

AN ANALYSIS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S SPEECH AT THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG

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Abstract

When transferring a language from the first person (the recipient) to the second person (the recipient), text is a common tool. However, the meanings of various texts vary. An illustration is the text of a political speech. It can serve as a political agreement between two nations or as a treaty for world peace, like the Gettysburg Address. President Abraham Lincoln gave this political address in an effort to achieve the peace that is anticipated between the North (the Union) and the South (the Confederacy) in the United States. The text is more than just a peace proposal if it is expanded. The content, which was broken up into three sections, helped bring the then-separated nations back together. This text is worthy of examination due to the speech's success. Based on the political discourse's historical context, this study will only focus on the text's theme and the discourse's meaning. The study of transitivity reveals the structure of the text itself. However, based on the sentences of each section of the text, many things need to be analyzed.

Key words: Abraham Lincoln speech, Gettysburg, Civil War

INTRODUCTION

Abraham Lincoln was one of the most well-known American presidents of his time (Maulana & Suprayogi, 2022), (Amelia et al., 2022). He was a leader who made people think, and his words still make people feel good to this day (Kardiansyah, 2019a), (Kuswoyo & Audina, 2020). Many people have used Lincoln's words for a variety of reasons (Pranoto, 2021), (Mandasari & Aminatun, 2020). As a result, American presidents, world leaders, and even movie producers frequently cite Lincoln's words (Afrianto & Restika, 2018), (Qodriani & Kardiansyah, 2018). One of his most well-known and frequently cited speeches was Gettysburg (Amelia & Daud, 2020), (Sartika & Pranoto, 2021). It focuses on the most significant ideals that Americans hold dear and that resonate deeply with the public (Samanik, 2019). Naturally, speech will be interpreted differently by different people (Sinaga & Oktaviani, 2020), (Mandasari & Wahyudin, 2021). A closer look at the Gettysburg Address—one of history's greatest and most well-known speeches—is necessary due to the fact that some social and political issues remain unresolved in the American democracy even today (K. Sari & Pranoto, 2021), (Kardiansyah & Salam, 2021), (Qodriani & Wijana, 2021). If people know what the United

States of America means for modern society, it will be easier to solve some of its problems (Adelina & Suprayogi, 2020), (Suprayogi, Samanik, et al., 2021).

Throughout American history, several civil wars have occurred (Gulö, 2019). But the most famous was that which took place in 1863 in a small market called Gettysburg, Pennsylvania (Kuswoyo et al., 2022), (Kardiansyah, 2016), (Maskar et al., 2022). The battle took place on July 1 – July 3, 1863 (Kardiansyah, 2019b), (Novanti & Suprayogi, 2021). Many historians consider it an important event that changed the tide of events during the American Civil War (Ngestirosa et al., 2020), (Yulianti & Sulistiyawati, 2020), (Muliyah et al., 2020). During these three important days, it is known that no party is particularly dominant (Pranoto & Suprayogi, 2020), (Amelia, 2021) and each party has its own successes and defeats (Febriantini et al., 2021), (Arini & Wahyudin, 2022). Every decision taken by the commanders of both sides are so important that the war can be won by both sides (Qodriani & Wijana, 2020), (Mandasari, n.d.). The battle was preceded by confederate troops led by General Robert E. Lee who came to Pennsylvania via the Potomac River (Wantoro et al., 2022), (Wahyudin & Sari, 2018). The confederate army of Northern Virginia was fighting the union forces.

So the main problem of this war was the issue of slavery and the issue of the state having the power to deal with local issues independently became the main cause of the division of the southern states (Ivana & Suprayogi, 2020), (Yulianti & Sulistyawati, 2021), (Puspita & Amelia, 2020). Many Southerners wanted to maintain slavery despite opposition from Northern abolitionists (Samanik & Lianasari, 2018), (Afrianto & Ma'rifah, 2020). The southern vision of society was an agrarian one with slavery playing an important role (Aminatun, 2021), (Budiman et al., 2021). The Northern Vision is a free market economy based on industrial growth and commercial capitalism (Fakhrurozi & Adrian, 2020), (Fithratullah, 2021). Moreover, the northern and southern states differed on whether slavery should be allowed to spread to the newly formed western territories (Kuswoyo et al., 2021), (Mandasari & Oktaviani, 2018). The 1850 Cooperation and the Kansas-Nebraska Act aimed at reaching agreement on the problem of slavery (B. N. Sari & Gulö, 2019). But despite these measures, in the 1850s, southerners began to talk about secession.

