

**Barack Obama in The Late Show
with David Letterman:
A Multimodal Critical Discourse Analysis**

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Abstract

Exercising power has long inspired researchers to dig deep and search the different devices through which speakers of different institutional roles show themselves powerful. This paper tackles Obama's power relations in The Late show with David Letterman. The types of Power relations exercised by both Obama and the host of the talk show are investigated through identifying the verbal aspects associated with body language. The data involve two interviews from David Letterman's talk show with Barack Obama. The analysis is carried out qualitatively through a multimodal critical discourse analysis including Fairclough's (2001) "Discourse as Social Practice approach" relying on Halliday's (2004) "Systematic Functional Linguistics", Levinson and Brown's (1987) "Face threatening Act and politeness strategies"; and the elected model of gestural aspects including Ekman (2003); Dimitrius and Mazarella, (1998); Lardner (2002); Pease and Pease (2004). The paper concluded that Obama holds asymmetrical power relationship with host using different power dynamics exercised through statements, topic shifts, expressive and assertive speech acts, face saving and politeness strategies, interruptions and disagreements. As far as the gestural aspects are concerned, Obama's hand gestures implying a reference to openness, authority and confidence.

Keywords: Critical discourse analysis, multimodality, non-verbal behavior, power , talk show, verbal behavior

I.Introduction

Generally speaking, dealing with the concept of power requires looking for powerful acts that have powerful influence upon society (Turner, 2005). According to Wilson (2004, p.23) "power means that one is ready to take control". It might be exercised with friends, parents, children and colleagues and might be intended for different purposes such as persuading other, informing them and above all to lead to action whether intentionally or unintentionally. The concept of power stands for one main idea which is "control" is not limited to certain devices but rather relies on different means. Van Dijk (1989. P. 29) states clearly that "power including the various institutions of power" and by institutions he meant the government, military, political parties, and state agencies, churches and educational institutes. Yet, this is not always the case since people now can exercise power even in non-political institutions. Van Dijk (1989) indicates that non-political institutions might have their own genres and communicative events due to different social positions and ranks of their employers who use different speech acts, genres and styles. Nowadays, people of different social

positions don't follow the norms in which they can apply their institutions and one example is interviewing politicians in comedy talk shows. Politicians realize that comedy talk shows influence the population since these talk shows tackle different topics, present experiences, knowledge, and even political issues (Hollander, 2005; Peck, 2008; Young, 2004). Many politicians appeared in different late night talk show especially during elections such as Gorge W. Bush , Bill Clinton , Barack Obama, Joe Biden and Ronald Trump. The case study of the current paper is Barack Obama's appearance in The Late Show with David Letterman. The problem under investigation implies that guest-host relationship conveys power of different resources specially if the guest has the institutional power as a candidate for the presidential elections or party leader even though the environment of the interview is supposed to be friendly. In fact a problem is aroused concerning the appearance of a democratic politician candidate , Senator and a president of the United states to be interviewed in an entertainment talk show. So, Obama's political discourse needs further analysis since he uses different types of power relationship with the host which can be the identified through different devices both at the linguistic and gestural levels. Accordingly, this paper aims to identify the types of power relations between Obama and the host David Letterman through multimodal aspects.

II. Review of Literature

A. Types of Power Relations in Interaction

Foucault (1978) believes that, "power is everywhere not because it embraces everything, but because it comes from everywhere" (p.93). For him, power is not a thing but a relation and accordingly, it is clearly stated that a power relationship is said to hold between two or more persons if they can control each other's behavior or thoughts. Locher (2004) conceptualized the idea that the exercise of power takes place in and around a relationship, negotiating symmetrical and asymmetrical relations holding between interactants. The relations called *older than, parents of, employer of, richer than, stronger than, and nobler than* are all "asymmetrical" because they imply differences of power control. This relation is called "more powerful than" (Bratt-Paulston & Tucker, 2003, p.160). In other words, the relationship is considered asymmetrical if one or more persons can control the behavior or thoughts of one or more other persons in a certain respect without the latter person(s) being able to control the former person(s) in the same respect. Another set of power relations present

"solidarity" which stands for "symmetrical" relations (Bratt-Paulston & Tucker, 2003, p.160). In other words, when power is more or less equal, the relation is symmetrical. The concept of solidarity does not stand for all personal features but rather, it refers to political membership, family, religion, profession, sex and birthplace. These symmetrical power relations are reciprocal in nature. As far as this paper is concerned multimodal aspects can be analyzed to identify the types of power relations (symmetrical, asymmetrical) between Obama and the host David Letterman.

B. Linguistics and Gestural Aspects

1. Norman Fairclough's Discourse as Social Practice Approach

Fairclough (2001) provides three dimensions for CDA including: *description*, *interpretation*, and *explanation* (pp. 21-22). Description is concerned with the formal properties of the text. i.e. vocabulary, grammar and textual structure. These formal properties have three types of values (*experiential*, *relational*, and *expressive*) of which the analysis can be carried out. The experiential values refer to the way the producer of the text experiences the natural and social world around. These can be determined in text through the vocabularies focusing on the schemes classification, ideologically contested words, rewording and over-wording, and ideological significant meaning relations including synonymy, antonymy and hyponymy (Fairclough, 2001). Fairclough adopted Halliday's (1985, 1994, 2004) systematic functional linguistics because it does not only focus on words and sentences but rather it deals with longer texts and collection of texts. The relational values are concerned with social relationships, euphemistic expressions, and markedly formal and non-formal words. These can be identified throughout the grammatical features including the modes of sentences, modality, and the use of pronouns. Expressive and metaphorical words formulate an important part of the analysis of vocabularies for the experiential values and can be identified grammatically through the types of processes, use of nominalizations, active/passive and positive/negative sentences. Moreover, emphasis is given to the expressive modality; simple sentences linked together, logical connectors, coordination and subordination, and lastly, referral means used in the text. Finally, the analysis of the textual structures concentrates on the interactional conventions, participants' control of the turns of others and the larger scale structures. Interpretation focuses on the relationship between text and interaction. The explanation level stands for the relationship between interaction and social context. The purpose of this stage is

to portray discourse as part of a social process determined by social structures(Fairclough, 2001).

2.Facial Expressions

Guffey et al. (2010) indicate that the face can display over 250000 expressions and these facial expressions can replace the verbal message, some of which are "raising or lowering the eyebrows, squinting the eyes, swallowing nervously, clenching the jaw, smiling broadly" (p.59). Myles (1989) maintains that through facial expressions, people express their feelings because feelings reflect emotional states and reactions which can either reinforce or negate the verbal messages. A summary of Ekman and Friesen's (1976) facial expressions and their non-verbal cues is given in table1

Table (1):.Facial Expressions and their Non-Verbal cues

Expressions	Non-verbal cues
Happiness	raising and lowering of mouth corners
Sadness	lowering of mouth corners, raise inner portion of brows
Surprise	brows arch, eyes open wide to expose more white, jaw drops slightly
Fear	brows raised, eyes open, with the mouth opens slightly
Disgust	upper lip is raised, nose bridge is wrinkled, cheeks raised
Anger	brows lowered, lips pressed firmly with eyes bulging
Contempt	raising of one side of the mouth into a sneer or smirk.

Note: Adopted from Measuring facial movement by P. Ekman & W.V. Friesen, 1976 in *Environmental Psychological and nonverbal behaviour*, 1(1), p.56-75. Copyright: 1976.

E.Gestures and Postures

Gestures stand for the movements made by the head, shoulders, legs, feet, hands, arms and fingers. There is a direct relationship between the status, power, and prestige a person possesses and the number of gestures or body movements he/she uses. Ekman and Friesen (1969, p. 49-98) outlined five major types of body movements including: *emblems*, *illustrates*, *affect*, *displays*, *regulators* and *adaptors*. First, emblems refer to gestures that replace words and have a direct hand gesture. Second, the illustrators are small movements that punctuate ideas, as for instance, when referring to something on the left side, this can be done either through referring to it by hand or turning the head or the whole body. Third, affect stands for the unconscious movement which communicates emotional meaning such as smiling or frowning, in addition to the body movement as such relaxing or showing tension. Fourth, the regulators tend to control, monitor and coordinate the other person speaking, as for example, when someone nods the head as a sign to let the speaker continue what he/she is saying. Further, a person smiles or makes "mm-hmm-humm sounds" in order to show

agreement or that he/she is listening to the person speaking specially in African-American culture. Fifth, the adaptors refer to gestures that are of personal needs such as scratching to relieve or rubbing the nose. Finally, the object adaptors stand for gestures that are focused on objects such as doodling on a Styrofoam coffee cup (Dimitrius & Mazzarella, 1998). The palms are considered the least noticed but the most powerful body gesture as in Pease and Pease's (2004) own words, "*Palm Power* invests its user with the power of silent authority" (p.36). Basically, there are three main palm gestures: the *Palm-Up* position, the *Palm-Down* position and the *Palm-closed-I finger-Pointed* position (Pease & Pease, 2004; Lardner, 2002).

