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**A Critical Discourse Analysis of Joint Political Press Conferences
between the Egyptian FM Ahmed Abul-Gheit
and the Israeli FM Sylvan Shalom**

**Thesis submitted in fulfillment
of the requirements for the Degree of**

Master of Arts

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2013

Abstract

Title of Thesis: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Joint Political Press Conferences between the Egyptian FM Ahmed AbulGheit and the Israeli FM Sylvan Shalom

Key words: CDA – transitivity – presuppositions – allusions – lacunae –Egyptian-Israeli –political press conferences

This study analyzes the discursive language in four Egyptian-Israeli political press conferences by using an eclectic approach within the framework of critical discourse analysis. The title of this study should be modified to encompass the political press conferences attended by Egyptian and Israeli politicians other than the former FM. Abulgheit and FM. Shalom. The rationale for the present title was that the political press conference between Mr. Abulgheit and Mr. Shalom contains most, if not all, of the linguistic aspects pertaining to the analysis of *ideology* and *power relationships* evolving through *transitivity*, *presuppositions*, *allusions* and *cultural lacunae*. The data consists of four Egyptian-Israeli political press conferences held between 1977 and 2006. However, the analysis is carried out, not according to the order of occurrence of each conference,

but according to the above mentioned pragmalinguistic (linguistic pragmatics, pragmatic linguistics) features within the unique genre of jointpress conferences highlighting both the surface and undercurrent ideological and power conflicts and cross-cultural gaps decoded from the abstruse political spin especially between representatives of Egypt and Israel; the two major political and military powers in the Middle East (ME). The analysis is conducted in three stages. In the first stage, the data is placed within its historical and political context, second, is the multi-level pragmalinguistic analysis within the framework of CDA, and the third final part presents a discussion of the findings resulting from the application of the principles of CDA to the analysis of the political discourse used in Egyptian-Israeli political press conferences.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my supervisor, Prof. Jeanette, the great scholar and mother, for knowledgeably, carefully, patiently and gently guiding me through writing and rewriting this thesis, always steering my unbridled imagination back to shore. I wish her everlasting happiness and well-being.

Prof. Mostafa Riyad' s fine manners rush to the mind as the incarnation of many Prophetic sayings about kindness, clemency, helpfulness, support, cheerfulness, modesty, and positivity, to name a few.

I cannot do Prof. Nadia her right by expressing how grateful I feel for the time and effort she made. Had it not been for her invaluable help instructions, this piece of work would not have been what it is. Only God can reward her for that.

I would like to thank Prof. Dalia Saad for her priceless help, fathomless generosity and the imperturbable modesty.

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List of Abbreviations

App:	Appendix
CDA:	Critical Discourse Analysis
CL:	Critical Linguistics
ME:	Middle East
NS:	National Socialist
FM:	Foreign Minister
PD:	Political Discourse
PM:	Prime Minister
PPCs:	Political Press Conferences
PRC:	Peoples Republic of China
Pro:	Process
SFG:	Systemic Functional Grammar
UN:	United Nations

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Chapter One

Introduction

This thesis is an attempt to present a critical discourse analysis of the political discourse used by politicians and journalists in four Egyptian-Israeli press conferences. The study investigates ideology, influence and power and cultural gaps expressed through transitivity, presupposition, allusion and cultural lacunae. The analysis of the political discourse in joint political conferences is supposed to highlight the yet obscure area of joint press conferences, where the participants are supposed to create common ground and a positive atmosphere at a certain stage, yet occupy the stage, so to say, when they can seize the day. Joint political Press conferences (henceforth PPCs) stand as an opportunity for politicians to emphasize the party's or the country's ideology and demonstrate power and influence over the other. Thirdly, they are events where discourse reveals cultural differences.

Particularly in the Middle East, joint PPCs are significant due to the unstable political dilemma that started with the rise of the state of Israel on Arab territories in 1948. The Egyptian-Israeli relationship has held the biggest share of the conflict, with four major wars in less than thirty years.

As an introduction to the thesis, the present chapter attempts to cover the following points: