

# A Discourse Analysis of the Philippine Lawmakers' Spoken Language in Legislative Hearings

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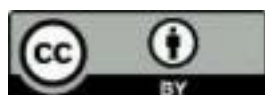
## Abstract

This study investigated the statements of lawmakers through video recordings of legislative hearings in Philippine politics. It focused on the communication styles and language variations used by male and female legislators. The speeches from various legislative sessions were transcribed and examined using qualitative discourse analysis combined with basic quantitative frequency techniques. The goal was to understand how language differences and communication styles work in social and political situations, particularly regarding meaning-making, power relations, and interaction dynamics. The statements were analyzed by identifying and classifying language differences: jargon, boosters, hedges, and fillers, along with communication styles: passive, assertive, aggressive, and passive-aggressive used by the lawmakers. Results showed that male lawmakers generally used an assertive communication style, clear from their high number of assertive exchanges. In contrast, female lawmakers took a more varied approach, mixing assertive, passive, and passive-aggressive styles in their interactions, although assertiveness was the most common overall. Regarding language differences, male lawmakers mainly used jargon, fillers, hedges, and boosters to create a technical, careful, and persuasive way of speaking that often felt informal and spontaneous. Female lawmakers used these devices much less and preferred direct and clear speech with few rhetorical embellishments. The findings highlighted that communication style and spoken language variations are closely linked to the strategic discourse and ideological positions of Philippine lawmakers, directly influencing the outcomes and dynamics of legislative hearings.

**Keywords:** *Discourse analysis, political communication, language variations, communication styles, Philippine legislative hearings*

## Bio-profile

Bryan Kevin T. Oreta, Ryan Mathew G. Calalan, and Benjoe R. Alolod are researchers affiliated with Centro Escolar University-Manila, specializing in Linguistics, sociolinguistics, and forensic linguistics. Dr. Jeanneath D. Velarde and Dr. Arlene S. Opina are senior faculty members and research advisers at Centro Escolar University-Manila, whose extensive research portfolios focus on



discourse studies, gendered language variations, and institutional communication practices within the Philippine socio-political context.

## **Introduction**

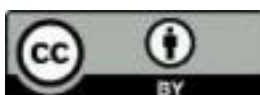
Spoken language is a powerful instrument through which politicians construct authority, express identity, and communicate ideology, particularly in legislative hearings where public accountability and policymaking occur (Maryadi et al., 2022). In the Philippine legislative setting, lawmakers employ various linguistic features, including jargon, fillers, hedges, and boosters, to persuade audiences, establish credibility, and influence the responses of interrogees (Obenza et al., 2024). Language functions not only as a medium of communication but also as a mechanism for exercising power and shaping public perception. Consequently, spoken language in legislative hearings provides valuable insights into how power, ideology, and institutional authority are negotiated through discourse.

Despite the growing body of literature on political communication, important gaps remain in the Philippine context. Most existing studies focus on campaign speeches, media discourse, or public addresses, with limited attention devoted to the naturally occurring interactions found in legislative hearings. Moreover, few studies have examined how specific language variations, particularly jargon, fillers, hedges, and boosters, differ between male and female lawmakers or how these linguistic strategies influence the responses of interrogees and reflect underlying ideological perspectives. The absence of discourse-based investigations in authentic legislative settings limits scholarly understanding of how spoken language shapes political deliberation, accountability, and democratic governance.

This study addresses these gaps by examining the spoken language variations of Philippine lawmakers during legislative hearings using the frameworks of sociolinguistics, pragmatics, Genderlect Theory, and Critical Discourse Analysis. Specifically, it investigates how male and female lawmakers employ jargon, fillers, hedges, and boosters to construct authority, negotiate meaning, influence the responses of interrogees, and communicate ideological positions. By analyzing authentic legislative discourse, the study contributes to political discourse analysis, forensic linguistics, and gender studies while providing a deeper understanding of the role of language in shaping power relations, political representation, and democratic processes in the Philippine legislative context.

