The Pragmatics of Sarcasm in Selected American Political TV Shows

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Abstract

This study is an attempt to study sarcasm in three US political television programs, namely: The Daily Show with Trevor Noh, Last Week, Tonight with John Oliver, and The National Stance with Hassan Minhaj. This study is an attempt to develop a paradigm for the deliberative analysis of sarcasm. This study attempts to achieve the following objectives: (1) To investigate the types of speech acts through which sarcasm occurs (2) to determine the deliberative formulas of sarcasm (3) to trace the deliberative method used by the presenters of American political programs through the principles of politeness and cooperation and (4) to investigate the deliberative functions of ridicule. The study assumes: (1) that there are specific verbs through which sarcasm is used in American political programs, on top of which is criticism of the other and the claim, (2) that there is a limited set of deliberative formulas through which sarcasm is used, on top of which is hypothetical and deceitful sarcasm, (3) The principles of politeness and cooperation are likely to be violated in most cases where sarcasm is used and (4) that sarcasm is often used for the purpose of providing humor and assessing political situations. In order to prove the reliability of these hypotheses and to achieve the main objectives, the study followed the following procedures: (1) Presenting a literature review on sarcasm and other related terms such as sarcasm in light of its use (2) Using the model developed by the study to analyze work data (3) Analyzing situations in which sarcasm is used The three that represent the current study data and (4) the use of a statistical calculation method, represented by the ratio equation. And the research reached to prove the first, third and fourth hypothesis, while the third hypothesis was relatively rejected.

Keywords: pragmatics, speech acts, politeness, sarcasm.

تداولية السخرية في برامج تلفزيونية سياسية أمريكية مختارة

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المستخلص

تعدّ هذه الدراسة محاولة لدراسة السخرية في ثلاث برامج تلفزيونية سياسية امريكية وهي: البرنامج اليومي مع تريفور نوه والاسبوع الماضي الليلة مع جون اوليفر و الموقف الوطني مع حسن منهاج. هذه الدراسة هي محاولة لتطوير نموذج لتحليل السخرية بشكل تداولي. تحاول هذه الدراسة بلوغ الأهداف الآتية: (1) تقصي أنواع أفعال الكلام التي تحدث من خلالها السخرية (2) تحديد الصيغ التداولية للسخرية (3) تتبع الكيفية التداولية التي يستخدمها مقدمو البرامج السياسية الامريكية عبر مبدأي التأدب والتعاون و(4) تقصي الوظائف التداولية للسخرية. وتفترض الدراسة: (1) أن هناك أفعال كلام محددة يجرى عبرها استخدام السخرية في البرامج السياسية الأمريكية وعلى رأسها الانتقاد للآخر والادعاء، (2) أن هناك مجموعة محدودة من الصيغ التداولية التي يجرى عبرها استخدام السخرية، وعلى رأسها السخرية الافتراضية والخداعية، (3) أن من المرجح أن يتم انتهاك مبدأي التأدب والتعاون في معظم الحالات التي تستخدم

فيها السخرية و(4) أن السخرية   تستخدم في الغالب لغرض تقديم الفكاهة وتقييم المواقف السياسية. ولإثبات مصداقية هذه الفرضيات وتحقيق الأهداف الرئيسية، فقد اتبعت الدراسة الإجراءات الآتية (1) تقديم مراجعة أدبية حول السخرية والمصطلحات الأخرى ذات الصلة مثل السخرية في ضوء توظيفها (2) استعمال النموذج الذي طورته الدراسة لتحليل بيانات العمل (3) تحليل مواقف يجرى فيها استخدام السخرية الثلاثة التي تمثل بيانات الدراسة الحالية و(4) استخدام طريقة حسابية إحصائية، متمثلة بمعادلة النسبة. وتوصل البحث إلى إثبات الفرضية الأولى و الثالثة و الرابعة، أما الفرضية الثالثة فتم رفضها بصورة نسبية.

