CONCEPTUAL MODEL OF POLITICS IN AMERICAN ENGLISH

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Abstract

Purpose of the study: The research is aimed at reconstructing a conceptual model of POLITICS as a social phenomenon that is activated by the word politics in the minds of American people.

Methodology: As an appropriate methodology, “the semantics of lingual networks” (SLN) is used to analyse a 1000-context sample of the word politics from the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA). Specifically, a range of logical predicates (associated with POLITICS) is established and sorted by propositional schemas of basic frames. The latter is reproduced graphically in the network conceptual form and equated to the denotative meaning of POLITICS.

Main findings: The conducted research made it possible to define 26 propositional schemas that are regarded as the conceptual model of POLITICS in American English.

Novelty/originality: The research is the first attempt to study social phenomena via linguistic tools only – those of cognitive linguistics (the SLN methodology) and corpus linguistics (analysis of a COCA sample where these phenomena are represented) – rather than via techniques of politology, sociology, psychology and other social sciences themselves. Along with the conceptual model of POLITICS, the first-ever idea to convert it into the field cognitive model is offered as well (via operations of cognitive interpretation and prominence). As a result, the final model can be used to define what features of POLITICS are mentally the most relevant for the American community. The possibility of comparing several cognitive models of POLITICS is also stated.

Applications of the study: The research results can be used for politological, sociological and psychological studies; to compile new curricula for philology undergraduates and postgraduates.

Keywords: Politics, American English, Corpus, Semantics of Lingual Networks, Conceptual Model, Cognitive Model.

INTRODUCTION

People are social beings. They are surrounded by everyday events and a great part of that belongs to politics. Through a range of developments, politics is consciously considered by humans, which produces some mental representations generally called cognitive models (Ruiz de Mendoza & Galera Masegoza, 2014) or simply concepts (Carey, 2000; Morozova, 2017).

The concept has a long history of research. However, there is no single interpretation of its essence. In East-European practice, the concept was analysed in terms of the psychological (Lihachev, 1993), logical (Arutjunova & Rjabcheva, 1993), philosophical (Kolesov, 1992), culturological (Stepanov, 2004) and integrative (Ljapin, 1997) approaches as an interdisciplinary formation. At the same time, it was treated in linguistics via the cognitive (Kubrjakova, 1994; Popova & Stermin, 2001; Boldyrev, 2001), linguoculturological (Vorkachev, 2001; Karasik & Slyshkin, 2001) and linguosynergetic (Prykhodko, 2008; Harmash, 2012; Shcherbak, 2018) approaches. In all cases, it was understood as a structure stored in our minds. Nevertheless, a simultaneous Western tendency was traced in regarding concepts as a reflection of language-unit meanings or simply as information activated by a word (Clausner & Croft, 1999; Croft & Cruse, 2004; Evans & Green, 2006; Franco et al., 2019). This was also supported by Eastern scholars (Nikitin, 2007; Zhabotinskaja, 2013). The last common concept interpretation often presupposes, in case of conducting research, usage of large monolingual or multilingual text sets (as a research material) where the given concept is represented and can be reproduced during the research itself. Such text sets are called corpora constructed by tools of corpus linguistics.

Corpora (large, structured, electronically stored and processed sets of texts) have been thoroughly studied by researchers. The theoretical basis of corpus linguistics (Lüdeling & Kytö, 2008; O’Keeffe & McCarthy, 2010; McEnery & Hardie, 2012) has been constantly supplemented with practical matters of applying corpora in certain linguistic branches. Thus, the corpus approach has been introduced into language and translation teaching (Boulton, 2017; Dupont & Zufferey, 2017; Chen & Flowerdew, 2018), vocabulary analysis (Brezina et al., 2015; Gilquin, 2015; Baker, 2016), text and discourse analysis (Vaez Dalili & Vahid Dastjerd, 2013; Popova et al., 2014; Ji, 2018; Baker & Vessey, 2018), the study of conceptual metaphors (Boroditsky, 2000; Cameron & Deignan, 2003; Madsen, 2016; Lederer, 2016; Bolognesi & Aina, 2019), etc. Moreover, tools of corpus linguistics have been increasingly engaged in researching different issues of concepts (Oster, 2010; Divjak & Arppe, 2013; Zhabotinskaja, 2013; Skobnikova, 2018; Tatsenko, 2018b; Yehorova et al., 2019).

Therefore, today corpora are a popular basis for conducting different studies (including conceptual ones). The latter makes us combine the most trusted definition of the concept (structured information activated in mind by a word and equated to its denotative meaning) with corpus and cognitive tools of its analysis to conduct the first-ever linguistic
research of establishing the modern conceptual model of POLITICS as a social phenomenon. Particularly, this attempt is made within the USA discourse: a COCA corpus sample of the lexeme politics—an authentic American English material—is processed via the SLN cognitive methodology. Since nobody before has ever used such a purely linguistic approach for studying social phenomena (with no pre-research background knowledge in politology, sociology, psychology), it is reasonable to show the applicability of the proposed methodology and demonstrate how it works in practice to establish what mental patterns can be obtained for POLITICS through tools of corpus and cognitive linguistics only. Therefore, a purely linguistic pattern can be further interpreted in social sciences themselves to define finally in what way POLITICS is mentally considered in the American community and how relevant it is for USA residents. All this stipulates the originality of our pioneer research.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Since our purely linguistic reconstruction aims at defining the contemporary conceptual model of POLITICS mind associations, it is preliminarily required to review philosophical literature on POLITICS—how this concept was historically reconsidered and what was it variably associated with (to compare past and today’s patterns of this social phenomenon).

Philosophical interpretations of POLITICS date back to the Antiquity period (the 8th century BC – the 6th century AD). Among the first thinkers of POLITICS was Aristotle (335-322 BC) who treated it as communication of citizens for one common good – happiness, which is performed in a state subdivided into settlements and families. For a proper society functioning, POLITICS is implemented through authorities with such main tasks: providing defence and wealth, keeping justice via adequate moral and legal rules. To reach happiness as simply as possible, Aristotle finds it reasonable to educate people well (using grammar, gymnastics, music, painting) for imparting necessary virtues to them. Attention is also paid to private property for eliminating all interpersonal conflicts.

Although happiness is the most desired common good, Aristotle makes sure that there is simultaneously another opposite desire – self-profit. This dilemma is a criterion to define three opposite pairs of government forms (each pair contrasts by the number of people governing POLITICS): monarchy – tyranny, aristocracy – oligarchy, polity – democracy. The best power is seen in aristocracy: neither one nor too many people control power.

Another consideration of POLITICS is offered by Plato (360 BC). Instead of happiness, he regards order and justice as a common good. This aim is regarded by him as unlikely reachable and inclined to worsening. Therefore, a deteriorating typology of government forms is offered: aristocracy/monarchy (order and justice) – timocracy (fame) – oligarchy (money) – democracy (freedom of action) – tyranny (unlimited freedom of action).

To prevent POLITICS from deterioration, Plato advises rulers to be wise, brave, prudent and fair as well as to make a proper social stratification – each citizen has to perform a sensible task in the state (power is held by philosophers, defence by warriors, economy by craftsmen). This is the main way to keep a perfect balance in the ideal state.

Apart from the Greeks, POLITICS is treated by the Romans. Cicero (51 BC) interprets it via unity of human interests, which produces a state as a common property of the whole nation. Thus, the more contrasts of united interests there are, the more countries exist in the world.

Cicero considers POLITICS from the realistic rather than idealistic perspective: his common good is reasonable justice rather than Plato’s pure justice. That is why the most sensible government form is a combination of all types together – the so-called “mixed Roman constitution”. Among the main virtues of the best ruler, it is oratory skills that the thinker finds the most important for this governing regime.

A key Roman thinker of POLITICS is also Augustine of Hippo (427 AD). He provides not only a philosophical but also a religious context for POLITICS. Having committed the original sin, humans started distinguishing good and evil, which subsequently made them take moral decisions in circumstances. Therefore, two government forms are defined: the City of God (ideal country), the City of the World (real country). Although the human soul is sinful, Augustine believes in improving people’s nature. For living in the City of God, it is necessary to contain own pride and regard God’s norms as primary while state laws should be secondary.

Religious interpretation of POLITICS is traced in the Middle Ages (the 6th century AD – the 15th century AD). The main thinker of POLITICS in this period is Thomas Aquinas (1265-1274) who regards God as happiness and the initial cause of all goods. It is God who produces the state, and governing the state itself must be reciprocally directed to God. Therefore, all country’s laws must be arranged according to God’s will.

The culmination of POLITICS religious treatment was the Reformation (the 16th century AD). During this period of Modern history beginning, a set of Christian norms were reconsidered, which influenced governing ideologies. A significant doctrine was created by Calvin (1541). Calvinism is based on the idea that human’s fate is predetermined by God before birth, and nobody can change this. However, there is only one prophecy for soul salvation – the ambition to welfare. In other words, laziness and poverty are regarded as hell values whereas labor and wealth are thought of as paradise ones. Such a Protestant doctrine greatly promoted the economic development of many countries in Western Europe and that of the USA.
The Renaissance Age (the 15th century AD – the 16th century AD) gives new considerations of POLITICS, especially in the aspect of what the ideal ruler is. Machiavelli (1513) regards a reasonable balance of force and violence as the main tool for a successful government. The foreign policy must be highly militaristic: no enemy dares confront a nation with an ultimate army. The domestic policy must have a totalitarian character: merciless but fair control provides the ruler with the respect of the population.

