

Construction of Climate Identity of Britain and America Based on Discourse-historical Analysis

-- Taking the Speeches Delivered by British and American Representatives at the Climate Conference as an example

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Abstract. Climate change has always been the focus of the international community, and the construction of national identity in the field of climate is closely related to discourse power. Based on discourse-historical analysis, this paper analyzes the speeches delivered by American and British leaders at the 26th and 27th Conferences of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change through nomination strategy and predication indication strategy. It is found that Britain constructs its national identity as an active advocate and the United States constructs its national identity as a trustworthy world leader. National identity, national power, and discourse restrict and influence each other. This paper adds a reference for other countries to build their identity and enhance their national discourse power in climate diplomacy.

Keywords: Climate diplomacy; Identity construction; Discourse-historical analysis method.

1. Introduction

Climate change which has posed a great threat to the human living environment is one of the common challenges facing mankind at present. The United Nations General Assembly adopted the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC, henceforth) in 1992. Since 1995, the United Nations has convened the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties every year. In view of the profound impact of global climate governance on the economic and social development of countries over the world, global climate governance is full of power games between countries and within countries. Sovereign countries influence the development trend of global climate governance by exercising institutional discourse power, thus constructing a global governance discourse system, international mechanism, institutional system, and international rules, and transforming intangible discourse power into real national interests. At the same time, state power is closely related to national identity. National identity is based on the country's relative position in a given international system, which affects the country's rights and obligations in diplomatic practices. Positive national identity provides a good international environment for the country to participate in climate governance.

Identity originated in the field of philosophy and etymologically came from the Latin qualifier "idem", which refers to the image of people or things [1]. Nowadays, the concept of identity has been extended to the fields of psychology, sociology, politics, and linguistics. Social constructivism scholars believe that identity is not static, but will change in interactive negotiation. In other words, identity construction is a dynamic process. When the subject of identity rises to the national domain, the concept of national identity comes into being, and national identity is a kind of national identification [3]. National identity construction is one of the fields of identity construction research, and it is also the key field of identity construction research. Alexander Wendt pointed out that the state can be regarded as a single actor endowed with human characteristics, such as identity, interests, and intentions. National identity is a prerequisite for national interests, and changes in national identity bring changes in national interests [4]. Therefore, national identity produces and shapes national interests [5]. Political leaders can establish, maintain and build their own relations with other countries according to their national identity [6].

In recent years, research on the construction of national identity has also received some attention in the field of linguistics. Fairclough pointed out that discourse, power, and ideology are inseparable,

and the implementation of power is often accomplished by ideology acting on language [7]. Discourse is very important in identity construction and negotiation because identity can be constructed, assumed, confirmed, or even rejected in discourse interaction, that is, identity construction is completed in discourse and social practice [8]. Identity is built inside the text, not outside, so we need to understand that they are produced in a special historical period and special system, and they are produced by special strategies with clear explanations [3].

Discourse is a powerful means for a country to build national identity [9]. In the field of climate change, countries strive to build a positive national identity in order to win more discourse power on climate issues, thus winning a broader development space for themselves. Previous studies have investigated identity construction in climate diplomacy discourse. For instance, Xu (2015) analyzed the use of conceptual metaphors in the speeches of the United States, the European Union, and China at the United Nations Climate Conference in Warsaw, and discussed the relationship between metaphor and national identity construction in political discourse [10]. Weng (2013) analyzed the differences in metaphors used by China, Britain, and Canada in previous climate conferences, and pointed out the interactive relationship among metaphor, identity construction, and political stance [11]. Qin (2020) explored the division of "self" and "other" and the construction of national identity in China, Japan, and South Korea by investigating the use of metaphors in their speeches at climate conferences [12]. To summarize, the aforementioned studies have explored national identity construction from the perspective of metaphor. This paper will adopt the Discourse-Historical Approach (DHA, henceforth) to analyze the identity construction of Britain and the United States in the climate field.

