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مجلة كلية التربية للعلوم الانسانية – جامعة ذي قار المجلد (13) العدد (4)2023



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المجلد الثالث عشر العدد الرابع2023

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## Semantic Relational Structuring in Some Excerpts of Zelensky's Speeches on the Russian-Ukrainian War: A Semantic Analysis

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Keywords: Semantic Relational Structuring, Semantic Relations, Zelensky's Speeches, the Russian-Ukrainian War

#### **Abstract**

The aim of this research is to identify, demonstrate, and investigate the use of Semantic Relational Structuring in some excerpts of the speeches delivered by the Ukrainian President, Volodymyr Zelensky, on the current Russian-Ukrainian war. This study adopts the model proposed by Winifred Crombie (1985) as a model of analysis to explore and explicate the forms of attitudes, views, feelings, and meanings towards certain topics and/or issues on the current war/conflict between Russia and Ukraine. These topics are investigated through certain dominant mechanisms/forms such as associative relations, logico-deductive relations, and tempero-contigual relations. The study concludes that there are certain semantic relational forms and expressions that help to structure the interpretation of such excerpts and show the relations between them in a logical connected way.

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### هيكلة العلاقات الدلالية في بعض المقتطفات من خطابات زيلينسكي حول الحرب الروسية- الاوكرانية: تحليل دلالي

#### الاستاذ المساعد الدكتور أحمد مانع حوشان

قسم اللغة الإنكليزية، كلية الآداب، جامعة البصرة، البصرة، العراق الكلمات المفتاحية: هيكلة العلاقات الدلالية؛ العلاقات الدلالية؛ خطابات زيلنسكي؛ الحرب الروسية-الاوكرانية

#### الستخلص

يهدف هذا البحث الى تحديد وشرح واستقصاء استخدام هيكلة العلاقات الدلالية في بعض من المقتطفات الخطابات الرئيس الاوكراني فلاديمير زيلنسكي حول الحرب الحالية بين روسيا و اوكرانيا. وتتبنى الدراسة الأنموذج المقترح من قبل وينفريد كرومبي (1985) كطريقة للتحليل لاكتشاف و توضيح انواع المواقف و الآراء والمشاعر والمعاني تجاه مواضيع و قضايا معينة حول الحرب او النزاع الحاليين بين روسيا و اوكرانيا. هذه المواضيع يتم بحثها واستقصائها عبر الآليات و الاشكال السائدة كالعلاقات الارتباطية والعلاقات المنطقية الاستنتاجية والعلاقات الزمنية. وتستنتج الدراسة الى ان هناك اشكال و تعابير علاقية دلالية تساعد في هيكلة تفسير معانى هذه النصوص و تبين العلاقات بينهم بطريقة منطقية و مترابطة.

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#### 1. Hypothesis of the Study

The study hypothesizes that semantic relational structuring is an important tool for understanding the semantic relationships in texts which result in a better explanation and interpretation of the proposed meanings speakers/writers try to disseminate/communicate.

#### 2. Research Questions

The current study raises the following research questions:

- 1. What are semantic relational structuring, and what are its mechanisms in English?
- 2. How is semantic relational structuring applied in some of Zelensky's speeches on the Russian-Ukrainian war/conflict?

#### 3. Research Objectives

This study is an attempt to investigate the category of *Semantic Relational Structuring* and its manifestations in some of Zelensky's speeches on the Russian-Ukrainian war, with the aim of arriving at a better interpretation and understanding of the meanings latent in those speeches.

#### 4.Introduction

The choice and selection of discourse components enable speakers and writers to state their views and/or attitudes in a way that underlie their personal beliefs, views, attitudes, and feelings to influence their audience. Speakers and writers attempt to initialize a certain kind of 'rapport'' with their listeners, readers, or audience. Crombie (1985: 111) proposed that 'there are some ways in which discourse segments may be related to one another'. These segments are connected and interrelated through *Semantic Relational Structuring*, a mechanism which is regarded as theoretical approach of investigating the points of view, attitudes, beliefs and feelings towards certain topics, issues, and objects. The current study investigates the application of *Semantic Relational Structuring* in some excerpts of Zelensky's speeches on the Russian-Ukrainian war to see how he utilizes these relations to convey his messages.