## **Theoretical Framework**

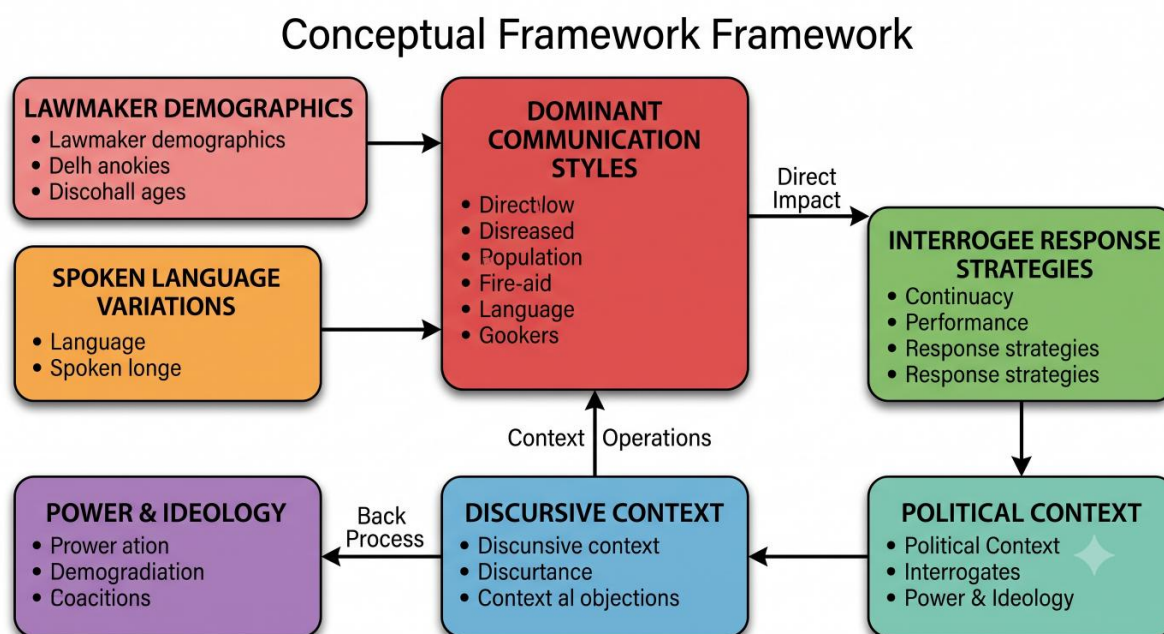
This research is anchored on several key linguistic and discourse frameworks. First, it relies on Deborah Tannen's Genderlect Theory (1990), which posits that gendered communication styles represent distinct cultural dialects resulting from socialization rather than variations in inherent ability. Second, the study is grounded in Norman Fairclough's



Critical Discourse Analysis (1995), which emphasizes that language within political institutions both reflects and actively reproduces asymmetric power relations and ideological structures. Third, Brown and Levinson's Politeness Theory (1987) is utilized to explain the strategic application of hedges and modifiers as tools for face management, mitigating conflict, and maintaining institutional decorum during highly adversarial exchanges.

## Conceptual Framework

**Figure 1: An Integrated Framework of Sociolinguistic Variations, Genderlect, and Institutional Power Relations in Legislative Inquiries**



The process mapped out by the arrows in this conceptual framework represents a continuous, cause-and-effect linguistic pipeline that translates a lawmaker's individual profile into systemic political outcomes.

The process begins at the foundational input stage on the left, where a lawmaker's demographic profile—specifically gender—interacts directly with their spoken language variations, which include jargon, hedges, boosters, and fillers. As the converging arrows indicate, these micro-level linguistic choices directly shape and determine the lawmaker's dominant communication style, dictating whether their delivery manifests as assertive, aggressive, passive, or passive-aggressive. As anchored in Genderlect Theory (Tannen, 1990), gendered communication styles represent distinct cultural dialects resulting from socialization rather than variations in inherent ability. This dynamic is clearly reflected in the hearings, where male legislators heavily rely on an assertive posture reinforced by technical

jargon, hedges, and boosters, whereas female legislators navigate a more structurally varied communicative repertoire that strategically blends assertive, passive, and passive-aggressive approaches.