The idealistic treatment of POLITICS in the Renaissance Age is revealed by utopian philosophers. Campanella (1602) in his book “The City of the Sun” metaphorically attributes to the ideal country such features as proper ideology (the Sun), preventively organized army (the Might), science and technical progress (the Wisdom), people’s cultural education (the Love). The main among them is an ideology, and for the common welfare, it should be based on the absence of private property and adequate distribution of labor – 4-hour working day for men in heavy industry and women in light industry, development of first-priority branches (military, agriculture, construction).

More (1516) holds socialistic ideas to create the best country. In his book “Utopia”, a federation of self-governing units is seen as perfect. There are no social classes in such a union, but there is an education principle of work distribution. Firstly, each must master at least one heavy (men) or light (women) industry trade giving a part of the profit to the common country reserve. Secondly, citizens may also master other professions, but in case of emergency, they are made to work in the industrial and agricultural sectors only.

Another example of utopian POLITICS is traced in the 17th century AD – paper “New Atlantis” by Bacon (1627). Instead of socialistic ideas by Campanella and More, it is science that is treated by him as the main factor for the country’s development: welfare is achieved only in that case if natural resources are reasonably used. Such an approach will be strongly supported at the beginning of the 21st century AD when a Resource-Based Economy doctrine is compiled by Fresco et al. (2007).

Meanwhile, Modern history (the 17th century AD) gives the social contract doctrine as an initial cause of POLITICS. Hobbes (1651) believes that humans are naturally cruel and inclined to strive for limitless dominance over others. To prevent humanity from self-destruction, people are deliberately deprived of the right to govern, which becomes the privilege of rulers only. In such a way a state is created, and humans’ evil temper is collectively contained by laws.

Depending on how a ruler acquires power, a new typology of government forms is offered by Hobbes. If a nation voluntarily delegates authority to the sovereign, there is monarchy, aristocracy or democracy. The forced authority seizure leads to the paternal government (colonization) or despotism regime (annexation).

The social contract doctrine is also discussed by Locke (1689). His perspective consists in the fact that humans are naturally inclined to have their revenge on enemies for committed damage. Therefore, it is the retribution desire that is collectively decided to be deprived of, which establishes a state governed by the legislative, executive and federal branches (the first one creates laws, the second and third ones implement them in domestic and foreign policies). It is quite interesting that abuse of the ruler’s right to punish reconsidered the deteriorating scale of Aristotle’s government forms: democracy – oligarchy – monarchy. The reason (by Locke): the more people rule the state, the more difficult it is to bribe them.

A great contribution to interpreting POLITICS in the Modern Age of the 17th century AD was made by Dutch philosophers. Grotius (1623) performed the first attempt to analyse POLITICS from the perspective of war, peace, law and morality. Subsequently, an idea of the just war was created: the state may resist enemies for order and peace, law and morality. Accordingly, the return of seized territories, retribution for hostile aggression. This idea laid the foundation of contemporary international law.

Spinoza (1670) regards wisdom as the main tool of governing POLITICS in the perfect country. Correspondingly, no government form is idealized: both monarchy, aristocracy and democracy are effective if they are reasonably regulated for order and peace.

The wisdom approach to POLITICS is also supported by French philosophers (the 18th century AD). For example, Montesquieu (1748) admits the deterioration of power from republic through monarchy to despotism, but all of them may be effective if a proper principle of power is used for a country with sensible territory borders. Accordingly, the republic is produced when a small state is based on vote freedom, monarchy should be ruled by honor in a middle state, despotism is kept via fear in a large state.

POLITICS is repeatedly considered via socialism. Morely (1755) notes that unequal private property and contrast of profit is the main reason for all social conflicts: hard-working people with small salaries hate their rich land-owning employers who do nothing and only get the income of workers. Therefore, for providing stability, it is necessary to complete two tasks. Firstly, to deprive everybody of any private property. Secondly, to distribute persons evenly in economy sectors; their income is taken to the common state reserve where one may get products obtained from other people. In such a way the country’s economy supplements itself.

An important event in the Modern history of the 18th century AD was the French Revolution – replacing monarchy by the republic. This respectively affects the socialistic interpretation of POLITICS. Rousseau (1762) finds it sensible to...
keep state control over the economy but simultaneously to let each citizen choose authority what he wants (via free independent voting). Moreover, the relevance of voting is argued by Marat (1774): the republican election makes politicians deserve power and execute it responsibly rather than to inherit authority gratis and use its privileges limitlessly.

French philosophers of the 18th century AD contribute to the social contract doctrine of POLITICS. Holbach (1770) notes that people, aspiring to achieve safety, peace and happiness, naturally try to be together, which creates a country as a collectively chosen tool for welfare. So, POLITICS is a balanced regulation of social groups for reaching common stability.

The key transformation of social life within the 19th century AD was the industrial revolution – replacing manual labor with machinery. Accordingly, a range of labor considerations of POLITICS was made.

Firstly, Saint-Simon (1823) admits that it is the industrial class (farmers, manufacturers, traders) who produce all material goods, and that is why all authority should be delegated to them for arranging state policy.

Secondly, Fourier (1828) treats the best political government as a production complex whose balanced functioning is based on four rules: proper placement of facilities, reasonable distribution of duties (as per capital, skills, talents), containment of population increase, reasonable usage of resources. Such a system is a guarantee for constant social welfare.

Apart from that, labor considerations of POLITICS were also made from the perspective who should dominate in political life: either employers (bourgeoisie) or employees (proletariat). Respectively, two contradicting interpretations of POLITICS were established, both potentially effective in case of proper implementation – capitalism and communism.

Capitalism (Weber, 1905) supports the bourgeoisie. Their private property enlarges capital through the Protestant belief of selectness. The profession is regarded as a God’s call, which makes employers please God by higher profits via reasonable business techniques. The total amount of such God-motivated businessmen promotes public welfare.

Communism (Marx & Engels, 1848) protects proletariat. It is employees whose work employers’ income depends on. That is why only workers should control power, and their collective capital is treated as a tool of self-increasing wealth: if employees guide their labor conditions on the legal level, they work with a significantly higher self-motivated efficiency. The latter attracts more people to work, and finally there are no social classes in the state at all.

Along with labor thoughts, POLITICS of the 19th and 20th centuries AD was supplemented with ideological discussions, namely in terms of how absolute power should be. Correspondingly, the conservative-liberal and totalitarian regimes were classified.

The conservative-liberal order (Spencer, 1884), typical for the United Kingdom, is based on the combination of forced and voluntary social cooperation (conservatism and liberalism, respectively). Their proper balance is considered as a reasonable tool for POLITICS correct regulation: in case of necessity state authorities strengthen their control over population, otherwise people act freely. In such a way society and its welfare develop gradually.

The totalitarian order (Arendt, 1951) replaces all social classes by indifferent masses that are strictly submitted to the ruler’s will for achieving a common promising goal. The tool of reaching that is unified propaganda (national socialism in Nazi Germany, fascism in Italy, communism in the USSR) which is terrifyingly imposed on masses by single state organizations (party, special service, etc.). As a result, implicit confidence in the state might is imparted to people when the country may provide them with everything they need.

Having reviewed the literature, we see that philosophically within history politics is mostly associated with a welfare-oriented governing of society. Today’s pattern of POLITICS is offered to be obtained linguistically – via the SLN methodology in the COCA sample of American English. The methodology implementation requires clarifying in detail.

**METHODOLOGY AND RESEARCH MATERIAL**

Being equated to information or meaning activated by a word in mind, the concept can be visualized via two possible models: the matrix and network ones (Zhabotinskaja, 2009). In both cases, it is arranged via domains as broad background contexts. Serving in profiling operations “base – profile”, they actualize a certain shade of meaning in the whole concept space (Langacker, 1987; Croft & Cruse, 2004). Meanwhile, domains not only profile concepts, but they also become profiled concepts themselves that are explained by lower domains as bases and so on (Langacker, 2008). In such a way a total concept structure is received that can be represented via the matrix or network formats. The difference between these models consists in the fact that the matrix model reveals purely a nomenclature of domains while the network model reproduces specific propositional links between them (Zhabotinskaja, 2009; Zhabotinskaja, 2013; Bondarenko, 2017). Both models are applicable in researches.

The matrix concept model is traditionally established by the component analysis of dictionary definitions of the word (as an activator of conceptual information stored in our mind). Specifically, integral and differential semes produce a
structurally organized set of domains (divided into non-basic ones up to basic ones) explaining the whole space of the concept contained within a researched word (Langacker 1987; Langacker 2008; Bondarenko, 2017). For example, in case of the component analysis of the lexeme politics in English explanatory dictionaries, it is possible to establish such domains of the POLITICS matrix as COORDINATION; FORM, SPHERE / OBJECT, SUBJECT, TOOL, WAY and ASSESSMENT OF COORDINATION (Stepanov, 2019). Other examples of reconstructing matrix models can be found in researches devoted to studying such concepts as DAMAGE (Morozova, 2009), TIME (Bondarenko, 2014), RITE (Krechetova, 2015), EMPATHY (Tatsenko, 2018a), etc.