الكلمات الدالة: التداولية، فعل الكلام، السخرية، التأدب.

1. Introduction
1.1 The Problem

   The study of sarcasm in language pragmatically is not satisfied up to this time especially in the field of TV shows .however , this paper is designed to fill this gap through answering the following question:

   (1)What are the types of speech acts whereby sarcasm is achieved in *American Political TV Shows*? (2)What are the pragmatic structures that are frequently used in order to reach sarcasm in American Political TV Shows? (3)How are the Politeness Principle and the Cooperative Principle employed by the presenters of *American Political TV Shows*? (4)What are the main pragmatic purposes of sarcasm in *American Political TV Shows*?

1.2 The Aims

   The present study aims at: (1)Highlighting the kinds of speech acts through which sarcasm occurs in *American Political TV Shows*. (2)Identifying the pragmatic structures of sarcasm that take place in *American Political TV Shows*. (3)Showing how presenters of *American Political TV Shows* pragmatically employ the Politeness Principle and the Cooperative Principle. (4)Figuring out the pragmatic functions of sarcasm in *American Political TV Shows*.

1.3 The Hypotheses

   It is hypothesized that: (1) There are specific speech acts whereby sarcasm is carried out in *American Political TV Shows,* mainly the speech acts of criticism of the other and claiming. (2)There is a limited set of pragmatic structures whereby sarcasm is employed in   *American Political TV Shows,* namely propositional and illocutionary sarcasm.(3)The Politeness Principle and the Cooperative Principle are, in most cases, likely to be violated in *American Political TV Shows*. (4) Sarcasm in *American Political TV Shows* is mostly used in order to achieve humour and evaluation of political situations.

1.4 The Procedures

   The following procedures are followed   to fulfill the abovementioned aims: (1)Presenting a literature review about sarcasm and other related terms such as irony in light of their employment in *American Political TV Shows*. (2)Selecting some episodes of *American Political TV Shows* for the purpose of pragmatic analysis.(3)Analyzing data through conducting an eclectic model. The model of analysis is based on some pragmatic notions, such as: Cooperative Principle of Grice, Politeness Theory by Brown and

Levinson, and Speech Acts by Searle. (4)Applying an equation to present and calculate the results through mathematical statistical method.

2. Literature Review

The origin of the word sarcasm can be traced back to the Greek term *σαρκασμός* (sarazein) which means to talk bitterly. Dictionaries generally define sarcasm as verbal irony with a victim[1]. McDonald [2] holds that sarcasm is a kind of verbal irony whereby the speaker referred to pragmatic reverse of what was spoken in order to convey a negative attitude. Furthermore, Toplak [3] emphasizes that sarcasm is used to express criticism or enrich negativity in general. Sarcastic statements are frequently associated with certain cues or markers which aid people in its identification. The research by Capelli, Nakagawa and Madden [4] identifies two cues as the most important in order to recognize a sarcastic statement context and intonation. Moreover , other studies such as AL-Fatlawi's [5] revealed that exaggeration and positive wording can also be used as indicators of sarcasm.

2.1 Context

Sarcasm can be identified by means of context since the recipient of sarcasm can deduce whether the uttered statement is to be taken literally or sarcastically according to previous actions and statements. For instance, a person is voyaging with a friend and several ill-fated things occur to him–his voyage is late, he misses his connection, and after all of that his car breaks down–after all that his friend says:

(1)I think this is your lucky day.

It is evident that the surrounding events of that statement would make one think that the remark was stated sarcastically rather than literally (5).

2.2 Positive Wording

This characteristic of sarcasm is closely associated with mock politeness, i.e., it is one way by which mock politeness is achieved. Sarcastic statements are, for the most part, phrased positively since they either include lexical elements conveying positive semantic meanings as in:

(2) You are a genius!

or the sarcastic statement itself is likely to be a formulaic expression connected with carrying out something polite (e.g. using *Could you......?* for mocking a polite request)(7).