#### 5. Related Studies

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Crombie (1985) postulated that there exists certain semantic relations in texts, and their structuring helps a lot in exploring, understanding, and explicating the semantic relations and/or their interpretations that hold within texts. Crombie calls this type of relations *Semantic Relational Structuring*, which includes *associative relations*, *logico-deductive relations*, and *tempero-contigual relations*. Crombie (1985) applied these relations to a poem written by Milton titled, *Areopagitica*. What is worth mentioning is that Crombie avoided the application of *tempero-contigual relations*, i.e. the temporal relations in this poem. Crombie assumed that *Semantic Relational Structuring* is a useful tool for understanding and interpreting the real meanings of views, attitudes, thoughts, and beliefs prominent and manifested in the texts: Milton's *Areopagitica* is an example.

Similarly, Al-Mosawy and Al-Hajaj (2020) conducted a study on an essay written by Doris Lessing titled, 'Tragedy of Zimbabwe' using Winfred Crombie's model of analysis, i.e. *semantic relational structuring*. The researchers reached the conclusion that Lessing employed 'ideological conflicts, controversial beliefs and political and social dialectics' in depicting the reality of Zimbabwe (Al-Mosawy and Al-Hajaj, 2020: 121).

#### 6. Theoretical Background: Semantic Relational Structuring

Semantic Relational Structuring investigates 'discoursal relations' in terms of certain techniques/mechanisms in order to see how these relations are interwoven between various discourse segments in a specific text or discourse. This comprises the associative relations, logico-deductive relations, and tempero-contigual relations. These components are investigated in some detail in the below subsections.

#### **6.1** Associative Semantic Relations

Associative semantic relations refer to those group of interjections that indicate the relation(s)between discourse/text segments. This group includes the words 'while', 'then', 'or' and 'but'. Moreover, Longacre (1996:51-52) states that there are certain expressions which indicate the associative relations in English. These expressions include 'compared with', 'contrast with', 'coupled with', 'simultaneous with' and the verbs, 'precede' and 'follow'. Crombie (1985: 12) notes that associative relations fall into five types, which are (1) simple contrast, (2) comparative similarity,(3) statement-affirmation, (4) statement-denial, and (5) concession-contraexpectation.

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#### **6.1.1 Simple Contrast**

The expressions 'although', 'however', and 'but' constitute a group of words that signify the concept of contrast in English. These words/expressions mark the idea of semantic contrast between sentences. Ellipsis can be another form of indicating the semantic meaning of contrast in discourse (Kehler, 2000: 533; Hendriks, 2003). Crombie (1985: 112) gives an example of such contrastive ideas within a sentence, as in: 'The one was a soldier, the other a priest'.

#### **6.1.2** Comparative Similarity

Comparative similarity entails showing the similarities and/or differences between the objects/things compared in a certain situation or context. The words 'as' and 'like' and 'so' are good examples of such relation that can exist between discourse segments or relations. To give an example of comparative similarity, the following sentence signals this idea: 'The princes were afraid and so were their followers' (Crombie, 1985: 12).

#### 6.1.3 Statement-Affirmation

Kearns (1997, as cited in Al-Mosawy and Al-Hajaj, 2020: 106), argues that statement–affirmation is 'an act of producing' or 'reflecting' one's 'acceptance of a statement'. Statement–affirmation is one of the rhetorical devices in discourse. One and Sloop (1995: 22) mention that affirmation can be constructed through the 'ego-function of rhetoric'. Crombie (1985: 112) cites the example, 'He said that the terrorists should be punished and I agree', where the second part of the sentence reaffirms the acceptance of its first part.

