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Power Relations Identified Through Gestural Aspects

A B S T R A C T

Power is exercised through using different gestural aspect which accumulate and emphasize the verbal meaning. This paper presents the types of power relations interwoven between political discourse and gestural aspects, their meanings and interpretations. The paper addresses the problem that even when texts are essentially verbal, talk is portrayed through gestures and postures, facial expressions, and body movement, to such an extent that it cannot be properly understood without reference to these nonverbal features. The paper aims to investigate the types of power relations holding between Obama and the host Jay Leno identified through gestures and postures that as framed in political contexts. The sample involves two interviews with the President of the United States Barack Obama in The Tonight Show with Jay Leno during the years (2009 and 2011). The analysis is conducted through French and Raven's (1959) five bases of power are to be identified relying Fairclough's (2003) model of critical discourse analysis based on Halliday's (1985, 1994, 2004) systematic functional linguistics approach and a combination of the non-verbal models (Ekman, 2003; Ekman & Friensen, 1969, 1976; Dimitrius & Mazzarella, 1998; Lardner, 2002; McNeil, 1992; Neirnborg & Calero, 1971; Pease & Pease, 2004). The article concludes that as a politician, Obama exercises asymmetrical power relation with host despite the non-political environment and frames his gestural aspects to achieve his political ideologies.

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العلاقات السلطوية من خلال الجوانب الإيمانية

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الخلاصة:

تتم ممارسة السلطة من خلال استخدام الجوانب الإيمانية المختلفة التي تتفاعل وتؤكد المعنى الإيماني. تعرض هذه الورقة أنواع علاقات القوة المتداخلة بين الخطاب السياسي والجوانب الإيمانية ومعانيها وتفسيراتها. مشكلة البحث تتلخص بكون النصوص لفظية في الأساس، وإن الكلام يتم تصويره من خلال الإيماءات

والوضعية، وتعبيرات الوجه، وحركات الجسم، إلى حد أنه لا يمكن فهمه بشكل صحيح دون الرجوع إلى هذه السمات غير اللفظية. ويهدف إلى التحقيق في أنواع علاقات السلطة بين أوباما والمضيف جاي لينو والتي تم تحديدها من خلال الإيماءات والمواقف المؤطرة في السياقات السياسية. تتضمن العينة مقابلتين مع باراك أوباما في برنامج *The Tonight Show* مع جاي لينو خلال الأعوام (2009-2011). تم إجراء التحليل من خلال ويخلص المقال إلى أن أوباما، كسياسي، يمارس علاقة قوة غير متكافئة مع المضيف على الرغم من البيئة غير السياسية ويؤطر جوانبه الإيمائية لتحقيق أيديولوجياته السياسية. الكلمات المفتاحية: التفويض، تعابير الوجه، الإيماءات، الأوضاع، السلط

1. Introduction

Generally speaking, people communicate with each other expressing their ideas, attitudes and feelings using different modes such as verbal, gestural, visual, audio and spatial modes. Dealing with the spoken or written text may involve two or more of those different modes and accordingly, it is called a "multimodal text" (Anstey & Bull, 2010). Barnlund (2008) proposes the idea that it is the meaning-making accomplished by interacting people through a variety of expressions, performances and displays that are accomplished by written, verbal and nonverbal formulations. In fact, speech is not limited to words only but rather speakers tend to use a different range of semiotics. Wetherell, Taylor and Yates (2001) refer to body language such as gestures, facial expressions, etc. as "semiosis" which is defined as "meaning-making through language, body language, visual images, or any other way of signifying" (p.229). Intentionally, speakers use gestures and facial expressions to transmit their ideas and express themselves, just as with sounds, images, and other communicative modes. The listeners also answer and respond through using similar forms such as nods, grunts, quizzical looks (Kurland, 2000). The representation of ideology through images and visual symbols is a complex and dynamic process that is shaped by a wide range of social, cultural, and historical factors (Lafta et al., 2023).