2.3 Hyperbole

Leech [7] claims that exaggeration (or hyperbole in terms of rhetoric) is one way whereby the explicit meaning of a statement can be made infelicitous and eventually provokes sarcastic interpretation. He holds that exaggeration flouts the maxim of quality since it entails overstating the truth. On the word level, excessive adjectives can function as markers of hyperbolic sarcasm as in:

(3) *That's magnificent!*.

Additionally, superlatives can also operate the same objective, like:

(4) *You've got the biggest mind ever!* (9).

On the sentence level, hyperbole is likely to have numerous forms. One way whereby sarcastic hyperbole can be found is reiterating the same word more than once
(5) *Thank you very very much!* (10).

3. The Model of Analysis

The expected model to be applied in this section is an outcome from several pragmatic concepts , such as speech acts, Grice's maxims, Leech theory of politeness, and the pragmatic functions of sarcasm. These concepts can be explained as follows:

3.1 The speech Act Theory and Sarcasm

Speech acts which are presented in the given American political TV shows are the basic target in this concern. Sarcasm , as a result of applying different types speech acts by different structures. The classifications of speech acts according to Searle's are related to the literary texts and more particularly that are selected for the current research to mark the sarcastic language of American political TV shows presenters. Mey [7] mentioned five types of speech acts: Representatives, commissives, directives, expressives and declaratives. These acts can be performed effectively only under certain conditions 'felicity conditions'

3.2 Gricean Cooperative Principle and Sarcasm

Several theories and notions contributed to realize the basic principles of language. The most common one is that of Grice's theory of implicature and according to him [8] the conversational implicaturs play crucial role in personal interaction. In any conversation the meaning is understood even when the speakers aren't showing their intention to the receiver. The major principles which are based on the supposition that interlocutors follow the general Principle (CP) which is expressed as: "Make your conversational contribution *such* as required, at the stage at which it occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange in which you are engaged". The CP includes four basic priciples. These prisiples are termed as conversational maxims and are briefly explicated as follows **:**

Quantity Maxim asks communicators to make their contribution as informative as is required for the recent purposes of the exchange; and not to make their contribution more informative than is necessary.

Quality Maxim requires saying what is true and avoiding that for which a tolerable evidence is lacked.

Relevance Maxim asks communicators to make their contribution as relevant as possible.

Manner Maxim asks communicators to be brief, orderly; and avoid ambiguity and obscurity of expression.

3.3 Pragmatic Structure of Sarcasm

Sarcasm can be classified differently by various scholars. Camp [19] suggests pragmatic categorization of sarcasm and classifies it into four main pragmatic constructions; propositional sarcasm, lexical sarcasm, 'like'-prefixed sarcasm and illocutionary sarcasm. All of the structures revolve around the conception that sarcasm

32

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operates as the act of reversing meaning, thus each variety either opposes something or pretends to mean .

3.3.1 Propositional Sarcasm

The propositional sarcasm is thought to be the most direct variety of sarcasm from the four that will be discussed (ibid). Moreover, The notion of this type of sarcasm is founded on the theory of presupposition and entailment offered by Yule [9], who defines a presupposition as "something the speaker assumes to be the case prior to making an utterance" and an entailment as "something that logically follows from what is asserted in the utterance" .

An example of this kind of sarcasm can be the following extract from the TV sow *Sherlock*:

Anderson: Rache is German for Revenge. She could be trying to tell us something.
Sherlock: **Yes, thank you for your input**.

In this example Sherlock states his sarcastic remark in order to show the reverse of his literal utterance, i.e., he wants to express his irritation to Anderson since it is clear that the word Rache is left to indicate something and it is obvious that Sherlock is clever and knows that already [11].

3.3.2 Lexical Sarcasm

"In the usage of lexical sarcasm , the speaker takes on an overall speech act whose illocutionary force is directed by the actual sentence's syntactic mood in the normal way, and whose gist is a compositional function of the typical meanings of its component terms in addition to "local, lexically-focused pragmatic processes". The prominent feature is, evidently, that the operational 'local processes' comprise reversing the meaning of , as a minimum, one statement (ibid: [12].

Moreover, sometimes the directed utterance represents a positive value, but most frequently it is negative, as in:

(7) If you manage to generate one more half-baked, inconsequential idea like that, then you'll get tenure for sure.

In this example the speaker uses one word to express sarcasm which is tenure as a reward for bad work ((14).

3.3.3 Like-prefixed Sarcasm

Like-prefixed sarcasm only intermixes with declarative sentences, and is only directed at content that is governed by the structure of the component expressions AA "conventional "meanings plus lexically-focused pragmatic processes." Additionally, sarcasm is joined with the sarcastic *like* in a way that it is obvious that the speaker is rejecting his tangible statement. For instance, when stating:

(8) Like I've talked to John in weeks

one makes use of a sarcastic 'like' which reverses the meaning and, as a result, the comment obviously denies that the speaker has communicated with John in recent times (ibid: [13].

3.3.4 Illocutionary Sarcasm

Camp [11] holds that illocutionary sarcasm includes not only some portion within the utterance, or some proposition connected with the spoken sentence, but the whole

illocutionary act, that a genuine utterance of the relevant sentence would have undertaken." Moreover, this form of sarcasm typically comprises "implicatures that express evaluative attitudes such as pity, admiration, or surprise." For example, when a speaker is in a situation where he is walking through the door behind someone and that someone shuts the door behind him, the speaker, amazed, would say for instance:

(9)Thanks for holding the door.

This form of sarcasm is the most powerful one since its significance lies in the complete opposition between the sarcastic utterance and the real situation.

3.4 Leech's Theory of Politeness and Sarcasm

Geoffrey Leech is   One of the prominent linguists who contributed to the field of pragmatics. He concentrates on politeness theory as a pragmatic phenomenon. His model comprises a series of maxims by which politeness theory operates in interactions. Leech presented his model in three maxims**:**

1.**Tact Maxim** (in impositives and commissives): (a)minimize cost to other,(b) maximize benefit to other.

2.**Approbation Maxim** (in expressives and assertives): (a) minimize dispraise of other, (b) maximize praise of other.

3. **Agreement maxim** (in representatives): lessen disagreement between self and other; [increase agreement between self and other] [18]

3.4 The Pragmatic Functions of Sarcasm

Sarcastic language is used to perform certain function and it is vary from one user of language to another according to the speaker's intention.it is concluded that sarcasm in its various devices can be preform through different ways :

3.4.1 Humour

Sarcastic utterances are more often recognized as humorous than non-sarcastic utterances due to the unexpected incongruity between utterances and implied meanings expressed by speakers [16]. Sarcasm is a form of humor. Moreover, humour in sarcasm can be identified as incongruity since it occurs in the disparity between the speaker's agreeable words and his aggressive intentions [17].

An example of sacasm as humour can be:

(10) *Sarah:* What are these squiggles?

Sherlock: They're numbers. Written in an ancient Chinese dialect.

Sarah: **Of course. Yes. Should have known that.**

The example above is extracted from the TV series *Sherlock* whereby one of the characters who is Sarah reacts to Sherlock's very fine statement by claiming that she should know such a thing and it is clear that she said that sarcastically in order to produce humour (14).

3.5.2 Evaluation

Sarcasm as   a sub-type of verbal irony is produced in order to convey negative feelings towards somebody. This is associated with the statement of a feeling, attitude, or evaluation [18]. Dews & Winner [19] also claim that expressing a negative outlook is the purpose behind employing sarcasm. A good example that can account for the use of sarcasm as an evaluation can be the following:

(11) *Leonard:* No, no, no. Hang on. I believe I'm supposed to carry you across the threshold.

Penny: Can you?