#### 6.1.4. Statement Denial

Khemlani et al. (2011) stress that negation is often associated with philosophical and cognitive processes or attitudes. Basically, denial is performed through forms of negation-but there are other implicit ways of making denial in language. As an example of *statement-denial*, Crombie (1985: 112) notes that the following example may represent such act: 'A: The Greeks won. B: They lost'. In this example, there are two participants involved in a certain discourse/context. The first affirms that the winning of the Greeks, while the second confirms their loss.

#### **6.1.5** Concession-contraexpectation

Grote et al. (1977: 87) assume that concession is a semantic relation which indicates a form of 'failed expectation'. In this regard, Robaldo and Miltsakaki (2014: 3) emphasize that concession is 'a particular relation holding between the

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interpretation of one clausal argument that creates an expectation and another clausal argument which denies it'. Crombie (1985: 12) proposes that the sentence: 'Although they intended to attack, they defended' can be an example of such relation.

#### 6.2. Logico-Deductive Semantic Relations

Logico-deductive semantic relations enable the speaker to deduce and arrive at results and conclusions through certain cause and effect constructions, as in: if it rains, it is plausible that the ground is wet, and so it must be slippery. Crombie (1985: 11) calls them 'cause-effect relations', and he classifies them into three types, as follows:

#### 6.2.1 Reason -result

*Reason-result* relations are those lexical expressions that underlie the relations that exist between prior discourse segments and subsequent ones. They signify 'a core meaning which is procedural and not conceptual, and the interpretation of their meaning depend highly on the context' they appear in (Bruce, 1999: 950). Crombie (1985: 112) gives the following example of reason-result relations: 'Because he wanted to be independent, he left home'.

#### **6.2.2** Grounds-conclusion

Grounds-conclusion refers to a semantic relationship that holds through the category of entailment, where according to Crystal, (1985:109), 'the truth of the second sentence necessarily follows from the truth of the first one'. Crombie (1985: 112) cites the following sentence as an example for such a relation: 'He's wearing a crown, so he must be the king'.

#### **6.2.3 Condition-consequence**

Conditionals entail a situation where the realization of the result may be real or hypothetical, i.e. the actions/result may or may not occur (Acadian et al.,1997: 384). The sentence: 'If you don't understand, ask', can be an example (Crombie: 1985: 12).

#### **6.3 Tempero-contigual Semantic Relations**

*Tempero-contigual* semantic relations are significant discourse segments in the linguistic analysis; their understanding 'is a highly complex process' (Schilder, 1997: i). Moreover, their relations are important for 'semantic representation of

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eventuality' and discourse coherence (Rodrigues and Lopes, 2003: 332). Crombie (1985: 12) contends that there are two types of tempero-contigual semantic relations: (1) Temporal Overlap and (2) Temporal Succession. These two types are explained below.

#### **6.3.1 Temporal Overlap**

Temporal overlap refers to the interrelated expressions that denote a certain situation/action at a specific time or occurrence. This type of relationship is a significant discoursal marker, and together with syntactic forms, it can facilitate the process of understanding much better by stressing the relation between 'temporal coherence between segments' (Rodrigues and Lopes, 2003: 332).

#### **6.3.2 Temporal Succession**

Temporal succession indicates the successive relation that exists between actions, where one or more action(s) follow each other in logical sequence or order (Abusch, 2014: 25). This semantic relation is signaled typically by conjunctions, tense, aspect, synonyms, antonyms, time adverbials and prepositions (Al-Ghazalli, 2014: 367). 'Earlier' and 'later', 'before' and 'after' can be good examples of such a relation.

#### 7. Methodology

In order to investigate and highlight the main forms of Semantic Relational Structuring in texts, this study adopts Winfred Crombie's (1985) model. This model comprises the *associative* semantic relations, the *logico-deductive* semantic relations, and the *tempero-contigual* semantic relations to be applied to the data under investigation.