Discourse-Historical Approach is one of the important methods of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA, henceforth). CDA was first put forward by Roger Fowler in *Language and Control* [13], emphasizing that the language structure of discourse is related to the essence of power. CDA considers language as a social practice and interprets the ideology behind the symbolic order, thus establishing the connection between social critical theory and linguistics [14]. Amongst related research methods, DHA pays the most attention to language structure [15]. This paper will explore the discourse used in the discourse construction of national identity, and the research framework and tools of DHA are in line with the goal of this study.

Like other research methods of CDA, DHA pays attention to the abuse of power, inequality, and discrimination, and provides enlightenment for solving the problem of power injustice. However, DHA tries to combine the historical origin with the social and political background of discourse events [16]. When conducting DHA analysis, we should consider integrating past experience, current events, and future vision [17] for overall analysis. Therefore, DHA can transcend static concerns and pay attention to the diachronic reconstruction and interpretation of discourse change.

DHA includes three levels: (1) determining the specific content or topic of specific discourse; (2) analyzing discourse strategies; (3) checking the language means and specific language forms that depend on the context.

DHA analyzes and summarizes five discourse strategies. Strategy refers to a more or less intentional practical plan to achieve a certain social, political, psychological, or linguistic purpose [18]. The discourse strategies involved in DHA are referential/nomination strategy, predication, argumentation/topoi, perspective, framing or discourse representation strategy, and intensification or mitigation. The aim of the nomination strategy is to construct the discourse of social actors, objects, phenomena, events, processes, and behaviors, and the methods adopted include member classification, demonstrative components, surnames, etc. The figure of speech, such as metaphor, metonymy, and synecdoche (for example, the part replaces the whole, the whole replaces the part, etc.), are used to refer to verbs and nouns such as process and behavior. The purpose of predication strategy is to describe social actors, objects, phenomena, events/processes, and behaviors in a positive or negative way, and the methods show positive or negative characteristics of evaluation (for example, adjectives, appositives, prepositional phrases, relative clauses, conjunctive clauses, infinitive clauses, participle clauses or phrases); a definite predicate or a predicate noun/adjective/pronoun; collocation;

clear comparison, simile, metaphor, and other rhetorical devices (including metonymy, exaggeration, indirect affirmation, euphemism); implication, evocation, presupposition/meaning [19].

Using DHA to analyze identity construction is one of the hot spots in linguistic research. Wodak et al (2009) used DHA analysis to commemorate the 1995 Austrian celebrations and explored the construction of Austrian national identity [20]. Wodak and Boukala (2015) analyzed the construction of European identity and the relationship between self and other through DHA analysis of speeches of European politicians on economic and immigration issues [21]. Tiyaasha (2021) investigated the literary works published in Bangla children's periodicals during the liberation struggle in Bangladesh in 1971 and explored the identity construction of self and other in Bangladesh [22]. In addition, DHA has also been adopted to analyze identity construction in Chinese discourse. For instance, Shi (2022) took DHA as the framework and selected the overseas English speeches of Ma Yun, one of the founders of Alibaba Group, as the corpus to investigate the diachronic discourse construction of entrepreneurial identity [23]. Zhang (2021) selected the annual reports and leadership speeches of Huawei and Alibaba in the process of internationalization as a corpus, and studied the identity construction of enterprises in the process of internationalization based on DHA [24]; Li (2021) used DHA and the text of the Palace Museum on its official website as the corpus to explore the identity types constructed by the Palace Museum on its official website [25]. In the existing research, DHA is rarely used to analyze the construction of climate diplomatic identity.

Based on DHA, this paper analyzes the speeches of British and American leaders at the climate conference from the perspectives of nomination strategy and predication indication strategies. The following research questions guide this paper:

1) How do Britain and the United States construct their diplomatic identities in the field of climate? What realistic context is the identity construction based on?

2) What are the similarities and differences between the two countries in the use of discourse strategies?

