Do South Asian politicians use more metaphors than western politicians? A corpus-based comparative study of metaphor in Bangladesh, British and American politic al discourse

Mir Sabbir Hasan

(University of Bremen)

Several studies have been done in the field of metaphor and politics. No study to date has focused on the use of metaphors by Bangladeshi politicians or even any politicians from South Asia. This paper fills this gap by comparing Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina Wazed's use of conceptual metaphor from the three major source domains CONFLICT, JOURNEY & RELIGION, and comparing the findings to American and British contexts as reported in a study by Charteris-Black (2004) who investigated variation in metaphor choice in the Inaugural speeches of American Presidents and party political manifestos of two British political parties during 1974-1997. There are no corpora available in the Bangladesh context. I compiled one corpus with 91 speeches of Prime Minister of Bangladesh Hasina Wazed that contains 101,490 words. I used AntConc software to search data in the corpus.

Bangladesh is a South Asian country, a developing country and religion has a very profound influence. This paper reveals economic development programs have influenced the use of metaphors but surprisingly religion does not. There is also some evidence of appearing family and personal elements.