

The Moroccan Sahara conflict in Latin America between Falsehoods and Realities

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Abstract

The Moroccan Sahara conflict is a regional dispute considered to be artificially created by Algeria with the aim of countering the territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Morocco. This dispute, which has undergone changes over time, originated as part of the decolonization process and subsequently evolved into an ideological and geopolitical conflict characteristic of the Cold War. Today, it persists as a problem of separatism and terrorism, driven by the struggle for hegemony in the Maghreb and Africa. This conflict, which has lasted almost half a century, has been the subject of extensive studies and academic work in various universities around the world. This paper addresses the evolution of the Sahara conflict, its scope, its possible solutions from the Latin American perspective in order to analyze the region's perception of this conflict and the challenges it poses for the relations between Morocco and Latin America. For this purpose, the methodology used was exploratory and was based on exhaustive fieldwork, which led to a tour of almost every country in the region, from Mexico to Patagonia to the south of Argentina. The core of this work is based mainly on dozens of testimonies of political personalities, heads of state, foreign ministers, parliamentarians, academics, international experts and other relevant actors in Latin American countries.

Keywords: Regional Conflict, Sahara, Morocco, Polisario Front, International Terrorism, Separatism, Fictitious State, Autonomy Status, Latin America

INTRODUCTION

For nearly half a century, a separatist group known as the Polisario Front has illegitimately claimed a portion of Moroccan territory in the Sahara with the intention of establishing its own "state". This claim has been backed by Algeria, which has provided it with weaponry, financial support and refuge in the Tindouf region, with the aim of maintaining this group as a puppet entity and securing its access to the Atlantic Ocean. To achieve this objective, Algeria has employed all the means at its disposal: its propaganda, diplomatic, media, financial and ideological machinery. Algiers' open support for the separatist thesis, and its opposition to Morocco's territorial integrity, has become a fundamental doctrine and the main thrust of Algerian diplomacy in all international forums, spanning all continents and, of course, Latin America has been no exception.

This paper aims to expose how the Moroccan Sahara conflict is perceived from Latin American lands, clarifying several aspects related to the advance of the separatist thesis in this region of the world for a long time, before being challenged and countered by Morocco.

This study will be mainly based on a series of unpublished interviews with presidents, foreign ministers, congressmen, politicians, diplomats and experts from Mexico to Patagonia in southern Argentina.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The Sahara conflict has antecedents in Latin America in the form of articles in the written press or some television reports, and even works written by authors such as the Argentine Adalberto Carlos Agozino (2016), the Mexican Andrés Ordóñez (1958) and the Paraguayan Luis Agüero Wagner (2015) Throughout history, the stories and statements about the conflict reflect the belief system of the collective thought that was transmitted throughout the last decades influencing the way of thinking, feeling and acting of each State.

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METHODOLOGY

The research methodology is of an exploratory nature based on a fieldwork based essentially on testimonies of personalities from countries in the Latin American region. Between 2019 and 2022 the author visited almost all the countries of the continent, which allowed him to have a wide range of contacts of important personalities, who are actors in the political, economic and cultural scene in this region. Thus, during these trips he was able to cover a distance of almost 60,000 km, starting from Buenos Aires, the main site of the work.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The important trips mentioned before allowed dozens of interviews, in which heads of state or government, former heads of state, ministers, former foreign ministers, as well as many scholars, journalists, politicians and international experts on Maghreb issues, expressed their views on the Sahara conflict. At present, most of the countries of the world and many world powers consider and have expressly stated that the Sahara territory belongs to Morocco.

In March 2022, Spain changed its approach and there was a shift in its position on the sovereignty of the Sahara. The Spanish Prime Minister, Pedro Sanchez, sent a letter to His Majesty the King of Morocco, Mohammed VI, in which he assured that the autonomy proposal defended by Morocco is the most "serious, credible and realistic basis for the resolution of this conflict". This change of position occurs in the context of the rapprochement between Spain and Morocco after months of tension due to the migratory crisis on the border of these two countries.