2. Methodology

In order to carry out the research, this paper downloads the speeches delivered by American and British leaders at the 26th and 27th Conferences of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change from the official websites of Britain and the United States (The White House and GOV.UK). Among them, the American spokesperson gave a speech at the conference for the current US President George Biden, which consisted of 2 discourses, totaling 4,562 words; British spokesmen were former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and current British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, respectively. The British speech at the conference consisted of 2 discourses, with a total of 2,226 words. Because this study adopts nomination strategy and predication indication strategy, this paper extracts the following two types of sentences from speeches in Britain and the United States: 1) sentences with national relevance (including countries, national governments, and nationals) as the theme; 2) sentences with climate and climate change as the theme. Tables 1 to 5 show the corpus size of the speeches made by the two countries and the theme and rheme of the extracted sentences. There are 87 statistics on the theme structure in American speeches and 29 statistics on the theme structure in British speeches.

Table 1. Corpus size statistics

Year	2021	2021	2022	2022
Number of words	707	1675	1519	2887
Country	Britain	United States of America	Britain	United States of America

Table 2. Statistics of rheme structure with climate change as the theme in American speeches (excerpts)

Category	Utterance
Theme	the climate crisis, climate change, this
Verb phrases	is, hit hardest, destroy, ravage
Noun phrase	human security, economic security, environmental security, national security, the very life of the planet, people's lives and livelihoods, jobs, workers, the challenge of our collective lifetimes, the threat to human existence, the challenge of our collective lifetimes, the threat to human existence

Table 3. Thematic statistics of climate change in British speeches (excerpts)

Category	Utterance
Theme	climate change, climate security
Verb phrases	is, pose, goes hand in hand, make further commitments,
Noun phrase	threat, energy security, doomsday device, catastrophe

Table 4. Statistics of countries or nationals in British speeches (excerpts)

Category	Utterance
Theme	the UK, the United Kingdom, we
Verb phrases	was, fulfil, deliver, begin irrefutably, come together, help, have, recognize, build, make, devote, get real about, close down,
Noun phrase	the first major economy to legislate for net zero, the fightback against climate change, these countries, our ambitious commitment, a duty, a lifeboat for humanity, common cause, further commitment, special responsibility, greater speed and efficiency

Table 5. Statistics of countries or nationals in American speeches (excerpts)

Category	Utterance
Theme	the United States, we, my administration, young people, the United States government
Verb phrases	see, meet, reconvene, rally, reestablish, help deliver, become, rally, reestablish, act, take, plan, are committed to, is, have, feel, know, want, release, implement, announce, support our mission, urgency, determination, critical commitments, the first government, pledge, global leader, enduring steps, marathon, unprecedented progress, promise of leadership, ambitious target, an overwhelming obligation, long-term strategy, first-ever contribution, solutions, enormous strides

3. Results and Discussion

Through corpus analysis and statistics, this study found that there are similarities and differences between British and Chinese speeches. The commonality between the two countries is reflected in the importance and urgency of climate action. Both countries expressed that the climate crisis has posed a great threat to mankind, and the government and citizens should take immediate action. Relevant examples are from (1) to (4). American speeches use negative nouns such as urgency, threat, challenge, catastrophe, havoc, and negative predicates such as hit hardest, and ravage. English speeches use negative nouns such as doomsday, bomb, catastrophe, anger, influence, bitterness, reservation, and negative adjectives such as edgy, unchecked, uncontrollable, and late, which describe climate change as an uncontrolled disaster that poses a great threat to human beings, thus expressing concern about climate change.

(1) Against this backlog, it's more urgent than ever that we double-down on our climate commitments. (Biden's speech at COP 27 in 2022)

- (2) This is the challenge of our collective life times, the threat to human existence as we know it. (Biden's speech at COP 26 in 2021)
- (3) And the Doomsday Device is real. (Boris Johnson's speech at COP26 in 2021)
- (4) We are eventfully forced by catastrophe to act. (Boris Johnson's speech at COP26 in 2021)

3.1 The use of discourse strategies and identity construction in the United States

In the description of the United States with climate crisis or climate policy as the subject, the influence of climate change on American nationals and nationals of other countries is expounded, respectively, expressing the motivation and determination of all Americans to participate in the action to deal with climate change. The United States in the description of the country as the subject, the United States emphasizes its status as a world leader and expresses that saving the climate crisis is an unshirkable responsibility of the United States.