#### 7.1 Research Design

Since the current study is qualitative in nature, it encompasses non-statistical approach to data analysis (Merriam, 2009). The data were selected manually in the forms of excerpts from a number of Zelensky's speeches. These excerpts compose words, phrases, expressions, and sentences that mark the use of Semantic Relational Structuring in the current data to point out and highlight their application.

#### 7.2 Data Collection

In the current study, the main criterion of data collection was to select some speeches delivered by the Ukrainian President, Volodomyr Zelensky, on the

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Russian Ukrainian war, addressing different audience on a variety of situations. The selected speeches which were downloaded from the official websites and printed out were in English, the translations were done by the official sites of the Ukrainian government, the New York Times, and the CNN, as follows:

1. President Zelensky's speech at Chatham House, May, 6, 2022.

Website: <a href="https://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/promova-prezidenta-ukrayini-volodimira-zelenskogo-v-chatham-74849">https://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/promova-prezidenta-ukrayini-volodimira-zelenskogo-v-chatham-74849</a>

- **2.** President of Ukraine Address to the People of Ukraine, May, 7, 2022. Website: <a href="https://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/zlo-povertayetsya-koli-znevazhayut-prava-lyudej-zakon-i-rujn-74881">https://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/zlo-povertayetsya-koli-znevazhayut-prava-lyudej-zakon-i-rujn-74881</a>
  - 3. Speech by the President of Ukraine at the Video Conference of the G7 Leaders, May, 8, 2022.

Website: <a href="https://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/vistup-prezidenta-ukrayini-na-videokonferenciyi-lideriv-grup-74905">https://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/vistup-prezidenta-ukrayini-na-videokonferenciyi-lideriv-grup-74905</a>

**4.** Address by the President of Ukraine on the Day of Victory over Nazism in World War II, May, 9, 2022.

Website: <a href="https://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/zvernennya-prezidenta-ukrayini-z-nagodi-dnya-peremogi-nad-na-74925">https://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/zvernennya-prezidenta-ukrayini-z-nagodi-dnya-peremogi-nad-na-74925</a>

5. Zelensky's Speech to Congress, March, 16, 2022.

Website: <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/16/us/politics/transcript-zelensky-speech.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/16/us/politics/transcript-zelensky-speech.html</a>

6. Zelensky's Address to NATO Leaders, March, 24, 2022. Website: <a href="https://edition.cnn.com/2022/03/24/politics/zelensky-speech-nato-transcript/index.html">https://edition.cnn.com/2022/03/24/politics/zelensky-speech-nato-transcript/index.html</a>

#### 8. Semantic Relational Structuring in Zelensky's Speeches

The following section is a practical application of the **Semantic Relational Structuring** manifested in Zelensky's speeches on the current war between Russia and Ukraine. The analysis of data stems from Winfred's (1985) model discussed in the afore-mentioned 'theoretical part'.

#### 8.1 Associative Relations

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The following is a practical investigation of the components/forms of the semantic relation of the *associative relations* in the selected excerpts of Zelensky's speeches on the current Russian-Ukrainian war.

#### **8.1.1 Simple Contrast**

The following excerpt represents the associative relation of *simple contrast* in the form of the word 'but':

#### Excerpt 1

'But I am sure that each and every one of you is well aware of the level of the problems that the Russian invasion of Ukraine has brought. This is the highest priority for us and, I am sure, for the whole world today. It has brought problems not only to our people, but to everyone on the continent and to everyone in the world. I am absolutely sure of that.' (Zelensky, May 6, 2022).

In the above excerpt, the associative relation of *simple contrast* is clearly indicated in the way Zelensky describes the Russian invasion as having caused problems and issues to the whole Europe and the world. This invasion/war has influenced the whole population of the world. Zelensky attempts to warn the world of the bad result of this war, as it may inflict the entire world's peoples/countries leading to unpredictable severe consequences that may affect the lives of the world's peoples as a whole.