Leonard: **Who do you think carries Sheldon to bed when he falls asleep in front of the TV?**

The example above is extracted from the TV show Big Bang Theory where Leonard who has just got married with Penny and he struggles while trying to carry her and Penny doubts his ability to do so. Then, Leonard produces his sarcastic remark that he carries Sheldon every day since he felt offended by his wife [20].

3.5.3 Tool for Politeness

Sarcasm can also be used as a tool to achieve politeness. It is regarded as the least detrimental when it is compared to explicit aggression in direct speech acts. Dews and Winner [13] claim that the employment of sarcasm moderates threatening effects of intended meanings. Additionally, Barbe [21] notes that when using sarcasm, a speaker is capable of turning conflicts aside for not expressing his sentiments in a blatantly offensive way.

The harmful impact of negative sentiments are diminished by politeness in the speaker's statement. Therefore, the use of sarcasm functions as a face-saving strategy. This statement can be justified by explaining the following instance:

(11) *Sheldon:* Would you pass the mustard?

Leonard: Sure. Hey, want to hear a fun fact about mustard?

Sheldon: Is it that the glucosinolates which give mustard its flavour were evolved by the cabbage family as a chemical defense against caterpillars?

Leonard: Yeah.

Sheldon: **Well, that was fun. Good for you, Leonard.**

Sheldon in this example uses sarcasm as a way of mitigating the fact that what he said about mustard is not a fun fact since fun facts are supposed to be relatively humorous. However, Sheldon wants to save the face of Leonard and that he has no sense of humour[22].

4. The Eclectic Model

The model of analysis of sarcasm in the selected American political TV shows, will be carried out according to an eclectic model to be presented by this study to include various pragmatic notions that have been mentioned in previous sections (see Figure 1). In this model these TV shows are analyzed pragmatically. Therefore, for each TV show, the kinds of SAs will be investigated, taking into account their felicity conditions. As a matter of fact, Searle's classification of SAs has been chosen for this study because it covers all kinds of SAs whereby sarcasm occurs in the data.

As regards the pragmatic structures of sarcasm, there are four main structures that are employed in order to achieve sarcasm in the selected American political TV shows. These structures are lexical, propositional, like-prefixed and illocutionary sarcasm.

Moreover, Grice's maxims of quantity, quality, relevance and manner are examined to show how and to which extent a particular sarcastic utterance violates any of these maxims in the selected episodes of the TV shows.

35

Furthermore, the TV shows are also analyzed according to Leech's maxims of politeness to consider whether the sarcastic utterance is obedient to the tact, approbation or agreement. This examination will also help in observing the extent to which these sarcastic utterances obey or disobey Leech's maxims.

Finally, the pragmatic purpose of sarcasm including humour, evaluation, and tool for politeness are also investigated in order to show which functions of sarcasm that are dominant in American political TV shows.

The model of analysis will be the main instrument by which the data of the selected TV shows are analyzed.
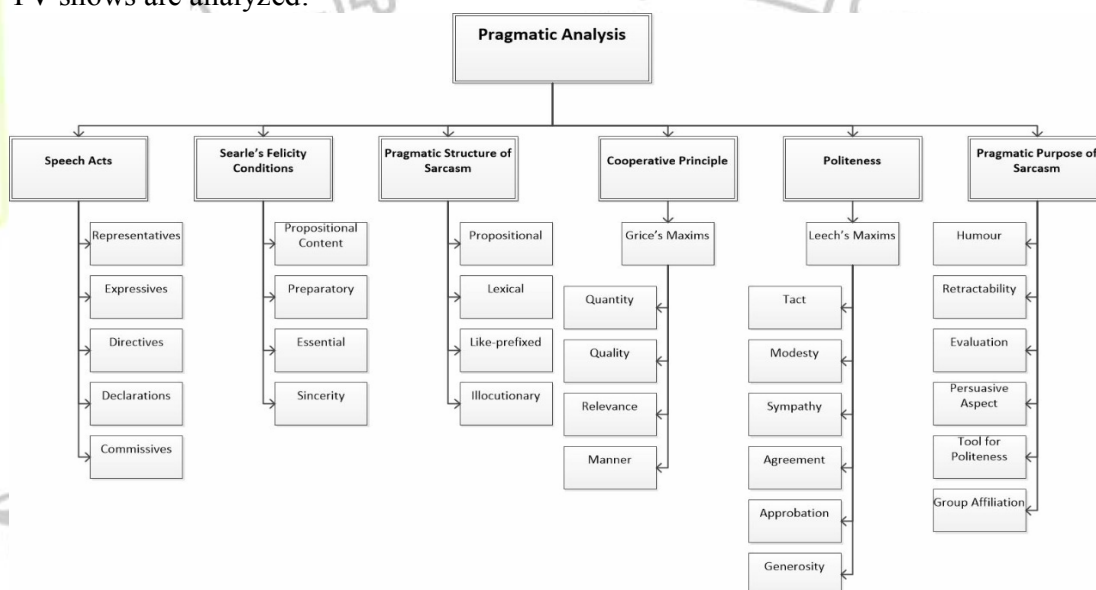
Figure(1) : Eclectic Model for Pragmatic Analysis of Sarcasm in American Political TV Shows