For its part, Morocco was one of the first countries to recognize the independence of the USA, and in 1783 the two world powers signed Peace and Friendship Treaties that are still in force today (MAP, 2022). It is evident from the chronology and history of the ties between these two countries that the alliances between Morocco and the US have their origins in the times of George Washington and Sultan Mohammed III. Without going that far, in the year 2022 President Donald Trump six weeks before leaving office, recognized Morocco's sovereignty over the Sahara, signing a proclamation admitting Moroccan sovereignty over Western Sahara. (BBC NEWS WORLD, 2020).

RESULT AND FINDINGS

Over the years, echoes of a different version of the Sahara issue were raised in Latin America, where there was no longer the revolutionary discourse, but a clarification of the historical truth regarding the undoubted rights of Morocco over its Sahara. Since the visit of His Majesty King Mohammed VI to Latin America, a new interest in the conflict was awakened.

The Discourse

The following is an analysis and presentation of a series of political speeches resulting from interviews conducted by the author of this article with different contemporary Latin American political and academic personalities.

First of all, it is necessary to define what is meant by discourse according to the RAE. It is defined as the 'rational faculty with which some things are inferred from others', as a 'series of the words and phrases used to manifest what one thinks or feels', a 'doctrine, ideology, thesis or point of view', or a 'reasoning or exposition of a certain amplitude on some topic' (RAE, 2018). This textual framework, this expressive faculty, these ways of seeing and saying are the basis of this research.

The interest that guides discourse analysis is not, in fact, to apprehend neither the textual organization per se, nor the communication situation, but to think about the enunciation device that links a given textual organization and a given social place. Discourse is considered as an activity related to a genre, as a discursive institution: places are not thought of independently of the enunciations that make them possible and that make them possible (Maingueneau, 1991, p. 13).

Discourse is understood as a construction of meaning. This form of communication has been studied by different disciplines and theoreticians throughout history in all its aspects: anthropological, linguistic, sociological, philosophical, psychological, etc. Discourse bases its studies and analysis on language, taking into account its functioning in a social context. "It is in discourse, actualized in sentences, where language is formed and configured. That is where language begins" (Benveniste, 1971, p. 130).

Émile Benveniste, French theorist of language, disciple of Ferdinand de Saussure (recognized as the father of the structural linguistics of the 20th century) proposes subjectivity as a quality of the interlocutor to recognize himself as an individual and what allows a subject to be able to elaborate his own vision. The author refers to the production dimension of language and its construction as a form of expression and social representation of the world, as well as to the subjective constitution of individual and social identities and social relations. Verbal phenomena are understood in the context in which they are expressed and the social interaction of the actors (Benveniste, 1971). This is why one of the particularities of discourse studies is their interdisciplinarity. Just as there is a relationship between language, mind, psyche and society, so there is a relationship between discourse analysis, psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics and literary analysis.

All efforts to find in the properly linguistic logic of the different forms of argumentation, rhetoric and stylistics, the principle of their symbolic effectiveness, are doomed to failure as long as they do not establish the relationship between the properties of the speech, the properties of the speaker and the properties of the institution that authorizes him to deliver it (Bourdieu, 2008, p. 91).

For Pierre Bourdieu, language, performative capacity, the social context in which they are produced and the audience that receives the discourses, are arranged as central axes of a discursive analysis. Thus, the use of language stems from the social position of the interlocutor and the intersubjective legitimacy, and the conditions in which the discursive practice is exposed. This is why language is understood as a fundamentally social practice, which cannot be analyzed without taking into account its context.

Similarly, the theories of authors Lillie Chouliaraki and Norman Fairclough (1999) conceive discourse as utterances that have to do with social practices and as a form of social production in a given social context.

Teun Van Dijk is a Dutch linguist considered one of the founders of Critical Discourse Analysis. In his theory, the author presents an analysis that makes it possible to interpret the discursive practices produced in society. In his book *Critical Discourse Analysis* (1999), he explains:

Critical discourse analysis is a type of discourse analytic research that primarily studies the way in which the abuse of social power, domination and inequality are practiced, reproduced and, occasionally, combated by texts and speech in the social and political context. Critical discourse analysis, with such peculiar research, explicitly takes sides and hopes to contribute effectively to resistance against social inequality (Van Dijk, 1999, p. 23).