#### **8.1.2** Comparative Similarity

The excerpt mentioned below exemplifies the concept of *comparative similarity* in one of Zelensky's speeches:

#### Excerpt 2

Just like anyone else in the United States, I remember your national memorial in Rushmore, the faces of your prominent presidents, those who laid the foundation of the United States of America as it is today: democracy, independence, freedom, and care for everyone, for every person, for everyone who works diligently, who lives honestly, who respects the law. We in Ukraine want the same for our people, all that is normal part of your own life.' (Zelensky, March 16, 2022).

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Using the semantic relations of *comparative similarity*, Zelensky, in his speech to the American Congress, recalls the efforts and accomplishments of the US presidents and their achievements for the US citizens to lead a free, liberal, democratic, and independent 'organized' life full of order and respect to the laws and rules of the country. Zelensky attempts to convey his message to the Congress members that the Ukrainian people should have the same rights and privileges the US citizens enjoy, and this is the main concern of the political leadership in Ukraine, as he deems them to be normal and legitimate rights for Ukrainians. The employment of the words 'as' and 'like' is a clear instance of such use of *comparative similarity*.

#### 8.1.3 Statement Affirmation

An example of the semantic relation of *statement affirmation* can be shown in the following excerpt of Zelensky:

#### Excerpt 3

'Ukraine is **defending** itself against the onslaught of **tyrann**y, and this **struggle** for **freedom** is comprehensible in every corner of the globe.' (Zelensky, May 6, 2022).

In the excerpt mentioned above, Zelensky affirms his statement assuming that his country, Ukraine, has been fighting the Russian invasion/occupation as a legitimate self-defense action. He reiterates the idea that this resistance is legal and legitimate in all the parts of the world as a form of defending themselves against the aggressors. The words in bold confirm and affirm his claim that his country and people are defending themselves and resisting an attack led by a 'tyrannical aggression', and they are struggling for freedom.

#### 8.1.4 Statement Denial

The analysis of the below excerpt shows the semantic relation of *statement denial* in his speech to the Ukrainian Nation on the Day of Victory over Nazism in World War II:

#### Excerpt 4

'Today we are waging war on this path and we will **not** give anyone a single piece of our land...Today we celebrate the Day of Victory over Nazism. And we will **not** 

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give anyone a single piece of our history. We are proud of our ancestors who, together with other nations in the anti-Hitler coalition, defeated Nazism. And we will **not** allow anyone to annex this victory, we will **not** allow it to be appropriated.' (Zelensky, May 9, 2022).

Focalizing the negative attitudes towards the Russian invasion, Zelensky stresses the determination that they will not give up any piece of the Ukrainian soil, not any span to the Russians. This is clear and apparent in the negative forms he uses in his speech to the Ukrainian Nation commemorating the celebration of the Day of Victory over Nazism in World War II. As a form of statement-denial, Zelensky denies and refutes any potential of confiscating their land and history or recluse to any kind of compromise with the Russians invaders over such patriotic issues.

#### 8.1. 5 Concession-contraexpectation

The associative relation of *concession-contraexpectation* evoked by Zelensky can be seen in the below excerpt:

#### Excerpt 5

'Russia's war against our state, which at first seemed only a bilateral event to many, some even smiled, some said it was just a conflict, Russia says it is a military operation. Now we all evaluate it differently, more seriously...But today is already the 72nd day of a full-scale war, and we do not yet see its end. We do not see or feel the willingness of the Russian side. Just as we do not see comprehensive answers to all the threats posed by Russia.' (Zelensky, May 6, 2022).

Zelensky in the above excerpt expresses his contraexpectation(s) of the Russian invasion of Ukraine reminding others of the beginning of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, confirming that some thought that the war is not more than a conflict between two countries only, but to their surprise, as a form of contraexpectation, the conflict is extending to be a comprehensive war and confrontation, not just bilateral, but a multilateral war. And the war is going into another direction, and Russia is not stopping or ceasing its war or unwilling to do so.