Non-verbal behaviour plays a very important role in social life in which people within the interactional process send a large portion of signals to each other consciously or unconsciously, accompanied by their actual talk (Korte, 1997). Guffey, Kathleen and Rogin (2010) state clearly that understanding messages requires more than listening to spoken words in which nonverbal cues play an important and powerful role in the interpretation of the messages sent. Non-verbal aspects involve all unwritten and unspoken messages, whether intentional or unintentional but almost all non-verbal cues are used intentionally in coordination with spoken words. (Buck & van Lear,

2002). Goman (2008) states that "To uncover its true meaning, body language needs to be understood in context, viewed in clusters, evaluated for congruence with what is being said, assessed for consistency, and filtered for cultural influences" (p.12). Typically, all nonverbal aspects are influenced to a large extent by our cultural heritage and this means that non-verbal behaviour is bound to culture. Adamopoulos and Lonner (2001) emphasize the point that culture is communicated through generations and as it influences the verbal language, it also has noticeable influence upon the non-verbal behaviour. Obviously, since there are differences among cultures, the meanings of the non-verbal aspects differ from one culture to another. In fact, multimodality is annotated by discriminating between the description of the non-verbal expressions and their functions in the interactional process (Koutsombogera, Touribaba & Papageorgiou, 2011). Specifically speaking, body language involving facial expressions, gestures and postures occupies important position in the different linguistic scopes including basically discourse analysis, pragmatics, semantics, and semiotics. This paper aims to investigate power relations through the gestural aspects associated with the textual ones. The following two questions are proposed:

1. What are the gestural aspects that are associated with the textual ones in Obama's interviews in the Lat Show with Jay Leno?
2. What are the types of Power relations Obama holds with guest Jay Leno?

2.Facial Expressions

Li and Jain (2005) define facial expressions as "the facial changes in response to a person's internal emotional states, intentions, or social communications" (p.247). Facial expressions are responsible for a huge proportion of nonverbal communication. They involve different powerful cues that are displayed in relation to body parts from the head region, including the eyebrows, mouth and lips (Ekman, 1978). Generally speaking, facial expressions carry different meanings that are closely associated with the different situations and relationships persons face and hold with each other. Guffey et al. (2010) indicate that the face can display over 250000 expressions and these facial expressions can replace the verbal message, some of which are "raising or lowering the eyebrows, squinting the eyes, swallowing nervously, clenching the jaw, smiling broadly" (p.59). The studies that have been carried out on the facial expression program include many assumptions, theories

and methods; yet, Russell and Fernandez-Dol (1997, p.11-12) presented a prototype of the facial expressions, assumptions, premises and applications, some of which are given below:

1. There are a small number (seven plus or minus two) of basic emotions.
2. Each basic emotion is genetically determined, universal, and discrete.
3. The production and recognition of distinct facial expressions constitute a signalling system.
4. Any state lacking its own facial signal is not a basic emotion. Therefore, discovering which facial expressions signal the same emotions provides a list of universal emotions. The seven candidates found so far are happiness surprise, fear, anger, contempt, disgust, and sadness.
5. All emotions other than the basic ones are subcategories or mixtures of (patterns, blends, combinations) of the basic emotions. For example, anger includes fury and annoyance as its subcategories' (which should therefore share anger's facial signal).

Facial expressions are taken to be universally understood signals that can be visible while they carry hidden meanings of events (Ekman & Friesen, 1976; Russell & Fernandez-Dol, 1997). The most important point concerning facial expressions is their universality according to which, "Universality studies have been conducted to identify the distinct facial expressions of emotions" (Ekman, 1973; Ekman, Sorenson & Friesen, 1969; Efenbein & Ambady, 2002; Matsumoto, 2001; Matsumoto, Keltner, Shiota, Frank, & O'Sullivan, 2008). Accordingly, there is strong evidence for the universality of seven facial expressions. Exclusively, these seven distinct facial expressions are anger, contempt, disgust, joy, sadness, and surprise (Argyle, 1988; Ekman, 1978, Ekman & Friesen, 1975; Ekman, O'Sullivan & Matsumoto, 1991; Keltner & Ekman, 2000; Matsumoto, 2001; Russell and Fernandez-Dol, 1997). A summary of Ekman and Friesen's (1976) facial expressions and their non-verbal cues is given in table 1.

Table 1: Facial Expressions and their Non-Verbal cues

Expressions	Non-verbal cues
Happiness	raising and lowering of mouth corners
Sadness	lowering of mouth corners, raise inner portion of brows
Surprise	brows arch, eyes open wide to expose more white, jaw drops slightly
Fear	brows raised, eyes open, with the mouth opens slightly
Disgust	upper lip is raised, nose bridge is wrinkled, cheeks raised
Anger	brows lowered, lips pressed firmly with eyes bulging
Contempt	raising of one side of the mouth into a sneer or smirk.