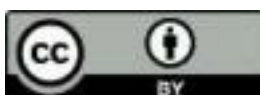
This entire linguistic matrix is not isolated; the vertical arrow rising from the bottom establishes that these variables are filtered through and governed by the discursive context of institutional legislative hearings. Within this formal setting, the horizontal arrow moving to the right maps the primary path of transaction: the lawmaker's communication style exerts a direct impact on the target of the inquiry. In line with Politeness Theory (Brown & Levinson, 1987), speakers strategically deploy hedges and modifiers as tools for face management and mitigating conflict during these highly adversarial exchanges. When the pressure intensifies, resource persons and witnesses are compelled to alter their defensive stance, moving dynamically from initial evasive maneuvers and deferential honorifics to apologetic justifications or highly fragmented answers under intense cross-examination.

Finally, the downstream arrows on the bottom right complete the systemic loop by feeding these conversational interactions directly back into the broader political context. Grounded in Critical Discourse Analysis (Fairclough, 1995), this final phase demonstrates that these micro-level exchanges aggregate to expose the asymmetric power relations and underlying political ideologies inherent in democratic governance. The closing arrow completes the cycle, proving that legislative questioning is not merely an inquiry but a sophisticated, recurring stage for political performance where spoken language is continuously weaponized to maintain institutional dominance and enforce public accountability.

### Research Questions

This study was conducted to determine the communication styles and language variations used by Philippine lawmakers in legislative hearings. Specifically, it aimed to answer the following questions:

1. What are the dominant communication styles of male and female Philippine lawmakers during legislative hearings?
2. How do language variations such as jargon, fillers, hedges, and boosters relate to the communication styles of male and female Philippine lawmakers?
3. How do the spoken language variations used by Philippine lawmakers during hearings affect the responses of the interrogee?
4. What themes are drawn from the spoken language of Philippine lawmakers using discourse analysis?



5. To what extent is the ideology of Philippine lawmakers reflected through their language variations?

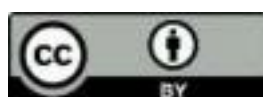
## Literature Review

### Dominant Communication Styles of Male and Female Philippine Lawmakers

Gender profoundly shapes communication styles in political discourse, requiring lawmakers to balance institutional expectations with distinct linguistic choices. Studies published in the GEO Academic Journal demonstrate that male Philippine senators generally employ simpler and more assertive sentence structures, whereas female senators tend to use more elaborate, inclusive, and relational forms of communication (Geranco et al., 2025). Similarly, Windsor et al. (2022) observe that female legislators frequently employ personal pronouns and language associated with empathy and collaboration yet seamlessly adopt a highly formal and assertive discourse when executing core legislative responsibilities. These distinct patterns align with Deborah Tannen's Genderlect Theory (1990), which posits that gendered communication reflects cultural socialization and expectations rather than differences in inherent communicative ability. Furthermore, women lawmakers strategically modify their delivery and communicative strategies depending on changing institutional demands and political contexts (Wäckerle & Silva, 2023).

### Spoken Language Variations and Their Relation to Communication Styles

A legislator's choice of specific language variations functions beyond mere personal habit; these features act as interactional metadiscourse devices that control face, negotiate power, and influence audience perception (Fairclough, 1995). Within the GEO Academic Journal, scholarly jargon is defined as discipline-specific word types and senses, where even common words take on highly field-specific meanings (Lucy et al., 2022). While jargon allows politicians to communicate complex legal concepts and signal domain expertise, its excessive deployment risks reducing public comprehension among non-specialist audiences (Fick et al., 2025; Lang et al., 2024). Hedges and boosters represent opposing rhetorical strategies within these styles. Hedges function as linguistic markers of uncertainty or tentativeness, serving as politeness markers to preserve interpersonal relationships and show respect for other legislators (Leláková & Praženicová, 2024; Zheng, 2022). Conversely, boosters express strong certainty or high commitment, projecting authority and strengthening persuasive claims during formal deliberations (Mizad & Hashim, 2025; Surtikanti et al., 2023). Finally, fillers provide speakers with cognitive processing time, maintain conversational flow, and help legislators organize their thoughts during spontaneous speech (Belz et al., 2017; Gósy, 2023). The strategic combination of these variants enables lawmakers to balance diplomacy with decisiveness, directly defining their overall communication style.