He also explains that discourse is a socio-cultural, ideological and historical power relationship in a given social context, so much so that discourse is a form of social action. Political discourse has a clear persuasive quality. It seeks to attract the attention of the addressee and aims to provoke a certain behavior (conative function). It is strategic, since it constructs a specific concept in search of potential allies. It is very common in this type of communication to use structures of denunciation, exhortation or promises to identify an enemy.

In order to achieve its objective of persuasion, political discourse seeks to make the addressee identify with it and, in turn, enunciates performative messages in which the interlocutor expresses his or her commitment to carry out certain actions or maintain a certain position on a given issue. To interpret the discourse, there are different approaches, and this chapter focuses on exposing the political discourse and the rhetorical resources implemented to communicate the message by appealing to the support of the population.

In this regard, rhetoric has its foundational origins in ancient Greece, is the science of discourse, which is presented as one of the disciplines that influences the construction of discourse and gives language the ability to persuade or convince the interlocutor. Rhetorical figures are unconventional forms of language and have

the capacity to endow the discourse with expressive, lively features or embellishments. The purpose is to generate an emotion or reaction in the audience, whether it is surprise, acceptance, joy, excitement, suggestion, displeasure or persuasion.

Interviews

This section contains excerpts from interviews conducted by the author of this article with state and government leaders, former leaders, ministers, ministers, former foreign ministers, renowned academics, journalists, politicians and international experts on Maghreb issues in the framework of a tour of Latin America that began in 2019 and concluded in 2022.

Critically analyzing a political discourse implies considering the political, cultural and social context in which it is exposed: the Moroccan Sahara conflict and the realities at stake in Latin America. In turn, identifying the argumentative discursive elements and strategic resources used by the speaker to influence the audience such as hyperbole, metaphors, comparisons, similes, personifications, parallelisms, the rule of three, euphemisms, ironies and sarcasms, among others.

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Adalberto Carlos Agozino

Adalberto Agozino is a writer, social scientist and PhD in Political Science. He directs the Master in Public Security at the Universidad Argentina John F. Kennedy and is president of the Association of Friends of the Kingdom of Morocco in Argentina.

Interview 1

Since the visit of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, the first visit of a Moroccan king to Latin America, which suddenly awakened a new interest in Morocco, echoes of a different version of the Sahara conflict began to arrive, where there was no longer only the revolutionary discourse, but there was a clarification of the historical truth regarding the undoubted rights of Morocco over its Sahara. When they came, in the 70s of the last century to this continent, the Polisario separatists took advantage of the purely ideological context of the Cold War where Algeria brought them to Latin America, approaching the dictatorships of the time.

Agozino uses alliteration to achieve a rhythmic effect in his speech: "derechos indudables" / "ideológico" / "dictadura" / "acecándose" / "donde" / "verdad" / "discurso" / "de pronto despertó". This repetition of the same sound keeps the listener attentive. In his message, he qualifies H.M.'s visit as the first by an Arab head of state to the region. At the same time, he implements the rhetorical figure of synesthesia by associating the perceptions of one sense to another: "echoes began to arrive". At the same time, he uses an ethopoeia to describe H.M. King Mohammed VI on the basis of his moral traits of honesty: "there was a clarification of the historical truth" (H.M. King Mohammed VI)".

Interview 2

The Polisario Front, especially in the region, has been diplomatically isolated, that is to say, as Algeria lost influence in Latin America, so did the Polisario Front. Also, as those revolutionary approaches of the 70's have gone out of fashion, they began to be looked at more objectively. A conflict that had no real roots to be maintained over time, only the geopolitical interests of Algeria are those that keep this conflict alive.

In this case, the interviewee degrades the Polisario Front through pairs of contrasts and metaphors, which suggest that its "old-fashioned approaches" are no longer credible and that they correspond to 1970s policies, with geopolitical approaches, far removed from the policies and interests of the 21st century.

Santiago De Chile, Chile

Roberto León Ramírez

Roberto Ramírez (1951) is a lawyer, businessman and politician of the Christian Democratic Party. Former Chilean congressman and jurist.

Interview 1

We must value and recognize the before and after of His Majesty's visit to Latin America and value, support and congratulate the work done by the Moroccan Foreign Ministry and diplomats, as well as parliamentary diplomacy with the Moroccan Congress in Latin America.

In this case, when León Ramírez states "value, support and congratulate" he is using the rule of three, since he employs an increasing sequence to exalt the diplomatic work. Reference is also made to the use of hyperbole, since in order to reinforce the idea he seeks to exaggerate the statement, redounding to repeated concepts.

Interview 2

It is clear that Algeria has been using the Polisario for more than 40 years and that the real interested party in advancing without any right to the Atlantic is precisely Algeria.

León Ramírez employs repetition as a discursive strategy. He begins by saying "Algeria" and thus also concludes his sentence. This also generates a sonorous impact on the listener. By duplicating his statements, he ratifies the importance of highlighting the non-existence of Algeria's rights over the territory.

Asunción, Paraguay

Luis Alberto Castiglioni Soria.

Luis Alberto Castiglioni is the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Paraguay. He is a former Minister of Industry and Commerce and former Vice President of Paraguay.

Interview 1

The autonomy initiative in the Sahara is healthy, very plausible and very positive. We believe that it is a concrete path that Morocco is proposing and that it can lead to the establishment of an environment conducive to finding, as I said earlier, lasting security and peace in that region of Africa. We believe that it is a proposal that has been studied in a very serious way by the leaders of Morocco. We believe that it is a proposal that is somewhat in line with the historical reality and we believe that it can be -I repeat- the great, the great framework within which, dialogue and negotiation in between, the definitive solution to this historical conflict can be found.

Castiglioni, through a strategic discourse and the use of hyperbole, legitimizes the autonomy initiative by using euphemisms. His discourse exhibits a convincing and appealing function, through which he argues that Morocco's proposal is the most "healthy, plausible and positive" (rule of three) for a resolution of the conflict and the establishment of peace and security for the Sahara region. It also reaffirms the concepts of dialogue, meeting points and negotiation. The speech, moreover, is framed by an anaphora structure as its sentences begin in the same way with the words: "We believe that it is...". This, besides marking a cadence at a musical level, focuses on the speaker's beliefs, making us think that he reaffirms what he believes.

Brasilia, Brasil

Fábio Albergaria De Queiroz.

Fábio Albergaria de Queiroz is a Brazilian political analyst and professor at the Brazilian Defense College (ESD).

Interview 1

The statement of the President of Spain, Mr. Pedro Sanchez, expressed the importance of the Sahara issue for Morocco.

Through this form of exposition, he legitimizes Spain's position and emphasizes the importance of the conflict and of finding a solution to it.

Interview 2

The U.S. position on recognizing the sovereignty of the Sahara was a turning point because it is the world's leading power. Remember (it has been) noted for its very clear position (and) what it did was to consolidate the Moroccan proposal for autonomy which would be a possible alternative (and) would give stability to the region.

Queiroz recognizes, through hyperbole, the importance of the U.S. position in consolidating the Moroccan proposal for sovereignty and autonomy. On the one hand, the expression "first world power" suggests that the United States has a leading position in terms of economic, political and military power worldwide. By associating this position with the decision to recognize the sovereignty of the Sahara, the importance and global scope of the action is emphasized. On the other hand, the assertion that the U.S. decision is a "turning point" suggests that this action has the potential to change regional dynamics and may have significant repercussions on the stability of the area. The hyperbole reinforces the idea that the U.S. position is crucial to the future development of the region and, by stating that the U.S. "consolidated the Moroccan proposal for autonomy," it suggests that the backing of the world power strengthens Morocco's position and its specific proposal in the Sahara conflict. The hyperbole here emphasizes the positive impact expected from U.S. action.

Lima, Perú

Luis Javier Gonzáles-Posadas Eyzaguirre

Luis Gonzáles-Posadas is a lawyer and politician. He was Foreign Minister, President of the Peruvian Congress, leader of the Peruvian Aprista Party, Minister of Justice, Ambassador Permanent Representative of Peru to the Organization of American States and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Interview 1

You cannot recognize as a state a state that does not exist! For it to exist it must have a government, it must have a defined and recognized territory, and it does not. No country of the United Nations has approved or accepted that they integrate it. It is not in the context of the United Nations.