4. The Concept of Face in Interaction

Goffman's (1959) definition states that face implies the meaning of the social aspects and self-presentation. A person's face is an image of the self that is based on social expectations. Brown and Levinson (1987) indicate that every person has two faces including positive and negative face carrying two meanings: "saved" and "lost" face (p.44). Brown and Levinson (1978) added another aspect of the face. They state that if someone said something whether verbal or non-verbal contrary to the negative face, it is a "face-threatening act" (henceforth, FTA) such as a request, offer, while if the threatening was to the positive face then it would imply disagreement, guilt, apologies (p.70). Brown and Levinson (1987) associate face to the politeness strategies since people tend to behave in a polite way in order to be liked and to achieve their goals. There are five different levels of politeness strategies including the on record "without redressive action", on record "with redressive action" addressing positive face, on record "with redressive action" addressing negative face, off record action and finally, no threatening face action to be performed (Brown & Levinson, 1987; pp. 68-69). The positive and negative politeness strategies can be carried out through different techniques including "hedges" and "boosters" (Buitkiene, 2008, p.17).

5. Turn-taking in Relation to Power Identification

Edelsky (1981) points out that speakers are more concerned with completing topics than with structural units. She defines "turn" as instances of on-record speaking, with the intention of conveying a message. She also draws a distinction between "turn" and "floor", since it is often difficult to determine who has the floor, such as in situations

where a turn is constructed collaboratively by more than one speaker. The right to speak in interaction is referred as "the floor". Rules of turn-taking tell us how to get the floor, to hold the floor, and to give up the floor. The turn-taking system has certain irregularities which include: interruption and overlap (Zimmerman & West, 1975). Zimmerman-West (1975) defines interruption as, "a violation of speakers' turn at talk" (p.34). Li (2001) sets two types of interruptions, namely, intrusive and cooperative. Cooperative interruption refers to the support given to help the current speaker, and accordingly, it presents the interrupter's high involvement and solidarity (Li, Yum, Yates, Aguilera, Mao & Zheng, 2005). Intrusive interruption is more competitive and causes threat to the ongoing conversation through disrupting the speaker (Li, 2001). Overlap, on the other hand, is defined as "simultaneous speech in general, which can be mechanically or objectively defined" (Waynn as cited in Cerny, 2010, p.3). In terms of power, Danileiko (2005) divides interruptions into two types, named, "power – oriented" and "non-oriented power" (p.20). The first type which is "power-oriented" is considered "impolite, rude and intrusive"; while the second type, the "non-oriented power", stands for "empathy, affection, solidarity, concern or interest" (Danileiko, 2005, p.21).

III. Methodology and Analysis

A. Research Design

This paper is a qualitative research that attempts to accumulate existing information and data following the content analysis approach using a critical lens. Typically, qualitative research can assist in interpreting and understanding the complex reality of a given situation. Rees (1996) indicates that, "Qualitative research involves broadly stated questions about human experiences and realities, studied through sustained contact with people in their natural environments, generating rich, descriptive data that helps us to understand their experiences and attitudes" (p.375).

B.Data collection

The data collected involved the videotapes and transcripts of two interviews of Obama on *The Late Show with David Letterman*. Obama appeared on those interviews more than once as a presidential candidate and as President of the United States during

the years 2007 and 2009. The length of the interviews differs. When Obama was interviewed as a presidential candidate, he was interviewed not in a whole interview but as one of the guests who was interviewed in the same episode. This is related to two reasons: first, his appearance was just to contact his voters as part of his election campaign through the most famous TV programs in America; and second, after being a President of the United States, he could realize the great impact of these shows on the population and so, he devoted much of his time to full interviews.