The network concept model establishes the denotative meaning as information activated by a word in mind, which is equated to the content of the corresponding concept. For this aim, a universal conceptual analysis methodology “the semantics of lingual networks” (SLN) is used. Especially, the network conceptual model of a language-unit denotative meaning is generated through the most abstract propositional schemas of five basic frames – the thing, action, possession, identification and comparison ones (Zhabotinskaja, 2013). A list of these schemas is given below:

1. The thing frame being schemas: “SB/STH is THAT MANY-quantity” (quantitative), “SB/STH is SUCH-quality” (qualitative), “SB/STH is THERE-place” (locative), “SB/STH is THEN-time” (temporatative), “SB/STH exists SO-mode of being” (mode of existence).
2. The action frame doing schemas: “AG-agent acts” (state/process), “AG-agent acts upon PT-patient / AF-affective” (contact), “CR-causer makes FT-factitive” (causative). They are extended by semantic roles – circumstance (ATT-attendant, AD-aid, CG-counteragent, IN-instrument, MD-mediative), stimulus (GL-goal, CS-cause), prerequisite (CD-condition, CS-concession), the recipient (AD-addressee, BN-benefactor, ML-malefactor) – as well as with the thing frame schemas.
3. The possession frame possession schemas: “WH-whole has PR-part” (part-whole), “CR-container has CT-content” (inclusion), “OW-owner has OD-owned” (ownership).
4. The identification frame identification schemas: “ID-identified is PS-personifier” (personification), “ID-identified is CL-classifier” (classification), “ID-identified is CH-characteriser” (characterisation).
5. The comparison frame comparison schemas: “CV-comparative is (as) MS-correlate” (identity / metamorphosis), “CV-comparative is as AN-correlate” (similarity / analogy), “CV-comparative is as if MT-correlate” (likeness / metaphor).

This methodology consists in processing corpus contexts of language-unit usage examples to identify logical predicates (associated with the named concept). They are thematically sorted by propositional schemas. The latter is applied for generating the network conceptual model of the researched-word denotative meaning that is equated to the mind structure of the concept (Zhabotinskaja, 2013). The practical methodology implementation has been already realized for researching many concepts: JOY (Zhabotinskaja, 2013), MYSTERY (Strelchenko, 2016), FORCE (Stepanov, 2016), BUSINESSMAN (Starceva & Saprun, 2017), EMPATHY (Tatsenko, 2018a), etc.

In our research, it is the contemporary network conceptual model of politics that we decide to reconstruct. Applying the SLN methodology, we shall process a relevant research material. It is a randomly selected continuous concordance of the query politics from the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA)– the first 1000 contexts of all 60643 (the sample was compiled in 2019). It is analysed to define logical predicates (associated with POLITICS) sorted by propositional schemas and to construct through them a network conceptual model of information activated by the word politics (reproducing its denotative meaning equated to the POLITICS concept itself). The approach of random-and-continuous sampling is used to make the reconstruction of POLITICS maximally non-biased.

The decision to use precisely the COCA corpus we explain by the following facts. Firstly, this corpus is a multi-million-word text set of American English covering different genres: spoken, fiction, magazine, newspaper and academic texts (117, 112, 118, 113 and 112 million words, respectively). Secondly, the COCA corpus is regularly updated and supplemented with new texts (the last version was made on 8 December 2017; it holds above 570 million words in 220 thousand texts from 1990 to 2017). Thirdly, this corpus comprises American English resources from people of any age, gender, race, etc. – therefore, COCA materials reflect a comprehensive mentality of the USA (and so the POLITICS concept itself may be reproduced in a maximally accurate manner through their samples).

We also find it necessary to note an important sampling remark. Since our research on defining the POLITICS conceptual model is purely linguistic rather than political, sociological or psychological, no variables (except for the number of random contexts of the COCA politics query – 1000 of 60643) are required for sampling. The reason is that the POLITICS concept has to be reproduced irrespective of any American demographical features to make a highly generalized conceptual pattern of this social phenomenon in the USA mind. Therefore, it is specifically the random-and-continuous sampling of the COCA comprehensive basis that is applied to produce a general mental pattern of POLITICS in American English.

Therefore, the COCA corpus is a reliable basis for reproducing a true modern conceptual model of politics in current American English. Details about structure and functionality of the COCA corpus are additionally stated in the article by
M. Davies “The 385+ million-word Corpus of Contemporary American English (1990-2008+): design, architecture and linguistic insights” (Davies, 2009).

FINDINGS

Analysis of the sample allows defining logical predicates that are thematically sorted by the below-mentioned propositional schemas. Each schema is divided into certain underlined subtypes. The frequency of a propositional schema (among all identified ones within the sample) is stated in square brackets. A COCA concordance context number from our sample where a propositional schema has been detected is given in round brackets (the American spelling rules in contexts remain unchanged). We find it reasonable to accompany each schema subtype with only several illustrating examples (for not to overload the article).

1. Possession ownership schema “OW-human has OD-POLITICS” [264 examples]: owner = person [172]; Pence’s politics (627); presidential politics (809); group of persons [92]: our politics (825); politics of his neighbours (43).

(1) We also will walk out in dignity and solidarity with all marginalized people affected by Pence’s politics, both on this campus and throughout our nation (627).

(2) Privately, a number of my colleagues have expressed concern about the direction of our politics and the behavior of the president (825).

2. Identification classification schema “ID-POLITICS is CL-classifier / class” [70 examples]: class = branch of learning [4]: subject of politics (157); occupation [7]: career in politics (724); regulations [11]: standard of politics (549); events [22]: developments in politics (117); cause of events [8]: politics is a driving force (160); communication [8]: language of politics (105, 478); rhetoric of politics (149); set of ideas [7]: sense of politics (346, 446); rule of politics (622); behaviour [3]: personal politics (547).

(3) McDaniel began her career in politics as a grass-roots activist, serving as a precinct delegate, a district committee executive member, a state party committeewoman in Michigan, an RNC committeewoman, and a national delegate to the 2012 Republican National Convention representing Michigan’s 11th District (724).

(4) As the Court recognized, the language of politics is often vituperative, abusive, and inexact (105).

3. Identification personification schema “ID-POLITICS is PS-personifier (proper name)” [3 examples]: personifier = book / chapter name [2]: “Politics” is a book by Aristotle (9); research name [1]: “Politics and Public Policy” is a study (639).

(5) Aristotle in “Politics” noted how nations swing between the aristocracy, democracy, tyranny, and back (9).

(6) A major study released last week by the Harvard Shorenstein Center on Media, “Politics and Public Policy” found that the coverage of Mr. Trump during his first 100 days was unsparing, with negative reports outnumbering positive ones by 80 percent to 20 percent (639).

4. Comparison metaphor schema “CV-POLITICS is as if MT-correlate” [29 examples]: correlate = world [5]: world of politics (266, 267); realm [6]: realm of politics (295, 298, 302); centre [2]: center of politics (378, 545); field [1]: field of politics (310); arena [1]: arena of politics (826); stage [1]: stage of politics (468); script [1]: scenario for politics (174); cocktail [1]: political party (37); tide [1]: tide of politics (58); maelstrom [1]: maelstrom of politics (459); beacon [1]: politics and culture were beacons of progress (61); chaos [1]: chaos of politics (630); texture [1]: texture of politics (372); mole work [1]: politics as if mole work (579); sacrificial Christ [1]: politics as if sacrificial Christ (365); relic [1]: politics as if relic (848); fire [2]: brand of politics (885); cross fire of politics (420); tool [1]: politics as if secondary and auxiliary tool (944).

(7) Second: the axiom of incompleteness finds its analogous adaptation in the field of politics (310).

(8) Nevertheless, in the arena of politics, the P.R.I. continued its undisputed reign (826).

(9) While such constructions occur mostly on the stage of national and nationalist politics, they also materialize within spheres of everyday life (468).

(10) This cocktail of resentment politics is familiar from the twentieth-century civil rights story and from our own present moment of racial tension (37).

(11) My reading of the township experiments suggests that while their demise was consistent with the tide of southern politics, it was not as inevitable as it might seem today (58).

5. Being locative schema “POLITICS is THERE-place” [196 examples]: place = cardinal point [12]: southern politics (42, 51, 58); northern politics (61); country [87]: Nigerian politics (466); Lebanese politics (744); ethnic group [44]: Arab politics (175, 209); Jewish politics (175); state, district, county [31]: Louisiana politics (869); British Columbia politics (409); city [19]: Los Angeles politics (933); Rio de Janeiro politics (319); company [3]: office politics (697).
To be a Yankee was to believe that the North and northern politics and culture were beacons of progress, prosperity, and republican virtue (61).

Hariri, a Sunni politician backed by the Saudis, cited Iranian meddling in Lebanese politics as the reason for his decision to step down (744).

