Laura, but I've made it a rule over many, many years and I think you've interviewed me loads of times, I do not talk about stuff involving my family, my loved ones. And there's a very good reason for that. That is that, if you do, you drag them into things that, really, is, in a way that is not fair on them.

22-LK: But now you hope to be in Number 10, things are changing. Does your privacy mean more to you than the public's ability to trust you? Because part of trust is being open, it's being accountable, it's being transparent.

BJ: Yes I get that, I totally get that. But my key point though is that the minute you start talking about your family or your loved ones, you involve them in a debate that is it is simply unfair on them.

23-LK: But you seem to care about privacy, but you seem to care about your privacy so much that yesterday a photographer, or someone with a phone, just happened to stumble upon you in the middle of the Sussex countryside. I mean are you just trying to have this both ways?

BJ: Look, I repeat my my key point too which is that over many, many years, and you can look back at innumerable statements I gave when I was mayor, I just do not go into this stuff, and there's a good reason for it. But it's actually I think what people want to know is what is going on with this guy? Does he, does he, when it comes to trust, when it comes to character, all those things, does he deliver what he says he's going to deliver? And that is the key thing.

24-LK: Well let's look at your record then, let's look at that then. Because there are plenty of people even in the Conservative Party who worry that you do not stick to what you promise.

BJ: Well I think they're talking absolute nonsense. When I was mayor, when I became Mayor of London, when we said we would do something, we, I may say delivered not just x, but x plus 10.

25-LK: But you said you would keep all ticket offices, you closed every single one. You said that you would build more affordable houses - yes, you built more houses...

BJ: We did

26-LK: ... but the definition of affordable housing changed.

BJ: Oh, nonsense.

27-LK: You said you've done rough sleeping and the number went up.

BJ: We built more affordable homes than under Labour. When you talk about the Tube we increased capacity on the Tube by about 30%. The biggest investment in infrastructure that I think the city has seen. I pledged to reduce crime. We reduced crime by about 20%. We reduced the murder rate which is a statistic that is very difficult to fudge, we reduced it by 50%.

28-LK: Then why do you think then, Boris Johnson, people worry about your character? Why do so many Conservatives worry about you sticking to your word or being careless with the truth? I mean you said only a few weeks ago, you would raise tax for the wealthiest in society then that became an ambition.

BJ: Hang on...

29-LK: You said you'd lie down in front of bulldozers at Heathrow and now you're wobbling. Most importantly, when it came to the British citizen Nazanin Zaghari-Radcliffe you put her in danger by being careless with the facts. Your words were used in evidence against her in an Iranian court. I think you've sometimes been careless with facts, careless with the truth.

BJ: No, look. Take Nazanin Zaghari-Radcliffe and the other very difficult consular cases that we have with Iran. I think, of course, people will want to point the finger of blame at me if they possibly can, but actually all that does is serve to exculpate, lift the blame of the people who are really responsible, who are the Iranian Revolutionary Guard. And if you

look, talk about overachieving in the Foreign Office, we were told that we had to orchestrate, and we did, an international response to the poisonings by Russia in Salisbury, and we thought we would be lucky to get 30 Russian spies expelled around the world in support of the UK by other countries. We actually got 153 spies expelled around the world, I don't think there's ever been a diplomatic coup like.

30-LK: But Boris Johnson...

BJ: So don't look at what people say about me look at what I actually deliver.

31-LK: But so often people worry that you're just a bit scrappy with the truth, or [it] almost seems, sometimes, you enjoy offending people.

BJ: No, I don't enjoy offending people.

32-LK: If you are prime minister do you think it would be acceptable for a prime minister to say things like Muslim women in full veil look like bank robbers, or Commonwealth citizens are "flag-waving picanninies"? Do you think, if you move in to Number 10, will you change? If you're lucky enough to become prime minister, will you be a different kind of politician?

BJ: What I pledge to, you know, and what I think the people of this country want to hear, is I will be a politician who sticks by what I believe in. Yes, occasionally I may say things as I've said before that, causes offence, and I'm sorry for the offence and I'm sorry for the offence I caused, but I will continue to speak my mind because I think people deserve to hear what's going on in my head. They deserve to hear my approach to things. And you talk about my commitment to delivery. Actually look at the difficult things that I've taken on and and done. Nobody thought we could win in London either in 2008 let alone in 2012 when the Tory Party was actually 17 points behind in the polls and I overhauled that deficit. Nobody thought we could win the European Union referendum in 2016. And I played a role with others in getting that over the line.

33-LK: Why is it then do you think some people have doubts about you?

BJ: By the way, nobody thought the Olympic Games would be a huge success, and the Paralympic Games. I remember people writing them off, I remember people saying it was all going to be a fiasco. And they were a fantastic success.

34-LK: We're just, we're very much running out of time.

BJ: And if I have one message, forgive me, but I believe that we had amazing success when I was Mayor of London in using infrastructure, education, technology and bringing the greatest city on earth together and lifting people up across the city, closing the opportunity gap in London, giving people tools, whether it's better transport, better education, to take advantage of all the incredible things going on in this city. When I began we had four of the six poorest boroughs in London in the UK. After two terms, when I ended in London, there were none of the poorest 20 boroughs in the whole of the UK. The whole city came up and it was people on the

lowest incomes who'd been helped by, by our living wage, who'd been helped by massive investment in public transport, who'd been helped by better education. It was they whose life expectancy had gone up the fastest and whose wealth had also increase. And I'm incredibly proud of that, incredibly proud of that. And what I want to do now, if I possibly can, and if I'm successful in this contest, and become leader and prime minister, what I really want to do is to bring our country together which has felt divided, which has felt a bit directionless, which has I think because of the failures of the political class, lost a sense of purpose and lost perhaps a bit of a sense of self belief. I want to bring this incredible country together to release the potential of the whole of the UK. That's what I want to do.

35-LK: Just one of the other people who was very closely involved in the Olympics, of course, was your opponent Jeremy Hunt. What do you make of Jeremy Hunt?.

BJ: And I pay tribute to Jeremy and enjoyed working with him then as I enjoyed working with him in government and who knows, look forward to working with him in the future.

36-LK: What do you make of him? Today he's saying you're a coward.

BJ: Look, you know I just always invoke the 11th commandment of Ronald Reagan which is "thou shalt never speak ill of a fellow Conservative". And you know what I want to do is talk about my basic message which is to unite our country, bring the country together. Brexit was partly about objection to the one-way ratchet of European Union and democracy. Yes of course it was partly about immigration, but it was about huge parts of Britain feeling that they didn't have the same advantages, the same care, the same love, as London and the southeast, and that they were being a bit left behind. Well, that's an economic mistake. It's a political and it's a social mistake. We need to bring the country together. Infrastructure, education, technology. Give everybody the chance they deserve.

37-LK: And you really think you can do that when some people see you as the most divisive politician?

BJ: Believe me they said that in 2008 before I became Mayor of London. The Guardian - highly reputable newspaper - ran a whole subsection in which people promised to flee the land or at least the city if I became mayor, eight years later most of them were still there. Many of them had gone to work with me and I had higher approval ratings by far when I left my office as mayor than when I began. And I ran London, yes of course, I believe in the democracy of our country and yes of course we are going to get Brexit done by 31 October. But be [in] no doubt that at heart I am a centre-right progressive modern Conservative and I will govern from the centre right because that is from the centre because that is where you win. That is where the broad mass of the people are. They understand that you need a dynamic market economy to pay for fantastic public services and infrastructure. And you need fantastic public services and infrastructure, great NHS, great education, to enable business to have the confidence to invest. And Jeremy Corbyn only understands one half of that.

He's only interested in taxation and spending. He has no care, no love, no interest for business and for the wealth creators on whom we all depend. And you've got to have that balance in your government.

38-LK: Well, we will see, if before too long, you'll be able to make that case to him across the despatch box.

BJ: Thank you.

39-LK: Thanks very much. Thank you very much indeed.