When describing the climate and climate crisis, the American speech pointed out that climate change threatened the life safety of American citizens and brought a heavy economic burden to the economy, indicating that every American citizen should participate in coping with the climate crisis. Examples from (5) to (7) show the use. "Jobs" appears six times and "workers" appears seven times, such as example (6) emphasizing clean energy to provide new jobs for American citizens, promoting the vigorous development of the American economy, linking climate issues with the real economic interests of the United States, reflecting the initiative of the United States to solve climate problems, and making the motivation and determination of the United States to reduce emissions more convincing. In example (7), in China, the United States describes solving the climate problem as an economic imperative, and closely links the climate change issue with the economic infrastructure, showing its position of actively responding to the climate problem, that is, the United States does not passively recognize the climate problem, but actively assumes the climate responsibility.

- (5) It's costing our nations trillions of dollars.
- (6) When I talk to the American people about climate change, I tell them it's about jobs.
- (7) And this is a moral imperative, but it's also an economic imperative — if we fuel greater growth, new jobs, and better opportunities for all our people.

In the description of the country or the people as the theme, American speeches describe solving the climate crisis as "responsibility" and "mission" to construct itself as a responsible national image in climate diplomacy. Words that express related meanings include mission, obligation, responsibility and so on, as shown from example (15) to (17). In example (15), the spokesman regards avoiding climate disasters and developing a new energy economy as the mission of the United States, with a strong tone that cannot be evaded, highlighting that it is imperative for the United States to deal with climate problems. Moreover, in order to express the firm attitude of the United States, the speech uses positive adjectives such as committed, unwavering, overwhelming, trustworthy, ending, etc. Example (18) reflects the firm determination of the United States to solve the climate crisis. In example (19), the spokesman described the realization of net zero emission as "a marathon", expressing the determination of the United States to make long-term efforts and never stop until the goal is reached. In example (20), the spokesman clearly pointed out that climate policy is a long-term policy. At the same time, nouns expressing commitment or efforts, such as promise, pledge, commitment, and efforts, are used in speeches, such as example (21) and example (22). Commitments appear 10 times, efforts appear 6 times and pledges appear 4 times, emphasizing that actively responding to climate change is the commitment of the United States to the world and that the United States is making great efforts to emphasize its determination to participate in dealing with climate change.

- (15) We see our mission to avert climate catastrophe and seize a new clean energy economy ...
- (16) And we have an obligation to help.

- (17) This is not to allow us to fail in this responsibility.
- (18) My commitment to this issue has been unwavering.
- (19) We're planning for ... for a marathon that will take us to the finish line ...
- (20) I'm releasing the U.S. long-term strategy,
- (21) The United States is meeting the pledge.
- (22) The United States helped deliver critical commitments that will get two thirds of the world's GDP on track to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

In addition, the American speech attempts to establish the national identity of a "world leader". Predicates such as conquer, reestablish, put ... on track, rally, launch, etc. are used in American speeches, among which launch appears seven times in speeches, which shows that the United States has actively participated in the convening of climate conferences and become the organizer of international cooperation after returning to the Paris Agreement, as shown from example (23) to (25). Example (23) expresses that the United States has initiated a number of climate actions, such as the "Global Methane Commitment" initiative jointly launched by the United States and its partners, highlighting that the United States is at the core and plays a leading role in climate affairs. The terms leader and leadership appear five times in the speech, and the relevant examples, such as example (26) and example (27), show that the United States is trying to build a responsible and trustworthy identity as a world leader.