He had big plans and an iron fist in Louisiana politics (869).

6. Being temporative schema “POLITICS is THEN-time” [89 examples]: time = century [13]; politics of the twentieth century (279); range of years [19]; politics of the 1960s (348); present [21]; current politics (251); past [10]: the past 44 years of politics (657); future [8]: politics in years to come (148); history period [18]: Cold War politics (489, 503); post-war politics (361).

Readers familiar with the Black Nationalist politics of the 1960s will recognize immediately the politics of transformation that the groom would like to superimpose upon Roselynd (348).

As one may recognize from following current American politics, this cheap foreign labor anti-immigrant argument is still being made 130 years later (251).

He has a PhD in international history, and his work mostly revolves around Cold War politics and culture (489).

7. Being qualitative schema “POLITICS is SUCH-quality” [368 examples]:

1) Type as quality [283]: type = territory of control [71]: urban politics (325); county politics (637); state politics (55, 331, 561, 870); federal politics (561); direction of control [16]: domestic politics (144, 145, 147, 150, 711); international politics (109, 130, 193, 808); history period [10]: politics of Reconstruction (35, 45); Redemption politics (40); principle of control [49]; politics of faith (167, 169, 184, 186, 189, 196, 203, 208); politics of skepticism (168, 171, 227); ideology [43]: liberal politics (900); radical politics (43); socialist politics (465, 532); nationalist politics (459, 460, 468); party ideas [15]: centrist politics (396); leftist politics (391); gender criteria [36]: gender politics (368, 453, 454, 455); feminist politics (432); branch of implementation [43] – elections [5]: electoral politics (329, 944); economy [6]: pipeline politics (153); migration service [5]: immigration politics (239); privatisation [1]: politics of privatization (596); culture [10]: cultural politics (403); work [1]: office politics (697); printing industry [5]: print politics (521, 528, 529); information technologies [3]: politics of data science (400, 402); medicine and biology [4]: plague politics (447); gambling business [3]: gaming politics (561);

2) Degree of importance as quality [4]: politics rated as low importance (16); importance attributed to politics (268); value of politics (786);

3) Evaluation as quality [15]: wrong politics (352); good politics (371); better politics (60); vicious politics (634); genuine politics (203); corrupt politics (946);

4) Structure as quality [7]: complex politics (35); complicated politics (509, 801); monolithic politics (68); deeply codified politics (419);

5) Function character as quality [10]: flexible politics (433); robust politics (433); sensitive politics (153); too reactive and volatile politics (63); chaotic politics (133, 809);

6) Movement direction as quality [2]: forward politics (555); non-linear politics (433);

7) Efficiency as quality [5]: ineffective politics (227); progressive politics (550);

8) Perception character as quality [7]: abstract politics (39); obvious politics (672);

9) Degree of support as quality [4]: traditional politics (482, 538); mainstream politics (287);

10) Protection of somebody’s rights and interests as quality [27]: aristocratic politics (42); masculinist politics (419); feminist politics (432); elite politics (46);

11) Profit orientation as quality [2]: proprietary politics (42); protectionist politics (42);

12) Degree of publicity as quality [1]: official politics (417);

13) Degree of correctness as quality [1]: non-normative politics (387).

After establishing their casino, the Coushatta Tribal Council increased its involvement in state and federal politics and ultimately sought to influence gaming policy on the federal and state levels in both Louisiana and Texas (561).

The Kurdish Question has been one of the top priority items in domestic politics for the AK Party government (145).

Morris’s decreasing involvement in socialist politics is often tied to his break from the Socialist League in 1890 (532).
(21) For many, the entry into electoral politics was a natural outgrowth of their family’s political activism, in some cases going as far back as their grandparents (329).

(22) Pipeline politics have proven to be sensitive domestically (153).

(23) In his 1971 Pentagon Papers opinion, Justice Potter Stewart of the Supreme Court noted how longstanding tensions over the public’s right to know had produced a vicious politics of deception and subterfuge (634).

(24) Ultimately, each of these historical moments illustrates the long history of BC Indigenous women’s activism, demonstrating how women’s politics was flexible, robust, non-linear, and connected to Indigenous motherhood and feminism (433).

8. Being quantitative schema “POLITICS is that MANY-quantity” [3 examples]: quantity = nothing [1]: no politics (292); one [1]: unique politics (57); some [1]: some of the politics (857).

(25) One might reasonably argue that North Carolina’s story was an outlier: a product of some combination of coincidence, personality, and North Carolina’s unique politics (57).

(26) I guess he was tired of some of the politics going on (857).

9. Being mode of existence schema “POLITICS exists SO-mode of being” [15 examples]: mode of being = basing on a guiding principle [12]: consensus-based politics (728); party-line politics (56); time of implementation [2]: short-term politics (699); day-to-day politics (635); goal [1]: gender-rescuing politics (346).

(27) Also, consensus-based politics may be more deeply anchored in Germany’s constitution, the Grundgesetz, than in that of some other countries (728).

(28) Call and response, therefore, works effectively to highlight cultural alienation, self-erasure, and a distorted sense of gender-rescuing politics (346).

10. Action state/process schema1 + mode “AG-POLITICS progresses SO-mode” [50 examples]: mode = emergence [6]: politics emerges (318); politics took shape (53); development [25]: dynamics of participatory politics (457); the politics going on (857); shift in politics (213); change in politics (211); better changes [10]: triumph of politics (164); success in politics (151); worse changes [9]: failure of politics (391); dysfunction in politics (774).

(29) Meanwhile, the PKK’s acquisitions in northern Syria and the HDP’s success in politics rapidly raised the Kurdish National Movement’s expectations from the process (151).

(30) The breakdown in the American government and the dysfunction in our politics are the results of the steady radicalization of American conservatism (774).

11. Action state/process schema1 + mode + temporal “AG-POLITICS progresses SO-mode, THEN / TM” [12 examples]: time = century [3]: local politics exhibited remarkable continuity over a tumultuous century (129); range of years [2]: the failure of 1960s leftist politics (391); moment, day [3]: now politics comes to the fore (146); what passes for politics these days (848); period of certain events [2]: why did the politics of faith emerge only during this election campaign and not earlier (208); future [2]: possible scenarios for Israeli politics in foreseeable future (174).

The temporative semantic role is underlined.

(31) Herman and Weisenburger also locate the non-normative sexual practices of Franz Pökler, Ned Pointsman, and General Pudding within what they identify as Pynchon’s commentary on the failure of 1960s leftist politics (391).

(32) George H.W. Bush is 24 years removed from the presidency, and what passes for politics these days makes his single term seem a quaint relic by comparison (848).

12. Action state/process schema4 + mode + locative “AG-POLITICS progresses SO-mode, THERE / LC” [23 examples]: place = country, state, city [5]: the dynamics of Arab politics in Israel (172); Minnesota’s politics are polarized (958); ethnic group [11]: the triumph of the politics of skepticism among Jews (164); the dynamics of Arab politics (206); social movement [2]: politics dominates in the Zionist movement (189); party [3]: HDP’s success in politics (151); organisation [2]: the Indigenous women’s politics also experienced degrees of multiplicity across organizations, communities, and positions (424).

The locative semantic role is underlined.

(33) In the seventh section, we investigate the dynamics of Arab politics in Israel and show why they represent an opposite trend to those taking place in Jewish politics (172).

(34) Minnesota’s politics are increasingly geographically polarized, with Republicans dominating greater Minnesota while the DFL controls the cities, and especially the Twin Cities (958).
The mediative semantic role is underlined.

(45) The locative / temporative semantic role is underlined.

(42) The cause semantic role is underlined.

14. Action state/process schema 1 + mode + locative / temporative “AG-event occurs SO-mode, in LC/TM-POLITICS” [39 examples]: politics as place or time of event development [39]: the struggle over classified information plays out in day-to-day politics (635); what happened in politics (713).

The locative / temporative semantic role is underlined.

(37) At the start of the event, Murray said he would give his speech on what happened in politics to get Donald Trump elected (713).

(38) In Trump’s Washington, where the struggle over classified information plays out in day-to-day politics, it sounds more like a description of business as usual (635).

15. Action contact schema 1 + attendant “AG-human analyses PT-POLITICS with AT-attendant” [307 examples]:

attendant = critically neutral attitude [215]: people analyze (175); consider (508); measure (262); understand (303, 403, 866, 936); perceive (311); describe (321); express (519); examine (325); explore (456); apprehend (535); appreciate (526); distinguish (163); recognize (551, 349); focus on (509); view on (480); report on (376); comment on (708, 731); write on (884, 901); explain (211) politics; positive attitude [18]: agree on (601); share (43) politics; negative attitude [20]: disagree with (602); reject (950) politics; optimistic attitude [6]: believe in politics (223); pessimistic attitude [8]: reduce faith in politics (199); satirical attitude [3]: give a humorous and biting commentary on politics (649); anxious attitude [4]: express concern about politics (825); assumption [27]: suggest about politics (213); conflict of opinions [4]: divide over politics (132); degree of comprehension [307]: what happened in politics (713).

(39) While we analyze both Jewish and Arab politics, our main focus here is on the former (175).