## The Effect of Spoken Language Variations on Interrogee Responses

Spoken discourse in hearings frequently shifts from a collaborative information exchange into a high-pressure environment where linguistic choices dictate interactional outcomes (Tompkinson & Haworth, 2025). Recent forensic linguistics studies show that participants in Philippine legislative hearings deliberately utilize specific language variations to manage political positioning. Interrogees frequently violate Grice's conversational maxims through purposeful ambiguity, excessive elaboration, and irrelevant digressions as evasive rhetorical devices to avoid accountability (Dalgan et al., 2025). Furthermore, research in phonetic detail and speech disfluencies indicates that the strategic presence of fillers, pauses, and shifting levels of assertiveness significantly influences listeners' and interrogators' perceptions of confidence, credibility, and truthfulness (Awang et al., 2022; Seals & Coppock, 2022).

## Themes Drawn from Spoken Language Using Discourse Analysis

Critical Discourse Analysis emphasizes that language in political settings is never neutral but functions as a strategic resource for identity construction and the negotiation of institutional power (Fairclough, 1995). Contemporary political discourse research reveals that emotionally charged vocabulary, boosters, and figurative language heavily dictate audience perception during high-stakes investigations (Eslit, 2023). Recurring linguistic practices—such as framing, naming strategies, repetition, and targeted moral appeals—contribute significantly to the construction of political legitimacy (Fontamillas & Corcuera, 2023; Ladia, 2024; Valdez & Colcol, 2022). Spoken discourse during these events serves as an active space where participants continuously violate maxims or employ politeness strategies to manage face-threatening acts, project moral authority, and shape institutional outcomes (Wodak, 2021).

## The Reflection of Lawmaker Ideology Through Language Variations

Political beliefs and ideological positions are deeply embedded within and reflected through specific linguistic selections (Fairclough, 1995). According to Maryadi et al. (2022), the deliberate use of power language features among legislators directly influences public discourse by reinforcing existing institutional power structures. Obenza et al. (2024) similarly argue that politicians systematically deploy language variations as a mechanism to influence decision-making, manage political positioning, and advance specific political goals (Obenza & Deluao, 2025). Spoken language variations in legislative hearings provide valuable insights into how institutional authority, structural legitimacy, and underlying sociopolitical ideologies are actively negotiated and maintained through discourse.



## Method

### Research Design

The study employed qualitative discourse analysis complemented by descriptive quantitative frequency distribution counts. Discourse analysis is a highly appropriate method for investigating how language functions in social and political contexts, particularly in relation to meaning-making, power relations, and interactional dynamics (Wang, 2020).

### Participants

The text corpus was drawn from selected Filipino lawmakers (both male and female senators and representatives) actively participating as interrogators during prominent public committee inquiries in the Philippines, including Senator Imee Marcos, Senator Risa Hontiveros, and various other legislative figures.

### Instrument

The primary data gathering instruments consisted of verbatim textual transcripts extracted from six purposively selected video recordings of authentic Philippine legislative hearings. These recordings were sourced from credible broadcasting platforms available on the ANC 24/7 YouTube channel.

### Ethical Considerations

Since the study analyzed publicly accessible video broadcasts of open congressional and senatorial hearings, no confidential individual personal data were compromised. Methodological rigor and integrity were maintained by ensuring that all transcriptions accurately and faithfully reflected the spoken statements of the political figures without selective contextual distortion.

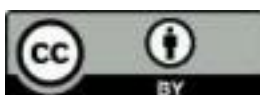
### Statistical Treatment

Basic descriptive statistical treatment was applied to calculate the simple frequencies and percentage distribution of the identified linguistic features and communication styles using the formula:  $\text{Percentage} = (\text{Frequency of Occurrence} / \text{Total Number of Statements}) * 100$ .

## Results and Discussion

### 1. Dominant Communication Styles of Male and Female Philippine Lawmakers

The data gathered from the transcriptions demonstrates that an assertive communication style is the foundational baseline for legislative discourse, representing 85.11% of all recorded exchanges (40 out of 47 statements). The remaining statements are



distributed among aggressive communication at 8.50% (4 occurrences), passive communication at 4.26% (2 occurrences), and passive-aggressive communication at 2.13% (1 occurrence) (Marici et al., 2024).