Through a speech containing less than 275 words, Abraham Lincoln brilliantly touched the public and reminded them of the soldiers of war (Fithratullah, 2019), (Suprayogi, Puspita, et al., 2021), why the Union as the United States was called at that time had to fight and win the Civil War. The Battle of Gettysburg took place about four months earlier, the single bloodiest battle in the history of the US Civil War (Puspita, 2021). The battle also proved to be a turning point in the war, with General Robert E. Lee's defeat and withdrawal from Gettysburg and marking the last Confederate invasion of the North and the beginning of the final retreat of the Southern armies.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In the journal entitled Discourse Analysis of Gettysburg Address, the author of this study discusses the theme of the text and the intended meaning of the speech based on the historical background of this political speech. The organization of the text itself is seen from the study of transitivity. Organization and transitivity overlook critical success factors of this text. The phrases in the speech that make the nation unique. They are conceiving in Liberty and Men are equal. The visions that shared to the audience are about the new birth of freedom and government of the people, for the people, and by the people.

METHOD

In this analysis, the writers used descriptive qualitative analysis to described the speech that had been delivered by the American president, namely Abraham Lincoln during the civil war in Pennsylvania. Qualitative research approach is concerned with subjective assessment of attitudes, opinions and behavior. Research in such situations is a function of the researcher's insights and impressions. Such a research approach yields results in either a non-quantitative form or in a form that is not subjected to rigorous quantitative analysis. Qualitative research data are not calculated but are indicated by the description of the results. Researchers collect and analyze data in the form of words, so the research design is included in the qualitative approach. Researchers used qualitative research methods in collecting and analyzing data. Qualitative research is research that processes descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from observable subjects, with the aim of this study knowing the meaning of the words in the speech. The writers collect the data from internet as the resource for results.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The massacre at Gettysburg stunned the entire country, and President Lincoln gave this speech in a poignant tribute to their bravery: "The gallant men, living and dead, who struggled here have hallowed it far above our power to add or detract." What we say here won't be noticed or remembered for very long, but what they did here will never be forgotten. Lincoln was right; the American people had little interest in the decisions made by policymakers prior to, during, or following the Battle of Gettysburg. The bravery and unselfish sacrifice of those who battled brilliantly for three straight days is what they wish to appreciate and remember.

One of the most significant occurrences is the Battle of Gettysburg. Despite the knowledge that the Confederate army had already crossed the Mason-Dixon Line and General Lee was already in northern territory, the decision-makers in Washington, D.C., were mostly unprepared for it. The north responded to this by making significant changes to their military leadership and getting ready for another assault by Gen. Lee and his troops. However, when several of the Confederacy's regiments came upon the Union force, it was only in search of supplies. The rest is history, then.

The speech reflected his belief that the Civil War was not just a fight to save the Union, but a struggle for freedom and equality for all. It was an idea Lincoln did not champion in the years leading up to the war.

First of all, it should be noted that this is a fairly short but very interesting speech for the nation. In just one paragraph, Lincoln expresses the basic values of democracy. He focused on core values, equality and freedom. The speech contained many bright metaphors that captured the hearts of many. For example, Lincoln wrote that although they came to dedicate graves to the brave soldiers of the Civil War, they could not "consecrate" the land as men "living and dead." have sanctified it with their blood. The president called the cemetery a "resting place" for brave soldiers who deserved rest after their hard work. Admittedly, this literary device made the speech memorable and touching. It's great that Lincoln talks a lot about nations. Thus, he begins his speech by mentioning the first settlers who "brought forth... a new nation, conceived in freedom". Nation and freedom are the two main topics in the Speech Gettysburg, the American president stressed that it is the responsibility of society to protect our heritage their hur. The first settlers started the

country by appreciating the principles of freedom and the Civil War was the period when the nation got a “new birth of freedom”.