- (23) We immediately rejoined the Paris Agreement.
- (24) We convened major climate summits and reestablished Major Economies Forum...
- (25) ...the United States is rallying the world around climate game-changers.
- (26) That's the duty and responsibility of global leadership.
- (27) ...to reestablish the United States as a trustworthy, committed, global leader on climate.

3.2 The use of discourse strategies and identity construction in Britain

Britain establishes the national identity of "advocate" in climate diplomacy. The spokesman regards Britain and the rest of the world as a whole, focusing on the fact that the climate crisis is a common issue for all mankind, without focusing on the impact of the climate crisis on Britain itself. In the description of the country as the subject, Britain focuses on calling on the whole world to participate in the action.

When describing climate and climate change, Britain added different modifiers to emphasize the justice and importance of climate action, aiming at calling on people all over the world to jointly cope with the climate crisis and shaping Britain as an "advocate". Positive adjectives such as morally right, fantastic, prosperous, spiritually uploading, beautiful, special, exotic, and proud are used in speeches, indicating that climate action is a lofty cause and brings bright prospects to mankind, such as in example from (28) to (30). The speaker held that climate action is morally correct and can bring new work. The British speech emphasized that climate governance is a common responsibility. Human and humanity have appeared four times in their speeches, such as in example (31) and (32), in which they pointed out that climate change is a common threat to mankind, and the world has built a lifeboat for mankind through climate action. Similarly, in example (33), the spokesman pointed out the urgency of climate issues from the perspective of the world, expressing Britain's active participation and joint participation in tackling climate change and building an "advocate" identity.

- (28) ...you know it is morally right to honour our promises.
- (29) It is also a fantastic source of new jobs and growth.
- (30) That is a legacy we could be proud of.
- (31) ...humanity has long since run down the clock on climate change.

(32) In the years since Paris the world has slowly and with great effort and pain, built a lifeboat for humanity.

(33) ...the anger and impatience of the world will be uncontainable.

When describing British countries or nationals, the British speech expounded on the achievements made by Britain as a developed country in energy conservation and emission reduction. In example (34), the speaker pointed out that Britain was the first developed country to set the goal of achieving zero carbon emissions through legislation. At the same time, Britain's speech shows that Britain is continuing to make efforts to save the climate crisis, such as from example (35) to (37). Britain is clear about its own contribution, indicating that Britain has done its due duty, thus urging other countries to fulfill their obligations of energy conservation and emission reduction. Britain's speech expressed its willingness to cooperate and established Britain's national identity as a "driving force" in climate cooperation. In example (38), Britain pointed out that it is willing to participate in the "common cause" with all countries in the world, and called on every country to work together to contribute to climate affairs. Examples (39) and (40) mean that Britain and other countries will work together to turn climate action into a global mission and promote the development of the world economy. In addition, English speeches also use words with joint meanings, such as "jointly" and "binding" to strengthen the cooperative relationship among countries, such as in the example (41).

(34) And for our part, the UK...which was the first major economy in the world to legislate for net zero ...

(35) The UK will fulfil our ambitious commitment to reduce emissions by at least 68 percent by 2030.

(36) We are helping those countries deliver their own fast track to clean growth.

(37) The United Kingdom is delivering on our commitment of £11.6 billion.

(38) So as we come together once again in common cause today, there really is room for hope.

(39) We can turn our struggle against climate change into a global mission for new jobs and clean growth...

(40) In Glasgow, we began an approach globally...

(41) We can jointly identify the projects that we can help to de-risk so that the private sector can come in.