(40) Racial despotism is the norm against which all U.S. politics must be measured (262).

(41) Before the war, he shared the baseline radical politics of his neighbours, but, at least by his own account, he was a man of letters obliquely interested in politics: he was not yet a radical (43).

(42) Whether to dress Mrs. Trump has been a topic of discussion among fashion designers who disagree with her husband’s politics (602).

(43) Since 1989 he has delivered humorous and often biting, commentary on everything from politics and potholes to pop culture (649).

16. Action contact schema 3 + addressee “AG-human analyses PT-POLITICS with AD-addressee” [6 examples]:

addressee= person/group of persons [6]: politics is talked to our family and grandchildren (721); to an outsider (781).

The addressee semantic role is underlined.

(44) Mostly I will miss our time together talking about politics to our family and grandchildren (721).

(45) Despite their reluctance to talk politics to an outsider, they seemed grateful someone cared (781).

17. Action contact schema 3 + mediative “AG-human analyses PT-POLITICS through MD-mediative” [288 examples]:

mediative = mass media [22]: politics is analysed via “The Washington Post” (859, 950); news sites (996); daily politics roundup (926); documents and archives [6]: document (263); archival materials (409); academic paper [62]: article (479); dissertation (901); lecture (526); literature [43]: novel (456, 509, 535); “Three Guineas and Between the Acts” (553); essay (638); theatre and cinema [20]: show (708, 731); movie review (481); reviews [8]: assessment of three magazines (654); somebody’s point of view [101]: Thomas V. Mike Miller’s thought (756); Puigdemont’s interview (840); public event [9]: Toronto International Film Festival (610); certain case [17]: fact (68); case (131, 318).

The mediative semantic role is underlined.
(46) Welcome to Barf Bag, a daily politics roundup to help you sort through the chaotic Trumpian news cycle (926).

(47) The document made no mention of religion or politics, which tended to divide societies (263).

(48) Ms. Maye said she was interrogated about her travels, career, and contacts in the Middle East; she wrote her dissertation on Iraqi politics after the fall of Saddam Hussein and worked in Iraq for a year and a half on a United States government contract (901).

(49) In this novel, Mayfield focuses on the complicated politics of the fictional city Gainesboro, in a border state very much like Maryland, as it attempts to enact federal law mandating school integration (509).

(50) In short, imperfectly as they may mirror popular opinion, movie reviews offer a useful glimpse of the range of Americans’ feelings about racial politics (481).

(51) Still, in the interview, Mr. Puigdemont professed ambivalence about his current leadership role and politics in general (840).

(52) In each case, patterns of local politics exhibit remarkable stability, despite a century of conflict and upheaval (131).

18. Action contact schema³ + instrument “AG-human analyses PT-POLITICS with IN-instrument” [386 examples]:

1) Instrument = social branch [239]:

- History and law as instruments for analysis [111]: politics is analysed via aristocracy, democracy, tyranny, and back (9); township (36); civil rights story and racial tension (37);

- The economy as an instrument for analysis [17]: politics is analysed via enhanced productivity (75); concentrated corporate power (76);

- Philosophy, psychology, religion as instruments for analysis [42]: politics is analysed via positivistic matter-of-fact spirit (398); realist perspective (235); morals (10);

- Culture as instrument for analysis [46]: politics is analysed via compilation documentary (293); self-determination (350); sex (382);

- Printing industry as an instrument for analysis [14]: politics is analysed via the Kelmscott books (519); typographical distraction (521);

- Information technologies as an instrument for analysis [9]: politics is analysed via the E-Verify website (242); big data and algorithms (402);

2) Instrument = election campaign [23]: politics is analysed via federal elections (691); electorate votes (68); 2015 general elections (148);

3) Instrument = comparison [124]:

- Law issues as an instrument for comparison [19]: politics is analysed in comparison with pension system (801); prospects of being arrested and tried (38); arms (146);

- History and social events as an instrument for comparison [14]: politics is analysed in comparison with 1868 (53); formal institutional developments (129); century of conflict and upheaval (131);

- The economy as an instrument for comparison [5]: politics is analysed in comparison with business (77); business challenges (659); stocks and market measures (630);

- Logic as an instrument for comparison [20]: politics is analysed in comparison with logic (297); axioms (307);

- Religion and morality as instruments for comparison [6]: politics is analysed in comparison with God’s love (814); religion (352); human and sympathetic interests as well as aims of the family (358);

- Culture as an instrument for comparison [16]: politics is analysed in comparison with cinematic judgments (480); AC/DC’s “Highway to Hell” (601); art (616);

- Another type of politics as an instrument for comparison [44]: resentment politics is compared with democratic egalitarianism politics (51); Arab politics is compared with Jewish politics (172 and 173); politics of skepticism is compared with politics of faith (164 and 165).

The instrument semantic role is underlined. Note: for contexts where a comparison instrument is realized, two compared units are underlined.

(53) This cocktail of resentment politics is familiar from the twentieth-century civil rights story and our present moment of racial tension (37).
(54) Jabotinsky’s realist perspective that human nature is cruel and that self-interest drives politics are epitomized in a 1910 essay “Man Is Wolf to Man”, in which he wrote: “Do not believe anyone, be on guard, carry your stick always with you – this is the only way of surviving in this wolfish battle of all against all” (235).

(55) Previous analysis of sex in postmodern literature have frequently limited themselves to the thematic level of the text, emphasizing the relationship between depictions of sexual practices and corresponding social movements often associated with countercultural politics (382).

(56) It uses an analysis of federal elections to examine how regional politics has figured in the power wielded under Yeltsin and Putin (691).

(57) The results obtained in the general elections held in June 2015 and November 2015 showed that the HDP is likely to be an important and consistent agent of Turkish politics in years to come (148).

(58) A new era begins now: politics comes to the fore, not arms (146).

(59) We may not agree on politics, but we can all agree that AC/DC’s “Highway to Hell” rocks particularly hard right now (601).

(60) But by 1875 even the most radical Republican could see that resentment was a more powerful force in southern politics than democratic egalitarianism (51).

19. Action contact schema⁴ + instrument “AG-human analyses / does not analyse PT-patient with IN-Politics” [145 examples]: use of politics as instrument [135]: people recognize from politics (251); rethink via politics (937); explain in the context of politics (170); no use of politics as instrument [10]: people praise ignoring politics (569); focus on ignoring politics (630).

The instrument semantic role is underlined.

(61) As one may recognize from following current American politics, this cheap foreign labor anti-immigrant argument is still being made 130 years later (251).

(62) For Maier, by contrast, and less logically, the next step is to praise observational filmmaking in the name of ethics, ignoring politics (569).

20. Action schema⁵ “AG/CR-human / event acts upon PT-Politics / makes FT-Politics (result)” [46 examples]: result = emergence of political changes [23]: he became chief counsel that shook up local politics (3); absence of political changes [4]: violence does not solve anything in politics (799); providing political stability [7]: enhanced productivity raises living standards and avoids class conflict in politics (75); providing no political stability [7]: communities complicate politics (152); change of authorities [5]: elections produce mixed tickets (56).

The factitive is underlined.

(63) In 1931, he became chief counsel to an anti-corruption probe that shook up local politics (3).

(64) Enhanced productivity would raise living standards for everyone and avoid class conflict (what the historian Charles Maier memorably called the politics of productivity) (75).

21. Action schema⁵ + instrument “AG/CR-human / event acts upon PT-Politics / makes FT-Politics (result) with IN-instrument” [81 examples]: instrument = approach, method, idea, plan [19]: politics is acted on via resentment or democratic egalitarianism (51): imposing of will [19]: big plans and an iron fist (869); no imposing of will [2]: without accumulating power (538); keeping moral values [8]: fundamental human truths (887); no keeping moral values [2]: putting power and politics over principle (832); resistance [15]: social uprisings and protests (319); skills, efforts [7]: skills from a military background, including logistics, organization, and communication (835); use of constitutional rights [3]: opportunity to vote (254); election techniques [2]: forbidding corporations to spend money on elections or ballot initiatives (79); redistribution of power [4]: keeping partnership between BCIHA and BCNWS (429).

The instrument semantic role is underlined.

(65) He had big plans and an iron fist in Louisiana politics (869).

(66) Fields, who retired after 22 years in the Marine Corps, said he brings a wide array of skills to politics from his military background, including logistics, organization, and communication (835).

(67) The experience will make us wiser if we keep in mind some fundamental human truths that transcend the politics of the moment: individuals have innate value (regardless of their productivity, or achievement, wealth or power); we are in this together: our connection enriches us, creating a whole America that is greater than the sum of its parts (887).
22. Action schema + goal “AG/CR-human / event acts upon PT-POLITICS / makes FT-POLITICS (result) with GL-goal” [33 examples]: goal = protection of human rights [7]: politics is acted on to protect the existence of a private sphere (185); achievement of political stability [11]: to dismantle inequality and build a better politics (60); control of power [7]: to check the expansive power of government (185); to preserve fragile control over state politics (55); desire for profit [8]: for self-interest (235); personal benefit and community detriment (542).

The goal semantic role is underlined.