C.Models of Analysis

ELAN software was used to reproduce the transcription following Jefferson's (1984) transcription conventions. The modification of the transcription was done according to Jefferson's (1984) transcription conventions which serve two objectives: to preserve the details of talk as it is actually produced, while at the same time, remaining simple enough to yield transcripts that are accessible to a general audience. Rose (2005) emphasizes points of view which determine "the need for a critical approach to analyze the visual texts in terms of the cultural significance, social practices and power relations in which it is embedded; and that means thinking about the power relations that produce, are articulated through, and can be challenged by, ways of seeing and imaging" (p.3). Therefore, Fairclough's (1992, 1995, 2001) approach was appropriate to the multimodal analysis of the linguistic and gestural aspects of this study. Practically, to carry out an analysis to identify the types of power relationships between Obama (the guest) and David Letterman, turn-taking, interruptions, topic controlling, processes and modes associated with the body language were analyzed together. The extracts coded relying heavily on Halliday's SFL, Levinson and Brown's (1987) FTA politeness strategies and the elected model of gestural aspects (Ekman, 2003; Dimitrius & Mazzarella, 1998; Lardner, 2002; Pease & Pease, 2004).

D.David letterman 2007 Interview

Extract (1):

Letterman:

How long have you been smoking cigarettes?

Obama:

On and off (1:07) ((*right hand moves forward and back*)). You know. You pick it up when you are writing a book or campaigning (1:10) ((*laughs*)) or (.) you know, things, low

stress activities like that. I decided right (1:16) ((*both palms-open facing each other wagging into the center*)) before running for President, that's the optimal time to stop [It is right Sir (.) But I was thinking, it is not really a good thing to be smoking cigarettes. It's a nasty horrible thing but it might be fun if we have a president who smoked (1:25) ((*acting as if smoking cigarette and blowing smoke*)). You know what I mean. It's kind of cool [Yeah

Letterman:

Obama:

[We'll (.) blow (.) smoke in the face (1:40) ((*left palm-closed-finger-pointing position*)) of the Iranian president.

Letterman:

Do whatever you need to do and you see that you are using the gum so you are ok. So are you still smoking or you ok with it.

Obama:

The gum is working good.

Letterman:

Working good..oh boy oh boy.

Obama:

I could use some now (1:49) ((*both hands move straight up into the center*)).

In the first part of the extract, the turns are predetermined by Letterman asking Obama a direct wh-question of how long he has been smoking cigarettes. This is a directive speech act presenting the content of the extract. Letterman performs the negative politeness strategy which is questioning and this is due to his institutional role as interviewer to ask questions. Obama's response is not specific in which he does not give a certain duration but only answers with "on and off" portrayed non-verbally through moving the right hand forward and back to refer to the two contradictory words "on" and "off". Obama's turn is longer, including many statements. Obama uses an assertive speech act presented through the declarative sentence formed of the material process including the actor "you" to generalize what he is talking about in "you pick it up when you are writing a book or campaigning". In order to present his point of view more politely, Obama uses the hedge "you know" before his sentence. Moreover, he laughs in association with the word "campaigning". Obviously, he is performing positive FTA strategy presented verbally through giving excuses concerning smoking and portrayed non-verbally through laughing. He uses the declarative sentence formed of the mental process performing expressive speech act in which he speaks directly about himself using the personal pronoun "I" with the mental verb "decided" and confirmed non-verbally through using both palms open facing each other wagging into the center to point out when the exact time will be for him to stop smoking. He states that "before running for President, that's the optimal time to stop". Obama shifts the topic through associating the process of smoking with his election campaign. He associates the word "campaigning" with a laugh and this implies an indirect reference to his being a presidential candidate. It is clear that Obama's subject position as a

presidential candidate leads him to try to control the interview from the beginning to talk about his election campaign.