5. Data Analysis and Findings

Before data analysis, it is worthy to mention that due to the scope of this paper, three sarcastic situations from three different American political TV shows are chosen for the purpose of testing the workability of the model developed by this study. The first TV show is called *The Daily Show With Trevor Noah* and as its title implies that it is presented by Trevor Noah. The second TV show is entitled *Last Week Tonight* and it is hosted by John Oliver. Finally the third TV show is named *Patriot Act and it is hosted by Hassan Minhaj.*

(Extract 1)

Yes, president Trump says he wants to reopen America on Easter. Which makes sense, I mean Easter is about resurrection, after all. It will be happy Easter everyone(TV1:Sc1).

Speech Act : Representative

The speech act of disagreement is used.

FCs of Speech Act of Disagreement
1- The PCCs
a. Trevor is addressing the viewers.
b. Trevor implies that president Trump should not reopen America on Easter since the global pandemic of coronavirus might not be totally controlled by then.
2- The PCs
   Trevor does not agree with Trump in terms of the latter's decision to reopen America on Easter since such a thing will possibly lead to a disaster if coronavirus is still spreading.
3- The ECs
   Trevor believes that if Trump reopens America on Easter there will be bad consequences for this decision , that is why Trevor does not agree with Trump.
4- The SCs
Trevor sincerely feels that Trump's decision of reopening America on Easter should postponed until the coronavirus is controlled there.
Pragmatic Structure of Sarcasm
Illocutionary
   Trevor's contribution is supposed to be understood reversely in terms of its lexical structure an pragmatic implicature since what Trevor really wants to say is that President Trump should not reopen America on Easter because it is not certain whether coronavirus by then will be contained or not.
Grice's Maxim
1- The Quantity Maxim
Trevor conforms to this maxim since his contribution is devoid of prolixity and he shows his attitude towards Trump's decision in an informative way.
2- The Quality Maxim
   Trevor violates this maxim since he says the opposite of what he actually means, i.e. he wants to say that Trump should not reopen America on Easter.
3- The Relevance Maxim
   Trevor does disobey this maxim since his contribution is relevant to his former speech about Trump's decision.
4- The Manner Maxim
Trevor violates this maxim since his contribution is ambiguous due to the thought that the former does agree with Trump but he says the reverse.
Leech's Maxim
Agreement
   The maxim that is activated in the situation above is the agreement maxim. Trevor violates this maxim since he disagrees with President Trump in terms of the latter's decision to reopen America on Easter.
Pragmatic Purpose of Sarcasm
Evaluation
   Trevor employs sarcasm to evaluate Trump's policy in dealing with coronavirus and that the latter should be more firm in his procedures of containing the virus in America.