Note: Adopted from Measuring facial movement by P. Ekman & W.V. Friesen, 1976 in *Environmental Psychological and nonverbal behaviour*, 1(1), p.56-75. Copyright: 1976.

The figure below shows the different facial expressions:

Fig(1): Facial expressions



3. Gestures and Postures

Kruass and Hadar (1999) refer to gestures as the specific bodily movements that can reinforce verbal messages of expressing thoughts or feelings. Gestures stand for the movements made by the head, shoulders, legs, feet, hands, arms and fingers. Hornby (2002) specifies the meaning of gestures as the movements of the body parts including, basically, the head and hands. Commonly, together the head, trunk and shoulder when used with the hands and arms refer to feelings and ideas. Gestures can be more effective when they are purposeful in which they must reflect what is being said. Most importantly, there is a direct relationship between the status, power, and prestige a person possesses and the number of gestures or body movements he/she uses. In other words, realizing the importance and acknowledging when and how and according to which culture gestures can fit, a person can have successful relationships with others. Culturally, the use of gestures in communication varies from one culture to the next. Certainly, the different gestures like almost all non-verbal behaviour are the products of cultural influence and again in different cultures, gestures stand for different meanings. Ekman and Friesen (1969, p. 49-98) outlined five major types of body movements including: *emblems*, *illustrates*, *affect*, *displays*, *regulators* and *adaptors*. First, emblems refer to gestures that replace words and have a direct hand gesture. Second, the illustrators are small movements that punctuate ideas, as for instance, when referring to something on the left side, this can be done either through referring to it by hand

or turning the head or the whole body. They are directly linked with words and are used to describe the size of something. Third, affect stands for the unconscious movement which communicates emotional meaning such as smiling or frowning, in addition to the body movement as such relaxing or showing tension. Fourth, the regulators tend to control, monitor and coordinate the other person speaking, as for example, when someone nods the head as a sign to let the speaker continue what he/she is saying. Further, a person smiles or makes "mm-hmm-humm sounds" in order to show agreement or that he/she is listening to the person speaking (Brilhart & Galanes, 1995). Fifth, the adaptors refer to gestures that are of personal needs such as scratching to relieve or rubbing the nose. These adaptors are of three types including: self-adaptors which belong to the individual person and alter adaptor which is directed to the other person in the interactional process, such as when removing lint from someone's jacket. Finally, the object adaptors stand for gestures that are focused on objects such as doodling on a Styrofoam coffee cup (Devito, 2002; Dimitrius & Mazzarella, 1998; Knapp & Hall, 1997; Nierenberg & Calero, 1971).

The studies that have been carried out on body language focused mainly on gestures and their meanings since they are the most apparent cues of non-verbal behaviour (Ekman, 2003, Pease & Pease, 2004). Pease and Pease (2004) point out that hands are considered as the most important tools in the communication process. One of the most important gestures for the hands is the open palm which is closely associated with truth, honesty, allegiance and submission. They state that when people want to express openness and honesty, they will have one or both palms open out to the other person(s) and say sentences like "I didn't do it", "I'm sorry if I upset you" (p.33). The palms are considered the least noticed but the most powerful body gesture as in Pease and Pease's (2004) own words, "*Palm Power* invests its user with the power of silent authority" (p.36). Basically, there are three main palm gestures: the *Palm-Up* position, the *Palm-Down* position and the *Palm-closed-I finger-Pointed* position (Pease & Pease, 2004, p.36). The first type which is the *Palm-up* position is used to present submissive and non-threatening attitude. The other type of palms position is when the palm is facing downwards to present authority in which it is used to give orders and commands. The *Palm-closed-finger-pointed* stands for negative attitudes and people using it are described as being aggressive, rude and belligerent (Pease & Pease, 2004).

A sub-category of gestures is postures which convey a great deal of information, as for example, bowing, slouching, sitting with legs crossed, leaning, and arms crossed on the chest (Ekman, 2003). Ekman (2003) refers to body cues that display different postures as those including

the torso, arms and legs. All these postures have meanings and convey different information about the state of the person. For all gestures and postures to be understood clearly, the context is considered an essential element (Dimitrius & Mazzarella, 1998). In sum, Lardner (2002, p.38) provides a table in which gestures and postures and their inferences are determined as is shown in table 2:

Table 2 :*Gestures and Postures and their Inferences*

Non-verbal behaviour	Interpretation
Brisk, erect walk	Confidence
Standing with hands on hips, sitting with legs crossed	Readiness, aggression
Foot kicking slightly	Boredom
Sitting with legs apart	Open, relaxed
Arms crossed on chest,	Defensiveness
Walking with hands in pockets, shoulders hunched	Dejection
Hand to cheek	Evaluation, thinking
Touching, slightly rubbing nose	Rejection, doubt, lying
Rubbing the eye	Doubt, disbelief
Hands collapsed behind back	Anger, frustration, apprehension
Locked ankles	Apprehension
Head resting in hands, eyes downcast	Boredom
Rubbing hands	Anticipation
Sitting with hands clasped behind head, legs crossed	Confidence, superiority
Open palm	Sincerity, openness, innocence
Pinching bridge of nose, eyes closed	Negative evaluation
Tapping or drumming fingers	Impatience
Steepling fingers	Authoritative
Patting/ fondling hair	Lack of self-confidence, insecurity
Tilted head	Interest

Stroking chin	Trying to make a decision
Looking down, face turned away	Disbelief
Biting nails	Insecurity, nervousness
Pulling or tugging at ear	Indecision

Note: Adopted from What you didn't say, speak volumes: How body language can be used to understand others by C.M. Lardner, 2002, p.38. Copyrights 2002 by *Michigan Bar Journal*, 2(2).

4. Bases of Power and Types of Power Relations

Turner (2005) points out that the exercise of power is universal and indispensable feature of social organizations including political, organizational and an institutional life. In power relations, two or more social agents seek to exercise power over another. Mutualistic power relations would reflect those in which two or more social agents are working in cooperation with each other. The second dimension refers to the balance of power between parties. Power as capacity relations may be balanced and equal among social agents and hence symmetrical. Karlberg (2005) emphasizes the point that together mutualistic and adversarial power relations constitute two parallel and mutually exclusive relational categories of power as capacity according to which people can either exercise "power with" one another in a mutualistic manner, or exercise "power against" one another in an adversarial manner (p.10). Investigating power relations in different aspects has been of interest to many researchers who tried to identify and understand the relations between language and power, power relations in the workplace, power relations and gender, and power dynamics (Buitkiene, 2008; Castells, 2007; Piccione & Razin, 2009). Locher (2004) conceptualizes the idea of exercising power to take place in and around a relationship, negotiating symmetrical and asymmetrical relations holding between interactants. In fact, the relations called older than, parents of, employer of, richer than, stronger than, and nobler than are all "asymmetrical" because they imply differences of power control. This relation is called "more powerful than" (Bratt-Paulston & Tucker, 2003, p.160). In other words, the relationship is considered asymmetrical if one or more persons can control the behavior or thoughts of one or more other persons in a certain respect without the latter person(s) being able to control the former person(s) in the same respect. A relationship between a student and teacher, for instance, is considered an example of asymmetrical power relations (Baker & Ellece, 2011). Another set of power relations can be seen in examples

such as attending the same school, having the same parents, practicing the same profession, and others. These relations present "solidarity" which stands for "symmetrical" relations (Bratt-Paulston & Tucker, 2003, p.160). In other words, when power is more or less equal, the relation is symmetrical. The concept of solidarity does not stand for all personal features but rather, it refers to political membership, family, religion, profession, sex and birthplace. These symmetrical power relations are reciprocal in nature.

Due to the multidimensional construct of power, French and Raven (1959) proposed a taxonomy of the bases of power involving *legitimate power*, *referent power*, *expert power*, *reward power*, and *coercive power* (p.156-163). These are considered as the most usable model for understanding power relations in social, industrial, organizational, and interactional disciplines (Kim, Pinkely, & Fragale, 2005; Stott & Drury, 2004). Legitimate power refers to the relative position and duties of the holder of the position within an organization (Wagner, 2005). It refers to people holding formal and official positions and hence it refers to job titles such as teacher, supervisor, President and Prime Minister. Reward power which refers to the degree to which a person can give others a reward of some kind. Aguinis, Simonsen and Pierce (1995) indicate that it is based on the agent's ability to offer a reward. Coercive power stands for the applications of the negative influences on people and it is considered as the least effective form of power. It is considered as problematic and it can lead to dissatisfaction. Usually, it can be seen clearly through threats and punishments. Normally, both reward and coercive power depend on others (targets) believing that the agent can provide them with the desired reward or can punish them (Munduate & Gravenhorst, 2003). These three bases of power are related to position power (Northouse, 2010). The expert and referent power are closely associated with specialized knowledge and skills. As far as expert power is concerned, a person can possess power if he/she has special knowledge and experience in a specific field (French & Raven, 1959). Another basis of power which is compatible with expert power is information. It refers to the information or logical argument presented by the target to influence the behavior of the agent. It is based on the factual validity of the information. Concerning the referent power, a person can influence others, feelings due to personal acceptance, approval and self-esteem (Kim et al., 2005). Typically, it is associated with personal charisma, charm and admiration. Bases of Power are summarized in table 3.