In the second part of the extract, Letterman interrupts Obama to express agreement and give his own comment on the same topic. Letterman uses the address form "sir", performing negative face strategy to express his agreement politely. In this case, the host tries to show more respect to Obama's institutional role as a Senator of States and a presidential candidate. Further, he tries to express his own ideas giving statements and trying to control the topic of discussion. Letterman keeps talking about smoking using a mental process referring directly to what he thinks through the personal pronoun "I" in "I was thinking, it is not really a good thing ...". He describes the act of smoking in the two complement clauses, "it is not really a good thing" and "it's a nasty horrible thing". In order to mitigate how he has described the act of smoking, he gives another sentence, "it might be fun if we have a President who smoked...", portrayed non-verbally in which the host acts as if smoking and blowing smoke. The host is performing the negative politeness strategy through using hedges i.e., "might" and "you know" to show respect to Obama as being his own guest who is occupying different political positions. Obama interrupts the host through the declarative sentence formed of the material process presenting an assertive speech act, "we'll blow smoke in the face of the Iranian President" portrayed through using the left palm-closed-finger-pointing position. In this part, Obama is holding an asymmetrical power relationship with the host and this is clearly stated through the interruption and topic shift. The type of the interruption that took place first by the host is "butting-in-interruption" in which the interrupter stops before gaining control over the floor. Despite the host's attempt to get control over the topic, Obama was leading the conversation to another direction. Obama's use of the positive face strategy in seeking the population as well as the government's agreement concerning the Iranian situation is presented through using the personal pronoun "we" as an in-group-identifying marker. In part three of extract (1), the host tries, again, to control the topic using the on record negative FTA in "Do whatever you need to do...". In the same sentence, he uses the logical connector "and" in order to add more information to control the topic under discussion to be about smoking and not about politics. This is clearly stated in the last sentence in which Letterman asks Obama again about whether he still smokes or not. He precedes his question with the conclusive logical connector "so" indicating that he asked similar question earlier but he did not get a decisive answer. Therefore, he asks, again, but this

time using yes/no questions in "are you still smoking or you ok with it?". Accordingly, Letterman is performing the negative FTA, trying to hide his power as being the interviewer and the one who is trying to get control over the topic. Obama, on the other hand, does not answer the questions directly and instead gives the declarative sentence formed of the material process and performs an assertive speech act, "the gum is working good". He did not give a decisive answer because the gum does not show whether he stopped smoking or was trying to stop chewing the gum instead. This short turn for Obama is followed by another short turn from Letterman who expresses his surprise through the vocal particle, "oh boy", and repeats it and hence, he is showing informality with the guest despite being a Senator of States and a presidential candidate. Obama, in his turn, shows informality as well when he replies "I could use some now" portrayed non-verbally through moving both hands straight up into the center confirming the circumstance "now". This extract implies that Obama is holding an asymmetrical power relationship with the host.

Extract (2):

Letterman:

The democratic party for the last two presidential campaigns (2:29) *((both fists wagging inot the center))* has not done as well as it would like. I mean finishing second in that race doesn't, you know, you know [It's ::::... >It's not< (2:36) *((both hands clenched together)) ((laughs))*. No, but now all of a sudden we have a tremendous roster of potential candidates [Right candidates

[Right candidates (2:42) *((head nod))*

[Yes. A high profile powerful, well respected individuals. Yourself (2:47) *((right hand pointing to Obama))* and Hillary Clinton are two that come to mind Is :::: having those ::(2:52) *((both palms-up position wagging into the center))* well known, those highly qualified desirable candidates running for the nomination <Is that healthy for the party?>

Obama:

I figured (2:58) *((head nod))* it is good. We've got terrific candidates. Not just myself and Hillary, we got John Edwards :::: who has run a terrific campaign so far. Bill Richardson (3:05) *((left hand moves forward and back))* a terrific governor, I've got a couple of colleagues::: (3:08) *((serious face))*, Chris Dodd and Joe Biden and Dennis Kucinich from congress and so. We got (3:14) *((both palms curled facing each other and wagging into the center))* a great collection of candidates

In extract (2) the host (Letterman) begins his turn giving past precedents concerning the last presidential campaigns. He gives negative sentence judging the performance of the Democratic Party presenting the content of the extract in "the Democratic Party ...has not done as well as it would like". Letterman uses the hedges including "I mean" and "you know", performing the negative politeness strategy.