(Extract 2)
John Oliver : "It's up first never call a calendar date " beautiful". I don't know how he did it, but I'm pretty sure that Trump has just sexually harassed the month of April"(TV2:Sc8).
Speech Act : Expressive
The speech act of criticism of others is used.
FCs of Criticism of Other
1- The PCCs
a. John Oliver is delivering his speech to the audience.
b. John Oliver states that it is calendar dates that should not be called "beautiful" and because Trump did that John Oliver is accusing him of sexually harassing the month of April.
2- The PCs
John Oliver is criticizing Trump for calling the month of April as beautiful because Trump claims that by April the coronavirus (Covid-19) will be gone and that insight is not adequate, so it cannot be proven.
3- The ECs
John Oliver wants to express his attitude towards Trump's inadequate information and John thinks will lead to a potential change in people awareness.
4- The SCs
John Oliver sincerely feels that it is crucial to criticise Trump's policy and the way he deals with critical issues .

Pragmatic Structure of Sarcasm
Illocutionary
John Oliver's criticism is thought to be illocutionary since he criticizes Trump for harassing the month of April and that is the reverse of the truth because the latter merely describes the month of April as "beautiful".
Grice's Maxim
1- The Quantity Maxim
There is no violation to this maxim since John Oliver's contribution is as informative as required.
2- The Quality Maxim
John Oliver does not obey the maxim of quality since he says something untrue ,
that is Trump does not sexually harass the month of April by merely calling it "beautiful".
3- The Relevance Maxim
John Oliver does not adhere to this maxim because he jumps from Trump's discussion of the coronavirus to the latter's harassment of April.
4- The Manner Maxim
There is no violation to this maxim because Oliver's contribution is brief and devoid of ambiguity.

Leech's Maxim
Approbation

John Oliver does not obey this maxim because he maximizes dispraise of Trump by accusing him of sexually harassing the month of April.

Pragmatic Purpose of Sarcasm
Evaluation

John Oliver magnifies his criticism of Trump by describing him as a sexual offender of the month of April.

(Extract 3)

Now, there is actually another way into America if you're incredibly desperate, but nobody is talking about this. You have to host a late-night comedy show. Look at this all these guys are immigrants and somehow I'm one of the only hosts that's born in America (TV3:Sc16).

Speech Act : Representative

The speech act of claim is used.

FCs of Claim
1- The PCCs

a. Hassan is talking to the audience.

b. Hassan claims that there is an excellent way to get an asylum in America which is to host a late-night comedy show due to the fact that most hosts of these shows are immigrants originally.

2. The PCs

Hassan shows his opinion about the way Trump's administration carries out in terms of accepting refugees from dangerous countries such as Guatemala and Honduras.

3- The ECs

Hassan wants to relieve the audience by saying the extract above since he does not literally mean that hosting a late-night comedy show is a way to get an asylum in America.

4- The SCs

Hassan does not really think that hosting a late-night comedy show is a way to get a refuge in USA, but he just wants to make fun about the way Trump's administration handles the issue of immigration.

Pragmatic Structure of Sarcasm
Propositional

The excerpt above is counted propositional because Hassan's proposition is not supposed to be understood literally, but he merely wants the audience to laugh about his speech.

Grice's Maxim
1- The Quantity Maxim

Hassan disobeys this maxim since his contribution is more informative than is required because he gives unnecessary details to highlight his point.

2- The Quality Maxim

Hassan violates this maxim because he states that hosting a late-night comedy show is a good way to get an asylum and it is something that he lacks proper evidence for and it can be available for a very few amount of immigrants.

3- The Relevance Maxim

Hassan does not adhere to this maxim since his contribution is not quite relevant to the topic that he has been talking about.

4-The Manner Maxim

There is a clear violation to this maxim because Hassan has not been brief in terms of expressing his attitude toward immigration difficulties.

Leech's Maxim

Sympathy Maxim

Hassan obeys this maxim since he maximizes sympathy with others, i.e. he sympathizes with asylum seekers since they witness terrible thing during their residence by American borders.