Table 3

Taxonomy of the Bases of Power

The bases of power	Description
Legitimate power	Power due to position
Reward power	Power that depends on the ability of the person in power to confer rewards.
Coercive power	Power that relies on using negative influence to get people to do things
Expert power	Power derived from skills and expertise in an area
Referent power	Power or ability to persuade and influence others

Note. Taxonomy of the bases of power. Adopted from "Studies of social power," by J. French and B.H. Raven, 1959, *Institute for Social Research* in D. Carwright (Ed.), *Studies in Social Power*, p.150-167. Ann Arbor. Copyright 1959 by Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for social research

5.Methodology

Two interviews are selected for the analysis in which the dialogues between the host Jay Leno and Barack Obama will be investigated. The linguistic annotator ELAN (4.3.2) was used to rearrange the transcription adding the non-verbal aspects (gestures and postures) following Jespersen's (1984) transcription conventions. The sample involves two interviews with Barack Obama in *The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno during the years (2009-2011).

Fairclough (2001) states that a critical discourse analysis is carried out in three stages of analysis: description, interpretation and explanation in order to explore the relationship between the text and the social context. As far as the identification of the bases of power are concerned, the first stage involved identifying the linguistic and gestural properties of the text. Then, these properties were interpreted in relation to the interactional process and were explained in relation to the social context. According to Northouse (2010), the bases of power fall under two categories: the positional and personal bases of power. Positional power includes the legitimate, reward and coercive; while personal power, which is considered more effective includes the expert and referent power. In order to identify the bases of power, the French and Raven's (1959) model of the bases of power is to be used for the analysis of the data in relation to Fairclough's (2003) model based on Halliday's (1985, 1994, 2004) systematic functional linguistics' three levels (ideational, interpersonal and textual) and a combination of the non-verbal models (Ekman, 2003; Ekman &

Friensen, 1969, 1976; Dimitrius & Mazzarella, 1998; Lardner, 2002; McNeil, 1992; Neirnberg & Calero, 1971; Pease & Pease, 2004) (Lafta et al., 2022). The ideational level included the identification of the linguistic aspects through the transitivity system including the different processes, participants and circumstance. The interpersonal level included the identification of modes, while the textual levels focused on the use of the logical connectors. The linguistic aspects in association with the gestural ones were interpreted and explained to identify Obama's different bases of power (legitimate, expert, referent, reward and coercive) and the types of power relations. The following sub-sections involve analysing extracts from the interviews carried out with Obama in The Tonight Show with Jay Leno during the years 2009-2011.

A. Interview (2) (Jay Leno 2009 Interview)

Extract (1):

Obama:	185	The problem is what was happening (7:08) ((right hand tilts
	186	forward and to the right side to show trajectory)) <u>for years,</u>
	187	where people (7:10) ((right hand rises up in loose point)) were
	188	able to take (7:11) ((right hand drops down into the center))
	189	huge excessive risks with other people's money, putting the
	190	(7:15)
	191	((right hand moves horizontally)) entire financial system at risk
	192	and there <u>were</u> (7:17) ((both hands curled facing each other and
	193	wagging into the center)) (no checks, there were (7:19) ((both
	194	hands curled facing each other and wagging into the center)) no
	195	balances, there was (7:20) ((left palm index finger pointing
	196	down)) nobody overseeing the process. And so what we're ((both
	197	palms open brought close to each other and wagging into the
	198	center)) going to be moving very aggressively on (.) even as we
	199	try to fix the current mess (.) is make sure that (7:28) ((right
	200	palm-down position spread open in the right side)) before
		somebody makes a bad bet you say, (7:31) ((right hand rises
		straight up into the center)) hold on, you can't do that.