Obama interrupts the host but only to show agreement with the negative form. Accordingly, he uses the negative sentence "it's not" portrayed non-verbally with both hands clenched together to confirm the negative mood. Obama, then, laughs in order to mitigate the negative mood and perform a positive face strategy. He continues talking about the election campaign using the logical connector "but" followed by the circumstance "now" to refer to the current election. He uses the declarative sentence formed of the relational identifying process "we have a tremendous roster of potential candidates". In this sentence, he uses the personal pronoun "we" as an in-group-identifying marker to refer to the Democratic Party members including himself. Accordingly, he is performing through this assertive speech act a positive politeness strategy. Letterman interrupts Obama in the elliptical form "right candidates" to give better description of what Obama is trying to say. Obama holds a symmetrical power relationship with the host.

In the second part of extract (2), Letterman expresses his agreement with Obama using the agreement word "yes" and describing the candidates as "high powerful, well-respected individuals". Further, he refers to Obama using the possessive pronoun "yourself" portrayed in the hand gesture in which the host points to Obama directly in "yourself and Hilary Clinton are two that come to mind...". Letterman keeps describing the candidates as being "highly qualified desirable candidates" and then asks a question concerning having all those perfect candidates from the same political party. He uses the yes/no question, "Is that healthy for the party?". The guest, Obama, answers the question using the declarative sentence formed of the mental process performing an expressive speech act, "I figured it is good". In the same line, he uses another declarative statement formed of a relational identifying process presenting an assertive speech act in which the token is the personal pronoun "we", referring to the members of the Democratic Party in "we've got terrific candidates". The question asked is the yes/no question, yet, Obama gives statements. Further, he tries to present a different point of view to show that he does not agree fully with what Letterman has said by referring to Obama and Hillary Clinton as the only candidates of the Democratic Party. He presents more names of candidates, "we got John Edward", "Bill Richardson a terrific candidate", and "Chris Dodd and Joe Biden and Dennis Kucinich". All this is confirmed in which Obama uses the personal pronoun "I" in the declarative relational identifying process, "I've got a couple of colleagues" and through which Obama performs an

assertive speech act, showing a serious face to state that those people are really worthy to be referred to as the best candidates. It is clear that Obama is holding an asymmetrical power relationship with the host. He is more powerful through expressing disagreement directly and indirectly.

E.David letterman 2009 Interview

Extract (1):

Letterman:

When you were seeking the office did you have any idea that somewhere (5:39) *((right hand opens wagging into the center))* across your desk be the information that 7 hundred thousand jobs a month were disappearing?

Not until I (5:44) *((left hand open wagging vertically in the left side with the head tilted to the left side- towards the host))* got in the job and then suddenly (5:47) *((laughs))* [yeah

Obama:

[Yeah. They give you an envelope [yeah.

[And say congratulations (.) No, (5:53) *((left hand move forward and to the left side with the head tilted to the left side-towards the host))* I mean, I think that nobody realized up until Lehman Brothers collapsed last year that :: things could crash as badly as they could have. I won't (6:05) *((angry face)) ((left palm-down position))* say nobody realizes. There were some who are far sighted and recognized that the bubble (6:09) *((both hands spread open into the center as if measuring size))* was about to pop (.) But even (6:10) *((left hand open wagging vertically in the left side))* before the crisis, I think what we knew was that (.) not enough good paying jobs were being produced.

In extract (1) of this interview, the host (Letterman) asks the guest (Obama) a question concerning his knowledge of the job losses in America. He uses a yes/no question, "did you have any idea that somewhere across your desk be the information that 7 hundred thousand job a month were disappearing". Letterman uses the directive speech act performing the negative FTA and presenting the content of the extract to be about jobs problems in the United States. Obama gives a negative answer using "not" and explains when exactly he had known about this issue through the declarative negative material process "until I got in the job and then suddenly they give you an envelope and say congratulations". Obama uses his left hand wagging vertically on the left side to confirm that he is talking about something that really took place in the way he is describing it. Further, he talks with the head tilting towards the host in order to state that he is talking with full confidence about this issue. Obama adds more enthusiasm to his details in which he associates the circumstance, "suddenly" with a laugh and hence, he is performing the positive FTA in order to mitigate the forceful words he is using, especially as he is talking now about the strategies followed by his government. Letterman interrupts Obama using the word "yeah" to show attentiveness. Obama continues his turn and also uses the word "yeah" to show attentiveness. Then, he uses