Inspiring leaders reminded of the great purpose of the terrible Civil War that took the lives of thousands of brave men. Importantly, the President did not use the concept of a state which implies territory and natural resources. He utilizes the concept of nation, in other words, people who are his main value. This is very important because people are more likely to follow a leader who cares about them, not the country.

It's also worth noting that Lincoln uses the first person plural. He did not say that one should do something for the nation. He stressed that he and the people present (as well as the entire nation) must act and fight for freedom. Lincoln inspires people when he shows his readiness to act. Therefore, the President is a model and people want to follow him.

Lincoln's ultimate goal was to urge everyone to honor those who died in Gettysburg by fighting to maintain the kind of nation America's founders envisioned. President Lincoln delivers the Gettysburg Address on November 19, 1863. Lincoln's short but powerful Gettysburg speech places the Civil War into the historical context of America's struggle for freedom. Lincoln asserted that the war was a test of the ideals the colonials championed in 1776 – in a sense, it was a continuation of the American Revolution. The motivating commander highlights the important goal of the terrible Civil War, which claimed the lives of thousands of valiant warriors. It's significant that the President avoids using the idea of a country, which connotes territories and natural resources. He makes use of the idea of the nation, or the people, who are his main values. This is crucial because people are more likely to follow a leader who genuinely cares about them than than some distant place. Lincoln also makes use of the first person plural, which is remarkable. He makes no mention of the need for action on behalf of the country. He emphasizes the need for action and struggle for liberty on the part of himself, the individuals in the room, and the entire country. People are inspired by Lincoln

The three main issues that Lincoln raised in the Gettysburg Address were the preservation of the nation, the dedication of graves on the battlefield for fallen soldiers, and the importance of continuing the struggle to win the war.

The full text of Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address is as follows: "Four scores and seven years ago our forefathers gave birth to on this continent a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

The idea Lincoln is trying to convey to the audience is that they must devote themselves to the protection of a united nation and the new birth of freedom by honoring the dead so that their sacrifice would not be vain. Lincoln's speech is set up chronologically and commences rather remarkably and extraordinarily, "Four score and seven years ago", when the nation was formerly created, advancing to the civil war that nation was then engaged in, and finally focusing on the accomplishments from the war.

Lincoln knew that he was addressing a rather divided audience and thus reflected on the ideals and accomplishments of their forefathers which they all shared in common, reminding each section of their unified history thereby bridging the gap between North and South. Lincoln tactically ignored the reference to slavery or any other comment that would put him in support of either segment. The purpose was to bring the divided people together, so that they would envision a solitary objective of preservation and in effect, rebirth. Lincoln also exposes the problems of "a great civil war, testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure" and its solution by emphasizing their duty to dedicate themselves to the unfinished work of preserving their nation.

Language and structure played an effective role in Lincoln's speech through the utilization of words that lent a sense of unity and strength such as "our", "we", "us", "nation", and "the people". The speech mostly comprised of simple, mono-syllabic or bi-syllabic words as Lincoln knew very well that he was speaking to a diverse crowd comprising not only of politicians, military officers and press, but most importantly the families of the martyred who were commoners and were obviously the most significant section of the audience.

Lincoln gave a stirring speech by bringing into play, antitheses and juxtaposition of ideas: mortal and immortal, "that nation might live ... shall not perish from the earth" and "the world will little note, nor long remember" contrasting to "it can never forget". Lincoln also appeals to the emotions of the audience by the means of words such as 'fathers', 'liberty', 'war', 'died', 'dedicate', 'consecrate', 'struggle', 'nobly', 'honored', 'God' and 'freedom'. Within two minutes Lincoln was able to offer to them self-importance, assurance, rationale,

optimism and a united goal by appealing to them to come together as one nation, with a “government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth”.

CONCLUSION

To sum up, even though it's been a while since the last words of the Gettysburg Speech sounded, the importance of Lincoln's message to the American people remains just as high, and his democratic legacy lives on. Lincoln helped Americans discover their identity, and in the nineteenth century, it was the duty of Americans to follow the postulates of the Gettysburg Address in the new setting.

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