The former Peruvian foreign minister states his position in favor of Morocco based on the provisions of a legitimately recognized entity such as the United Nations Organization, which does not consider the Polisario separatists as a state because they lack essential requirements. In his speech, he employs the figure of speech of exclamation by using words which predispose the receiver to an admiring emotion, and which are usually placed between exclamation marks: "You cannot recognize as a state a state that does not exist! Moreover, this is a command to the listener. Its intention is appellative, it tries to mobilize or alter the receiver's behavior through this command or, at least, to make him react with this judgment. The generality of the utterance, this impersonal "you" is used to attenuate or soften the command.

Interview 2

And I was wondering (...) One day I read an article in the American press that calculated more or less how much Algeria had spent on maintaining this Saharawi policy: basically, in international mobilizations, hundreds of millions of dollars, hundreds of millions of dollars that have not had any results.

Here, he states his position using a rhetorical statement, through which he exposes the millions of dollars spent by Algiers in favor of the Polisario, without obtaining any favorable result.

Interview 3

Algeria responded to Spain's recognition of Morocco by announcing that it was cutting off its gas. Excuse me, (that) is a crime, because if you cut off gas to a country, you really choke it and, if you do it in the winter season, it is catastrophic. Fortunately, with the backing of the 27 European nations for Spain, it rolled back a policy that I would call extortionist. This is a great triumph for Morocco. They are not alone, that is an invisible trick of Morocco, but it is a triumph. So none of these confrontational policies that go to the clash of imposition are going to make any progress. It does not work.

In this speech, he disqualifies Algeria and directly denounces the extortive behavior, which he calls "criminal", using hyperbole to accentuate his message and reaffirm that the policies of confrontation that no longer work.

Ricardo Sánchez Serra

Ricardo Sánchez Serra is vice-president of the Federation of Journalists of Peru, editor in chief of the diplomatic magazine *Embajador* and PR communicator at the Peruvian Space Agency - CONIDA.

Interview 1

There is no liberated territory! I know this, I visited the Tindouf camps. I don't know what they say about liberated territories. It is the security buffer to avoid conflicts between the Moroccan forces and the Polisario front. So they can't be a Republic, how do you learn to say "no"? Because to do this you need territory, government, authorities and population. And there is no territory. There is talk that the third that they have (...) doesn't exist, that's a trick.

The Peruvian journalist uses a discursive strategy employing rhetorical resources of irony and sarcasm with clear intentions of mockery towards the position of the Polisario Front, with rhetorical questions referring to what the Polisario fails to be, a Republic. In his statement he applies a figure of speech of exclamation: "There is no liberated territory!" to emphasize a truth verified in his travels to Tindouf and the southern provinces of Morocco.

Miguel Rodríguez Makcay

Miguel Rodríguez Makcay is a Peruvian international lawyer, professor and politician. He was Minister of Foreign Affairs, Vice-Rector of Foreign Affairs of the International Institute of Government, advisor to the Vice-Presidency of the Andean Parliament and head of the Cabinet of Advisors of the Ministry of Agrarian Development and Irrigation.

Interview 1

Neither the United Nations said so in 1974, nor any serious country in the international system accepts or has ever said that this territory was terra nullius. It was always a Moroccan space; it was never anyone's space.

Rodríguez Makcay maintains a position against the Polisario Front, discrediting its credibility by referring to the seriousness with which most countries recognize Morocco as sovereign. He also bases his argument on the provisions of a legitimately recognized body such as the UN. He puts this idea in the form of a parallelism that he uses to generate a contrast, to demonstrate a difference: "It was always Morocco's space, it was never anyone's space". In addition, the excessive use of the conjunction "ni" generates polysyndeton, which not only makes the discourse more fluid, but its addition, precisely, means to emphasize the lack, the lack of support of those who want to declare the territory as no man's land, which is what the interviewee intends to do.

Caracas, Venezuela

Manuel Avendaño

Manuel Avendaño is an advisor to the Venezuelan National Assembly.

Interview 1

We (...) all recognitions that have been ideological, that do not have a nature, a strategic as well as a political support (sic). We are going to carefully study these relations, of course, as long as they are not marked within an ideological character. And we are

going to deeply review these relations with this Saharawi Republic, given that for us it is a priority to re-establish relations with the Kingdom of Morocco. We insist, this conflict has to be solved through the United Nations Charter, as we have always done in a peaceful way and with a fair solution. For the region, yes, well, we hope for a solution (to) this project as we have always indicated, (...) in a peaceful and political manner, a political solution is sought so that the Maghreb can finally reach the potential it has to offer, not only from the geopolitical point of view, but also from the human and economic development point of view that the region has.

Avendaño, by resorting to similarity and equanimity, refers to a peaceful resolution of the conflict, establishing as a priority the reestablishment of relations with Morocco, and sets a clear position on the issue by saying that this conflict must be solved at the UN.

Bogotá, Colombia

Paola Holguín

Paola Holguín is a Colombian senator, journalist and politician.

Interview 1

That is right. In the Congress of the Republic, a proposal was made and signed by most of the senators and representatives to the Chamber, where we praise the efforts made by the State of Morocco, which has been deployed since 2007 for the negotiation of a Statute of Autonomy in the Sahara region. We are on the side of the protection of the integrity of the Moroccan territory, of the Moroccan Kingdom, and we highly value all the efforts that are being made from there, seeking more and more harmony and a relationship that will allow a fair, stable and lasting political solution.

Holguín employs rhetorical resources that contribute to support and manifest the ideology that the sovereignty of the Sahara corresponds to the Moroccan Kingdom. He is clearly on the side of the protection of the integrity of the Moroccan territory. At the end of the speech, he applies the rule of three with a series of adjectives "just, stable and lasting" to describe the political solution sought.

México D. F., México.

Pedro De La Vega

Pedro de la Vega is a Mexican academic.

Interview 1

I believe that the turn Spain has taken is a very interesting one. It must necessarily have repercussions on how other countries - which follow Spanish policy closely- can modify their positions, because we also understand that geopolitics is a strategic issue and if we are trading partners of Spain, to a large extent, it is natural that Spain being a great trading partner of Morocco, we understand this as a logic of equality. When we talk about the position that Spain currently holds in relation to the Moroccan Sahara issue, what we are experiencing is a modern political stance, a realistic political stance and in Mexico we have this logic perfectly permeated, added to the traditional Mexican diplomacy.

De la Vega recognizes the positive aspect for Latin America of the impact of Spain's stance with the political-economic ties with Morocco and that this has to have a positive impact on the rest of the nations and, particularly, on Mexico. His words have a remarkable musical cadence in relation to the repetition of sounds (alliteration): "posición" / "postura" / "postura política" / "postura política" / "perfectamente permeada" / "diplomacia". The approximation of sounds in these words attracts the attention of the receiver and makes him or her also pay attention to their meanings.

Andrés Ordoñez

Andrés Ordoñez is a Mexican diplomat, essayist, photographer and writer.

Interview 1

The turn taken by Spanish diplomacy will make our diplomats in office today reflect, but the time must come when it will be overcome and the position will be updated. But yes, I do believe that Mexico should have a position of greater neutrality in the face of this problem. I believe that our Algerian friends should also assume the responsibility they have as a stakeholder.

With a diplomatic and even-handed speech, Ordóñez suggests updating Mexico's position by imitating the turn taken by Spanish diplomacy, but with a neutral stance. He refers to the Algerians as "friends" but holds them responsible for the situation.

Demetrio Olaciregui

Demetrio Olaciregui is a journalist, diplomat and Bachelor of Arts. In 2014, he was Panama's first ambassador to Morocco, appointed from an initiative aimed at strengthening relations between the two nations. He was also director of Diplomatic Information at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Interview 1

What we see, as I always say, is a Republic of sand, that is to say, something fictitious, which does not exist. It exists only in the mindset of some politicians who, in ideological terms, continue to support a situation that is now totally outdated. We have to understand that this was a product of the Cold War, and we cannot approach the issue of the Moroccan Sahara from the Cold War mentality, idealizing a situation for political interests or to look good with some power that, in some way, favors this movement.

Olaciregui, in his speech, uses metaphor and comparison when he refers to a "sand republic" when referring to the ephemeral and intangible nature of the fictional state built by the Polisario Front. In the same way, he uses rhetorical figures of litotes or attenuation when he affirms a feature by attenuating or denying its opposite: "something fictitious that does not exist. It exists only in the mentality of some politicians...". In addition, this sentence presents an anadiplosis, a figure that consists of repeating the last word of a sentence to begin the following one: "... exists. Exists...".