(68) Before it was even a year old, it was killed by black elite politicians to preserve their fragile control over state politics (55).

(69) How can local government be a tool for dismantling inequality and building a better politics? (60)

(70) Over the last two hundred years, Brant has been presented variably along a spectrum from vital interlocutor with the British colonial government in his defense of Indigenous sovereignty and land while strategically embracing the colonial enterprise as part of the future for the Mohawk nation to a venal colonial puppet who embraced British social norms and politics to his benefit and community detriment (542).

23. Action schema “AG/CR-POLITICS acts upon PT-human / makes FT-event / state (result)” [51 examples]: result = provoking changes [7]: the potential of politics to generate change (223); change of authorities [2]: politics as the reason for his decision to step down (744); emergence of problems [5]: politics masks economic and systemic issues (596); better political situation [8]: the ability of politics to better the situation of the Arab minority in Israel (221); politics which contributed to women’s nascent feminism (419); worse political situation [8]: politics that defined slavery (46); politics that have divided our nation (875); introduction of censorship [2]: politics provoked news hunger (379); change of emotions and behavior [16]: he was turned off by politics (782); everyone here is frustrated by the politics around this (1000); person’s upbringing [3]: politics foster male children and elevate selected men to hegemonic status (455).

The factitive is underlined.

(71) As far as can be ascertained, Odeh believes in the potential of politics to generate change (223).

(72) I said that the politics that have divided our nation need not divide our state (875).

(73) The increased demand for uncensored reporting and political news, particularly in a country such as India where politics provoked news hunger, raised the circulation of the Indian Express Building on these positive developments (379).

(74) Everyone here is frustrated by the process, and particularly the politics around this (1000).

24. Action contact schema “AG-human enters / does not enter, leaves PT-POLITICS” [61 examples]: human’s entering politics [45]: people enter (327, 328, 330, 710); engage in (333, 529, 822); participate in (960); get / are involved in (615, 718, 771); are drawn into (870); go into (850); get back into (770); take a turn toward (608); run for (717); venture into (625) politics; human’s leaving or avoiding politics [16]: people avoid (757, 830); are not into (816); abstain from (693); turn their backs on (853); stay out of (927); are barred from (839); leave (841); take a few years away from (560) politics.

(75) Arpaio was already talking about getting back into politics, aided by a president who shares similar views on border security and illegal immigration (770).

(76) That’s a good idea. Make a lot of money, right? But don’t run for politics after (717).

(77) If Trump’s venture into politics has proven anything, it’s this: so long as he is sufficiently entertaining, the public will accept any lie he claims (625).

(78) Abstaining from politics is rarely a good thing, but it is especially dangerous when the choices become so stark and the consequences so severe (693).

(79) If the vote goes on, as he says it will, Mr. Puigdemont could be barred from politics and go to prison for misusing public money to hold a referendum that Spanish courts have ordered suspended (839).

25. Action contact schema + cause / goal “AG-human enters / does not enter, leaves PT-POLITICS because of CS-cause / with GL-goal” [18 examples]: cause / goal = improvement of social standards [6]: politics is entered / not entered, left for job creation and economic development as well as improvements to the infrastructure (328); resistance to valid power [4]: to push back against Trump’s agenda (870); following of family career traditions [1]: because of a natural outgrowth of family’s political activism (329); aspirations [1]: because of intention to play into the real world of politics (806); gaining of profit [4]: for misusing public money (839); recovering [1]: to recover certainly lost normality (841); change of political beliefs [1]: because of the break from the Socialist League in 1890 (532).
The cause / goal semantic role is underlined.

(80) Jobs creation and economic development, as well as improvements to the infrastructure (unpaved roads and bridge repair), were cited by county commissioners as reasons for choosing to enter politics (328).

(81) The same angst that prompted the massive women’s march, the creation of new progressive advocacy groups and donations to liberal causes is also drawing contenders into state politics as a way to push back against Trump’s agenda (870).

(82) Morris’s decreasing involvement in socialist politics is often tied to his break from the Socialist League in 1890 (532).

26. Action contact schema + instrument “AG-humans enters / does not enter, leaves PT-POLITICS with IN- instrument” [3 examples]: instrument = participation in political movements [2]: politics is entered / not entered, left through the American Indian Movement (330); public work [1]: via journalist activity and community involvement (940).

The instrument semantic role is underlined.

(83) He was unusual in that his entry into politics was through the American Indian Movement (AIM), an activist organization that led protests such as the 1972 Trail of Broken Treaties, the 1973 occupation of Wounded Knee, and the 1978 Longest Walk (330).

(84) He also worked as a newspaper journalist, an activity that along with his community involvement helped draw him into politics (940).

Total: 2590 examples of all 26 propositional schemas.

The obtained propositional schemas generate the network conceptual model of information activated in mind by lexeme politics (figure 1). Additionally, a full verbal treatment of subtypes of 26 propositional schemas can be given as a list of statements below figure 1, which is the denotative meaning of POLITICS (the concept content itself).

Figure 1: Network conceptual model of POLITICS in American English
The denotative meaning of POLITICS (verbal treatment of the conceptual model) derived from the subtypes of 26 propositional schemas:

Politics is human ownership.

As a species taxon, politics belongs to a certain class: it can be regarded as a branch of learning, occupation, regulations, events, cause of events, communication, set of ideas or behavior.

Politics can be a personifier used as a proper name component (e.g. a book / its chapter or research name). It can be metaphorical (e.g. it is compared with a realm, field, arena, stage, chaos, etc.).

Politics exists in a certain place (e.g. cardinal point, country, ethnic group, state/district/county, city, company) and time (century, year, history or time period). It has some qualities distinguishing politics in type, degree of importance, evaluation, structure, function character, efficiency, etc. Among them, significant attention is paid to the type quality (which allows distinguishing politics as to territory, direction or principle of control, ideology, party ideas, gender criteria, a branch of implementation, etc.).

Meanwhile, politics is counted (it can be equal to zero, one or unknown number). Politics exists with a certain mode of being: basing on a guiding principle, concerning the time of implementation or goal.

Politics can progress in a certain way (it emerges, develops, changes) within time, place and cause perspectives. Politics itself can be a place or period where / when something occurs.

Humans analyse politics; it is attended by a certain attitude (critically neutral, positive, negative, optimistic, pessimistic, etc.), directed to an addressee, reproduced via written (e.g. mass media, academic papers, documents, literature) or oral (e.g. somebody’s points of view) media and performed by an instrument (analysis in terms of a certain branch of science, election campaigns or comparison with other issues). Simultaneously, politics itself can be used or not used as a tool for analyzing something.

Humans or events act upon politics or cause a political result (the latter can be traced in emergence or absence of political changes, influencing social stability, etc.). Interaction between humans or events and politics is performed through an instrument (some approaches, skills/efforts, will, moral values, use of rights, etc.) and conditioned by a goal (protection of rights, the achievement of stability, control of power, desire for profit). At the same time, politics itself acts upon humans or makes some results (change of emotions and behavior, better or worse social situation, the introduction of censorship, change of authorities, etc.).

Humans enter or do not enter politics, which is performed with a cause or goal (improvement of social standards, resistance to power, etc.) and an instrument (participation in movements and public work).

DISCUSSION

It is worth saying that the obtained results of the sample analysis are rather relative than absolute. The reason for such approximativeness we explain by our remarks to the conducted research:

1. Not all contexts of the total COCA concordance of the query politics were included in the research: we produced only a 1000-context sample of all 60643 contexts. We made such a decision because of the following facts.

   Firstly, nobody before us has researched the POLITICS concept (as information or denotative meaning activated in mind by the word politics) via the SLN methodology in American English. That is why our research had a pioneer character in this field and we tried to show the applicability potential of the SLN methodology (for reconstructing the POLITICS concept as a social phenomenon on a limited corpus sample) while other aspects on the research topic can be extended in future studies.

   Secondly, Zhabotinskaia (2013), a founder of the SLN methodology, in her pioneer research of the JOY concept also used a relatively moderate sample of British National Corpus (BNC) contexts: 1231 contexts of all 2821 (the latter has been checked on the 01 February 2020 in the BNC corpus). This proves our assumption that a 1000-context concordance sample can be quite a sensible limit for conducting the research.

2. Not all units of the 1000-context sample were applied by us for analysis: having pre-reviewed the sample, we understood that some contexts were not appropriate for processing. Particularly, we singled out two cases: a double identical context (as a possible technical fault of corpus compilers) and a context where the word politics is used as a part of a reference name in bibliography lists (titles of books, newspapers, etc.). Respectively, such contexts required sifting out, which resulted in refreshing our sample: the total amount for actual analysis decreased from 1000 contexts to 515. However, considering the necessity to keep the exact numeration of concordance units as in the COCA corpus, we decided to keep all contexts, not to re-number them but only to skip inappropriate ones during the analysis.

3. The received amount of 26 propositional schemas can be a direct consequence of putting a strict limit on the analysable concordance sample: only 515 contexts. We admit that the total amount of schemas in the POLITICS
concept might have turned out to be higher if the concordance sample limit had been larger. Thus, the obtained conceptual model of POLITICS can be incomplete and possibly requires new researches.

