

Discourse Analysis On Military Command Language

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Abstract:

This article is aimed at analyzing military discourse to identify distinguishing features of the conversation and drill commands in military and provide useful data to enhance military communication, training, and operational efficiency. Moreover, the discourse analysis can allow researchers, trainers, and analysts to evaluate communication efficacy, command execution, and group dynamics.

Considering that military discourse is a unique form of communication among institutional discourse, we have observed military parade, drills and real life interactions and analyzed how military expressions are used in different culture by comparing other countries' military manuals in order to provide a comprehensive understanding of how language and gestures function in high-discipline settings, as well as, we evaluated the linguistic, verbal and non-verbal elements of communication.

It is assumed that both verbal and nonverbal communication are officially used in military communication to control, instruct and manage parade, platoon and unit during not only drills but also ceremonies and formations. Although short and concise words are applied in military command language, both preparatory and executive commands are performed nonverbally and clearly in official events.

Keywords: *military discourse, institutional discourse, verbal and non-verbal communication, preparatory command, command of execution,*

INTRODUCTION

The basis of this study

According to the researcher's work on institutional discourse, while political, official, media, advertising, scientific, pedagogical, medical, and religious discourses have been studied relatively extensively, the study of military discourse is only just getting started, which is an important objective for me because of my experience in the field of law enforcement as a member of the military.

I have become interested in distinctive military language, particularly in analyzing the command words and responses in English due to my acquaintance with law enforcement, involvement in military drills and parades and, moreover, my role in teaching English to cadets and officers in this field.

Observing the parade and march, I consistently feel pride in the platoon and squad for their unified execution by the commander's orders, and I am intrigued by how a single word, along with acronyms, phrases, and affixes can exert such a profound influence on the entire platoon enabling them to move as a singular entity.

The importance of the study

We believe that military command language is a highly specialized type of communication specifically designed to meet the operational, psychological, and organizational requirements of a certain military contexts.

Elements of military language are purposefully designed to support authority, provide clarity, promote unity, and encourage rapid action, which are essential to the success of military operations.

Another important point is that in today's globalized and interconnected world, the overseas deployment for peacekeeping has significantly expanded in recent years. In terms of the deployment abroad, "King's Quest" International Peacekeeping training has been conducted in Mongolia since 2006 including over 20 different countries' military personnel. The training objective is to enhance the peacekeeping capabilities of the Mongolian Armed Forces, to provide training support necessary to enhance the capabilities required for UN peacekeeping operations, and to improve multinational cooperation in peacekeeping operations.

However, for officers and peacekeepers, it may be significant challenges in communication depending on the linguistic and cultural differences to participate in joint training and execute commands by the commanders. Resolving these problems is essential to achieving the mission success and collaboration.

Therefore, it is vital for peacekeepers to learn how to respond to the order when they are given orders in different culture commanders, as well as how the military language and command are pronounced or voiced internationally for peace keeping operations.

Peacekeepers must understand how to respond to commands from commanders in other countries, as well as how the military language and command are pronounced or voiced worldwide during peacekeeping missions.

Aim of this study

It is aimed to analyze military discourse to discover how command words are utilized in this field, to find out how verbal and non-verbal elements of communication are used between commanders and platoon formally.

The object of the study

Military words of commands used between commander and squad or platoon.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

In this study, we have observed on everyday command words and its non-verbal execution of command, compiled manuals and data from military organizations as well as observing real drill commands and videos of drilling commands. Methods of analysis, synthesis and observation have been utilized to work on this article.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In generally, a discourse is a behavioral unit which has a pre-theoretical status in linguistics: it is a set of utterances which constitute any recognizable speech event (no reference being made to its linguistic structure, if any), e.g. a conversation, a joke, a sermon, an interview [1]

Discourse analysis is the study of language that focuses on how language users communicate with each other, orally, in writing, and in other ways, in different settings and contexts. It analyzes words and sentences to explore what meanings language can have in specific social, cultural, and political contexts, and how the unique relationships and identities of that context are shaped by those contexts.

The phrase "discourse analysis" encompasses multiple definitions that differ based on the subject of study, its application, and the researchers' perspectives on the methodology. This term was initially used by the linguists Zellig Harris, A.J.Greimas, R.Longrepka, L.Givon. According to American linguist Z.Harris, in examining language units beyond the phrase level, characterized discourse analysis as a method for analyzing connected speech or writing, extending descriptive linguistics beyond the confines of a simple sentence. [2].

Discourse analysis is regarded as a distinct area of linguistics that originated in France during the 1960s, arising from the amalgamation of linguistics, Marxism, and psychology studies within the overarching framework of structuralism ideology formation.

According to Payzibayeva the theory of discourse analysis was in the centre of several researchers during the 1960s and early 1970s, paying also attention to linguistics, semiotics, anthropology, psychology and sociology during in the process of analysis. [3]

INSTITUTIONAL DISCOURSE

The purpose of modern discourse analysis is to discern and investigate the distinctive features of different types of conversation.

In recent years, scholars and researchers have increasingly focused on institutional discourses due to the heightened awareness of the substantial influence of language in creating social practices, power dynamics, and institutional relationships.

Institutional discourse is the unique language and communication used within formal organizations and institutions, such as the military, education, law, government, medical institution, and media that is incomprehensible to civilians. It is a communication tool used in connection with the institution's values, internal rules, norms, chain of commands and established rules that distinguish these organizations from others.

In analyzing institutional discourse, scholars have argued that language serves not only to convey information but also to exercise and maintain power, and to regulate behavior within the institutions. In institutional discourse, it is possible to study both verbal and nonverbal communication, as well as rhetorical strategies and speech practices that are determined by the specific goals and functions of the organization.

Scholars investigating institutional discourse frequently focus on the dual role of language in conveying knowledge and exerting power, preserving authority, and regulating conduct within the institution.

In the military, the forms of written, technological, verbal and nonverbal communications are used in formal way. In particular, we think that nonverbal communication plays the main role in military and it is a formal way to greet and respect each other or leader and commander. Commander uses verbal communication commands to their soldiers in parade or platoon and responses for the command could be dominantly nonverbally in parade.

We believe that military discourse is different from other forms of institutional discourse and plays a vital role due to its specific nature of the operations in specific situation and communication, and its function of maintaining highly organized order, discipline, and unity.

This analysis of the military speech is important for gaining a common understanding of military command language and improving their knowledge of linguistic differences among different culture.

The study of military language emphasizes two distinct aspects of context: communication and the environment where the communication takes place. The meaning of utterance depends on the element how the utterance is conveyed.

As I mentioned first that the study of military discourse is only just getting started but researchers and scholars have been studying related topics in various perspectives.

Before analyzing on words of command, it is essential to get acquainted definition of military commands.

According to the drill manual it defines that "A drill command is an oral order of a commander. The commander gives all commands to his unit, except in the few cases mentioned in this manual. a. Most drill

commands have two parts, known as the preparatory command and the command of execution. Neither of these parts is actually a command by itself, but they are termed commands to simplify instruction". [4]

The definition is still same as today, as "A drill command is an oral order of a commander or leader. The precision with which a movement is executed is affected by the way the command is given.Drill commands are about the same as at the time of the War of 1812, except that then the officers and NCOs began them by saying, "Take care to face to the right, right, face." [5:1-2]

DISCOURSE ANALYSIS ON MILITARY COMMAND

Good drill depends on properly delivered words of command. They are to be pronounced clearly and distinctly, with confidence and determination, since they convey an order which is to be promptly obeyed.

The purpose of drill is to enable commanders or noncommissioned officers (NCOs) to move their unit from one place to another in an orderly manner, to aid in disciplinary training by instilling habits of precision and response to the leader's orders, and to provide for the development of all Soldiers in the practice of commanding troops. [5:1-1]

According to the military manuals words of command are divided into:

- a. Cautionary or preparatory commands; and
- b. Executive commands /command of execution/.

Most drill movements use a two-part command. The first part of the command is called the preparatory command. It alerts the troops to what is coming. The second part of the command is the command of execution. There is a one-count pause between the two parts of the command. Upon hearing the command of execution, the soldier will perform the movement. Soldiers do not move until the command of execution is complete. [6:1]

For example:

Squad HALT!