**Table 1: The Communication Styles of Philippine Lawmakers**

| Communication Style | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------------------|-----------|------------|
| Assertive           | 40        | 85.11%     |
| Aggressive          | 4         | 8.50%      |
| Passive             | 2         | 4.26%      |
| Passive-aggressive  | 1         | 2.13%      |

When cross-tabulated by gender, distinct interactional paths emerge: male lawmakers exclusively relied on assertive ( $n = 33$ ) and aggressive styles ( $n = 3$ ), with zero instances of passive or passive-aggressive behavior. In contrast, female lawmakers demonstrated a more structurally varied communicative repertoire; while predominantly assertive ( $n = 7$ ), they were the sole practitioners of passive ( $n = 2$ ) and passive-aggressive ( $n = 1$ ) styles, alongside a single aggressive exchange ( $n = 1$ ).

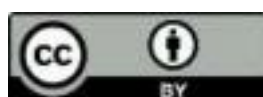
**Table 2: The Communication Styles of Philippine Lawmakers according to gender**

| Speaker Gender | Assertive | Aggressive | Passive | Passive-Aggressive |
|----------------|-----------|------------|---------|--------------------|
| Male           | 33        | 3          | 0       | 0                  |
| Female         | 7         | 1          | 2       | 1                  |
| Total          | 40        | 4          | 2       | 1                  |

This variance strongly reinforces Deborah Tannen's Genderlect Theory (1990), which argues that gendered communication styles represent distinct cultural habits resulting from socialization and institutional navigation rather than differences in inherent ability. The broader tactical spread among female legislators indicates a sophisticated balancing act between institutional demands for displays of competence and the relational expectations of political discourse (Windsor et al., 2022). This aligns with insights from the GEO Academic Journal regarding structural interactions where participants modulate their delivery based on institutional expectations and gendered landscapes within Philippine institutional frameworks (Geranco et al., 2025).

## 2. Relationship Between Language Variations and Communication Styles

A direct structural correlation is evident between specific spoken language variations and the overarching communication styles of lawmakers. Assertive and persuasive styles draw heavily from an intricate, wider range of linguistic markers, whereas directness and clarity are characterized by fewer rhetorical embellishments. Male legislators frequently





utilized a technical and rhetorically dense way of speaking through the dense deployment of jargon, filters, hedges, and boosters to systematically project domain expertise, establish authority, and maintain conversational turn-taking (Lucy et al., 2022). Conversely, female lawmakers utilized these specific linguistic markers far less, favoring concise, unembellished, and direct lines of questioning.

**Table 3. Classification of Lawmakers' Spoken Language Variations in Legislative Hearings**

| Jargons                                                                                                                             | Hedges                                                                                         | Boosters                                                                                                | Fillers                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Subpoena; ACR; Miranda Rights; warrant; Legal maxim; sedition; Provisional arrest; extradition; interpol; red notice; legal remedy; | May; I think; As far as I know; I don't know; po; Siguro; Pong; po'y; Alam nyo po; Ho; please; | Totally; clearly; Actually; already; lalo; After all; In fact; Let me emphasize; must; I urge; more so; | Well; ah; ano; alright; anyway; yeah; uhm; etc.; noh; aba'y; |

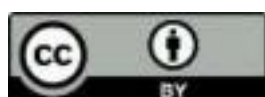
**Table 4. Cross-Tabulation of Spoken Language Variation Distributions by Lawmaker Gender**

| Speaker Gender          | Jargons                         | Hedges                       | Boosters                           | Fillers                       |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Male (S2-S13)</b>    | Heavy Use (Subpoena, ACR, etc.) | Frequent Use (may, po, etc.) | Dominant Use (totally, must, etc.) | Extensive Use (ah, uhm, etc.) |
| <b>Female (S14-S16)</b> | Minimal Use (subpoena only)     | Rare Use (may, po only)      | Zero Use                           | Moderate Use (alright, ah)    |

For boosters specifically, male senators used intensifiers aggressively to project absolute conviction and reinforce political leadership, whereas female lawmakers completely refrained from employing booster devices during the tracked hearings. These trends corroborate Genderlect Theory (Tannen, 1990) and literature indicating that men actively employ more elaborate sentence-intensifying variables to preserve power positions, while women modify their linguistic selections to achieve maximum clarity under strict context boundaries (Geranco et al., 2025; Wäckerle & Silva, 2023).