#### 8. 2 Logico-deductive Relations

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#### 8. 2.1 Reason-Result

*Reason-result*, as a type of logico-deductive relations, can be expressed implicitly or explicitly. As a way of implicit form, the following excerpt embodies this, as in:

#### Excerpt 6

'Now, as part of a full-scale war against Ukraine, Russia is blocking our ports it has seized. What does this lead to? The global market is left without sufficient supplies of some key products from Ukraine. This is what we have, what is the priority for the world - grain, sunflower oil, corn, other agricultural products.' (Zelensky, May 6, 2022).

Stressing the result(s) and consequences of the Russian occupation of the Ukrainian ports outlets, Zelensky affirms that the world loses a great deal of the Ukrainian products of the main resources of food products as a result of this war/invasion. Zelensky warns the world again that this control of the Ukrainian ports can prevent and exempt the whole population of the world of getting the adequate and necessary supplies of the basic needs of life, i.e. the main stocks of living-the agricultural exports produced in Ukraine. This is a clear example of the implicit type of logico-deductive relation(s).

As an example of the second type of explicit type of *logico-deductive* relations, i.e. the explicit one, the following excerpt is an example:

#### Excerpt 7

'The third challenge is that the world is a few steps away from political chaos in dozens of countries, which could be the result of food and inflation crises. By blackmailing Europe into launching the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline last year, Russia has provoked a price crisis in Europe. Gazprom deliberately did not supply the market with the necessary amount of gas to cover the deficit, and **as a result**, gas prices in Europe reached a historic maximum. This has affected all Europeans without exception.' (Zelensky, May 6, 2022).

It is worth noting that the conjunction *as a result* marks the explicit type of *logico-deductive* relations in the above-mentioned excerpt of Zelensky's speech on the consequences of the war launched by the Russian military forces against Ukraine and the resulting crises caused by this war. Zelensky makes the deduction

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that this war has caused a number of unprecedented and unpredictable consequences in the entire world as a result of blockages of food provisions and inflation in the world markets. Moreover, Russia is decreasing the fuel supplies/exports of gas to 'some' European countries-especially the NATO Treaty members'. This leads Zelensky to deduce 'logically' the severe consequences of this war, based on the current issues.

#### 8.2.2 Grounds-Conclusion

*Grounds-conclusion* is represented in the following excerpt from Zelensky's speech on the Day of Victory in the World War II:

#### Excerpt 8

'There are no shackles that can bind our free spirit. There is no occupier who can take root in our free land. There is no invader who can rule over our free people.

Sooner or later we win. Despite the horde, despite Nazism, despite the mixture of the first and the second, which is the current enemy, we win, because this is our land.' (Zelensky, May 6, 2022).

Grounds-conclusion in the above excerpt is used by Zelensky to stress the challenge, and determination that his people, Ukrainians, will do their best to defeat the Russian invasion/occupation by all means and at any cost. Zelensky draws the attentions of the Ukrainians to the past invasions of the Nazi troops, reminding them of their failure and defeat to occupy Ukraine. His ground – conclusion is that the Russian will face the same destiny of the Nazis, i.e. they will fail to achieve their purposes and targets in the end, as they, the Ukrainians, are the land owners, and they are defending their country against the occupiers or the invaders.

#### 8.2.3 Condition-Consequence

The realization of *condition-consequence* semantic relation can be seen in the below example in Zelensky's address to the G7 leaders:

#### Excerpt 9

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'If we have an Organization of grain exporting countries that respect international law, value democracy and strive to protect human rights, including the right to life and guaranteed well-being, we will be able to provide food stability and a historic victory over famine. Ukraine is ready to present all the details of this proposal at the appropriate working level.' (Zelensky, May 8, 2022).