In

lines (185-187), Obama uses a declarative sentence formed of a relational identifying process "the problem is what was happening for years...". The circumstance "for years" is portrayed through the hand gesture "the right-hand tilts forward and to the right side to show trajectory" in which the hand movement describes the expression "for years". In lines (187-196), he describes the financial system during the past years through using negative sentences formed of the existential process, "there were no checks", "there were no balances", "there was nobody overseeing the process". These sentences are confirmed through the hand gestures "both palms curled facing each other wagging into the center". In lines (200-201), Obama uses a verbal clause with the sayer "you", the verb "say" and the verbiage "hold on, you can't do that". Obama uses two imperative sentences to state what can be done as far as the mess in the financial system is concerned. Obama uses the right palm-down position to state that he has the authority to give orders and change certain

situations. Obama, in this extract, uses two bases of power: expert and legitimate. He uses his own experience in the economic field and tries to provide evidence of prior precedents and verifying policies concerning the financial system and how it was working before. He uses the personal pronoun "we" to show consistency with his government as a President. He is presenting legitimacy and a policy to fix the financial problems. The word "aggressively" and the imperative sentences "hold on" and "you can't do that" present Obama's legitimate power exercising asymmetrical power relation.

Extract (2):

Obama: 396 we're doing a diagnostic (15:52) *((left hand open wagging*
397 *vertically in the left side with the eyes looking down))* on each
398 of the banks, figuring out what are their capital levels? Can they
399 sustain lending? And then I think we're going to (16:00) *((both*
400 *palms curled facing each other wagging from side to side))*
401 separate out -- those banks that are in good shape, we're going to
402 (16:02) *((right palm-down position))* say to them, all right,
403 you're on your own; (16:05) *((right palm-down position))* go
404 start lending again. Those banks that still have problems, we'll
do a
405 Little more intervention to try to clean some of those toxic assets
406 off their books. But I (16:15) *((left hand opens wagging*
407 *vertically in the left side))* actually have confidence that we'll get
that done.

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In extract (2) lines (396-399), Obama uses a declarative sentence formed of a material process including the actor "we", the process "doing", the goals "a diagnostic" and "figuring out what ..." and the recipient "on each of the banks". Obama associates his sentence with the hand gesture "left hand open wagging in the left side with the eyes looking down". He wants to confirm the issue he is talking about and by looking down he is trying to recall what exactly he and his government are trying to do. In lines (399-404), Obama adds more information concerning his economic policy through using the declarative sentence formed of the verbal process, "we're going to say to them..." and the verbiage including the imperative clause "go start lending again". This clause is portrayed through using the right palm-down position to manifest the authority he has so that he can give orders. In lines (406- 407), he uses a declarative sentence formed of the relational identifying process, "actually, I have confidence that we'll get that done". He uses his left palm wagging vertically on the left side in association with the circumstance "actually" to confirm that

he is going to get policies accomplished. In this extract, Obama uses the personal pronoun "We" in lines (396, 399,404 & 407) in order to show consistency with his government members because they are the ones who will help him in achieving his policies. Further, he talks about the procedures he and his government will follow to fix the economic system in the United States focusing on presenting different solutions. In addition, the use of the imperative form "go start lending again" stands for Obama's authority as a President to control the fulfillment of the policies which he set earlier. In the last line of this extract, Obama emphasizes the point that he has set his plans to change the economic system and he can guarantee that these plans are to be accomplished. Obviously, through using the legitimating power presented through showing consistency with his role expectations as a President, in addition to presenting his policy and hence, holding asymmetrical power relation with the host due to all powerful concepts which he used through his verbal and non-verbal aspects.

B. Interview (2) (Jay Leno 2011 Interview)

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Extract (1):

Obama: 172 ...al Qaeda is (07:05) *((right hand drops down into the center))*
173 weaker than anytime in recent memory. We have taken out
174 (07:08) *((left hand rises up to a precise point))* their top
175 leadership position. That's been (07:11) *((both hands spread open*
176 *into the center))* a big accomplishment.

