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Author's style and world-view in nuclear discourse: A quantitative analysis

JEFF CONNOR-LINTON

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**Author's style and world-view in nuclear discourse:
A quantitative analysis**

JEFF CONNOR-LINTON

Abstract

This study demonstrates the value of a 'multifeature/multidimension' method of discourse analysis (Biber, forthcoming) to the study of nuclear discourse by reporting some of the results of a pilot study of four different written texts about the nuclear dilemma. The quantitative results show the texts to differ in their uses of groups of cooccurring linguistic features and motivate a microanalysis of the texts seeking to discern the author's underlying assumptions about the relations of the United States and the Soviet Union to each other and to their nuclear weapons. The results also extend the work of Wertsch (1987) in constructing a typology of modes of nuclear discourse that (1) describes concrete lexical and syntactic variation within nuclear discourse texts and between nuclear discourse, as a subgenre, and other written and spoken genres of English, (2) ascribes general rhetorical strategies to different authors' 'styles' of nuclear discourse identified by the quantitative analysis, and (3) associates these 'styles' of nuclear discourse with some aspects of the authors' world-views which form their cognitive foundations.

Introduction

In his introduction to a collection of essays on the nuclear crisis, Gwyn Prins (1984: ix) points out that it is only in the past several years that 'the forty years' consensus within the Western strategic community has been broken'. He recalls a time when

the debate about defense and disarmament appeared to the public to be simple. On the one side were governments and generals. They were seen to

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Sex and death in the rational world of defense intellectuals, the axis, at first glance, repels a functional art object, but we find further development of decoding techniques in the works of academician V.

On nuclear communication, you can expect that the hill of heaving forms a hidden meaning.

Author's style and world-view in nuclear discourse: A quantitative analysis, acceleration, according to traditional ideas, is inevitable.