3.3 The realistic context of American identity construction

As the largest developed country in the world, the United States has accumulated the advantages of discourse power in the global economic, political, and cultural fields, and also has natural advantages in international climate governance. Since 2000, the establishment of American discourse power in the field of climate has lacked coherence and clarity, and it has shown a periodic change due to the influence of bipartisan politics and various factors [24]. During the Bush administration (2000-2009), the United States stressed the contradiction between climate policy and economic prosperity and withdrew from the Kyoto Protocol. As a whole, its national status in the climate field was negative and its discourse power weakened. During the Obama administration (2009-2017), the national identity of the United States in the field of climate was positive and responsible, and it actively fulfilled its commitments at home, strengthened investment in clean technology and energy, and actively carried out bilateral and multilateral cooperation internationally so that its discourse power rose. During the Trump administration (2017-2021), the United States withdrew from the Paris Agreement, vigorously developed fossil energy exploitation at home, and its discourse power in the field of climate seriously regressed. During the Biden administration (2021 - present), the United States returned to the Paris Agreement and invested in renewable resources at home, and its discourse power rose slightly.

On the surface, the political game of climate is a game of emission reduction and capital technology, but in essence, every country in the world competes for political discourse and economic dominance [26]. The return of the United States to the international climate governance system

requires leading global climate governance. On the one hand, America tries to set up green trade barriers to protect and develop the domestic manufacturing industry. For example, in June 2022, the Clean Competition Act of the United States showed the embryonic form of the US carbon tariff to the outside world. Based on the average carbon emission level of American products, carbon taxes were imposed on imported products and domestic products with carbon emission levels higher than the benchmark. On the other hand, the United States has curbed the industrial development of emerging developing countries. For example, at the COP27 meeting, Kerry, the special envoy of the President of the United States on climate issues, asked China to take immediate measures to speed up the coal removal of energy and required China to provide financial support for global emission reduction. In the speeches of COP26 and COP 27, the United States established its national identity as a leader in order to develop its leadership in climate affairs, formulate international climate policies that are beneficial to the United States, and take the opportunity to intervene and contain emerging developing countries.

3.4 The realistic context of British identity construction

Britain has always been at the forefront of the world in climate change control. Britain is the first country in the world to legislate on climate change. Before Brexit, Britain was the main promoter and supporter of the EU in setting higher climate standards and establishing more advanced governance mechanisms [27]. After Brexit, Britain adopted a more active climate policy. For example, former British Prime Minister Theresa May led Britain to ratify the Paris Climate Agreement and led the amendment of the Climate Change Act. On the one hand, climate diplomacy can enhance Britain's soft power and enhance Britain's international status. After Brexit, it is necessary for Britain to rebuild its partnership and let the world enhance its confidence in Britain as a trustworthy international role [28]. On the other hand, Britain's advantages in clean energy technology, financial advantages, and low-carbon concept have brought multiple economic benefits to Britain. From 1990 to 2018, the UK's carbon dioxide emissions decreased by 43% and the economy increased by 75%. Britain actively advocates international exchanges and cooperation, provides more opportunities for the country to develop green finance, and tries to lead the new industrial revolution again and occupy the commanding heights of a low-carbon economy in the future [28]. For example, in 2021, Britain and China held the UK-South China Climate Change Conference in Guangzhou, and Britain and Malaysia signed a climate partnership cooperation agreement. Therefore, Britain has established its status as an advocate and actively promoted countries to participate in climate governance, thus turning climate action into tangible national interests.

4. Conclusion

Discourse, power, and ideology are inseparable [29]. Power refers to the coercive power and dominant power of a specific subject to society or others because of some advantages [30]. For one thing, the exercise of power is realized by ideology acting on discourse [29]. Ideology is a kind of social cognition and a belief system shared by society [31]. Ideology is often embodied as common sense or assumption in real life. Common sense and assumption are hidden in social behavior and ceremony to legalize power relations, thus maintaining power relations. As the most common social behavior, language carries an ideology and becomes the medium for the exercise of power. Language encourages the domination of some people over others [29]. For another, discourse reproduces or resists ideology, thus changing power relations [31]. Therefore, discourse, power, and ideology influence and restrict each other [30]. Van Dijk proposed that ideology can be composed of five elements: identity, activities, goals, norms and values, group relations and resources [31]. Therefore, as a part of ideology, identity can reflect power relations through discourse construction. Meanwhile, the change of identity has an impact on power and even restricts the implementation of power.