Interview 2

Who breastfeeds and who has created and maintains the Polisario Front (is) Algeria and more clearly demonstrated it in recent months by breaking the friendship treaty with Spain, by blocking the access of natural gas to the Spaniards and preventing the pipeline to continue pumping gas to Spain through Morocco. They wanted, in a way, to suffocate the Moroccan economy. But we noticed that Morocco has many resources, and many possibilities (and) has already started to pump that natural gas from Spain to Morocco in the same pipeline that had been built in the past. In other words, there is an economic dynamic of very strong relations between Spain and Morocco that will not be broken and that are getting stronger day by day. Algeria, a discredited, corrupt dictatorship, which has committed all sorts of crimes against the population, is still in power there. None of these gentlemen is less than 80 years old. That is a gerontocracy.

In this case, he exposes multiple rhetorical figures by enunciating with great expressiveness, metaphors, simile sentences and euphemisms his ideology against the Polisario. He makes clear his opinion that Algeria is a discredited, corrupt dictatorship that has committed all sorts of crimes against the population. Another striking feature is the use of polysyndeton at the beginning with the excessive use of the conjunction "and" to give speed to the speech: "Who breastfeeds and who has created and maintains the Polisario Front (is) Algeria and more clearly has demonstrated it...".

Interview 3

I believe that the most significant thing in recent months has been Spain's response to the autonomous proposal. We have to consider the weight that Spain has in Latin America because it is, as we say in good Spanish, the "mother country". That is to say, the common origins of Latin America are in Spain and, therefore, it is significant that the Spanish government has recognized Moroccan autonomy as the only viable, credible and feasible alternative in the Sahara issue, and this has an important impact because it changes the relationship of forces in North Africa with Spanish backing. But the Spanish backing was the consequence of the US backing. Subsequently, the German backing for the autonomy issue.

On the one hand, through metaphorical statements, it recognizes Spain as the mother country, due to the origins of Latin America, with its roots in that Nation. "Motherland" is a personification of the homeland, human characteristics are given to an inanimate entity, a simile is also generated between the homeland and the mother figure for its protective characteristic. On the other hand, he emphasizes that recognizing Moroccan autonomy is the only viable alternative in the Sahara issue and a decision that changes the relationship of forces in North Africa due to the support provided by Spain and the USA.

CONCLUSION

Critical discourse analysis aims to improve and inspire approaches in discourse studies and also its specific focus of contributing to conflict resolution. It also allows us to understand the discursive practices produced by the interlocutor (Van Dijk, 1999). After having exposed fragments of the corpus of political discourses through interviews, it is concluded that the implementation of a systematized method of political discourse analysis presents favorable results in terms of the systematic interpretation of the text under examination.

The analysis of political discourse presented in the form of interviews, according to the argumentative discursive elements, allows the exploration of the tools and the strategic use of language to which the interlocutor resorts to influence his audience, resources of the type of political discourse of presentation of a position and its response or refutation.

The function of such analysis is to unmask the mechanisms of imposition of discourse in order to free it from power, which helps to alert the understanding of the relationship between discourse and society. Ultimately, they help to understand what many do not want to say, which is still a position that is not a new one.

Through the critical analysis of these speeches, a series of strategic rhetorical procedures such as metaphor, euphemisms, comparisons, hyperboles, parallelisms, rule of three and personifications, among others, have been identified. It is observed that the speeches are based on repetitive structures and allusions to Morocco's discourse of sovereignty over the Sahara. The change of position in Latin America after the visit of H.M. King Mohammed VI in 2004 is noticeable.

Some speeches "justify" their actions on disinformation; others, on "impartiality" or that these are issues to be decided by international organizations such as the UN; others, are full of euphemisms. Fortunately, the important majority leaves aside the "ideological" speeches to take a clear, forceful and pragmatic position in favor of Morocco. With regard to relations between Morocco and Latin America, they are based on their political, economic and cultural dimensions, as well as on the importance of collaboration, especially at the level of parliamentary institutions and political forums or through cultural partnerships and economic agreements.

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