the material process presenting the assertive speech act in which he states "they give you an envelope". Again, Letterman interrupts Obama using "yeah" to show attentiveness as well to what Obama is saying. To confirm his answer, Obama uses the negative form "no" portrayed non-verbally through moving the left hand forward and to the left side to refer to the negative form. In addition, he speaks with the head tilted to the left side to present what he says confidentially. Later, Obama gives a negative sentence which is contradictory to the one which he has said earlier in "I won't say nobody realizes" which is associated with showing an angry face and the left palm-down position to refer to his authority as a President. This verbal sentence is confirmed through another sentence which is a declarative sentence formed of an existential process presenting the assertive speech act, "there were some who are far sighted and recognized the bubble was about to bomb" which is associated with both hands spread open as if measuring to describe the word "Bubble". In this extract, Obama is holding as an asymmetrical power relationship with Letterman.

Extract (2):

Letterman:

We, saw (3:33) *((both hands open wagging into the center))* men and women American troops ::: coming out of Iraq (.) after a long =long difficult struggle. And now people suggesting more and more American men and women going to Afghanistan. What is that?

Obama:

Well first of all I think that ::: (.) >our troops are performing at an extraordinary level in both Afghanistan and Iraq< and :: Iraq we are (3:58) *((left hand open wagging vertically in the left side with the eyes looking down))* on pace to draw down our troops so that by the end of 2011 we will have (4:03) *((left hand rises straight up into the center))* our troops, combat troops out of Iraq ...
...We are not gonna make a decision about ::: any further troop deployments until we know (6:37) *((left hand open wagging vertically in the left side with the eyes looking down))* what exactly is our strategy, what are the tactics, how our troops would be used, can we justify taking those steps and I am gonna be asking some very hard questions (6:49) *((serious face))*.

In extract (2), Letterman (the host) begins his turn by giving a declarative sentence formed of a mental process "we saw men and women, American troops coming out of Iraq after a long long struggle". This sentence is portrayed non-verbally through moving both hands open wagging into the center to state openness. He uses another sentence formed of a mental process in "Now people suggesting more and more American men and women going to Afghanistan". In this sentence he provides another point of view bringing to discussion the content of the extract concerning the American troops. These two sentences precede the question which the host would like to ask and

that is "what is that?". It is open answer question through which Letterman is performing the negative face strategy with redressive face. He prepares for his question instead of asking it directly. This is related to the fact that the host is fully aware of the institutional role of his guest as a President of the United States. Obama uses the personal pronoun "I" referring directly to himself as the expereincer of the mental verb process "think" followed by the relative clause "that our troops are performing at an extraordinary level in both Afghanistan and Iraq". This sentence is associated with the left hand wagging vertically in the left side with head nodding to express agreement and satisfaction. Further, Obama associates his hand gestures with the facial expression in which he looks down in order to recall the information he is talking about. In this turn, instead of giving answer and explanation concerning sending more troops to Afghanistan, he shifts the topic to talk about the withdrawal of the American troops from Iraq. Obama uses a declarative sentence formed of a material process presenting the assertive speech act in which the actor is "we" referring to the American government including Obama himself in the sentence "In Iraq, we are on the pace to draw down our troops so that by the end of 2011 we will have our troops combat out of Iraq". This sentence is confirmed non-verbally through wagging the left hand in the left side vertically with the eyes looking down in order to recall the exact information concerning the American government's military plans. The communication process in this extract indicates that Obama is holding an asymmetrical power relationship with the host.

iv. Conclusions

Concerning power relationships between the guest and hosts, this study indicates that Letterman exercises symmetrical power relationship with Obama in many cases. The symmetrical power relations between the guest and host in night talk shows can be determined through using cooperative interruption, expressing agreements verbally and non-verbally, repetition of the exact words to confirm and finally using the negative (hedges) and positive (agreements and laughter) politeness strategies. David Letterman is experienced in using close-ended questions, a style which is rarely used in political interviews. Accordingly, it is considered as a new style which is specifically used by Letterman in his comedy night talk show and this is significant as a major point which is presenting political information to the audience not through the guest but basically through the host. The equal power relationship is clearly identified through the turns'

length is almost all the same for both. Moreover, Obama and Letterman's use of the negative and positive FTAs indicates that both are trying to hide their own power. Letterman does not want to talk in the negative form about Obama's political party and so he uses hedges to mitigate his expressive speech acts. Obama, on the other hand, shows agreement with the negative form and laughs in order to show that he is not angry at all and what the guest has already said is true. As far as the asymmetrical power relations are concerned, Obama uses different power dynamics in the talk show exercised through statements, topic shifts, expressive and assertive speech acts, face saving and politeness strategies, interruptions and expressing disagreements. Obama uses the negation form both verbally and non-verbally in almost all interviews associated with the election campaign policies and the presidential candidates' narratives.