### 3. Impact of Spoken Language Variations on Interrogee Responses

The study reveals a direct causal connection between the linguistic choices of legislators and the shifting defense strategies of resource persons. During initial or low-pressure phases, interrogees heavily deployed their own hedging devices, fillers, and



deferential honorifics to manage uncertainty, show respect for institutional authority, and mitigate immediate personal accountability. However, as lawmakers shifted their variations—moving away from polite hedges toward technically dense jargon and high-pressure boosters—the interrogees' response patterns dramatically altered.

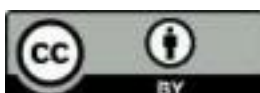
**Table 5. Causal Mapping of Lawmaker Linguistic Triggers and Interrogee Response Strategy**

| Lawmaker Discursive Stimulus          | Interrogee Response Strategy Trajectory            | Typical Linguistic Content                                   |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Initial / Hedged Questioning          | Accountability Mitigation & Uncertainty Management | Heavy reliance on self-hedging, fillers, and honorifics      |
| Direct / High-Pressure Boosters       | Apologetic & Defensive Adjustments                 | Increased structural justification and excessive elaboration |
| Sensitive / Self-Incriminating Topics | Evasive Actions & Strategic Refusal                | Limited disclosures and invocation of external constraints   |
| Highly Adversarial / Jargon-Dense     | Fragmented Obfuscation                             | Syntax fragmentation and technically dense defensive phrases |

Under high-pressure, direct questioning, witness responses shifted into highly defensive and apologetic strategies, characterized by excessive justification, over-elaboration, and fragmented syntax. When confronted with highly sensitive or self-incriminating material, interrogees systematically resorted to evasive or refusal strategies, using technical obfuscation to minimize accountability and manage personal political positioning (Dalgan et al., 2025; Tompkinson & Haworth, 2025). This proves that legislative questioning operates not as a neutral inquiry, but as a deliberate forensic and linguistic tool weaponized to enforce public accountability and induce behavioral compliance.

#### 4. Themes Drawn from Lawmakers' Spoken Language

Qualitative discourse analysis uncovered five prominent recurring thematic structures that govern the interactional dynamics of Philippine legislative hearings: Strategic Use of Assertiveness and Emphasis, Adversarial Framing, Mitigation Strategies, Impression Management, and Institutional Politeness. These themes establish that spoken discourse shifts from an open information exchange into an active battlefield for power negotiations and identity construction (Dalgan et al., 2025; Eslit, 2023).



**Table 6: Themes Derived from the Participants' Spoken Language**

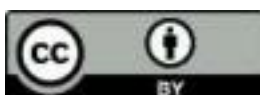
| Core Theme               | Discursive Manifestation & Purpose                              | Affected Linguistic Feature                                  |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Strategic Assertiveness  | Used to control directional flow and project dominance          | Heavy use of emphasis and direct claims                      |
| Adversarial Framing      | Reflects competitive, high-stakes political conflict            | Confrontational cross-examinations and interruptions         |
| Mitigation Strategies    | Used to manage face-threatening acts and maintain decorum       | Strategic placement of hedges and politeness markers         |
| Impression Management    | Used to broadcast credibility and moral authority to the public | Public-facing narratives emphasizing personal accountability |
| Institutional Politeness | Adherence to long-standing guidelines of the legislative floor  | Consistent deployment of formal titles and honorifics        |

## 5. Extent to Which Lawmaker Ideology is Reflected in Language Variations

**Table 7. Matrix of Lawmakers' Linguistic Variations, Ideological Objectives, and Institutional Outcomes**

| Linguistic Variation Feature | Underlying Ideological Objective                        | Institutional Effect                                           |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Specialized Legal Jargon     | Establishes domain expertise and gatekeeping authority  | Frames the lawmaker as a protector of institutional legitimacy |
| Strategic Modifiers          | Balances public diplomacy with decisive state execution | Asserts structural dominance while maintaining decorum         |
| Framing & Moral Appeals      | Constructs external legitimacy and policy validation    | Supports, maintains, or challenges existing social structures  |