الخلاصة

تهتم الدراسة الحالية بمشددات اللغة الإنجليزية كوسيلة لغوية للتكثيف، وهي ظاهرة معقدة، ويرتبط هذا التعقيد بتعريف المشددات وتصنيفها، وأجريت الدراسة الحالية لإيجاد تصنيف شامل للمشددات من أجل تحليلها تداولياً في إطار منظم والحصول على صورة عامة للوظائف البراغماتية للمشددات في المقابلات السياسية. يتم تحديد هذه الوظائف البراغماتية من خلال تعديل كل من القوة الانجازية وأفعال الكلام، إلى جانب إظهار تأثير المشددات على الوظائف البراغماتية الأخرى، و كان الغرض من وراء دمج كل النظريات المذكورة أعلاه هو تحليل المشددات تداولياً وبطريقة نظامية. ان أهداف الدراسة هي الآتي :- (١)- التحقيق في الاستخدام المتكرر للمشددات في المقابلات السياسية. (٢)- التحقق من الوظيفة التداولية للمشددات، (٣)- ودراسة كيفية استخدام او توظيف المشددات في مقابلاتهم السياسية من قبل السياسيين. وفقاً لهذه الأهداف افتترضت الدراسة أن؛ (١)- يستخدم السياسيون المشددات بشكل متكرر في مقابلاتهم. (٢)- ان مشددات اللغة الانكليزية لها وظائف تداولية، (٣)- و يستخدمون المشددات في مقابلاتهم السياسية للحصول على معنى محدد مقصود كوسيلة - على سبيل المثال - للتعبير عن درجة مشاعرهم و معتقداتهم ومواقفهم من الإقناع، أو الاتفاق، أو أي وظائف تداولية أخرى. ولتحقيق أهداف وفرضيات هذه الدراسة اختارت الدراسة ثلاث مقابلات سياسية لتحليل المشددات التي يستخدمها السياسيون المعنيون بشكل تداولي ويتم تحديد المشددات اعتماداً على تصنيف كويرك (١٩٨٥) ، ثم اعتمدت ثلاث نظريات لتحليل الوظائف البراغماتية لهذه المشددات لاجراء تحليل تداولي منظم، بازينلا (١٩٩١)، وكاكشيانى (٢٠٠٩)، و هولمز (١٩٨٤) ؛ للتعديل (١) قوة الانجاز (ii) وافعال الكلام، و اوربنوفا (٢٠٠٣)؛ لتشديد وتخفيف الوظائف البراغماتية الاخرى. ووفقاً لأهداف ونظريات التحليل، فقد تم تصميم الدراسة نوعياً بناءً على إجراء تحليل المحتوى النوعي. وكماً فقط من ناحية

الاستخدام الفردي والكلي المتكرر للمشددات. وفقاً لتحليل البيانات والمناقشات ، وجدت الدراسة أن المتحاورين استخدموا أنواعاً مختلفة من المكثفات لأغراض مختلفة. لقد وجد أن المكثفات التي تعبر عن المعنى الشكلي ، وتلك المستخدمة في المحتوى / الخطاب الموجه هي الأعلى والاكثُر استخداماً من التوجهات او الميول الأخرى. علاوة على ذلك ، فقد وجدت أيضاً أن المشددات من كلا النوعين ، المشددات والمخففات ، استخدمها المتحاورين لتعديل أبعاد قوة الانجاز لأفعال الكلام. وبحسب نتائج، ومناقشات تحليل البيانات توصلت الدراسة إلى الاستنتاجات الآتية : ١- لا تُستخدم المشددات فقط لإظهار آلية التعديل ، ولكنها تُستخدم أيضاً لإظهار الوظائف الشخصية مثل نقل التزام المتحدث أو موقفه تجاه المحتوى المقترح أو المرسل إليه. ٢- يستخدم المتحدثون معظم المشددات للتعبير عن المعنى الشكلي. يستخدم المعنى الشكلي فقط لتعزيز أو تخفيف أفعال الكلام من قبل كل من المتحدث أو المرسل إليه. ٣- ان استخدام عدد قليل من المشددات ، لإيصال المعنى المؤثر من قبل السياسيين يعود إلى عدم تمكنهم من الحديث عن حياتهم الخاصة ، وان خطابهم في الواقع مصرح به من قبل حزبهم وائتلافهم.

الكلمات المفتاحية: المشددات ، الوظائف التداولية ، المعنى الشكلي، المعنى العاطفي، و تعديل قوة الانجاز وافعال الكلام.