In the above-mentioned excerpt, Zelensky affirms that in order to avoid the ghost of hunger, famine, and starvation that may jeopardize the lives of the world inhabitants, there should be an organization that unites those countries that export grain to the other countries of the world. The use of *condition-consequence* semantic relation is indicated by type one of if conditional-the present simple tense, and the consequence is marked by the future simple tense. Zelensky states that this Organization should respect the rights, values, and the terms of the international law of freedom and democracy. Moreover, he suggests that Ukraine is willing to materialize the foundations of this organization in order to fight and eliminate famine and ensure persistently the stability of food/grain supplies and their provisions to the other parts of the world.

#### **8.3 Tempero-Contigual Semantic Relations**

Tempero-contigual semantic relations are of two types: (1)temporal overlap and (2) temporal succession. Their investigation in the data under investigation is as follows:

#### 8.3.1 Temporal Overlap

The semantic relation of *temporal overlap* is exemplified in the following excerpt where Zelensky delivered a speech on the anniversary of the Day of Victory over Nazism in World War II addressing the Ukrainians, as in the following excerpt:

#### Excerpt 10

'On August 24, 2021, the whole country celebrated the 30th anniversary of our independence! Our soldiers, our defenders, our equipment were moving along the Khreshchatyk, our "Mriya" was flying in the sky!" There is nothing more dangerous than an insidious enemy, but there is nothing more poisonous than a feigned friend." These are the words of the great Ukrainian philosopher Hryhorii

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Skovoroda. On **February 24**, we realized this truth when a feigned friend started a war against Ukraine.' (Zelensky, May 9, 2022).

In the above excerpt, the semantic relation of *temporal overlap* is touched upon by the way Zelensky recalls a certain point in time pertaining to the events Ukraine has witnessed. Zelensky links the 30<sup>th</sup> celebration of the anniversary of the Day of Victory over Nazism in World War II to the 'unexpected' and 'treacherous' or 'insidious' invasion/attack of the Russian troops against Ukraine. These semantic relations signify a certain type of temporal overlap where the actions interact, overlap, and lead to a certain consequence in a specific point of time.

#### 8.3.2 Temporal Succession

The following excerpt represents the use of *temporal succession* as a semantic relation in Zelensky's address to the G7 leaders:

#### **Excerpt 11**

'Tomorrow, our team is preparing the further work of humanitarian corridors for all residents of Mariupol and surrounding settlements. I held a meeting today on the activities of the executive branch. The main issues are economic. In particular, on providing Ukrainians with fuel. On overcoming the fuel shortage that arose after Russian missiles destroyed our Kremenchuk plant and oil depots across the country.' (Zelensky, May 7, 2022).

Zelensky in the above excerpt addresses the G7 leaders on the issues of opening safe humanitarian passages and the economic crises of oil and fuel Ukraine witnesses after the Russian attack(s). Zelensky confirms and assures that the safe corridors will be opened tomorrow soon after the meeting he held 'today' with the G7 leaders. The use of the adverbs of time, *tomorrow* and *today* indicates the semantic relation of *temporal succession* in the excerpt, which help to facilitate their interpretation as having a smooth and logical transition from one time actions into another.

#### 9. Conclusions

The practical analysis of this research has identified and investigated the use of Semantic Relational Structuring in some excerpts of the Ukrainian President

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speeches on the current Russian Ukrainian war using Winifred Crombie (1985) model of analysis. Through the practical application in this study, the *associative semantic* relations, together with the *logico-deductive* semantic relations and the *tempero-contigual* semantic relations have demonstrated and spotlighted the forms/expressions of attitudes, feelings, views, and meanings towards certain topics and/or issues on the current war/conflict between Russia and Ukraine. What is worthy of mentioning is that the afore-mentioned excerpts may include more than one semantic relation(s) as an instance of overlapping. The study concludes that there these aforementioned semantic relational forms and expressions help to structure the interpretation of the meanings and underpinnings of the meanings undermining such excerpts and show the semantic relations between them in a way that makes their understanding smooth and accessible.

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