4. Comparing with the pioneering usage of the SLN methodology in the research of the JOY concept by Zhabotinskaja (2013), who among 1231 contexts singled out 1025 non-metaphorical nominations and 206 metaphorical ones for the word joy, in our work no such division was made. While S.A. Zhabotinskaja separates likeness/metaphor comparison schema for analysing only metaphorical contexts, we do not separate such a schema from all other schemas. Therefore, in our conceptual model of the word politics, likeness/metaphor comparison schema is included as an integral element of the single content of the POLITICS concept (see figure 1: comparison metaphor schema “CV-POLITICS is as if MT-correlate” (4)).

Identical decisions to keep metaphor comparison schemas in the single concept have been also made in the researches by Strelchenko (2016), Stepanov (2016), Starceva and Saprun (2017), Tatsenko (2018a).

5. Within the research, it happened quite often that in one sample context several groups of logical predicates were identified, which respectively produced several propositional schemas in the same utterance. The reason for such “multiplicity” consists in the fact that both adjacent and non-adjacent collocations of the word politics were taken into account during our analysis. That is regarded by us as different degrees of linguistic valency – the word politics is semantically connected in the context with other units (adjacent and non-adjacent ones), and this link is kept thanks to a propositional schema (between the lexeme politics itself and another unit). As an example, let us consider five sample contexts. Politics is dashed. Other words are marked in bold with upper indexes that stand for a certain adjacent or non-adjacent unit (semantically connected to the word politics by a corresponding propositional schema):

(85) Today we tend to see exceptionalism as a dynamic concept that is continuously being challenged by the courses of economics, politics, wars, race relations, history, and culture (7).

i. Being temporal schema “POLITICS is THEN-time (present)” ; today’s politics;

ii. Action contact schema + meditative “AG-human analyses PT-POLITICS through MD-mediative (somebody’s point of view)”; politics is analysed via our thought;

iii. Action contact schema + instrument “AG-human analyses / does not analyse PT-patient with IN-POLITICS (use of politics as an instrument)” ; exceptionalism is challenged by politics;

iv. Identification classification schema “ID-POLITICS is CL-classifier / class (branch of learning)” ; course of politics.

(86) This cocktail of resentment politics is familiar from the twentieth century civil rights story and from our own present moment of racial tension (37).

i. Comparison metaphor schema “CV-POLITICS is as if MT-correlate (cocktail)” ; cocktail of politics;

ii. Being qualitative schema “POLITICS is SUCH-quality (type as quality – principle of control)” ; resentment politics;

iii. Being temporal schema “POLITICS is THEN-time (century)” ; politics in the twentieth century;

iv. Action contact schema + instrument “AG-human analyses PT-POLITICS with IN-instrument (social branch – history and law)” ; politics is analysed via civil rights story;

v. Being temporal schema “POLITICS is THEN-time (present)” ; politics in the present moment;

vi. Action contact schema + instrument “AG-human analyses PT-POLITICS with IN-instrument (social branch – history and law)” ; politics is analysed via racial tension.

(87) The problem with southern politics and culture was that it was aristocratic and thus proprietary and protectionist (42).

i. Action state/process schema + mode + locative / temporal “AG-event occurs SO-mode, in LC/TM-POLITICS (politics as place or time of event development)” ; there is a problem in politics;

ii. Being locative schema “POLITICS is THERE-place (cardinal point)” ; southern politics;

iii. Being qualitative schema “POLITICS is SUCH-quality (protection of somebody’s rights and interests as quality)” ; aristocratic politics;

iv. Being qualitative schema “POLITICS is SUCH-quality (profit orientation as quality)” ; proprietary politics;

v. Being qualitative schema “POLITICS is SUCH-quality (profit orientation as quality)” ; protectionist politics.

(88) In 1961, increasingly disillusioned with US racial politics (and a person of interest to the FBI), Mayfield moved to Ghana, where Cordero administered a health clinic and would become a personal physician to the elderly Du Bois, who had been living in Accra since October of that year (505).
i. **Being temporative schema** “POLITICS is THEN-time (range of years)”: politics in 1961;

ii. **Action schema** 6 “AG/CR-POLITICS acts upon PT-human / makes FT-event / state (result – change of emotions and behavior)”: Mayfield gets disillusioned with politics;

iii. **Being locative schema** “POLITICS is THERE-place (country)”: United States politics;

iv. **Being qualitative schema** “POLITICS is SUCH-quality (type as quality – ideology)”: racial politics.

(89) Knowles1, who served on the Howard County Council23 for 12 years beginning in 1974, said his essay4 reviews5 the politics in Columbia6 from 1965 to 19958 (638).

i. **Possession ownership schema** “OW-human (person) has OD-POLITICS”: Knowles’ politics;

ii. **Possession ownership schema** “OW-human (group of persons) has OD-POLITICS”: Howard County Council’s politics;

iii. **Being locative schema** “POLITICS is THERE-place (state, district, county)”: Howard County politics;

iv. **Action contact schema** 3 + meditative “AG-human analyses PT-POLITICS through MD-mediative (literature)”: politics is analysed via essay;

v. **Action contact schema** 3 + attendant “AG-human analyses PT-POLITICS with AT-attendant (critically neutral attitude)”: politics is reviewed;

vi. **Being locative schema** “POLITICS is THERE-place (country)”: Colombiant politics;

vii. **Being temporative schema** “POLITICS is THEN-time (range of years)”: politics from 1965 to 1995;

viii. **Action contact schema** 3 + instrument “AG-human analyses PT-POLITICS with IN-instrument (social branch – history and law)”: politics is analyzed via a period from 1965 to 1995.

Thus, within all 515 analyzable contexts of our COCA sample, 2590 examples of 26 propositional schemas have been found (through adjacent and non-adjacent collocations). Identically, it was made in researching the EMPATHY concept (Tatsenko, 2018a): within all 269 analysed contexts, 363 examples of 22 propositional schemas had been detected. Such an approach differs from that by Zhabotinskaja (2013) in case of the JOY concept: within her 1231-context sample, for each context, she produces only one propositional schema and finally gets 19 schemas.

6. The contrast in the frequency of the identified schemas in our research can be a possible direct consequence of the following fact. Within the 1000-context sample, there were cases when a lot of contexts originated from articles deeply describing a certain topic, which caused more frequent representativeness of some schemas than other ones. For example, COCA contexts 163-237 of the sample come from the corpus article of “The Middle East Journal (2017)” highly discussing issues as to politics of faith and politics of skepticism. Therefore, a range of logical predicates has been found that are sorted by **being qualitative schema** “POLITICS is SUCH-quality (type as quality – principle of control)”: politics of faith (167, 169, 184, 186, 189, 196, 203, 208); politics of skepticism (168, 171, 227).

Apart from these remarks, we need to note that the constructed conceptual model can be converted into a cognitive model. It is implemented via cognitive operations; depending on a set of them, several cognitive models can be obtained (Zhabotinskaja, 2013). As an example, the JOY conceptual model was processed via R. Langacker’s prominence operation (frequency of salient schemas) (Langacker, 2008). This resulted in providing the JOY cognitive model organized according to M.V. Nikitin’s idea “intensional – implicational” (the former as a core of word lexical meaning, the latter as a set of its periphery) (Nikitin, 2007).

From our perspective, the POLITICS conceptual model can be converted into the field cognitive model “core – periphery (close, far, extreme)” (Popova & Sternin, 2007). We find this conversion possible when a set of two cognitive operations is applied to the conceptual model: prominence and cognitive interpretation. While the first is treated as the frequency of schemas (Langacker, 2008), the second is understood as a generalization of semantic descriptions of analysed units that name a researched concept (Popova & Sternin, 2007).

The above-mentioned operations make it possible to overlay the SLN methodology (Zhabotinskaja, 2013) over the semantic-cognitive analysis (Popova & Sternin, 2007). Such an extrapolation establishes our own idea of reproducing the field cognitive model of POLITICS (the left part in the list is the semantic-cognitive analysis; the right part is the overlaid SLN methodology):

1) Collecting a set of concept names – a COCA sample of the word politics (515 contexts);

2) Analyzing concept names – defining 2590 logical predicates of POLITICS;
3) Cognitive interpretation of results after analysing concept names (providing cognitive features of the concept generalized up to classifying ones) – sorting the logical predicates thematically (defining propositional schemas; their subtypes are equal to POLITICS cognitive features while schemas themselves are classifying features);

4) Modeling the concept:

4.1) Arrangement of classifying cognitive features to the image, information and interpretation sections (macrostructure of POLITICS) – schemas are respectively grouped;

4.2) Field arrangement of classifying cognitive features by their decreasing frequency – schemas are respectively related to the core, close, far and extreme periphery.

5) Conclusions – most frequent schemas stand for the main features of POLITICS in the minds of American people. Stages 1-3 are completed (they correspond to the POLITICS conceptual model). Thus, only stages 4-5 remain (the POLITICS cognitive model).

Macrostructure of POLITICS

1) As a perceptual or metaphorical object associated with POLITICS, the image element is revealed by two schemas: being qualitative schema “POLITICS is SUCH-quality (perception character as quality)”; comparison metaphor schema “CV-POLITICS is as if MT-correlate”. Their total amount is 36 of 2590 (1.4%).