In extract (1) lines (172-173), Obama uses a declarative sentence formed of a relational attributive process including the carrier "al Qaeda" and the attributive "weaker than anytime" in addition to the circumstance "in recent memory". In this sentence the description of the attributive "weaker" is portrayed non-verbally through the hand gesture which is "right hand drops down into the center". In lines (173-175), Obama uses a declarative material process formed of the actor "we", the process verb "taken out" and the goal "their top leadership position". The reference to the goal is portrayed through using the left hand rising up to a precise point in order to confirm the expression "top leadership". In lines (175-176), he provides another statement which is a conclusive one formed of a relational identifying process "that's a big accomplishment". The reference to the adjective "big" is manifested non-verbally through using both hands spread open into the center in order to refer to the size of the accomplishment. In this extract, Obama presents

his argument concerning the situation of al-Qaeda in reference to his achievements. He tries to state the fact that he knows well what al-Qaeda was before and what it is nowadays and this means that he could have done something. Further, Obama uses the personal pronoun "we" to refer to himself, his government and the American army. He shows consistency in his role expectations as well as to his government and army. The material process "have taken out their top leadership position" refers to the authority of being able to take such a decision and accomplishing it. Providing evidence of what was done to face al-Qaeda and make it weaker, stands for Obama's achievement as a President who could minimize the threat from al-Qaeda. Accordingly, Obama uses the legitimate basis of power representing asymmetrical power relation relying heavily on his hand gestures.

Extract (2):

Obama: 268 You know, look, we have (12:47) *((both hands rise straight up*
269 *wagging into the center))* gone through the worst financial crisis,
270 the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. People are
271 hurting out (12:55) *((right palm index finger pointing to the right*
272 *side))* there, and they've been hurting out there for a while. And
273 people were having (12:59) *((both fists rise straight up into the*
274 *center))* a tough time even before the crisis. You know, incomes,
275 wages, we are all (13:02) *((right palm-down position moves*
276 *horizontally))* flat. Costs of everything from college to health care
277 to gas to food, all of it was (13:06) *((left hand rises up to a further*
278 *point))* going up...

In lines (268-270) Obama gives a sentence formed of a material process including the actor "we", the process "going through", the goals "the worst financial crisis" and "the worst economic crisis", and the circumstance "since the Great Depression". This sentence is associated with both hands rising straight up into the center in order to confirm the process of going through the economic crisis. More clarification is presented in lines (270-272) through the mental process including the senser "people", the process "are hurting" and the circumstance "out there". The place circumstance is portrayed non-verbally through using the right palm index finger pointing to the right side. In lines (274-276), he uses the declarative sentence formed of the relational identifying process, "incomes, wages were all flat" where the adjective "flat" is portrayed through the hand gesture, "right palm-down position moves horizontally". Then, Obama gives more sentences to refer to the people's economic situation. In addition, he uses the material process in lines (278-

280), "Costs of everything ...it was going up" and portrayed through raising the left hand to a further point. Through the identification of the linguistic and gestural properties of the text in this extract, it is clear that Obama is presenting details of the economic situation in the United States. Obama uses the expert and referent bases of power. The expert power is exercised through using the relational persuasion influence tactic since Obama presents factual argument concerning the crisis (relational persuasion tactics). However, he tries to point out the need for a new policy to develop the economic system (inspirational appeal). Accordingly, he is using the expert and referent bases of power exercised through the relational persuasion and inspirational appeal influence tactics. In sum, Obama tries to arouse people's emotions concerning their need for a new economic system that can change their current situation after all the pressure they felt during and after the financial crisis in the United States.

Conclusion

Obama uses in his interviews declarative informative statements of material, attributive and relational processes and all are intended to present his own authority and exercising of legitimating power. The type of power relation Obama holds with the host is basically the asymmetrical one since Obama shows that he has the authority as a President of the United States and the person in charge. These sentences are portrayed non-verbally basically through the hand gestures including

1. The right-hand tilts forward and to the right side to show trajectory
2. Both palms curled facing each other wagging into the center.
3. The right palm-down position to state that he has the authority to give orders and change certain situations
4. Left hand open wagging in the left side with the eyes looking down. He wants to confirm the issue he is talking about and by looking down he is trying to recall what exactly he and his government are trying to do
5. The right palm-down position to manifest the authority he has so that he can give orders
6. Right hand drops down into the center.
7. The left hand rising up to a precise point in order to confirm the expression "top leadership.
8. Both hands spread open into the center in order to refer to the size of the accomplishment.

9. Both hands rising straight up into the center in order to confirm the process of going through the economic crisis.
10. The right palm index finger pointing to the right side
11. The right palm-down position moves horizontally".
12. Raising the left hand to a further point

Almost all these non-verbal aspects determine that Obama is holding asymmetrical power relation with the host. The gestures and postures represent how powerful Obama is through showing to the host and the audience that he has the legitimacy and authority to govern the speech even though being interviewed in a comedy late night talk show.

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