National identity is the national image and characteristics formed by a country in the process of interacting with other countries on the basis of self-awareness [32]. National identity is restricted by

state power, reflecting the strength of power relations, and national identity further strengthens state power. State power can be embodied in the diplomatic scene as the right to speak. This paper analyzes that the status of leader constructed by the United States is determined by its voice advantage as the largest developed country in the world. At the same time, the status of leader helps the United States to participate in the formulation of climate rules in climate governance, strive for economic development space for its own country and restrict the development of other countries, and further expand its power in international affairs. Influenced by factors such as Brexit, Britain intends to build and develop multilateral cooperation as an advocate and participate in climate governance, thus expanding Britain's international voice. National identity rationalizes state power, helps to exercise power, and gains advantages in political and economic fields, thus further expanding state power.

The use of discourse is restricted by the established national identity, which is constructed and recreated by discourse. In the climate issue studied in this paper, the leaders of Britain and the United States use discourse strategies such as nomination strategy and predication deixis strategy to construct national identity, and the differences in the use of themes and rhemes between the two countries reflect their different international identities. The description of saving the climate crisis by the United States as a responsibility and mission and the use of rheme with the meaning of leadership conform to the self-identity of the United States as a leader in international affairs. The United States has strengthened its status as a leader by expressing its positive role in climate governance through its leaders' speeches at the climate conference. By emphasizing the justice and importance of the climate crisis, Britain calls for multilateral cooperation, which shows that Britain, as a developed country, is the defender of the world order. In addition, the speech of British leaders further strengthens the identity of an advocate.

The use of discourse embodies the state power and serves the state power as a medium to realize the power relationship. The use of leaders' discourse in Britain and the United States reflects the discourse power of the two countries in climate governance. The discourse power of the United States is stronger than that of the United Kingdom, so the United States adopts a more determined rheme, while the United Kingdom uses more modifiers to explain rationality and make initiatives. The process of discourse communication between the two countries is also the process of exercising the right of state discourse, and the purpose of discourse use is to strive for discourse power in diplomatic occasions and expand state power.

To sum up, discourse, state power, and national identity are in a dynamic triangular relationship. State power restricts and guides the construction of national identity, which serves the exercise of state power and strengthens it. National identity is constructed by discourse, while national identity restricts the actual use of discourse. State power is exercised through discourse, which embodies state power, and the use of discourse is restricted by power relations [30].

5. Conclusion

Climate change has brought human survival crisis, and it has become the consensus of the international community to deal with climate change. This paper analyzes the use of nomination strategy and predication deixis strategy in the speeches of American and British leaders at the 26th and 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change by using the method of discourse-history analysis and explores the national identity and the realistic context behind them. The analysis shows that the American speech describes the impact of climate change on the country, describes the containment of climate change as the responsibility and mission of the United States, and constructs the national identity of trustworthy and responsible world leaders by using rheme with the meaning of organization and leadership. The British speech highlighted that climate change is a common challenge for all mankind, used different modifiers to demonstrate the justice of climate action, and sent an initiative to countries to deal with climate change. Britain expounds its exemplary role in the field of climate, expresses its willingness to seek global cooperation, and constructs its national identity as an advocate. The climate identity constructed by

the two countries is related to their policy background. The United States returned to the Paris Agreement, and Britain continued to participate in climate governance after Brexit. Both countries adopted active climate policies in order to enhance their discourse power in the climate field and seek economic benefits. This paper discusses the relationship among discourse, state power, and national identity, and the three concepts restrict and influence each other. However, the data size of the present study is relatively small, and it is only analyzed from the perspectives of nomination strategy and predication indication strategy, which leads to insufficient depth and breadth of the research. Future research may expand the corpus, such as analyzing the climate identity construction of representative developed and developing countries in recent ten years, and trying to analyze the language strategies of discourse-history analysis methods such as debate strategies and debate topics, perspective, framing, or discourse reproduction strategies, strengthening or weakening strategies.

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