2) As the essence of POLITICS, the information element is revealed by identification classification schema “ID-POLITICS is CL-classifier / class”. Its total amount is 70 of 2590 (2.7%).

3) As knowledge issued from the essence of POLITICS, the interpretation element is revealed by all other schemas. Their total amount is 2484 of 2590 (95.9%).

Moreover, the interpretation section is subdivided into zones where knowledge about the essence of POLITICS is differently considered. They are (Popova & Sternin, 2007): the valuation, encyclopaedic, utilitarian, social-cultural, regulatory and paraemological zones.

a) As general assessment of POLITICS essence, the valuation zone is represented by being qualitative schema “POLITICS is SUCH-quality” (all subtypes except for perception character as quality and type as quality). Its total amount within the interpretation section is 78 of 2484 (3.14%).

b) As consideration of POLITICS activity like an independent agent, the encyclopaedic zone is represented by:

4 being schemas “POLITICS is THERE-place / THEN-time / THAT MANY-quantity / SO-mode of being” (POLITICS existence in terms of place, time, quantity and mode of being);

4 action schemas “AG-POLITICS progresses SO-mode / TM-time / LC-place / because of CS-cause” (POLITICS evolution in terms of time, place and cause).

POLITICS itself can be a place / period where or when something evolves (action schema “AG-event occurs SO-mode, in LC/TM-POLITICS”). Simultaneously, POLITICS like an individual can act upon humans or provoke some results (action schema “AG/CR-POLITICS acts upon PT-human / makes FT-event / state (result)”).

The encyclopaedic zone covers 482 cases of 2484 (19.4%).

c) As pragmatic consideration of POLITICS, the utilitarian zone includes:

1 possession schema “OW-human has OD-POLITICS” (POLITICS is controlled by humans);

3 action schemas “AG-human enters / does not enter, leaves PT-POLITICS / because of CS-cause or with GL-goal / with IN-instrument” (POLITICS as the sphere is influenced by humans).

3 action schemas “AG/CR-human or event acts upon PT-POLITICS or makes FT-POLITICS (result) / with IN-instrument / with GL-goal” (POLITICS is deliberately guided).

1 being schema “POLITICS is SUCH-quality (type as quality). POLITICS as a guided essence is pragmatically classified.

4 action schemas “AG-human analyses PT-POLITICS with AT-attendant / with AD-addresssee / through MD-mediative / with IN-instrument” (POLITICS as a guided essence is pragmatically analysed).

1 action schema “AG-human analyses / does not analyse PT-patient with IN-POLITICS” (POLITICS itself can be used pragmatically as a relevant tool for analysis).

The utilitarian zone covers 1921 cases of 2484 (77.4%).
d) As consideration of POLITICS in terms of its links to people’s culture, the social-cultural zone is revealed by identification personification schema “ID-POLITICS is PS-personifier (proper name)” (names of works created by humans). Its amount is 3 of 2484 (0.1%).
e) No schemas were found that could be related to the regulatory (directive what one must do with the essence of POLITICS) or paroemiological (proverbs or aphorisms about POLITICS) zones.

Field organization of POLITICS

The decreasing frequency of 26 propositional schemas is used as a criterion for arrangement of the POLITICS fields. The value of the most frequent schema is 386 (“AG-human analyses PT-POLITICS with IN-instrument”). The value of the least frequent schemas is 3 (“AG-human enters / does not enter, leaves PT-POLITICS with IN-instrument”; “ID-POLITICS is PS-personifier (proper name)”; “POLITICS is THAT MANY-quantity”). Therefore, we find it reasonable to put such frequency limits for schemas when relating them to respective fields:

a) Core: 386-200;
b) Close periphery: 200-100;
c) Far periphery: 50-100;
d) Extreme periphery: 0-50.

This provides an opportunity to organize 26 schemas as fields of the POLITICS cognitive model (table 1). The frequency of the schemas is given in square brackets.

Table 1: The field cognitive model of POLITICS

| Core |
| --- |
| “AG-human analyses PT-POLITICS with IN-instrument” [386] |
| “POLITICS is SUCH-quality” [368] |
| “AG-human analyses PT-POLITICS with AT-attendant” [307] |
| “AG-human analyses PT-POLITICS through MD-mediative” [288] |
| “OW-human has OD-POLITICS” [264] |

| Close periphery |
| --- |
| “POLITICS is THERE-place” [196] |
| “AG-human analyses / does not analyse PT-patient with IN-POLITICS” [145] |

| Far periphery |
| --- |
| “POLITICS is THEN-time” [89] |
| “AG/CR-human / event acts upon PT-POLITICS / makes FT-POLITICS (result) with IN-instrument” [81] |
| “ID-POLITICS is CL-classifier / class” [70] |
| “AG-human enters / does not enter, leaves PT-POLITICS” [61] |
| “AG/CR-POLITICS acts upon PT-human / makes FT-event / state (result)” [51] |
| “AG-POLITICS progresses SO-mode” [50] |

| Extreme periphery |
| --- |
| “AG/CR-human / event acts upon PT-POLITICS / makes FT-POLITICS (result)” [46] |
| “AG-event occurs SO-mode, in LC/TM-POLITICS” [39] |
| “AG/CR-human / event acts upon PT-POLITICS / makes FT-POLITICS (result) with GL-goal” [33] |
| “CV-POLITICS is as if MT-correlate” [29] |
| “AG-POLITICS progresses SO-mode, THERE / LC” [23] |
| “AG-human enters / does not enter, leaves PT-POLITICS because of CS-cause / with GL-goal” [18] |
| “POLITICS exists SO-mode of being” [15] |
| “AG-POLITICS progresses SO-mode, THEN / TM” [12] |
| “AG-human analyses PT-POLITICS with AD-addressee” [6] |
| “AG-POLITICS progresses SO-mode, because of CS-cause” [4] |
| “AG-human enters / does not enter, leaves PT-POLITICS with IN-instrument” [3] |
| “ID-POLITICS is PS-personifier (proper name)” [3] |
| “POLITICS is THAT MANY-quantity” [3] |

The results of the field arrangement show it is reviewing political developments that is the most important for Americans in considering POLITICS as a social phenomenon (core). On the one hand, this review is realized by applying some instruments in media, which is accompanied by a certain attitude to developments. On the other hand, it is the ownership of POLITICS as well as its qualities that are actively analysed.

Besides, it is relevant for Americans to review other phenomena with or without politics as well (close periphery). Simultaneously, POLITICS realization in a certain place is quite interesting for American society.
It is less important for Americans to consider POLITICS in terms of its time implementation, progress, classification, change of authorities or results (far and extreme periphery).

CONCLUSIONS

Thus, the mental reconstruction of POLITICS as a contemporary social phenomenon via the tools of cognitive and corpus linguistics allows concluding that the American conceptual model of POLITICS is generally represented by 26 propositional schemas of basic frames. Their decreasing frequency in the corpus sample is a means for producing the field cognitive model (core – periphery (close, far, extreme)).

The quantity of schemas (26) and their frequency (2590) is rather relative than absolute. We processed only 1000 contexts of the query politics within its total COCA concordance (60643). Larger samples can provide different results. Therefore, the conceptual and cognitive models of POLITICS possibly require further research for clarification.

A great prospect for future study is opened by the cognitive model of POLITICS. Firstly, the generated cognitive model is not sole: we produced only a single cognitive model of many ones (with a set of cognitive interpretation and prominence). Other sets of operations would have provided different cognitive models (Zhobotinskaja, 2013). That is why new models of POLITICS can be built in the future.

Secondly, our idea of generating the field cognitive model (by overlaying the SLN methodology over the semantic-cognitive analysis) can be used for comparing POLITICS in different societies. For example, the given American English model (the COCA sample) may be contrasted with the corresponding British English model (the BNC sample). Subsequently, one may define what mental differences are between Americans and the British in considering POLITICS. Identically, not only POLITICS but also other social phenomena can be researched via such a combined methodology. Therefore, it can draw researchers’ interest in politology, sociology and psychology: specifically, to apply purely linguistics means as an additional tool for research in the political, sociological and psychological branches.

Moreover, the research results may be incorporated into new curricula for philology undergraduates and postgraduates (for example, when compiling such courses as “Corpus Linguistics”, “Cognitive Linguistics”, “Discourse Theory”, “Linguistic Semantics”, etc.). Besides, new Ph.D. projects in the corpus, cognitive, discourse and semantic branches can be performed thanks to the conducted research as well.

AUTHORS’ CONTRIBUTION

Nataliia Tatsenko: Analysing the COCA sample (defining logical predicates of POLITICS and their thematical sorting by propositional schemas); reconstruction of the POLITICS conceptual model

Vitali Stepanov: Discussion of the POLITICS conceptual model, a proposed methodology idea of its conversion into the field cognitive model; reconstruction and analysis of the POLITICS field cognitive model

Hanna Shcherbak: Introduction and literature review, methodology argumentation for the POLITICS conceptual model; collecting the COCA sample of the politics concordance and its pre-research processing

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