Pragmatic Purpose of Sarcasm

Humour

Hassan's utterance is humourous since it is not eligible that hosting a late-night comedy show is a good way to get an asylum in America, therefor the audience laugh at Hassan's speech.

5.3 Results of Analysis

The findings of the analysis of sarcasm in American political TV shows are summarized in the following tables:

Table (1): The Results of SAs in American Political TV Shows

SA Types	FR	Per
Expressive Criticism of Others	1	3.33%
Representative Claim	1	3.33%
Representative Disagreement	1	3.33%
Total	3	100%

Table (2): The Results of SAs in American Political TV Shows

Pragmatic Structure of Sarcasm	FR	Per
Lexical	0	0%
Illocutionary	2	66.6%
Like-prefixed	0	0%
Propositional	1	33.%

Table(3): Results of Leech's Maxims of Politeness in American Political TV Shows.

Leech's Maxim	FR	Per
Approbation Maxim	1	33.3%
Modesty Maxim	0	0.0%
Tact Maxim	0	0.0%
Agreement Maxim	1	33.3%
Sympathy Maxim	1	33.3%
Generosity Maxim	0	0.0%
Total	3	100%

Table(4): Results of The Pragmatic Purposes of Sarcasm in American Political TV Shows.

The Pragmatic Purposes of Sarcasm	FR	Per
Humour	11	33.3%
Retractability	0	0.0%
Evaluation	6	66.6%
Persuasive Aspect	0	0.0%
Tool for Politeness	**0**	**0%**
Group Affiliation	**0**	**0.0%**
Total	**3**	**100%**

Table(6): Results of Grice's Maxims in American Political TV Shows.

Grice's Maxim	Flouting	Per
Quantity Maxim	1	33.3%
Quality Maxim	3	100%
Relevance Maxim	3	100%
Manner Maxim	2	66.6%

6. Conclusion

The study has come up with the following conclusions:

1. The main speech act through which sarcasm is carried out in American Political TV Shows is criticism of the other , disagreement and claim. Accordingly, this outcome verify the first hypothesis which states, *there are specific speech acts whereby sarcasm is carried out in American Political TV Shows, mainly the speech acts of criticism of the other and claiming.*

2. Illocutionary sarcasm is the dominant pragmatic structure that is used by the presenters of American political TV shows and it has the percentage of (66.6%). The

41

propositional sarcasm is also excessively used since it has the percentage of (33.3%). Therefore, the second hypothesis which reads, *there is a limited set of pragmatic structures whereby sarcasm is employed American Political TV Shows, namely propositional and illocutionary sarcasm* is proved to some extent.

3. In sarcasm, maintaining the politeness principle is crucial otherwise the speaker will be regarded as being impolite. It has been evident that Leech's maxims of politeness have been violated in the selected American political TV shows. In the selected episodes that have been analyzed, the major maxim that has been violated is the approbation, agreement and sympathy maxims. As regards the conversational maxims, the analysis of the data has shown that the conversational maxims are flouted in the American political TV shows. The maxim that is excessively violated is quality maxim because it concerns telling the truth and being sarcastic means saying something untrue for some purpose as well as the maxims of relevance and manner. The percentage of flouting quality maxim is (100%). Accordingly, these statements verify the third hypothesis which states, *The Politeness Principle and the Cooperative Principle are, in most cases, likely to be violated in American Political TV Shows* .

4. In this study, the pragmatic purpose of evaluation in American political TV shows is amounted to (66.6%) while the purpose of humour is amounted to (33.3%), and (4.8%) respectively. This shows that the hosts of American political TV shows do not concern themselves with politeness as they do with arousing humour and evaluating political issues. Consequently, the fourth hypothesis which recites, *Sarcasm in American Political TV Shows is mostly used in order to achieve humour and evaluation of political situations* is proved.

5. The developed model has been found to be useful for analyzing sarcasm pragmatically in *American Political TV Shows*.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS
There are no conflicts of interest

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