Body language in association with the linguistic aspects play a very important role in identifying Obama's power relationships with the hosts. The many details he gives are related back to his authority and knowledge; yet, the hand gestures and facial expressions accumulate both those bases of power in which they clarify, confirm and support what he says verbally. The gestural aspects in late night talk shows are determined in relation to the institutional roles (political identity) and the topics discussed at the international community and domestic levels. Obama's hand gestures involve reference to openness, authority, confidence, agreement, disagreement and confirmation. Finally, one of the important findings of the current paper is that Obama's body language and its relation to the different speech events, formulate a simple model for using political discourse in non-traditional forms of media. These are clearly presented in table 4 in which these can constitute power dynamics.

Table (1): *Obama's Body Language in the late night talk shows Genre*

Speech events	Body language (gestures and postures) (facial expressions)
Negation, negative mood and disagreement	Shaking hands Both hands clenched together in lower position Right hand opens to the right side. Both hands spread open. Left hand moves horizontally. Both palms wagging into the center.
Authority	right/left palm down-position
Confirmation	Left hand opens wagging vertically into the left side. Both palms facing each other wagging into the center. Both hands facing each other wagging into the center. Both palms curled facing each other wagging into the center.

	Both hands rising straight up into the center.
Threat	right/left palm-closed-fingers-pointing position
Recall of information	the eyes looking down
Anger and dissatisfaction	Serious face angry face
Agreement	Head nod

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باراك أوباما في العرض الحوارى مع ديفيد ليتزمان: تحليل نقدي للخطاب متعدد الوسائط

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قسم اللغة الانكليزية وادابها/ كلية الاداب الجامعة المستنصرية

لطالما ألهمت ممارسة السلطة الباحثين للتعقق والبحث في الادوات اللغوية المختلفة التي يظهر من خلالها المتحدثون ذوو الأدوار المؤسسية المختلفة أنفسهم أقوىاء. تتناول ورقة البحث هذه انواع السلطة التي يستخدمها باراك أوباما مع المضيف في البرنامج الحوارى مع ديفيد ليتزمان. تهدف الدراسة الى تحديد انواع السلطة التي يمارسها كل من أوباما ومضيف البرنامج الحوارى من خلال تحديد الجوانب اللفظية المرتبطة بلغة الجسد. تتضمن البيانات مقابلتين من البرنامج الحوارى لديفيد ليتزمان مع باراك أوباما. يتم إجراء التحليل نوعياً من خلال التحليل النقدي للخطاب متعدد الوسائط والمتضمن نماذج تحليل مختلفة تشمل فيركلوف (2001) الخطاب كممارسة اجتماعية بالاعتماد على اللسانيات الوظيفية المنهجية لـ هاليدى (2004) و براون وليفينسون (1987) إستراتيجيات الوجه والتأدب ؛ والنموذج المتضمن للجوانب الغير لفظية بما في ذلك إيكمان (2003)؛ ديميتريوس ومازارىلا (1998) ؛ لاردنر (2002) ؛ بيس اند بيس (2004). وخلصت الورقة إلى أن أوباما يمارس سلطة اعلى غير متكافئة مع المضيف باستخدام ديناميكيات سلطة مختلفة تمارس من خلال التصريحات ، وتحولات الموضوعات ، وأفعال الكلام التعبيرية والحازمة ، واستراتيجيات الحفاظ على الوجه والتأدب ، والانقطاعات والخلافات. وبقدر ما يتعلق الأمر بالجوانب الغير لفظية ، فإن إيماءات يد أوباما تشير إلى الانفتاح والسلطة والثقة .

الكلمات المفتاحية: السلطة ، التحليل النقدي للخطاب ، متعدد الوسائط ، الاساليب اللفظية ، الاساليب غير اللفظية ، البرامج الحوارية