The preparatory command is Squad and the command of execution is HALT. The preparatory command Squad mentally cautions the troops or personnel for the command of execution and Halt tells when the movement can be carried out.

More examples of two part of commands are:

Right /left/ FACE,

About FACE,

Uncover TWO,

and Forward MARCH etc.

In military two part of the command can be given with three or more words like

Dress right, DRESS,
Column Half Right, MARCH
Mark time, MARCH
and Right Flank, MARCH etc.

All the last words in capital are the command of execution. For the two part command, the leader's voice is essential for the squad or platoon when they shall be warned of the movement to be performed and when they shall be executed by the command.

Inflection is the rise and fall in pitch and the tone changes of the voice.

- a. The preparatory command is the command which indicates the movement. Pronounce each preparatory command with a generally rising inflection. The most desirable pitch when beginning a preparatory command is near the level of your natural speaking voice.....
- b. The command of execution is the command which indicates when a movement is to be executed. Give it in a sharper tone and in a slightly higher pitch than the last syllable of the preparatory command. It must have plenty of snap. [4:15]

“Atten-TION” is the two part of command, the preparatory command is “Atten” and the command of execution is “TION”. We can see that one word can be divided in two parts: first part or syllable is cautionary command and second part or syllable is executive command. Dis-MISS

3-5. In some commands, the preparatory command and the command of execution are **combined** into single word or phrase; for example, FALL IN, AT EASE, and REST. These commands are given without inflection and at a uniformly high pitch and loudness comparable to that for a normal command of execution. [4:11-12]

These combined commands minimize confusion among multinational peacekeepers and ensure uniformity to be communicated efficiently. FALL OUT, COVER, HALT are the examples of combined command.

The precision with which a movement is executed is determined by the manner in which the command is given, a correctly delivered command is loud and distinct and will be understood clearly by everyone in the unit. Correct commands have a tone, cadence, and snap that demand willing, correct, and immediate response. [4:13]

MORNING REPORT FOR ENGLISH CLASS **/Example for English class in Mongolia/**

Class commander: Atten-TION! /to the class/
Ma'am major! 312th course, ready for the class. Corporal Bilguun. /to the military instructor or professor with rank/
Major /instructor/: Mon all /cadets!/ /to the class/
Class: Mon ma'am!
Major: AT EASE!
Class commander: AT EASE!

Every day the class commander starts the class by reporting to the instructor about their readiness.

A dash separates the cautionary from the executive command.

Atten-TION! /ten SHUN/

This word is accompanied by a salute or a specific posture.

Accurate non-verbal cues such as hand signals, salutes, or body movements are required in military language and they are an integral part of executive command. They are often combined with verbal commands to improve clarity and ensure synchronization.

It is common to shorten some English words, exclude vowels and clipped or removed first or second syllables to make them into unique command words. For instance:

Ten-TION, the first vowel is removed for Atten-TION!;

P'rade! p'rade'TION! (for parade at attention) 'parade' is expressed by removing the vowel /root/ or meaning of the words 'p'rade' and adding last suffix 'tion' of 'attention';

for "morning", it is shortened to 'mon' - 'mon sir, ma'am' when greeting someone;

The command phrases stated above are distinguished by their phonetic style, in particular, using apostrophes and affixation may signify emphasis or specific pronunciation within the military communication.

CONCLUSION

The military is a broad and diverse field, and we have investigated the drill command words of a parade and how military language is expressed. Military discourse differs from other institutional discourses in several key ways that reflect the nature of military activities, the urgency of communication, and the need for absolute clarity, efficiency, and respect for authority, particularly commanding tone and the use of concise words, affixation, conversion, blending, clipping, acronyms.

The verbal and non-verbal communication between the commander and the platoon or squad is a concise verbal and non-verbal action, but it is unique in that it contains discourse of great significance.

The main features of the parade performance are the magnificent power, pomp, and perfect gait. All this is manifested in the body movements that are one of the professional relationships of military personnel.

Therefore, it would be interesting research topic for further analyzing military discourse comparing other countries language in military, and studying similarities, differences, and linguistic characteristics using research methods such as interviews and observations from recordings of demonstrations and training sessions.

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