Under the lens of Critical Discourse Analysis (Fairclough, 1995), language within these hearings functions as a non-neutral resource explicitly deployed to construct authority, negotiate meaning, and advance ideological agendas. The research proves that lawmakers' deep-seated political beliefs and strategic objectives are extensively reflected in their choice of language variations. The heavy use of highly specialized legal jargon serves an ideological gatekeeping function, framing the lawmaker as an expert protector of institutional legitimacy and state order (Maryadi et al., 2022; Obenza et al., 2024).



## Conclusions

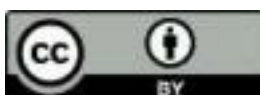
Based on the findings, the following conclusions are drawn:

1. Assertive communication serves as the fundamental, institutional baseline for legislative discourse in public inquiries, ensuring that high-stakes oversight processes maintain a structured orientation toward truth-seeking, (Marici et al., 2024). verification, and fact-reporting rather than descending into pure adversarial hostility.
2. Marked gender variations exist within institutional communication styles and spoken language features; male legislators tend toward a highly specialized, rhetorically reinforced delivery style rich in specialized jargon, boosters, and fillers to project dominant domain expertise, whereas female legislators display a more structurally versatile but concise linguistic repertoire (Geranco et al., 2025; Tannen, 1990), strategically modulating between assertive, passive, and passive-aggressive approaches to navigate complex institutional constraints.
3. A direct, predictable correlation exists between a lawmaker's linguistic modulation and the psychological defense mechanisms of the person being questioned; as interrogators shift from polite hedges to high-pressure boosters and technically dense jargon, interrogees systematically alter their response strategies—shifting from initial administrative evasion and institutional deference to defensive justification, fragmented syntax, or tactical stonewalling to minimize personal accountability.
4. Public legislative inquiries function as sophisticated, multi-layered arenas for political performance rather than purely neutral information-gathering exercises; the entire discursive space is defined by a tense balancing act where confrontational framing and impression management are actively checked by deeply embedded protocols of formal institutional politeness and honorific structures (Dalgan et al., 2025; Tompkinson & Haworth, 2025).

## Recommendations

The researcher laid the following recommendations based on the conclusion:

1. In terms of institutional training on strategic communication, congressional oversight committees, parliamentary secretariats, and institutional training directorates should develop standardized capacity-building programs and communication handbooks that train lawmakers of all genders to optimize interactional efficiency. While preserving the necessary assertive baseline required for public accountability, these guidelines should encourage concise, direct, and unembellished questioning to maximize clarity and avoid the excessive speech disfluencies and filler reliance that can slow down spontaneous public deliberations.



2. For the judicial and secretarial simplification of jargon, legal counsel offices, legislative committee secretariats, and parliamentary rules committees must implement strict plain-language protocols during public broadcasts of committee hearings. Because the excessive use of highly dense legal and discipline-specific jargon acts as an institutional gatekeeper that reduces public comprehension, secretarial teams should provide real-time public summaries or ensure that complex procedural terminology is balanced with accessible phrasing to increase democratic transparency and civic engagement.

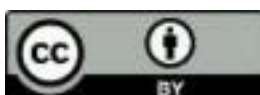
3. Regarding the reform of interrogation protocols to prevent accountability evasion, house and senate committee chairs, parliamentary ethics committees, and institutional legal panels are encouraged to revise internal rules of procedure to penalize deliberate conversational maxims violations—such as purposeful ambiguity, excessive structural elaboration, and irrelevant digressions—frequently deployed by interrogees as evasive rhetorical tools. Chairs should enforce strict timelines for direct responses, transforming hearings from a tactical battlefield of linguistic obfuscation into a streamlined mechanism that enforces clear, transparent, and fair public accountability.

### Acknowledgment

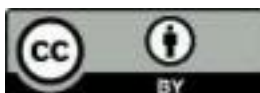
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