

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS

4.0 INTRODUCTION

The total number of sentences in the interview is 357. The interviewer, the late Tim Russet's dialogues have been omitted because his questions are not evaluated or analyzed in this research. The original transcript is found in Appendix 1. The sentence by sentence analysis of marked and unmarked sentences is found in Appendix 2.

4.1 AN EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS OF THE SENTENCES IN THE DISCOURSE

		<u>Percentage</u>
<u>Total Number of Sentences in the interview</u>	<u>357</u>	
<u>Number of marked sentences</u>	<u>103</u>	
<u>Sentences with modals</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>11.4 %</u>
<u>Sentences with lexical predicates</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>17 %</u>
<u>Total percentage of modalized sentences</u>		<u>28.4 %</u>
<u>Total percentage of unmodalized sentences</u>		<u>71.6 %</u>

Table 4.1: Analysis of modalized and unmodalized sentences

Based on Table 4.1, it is found that out of the 357 sentences of the interview, 41 sentences had auxiliary modals while 62 sentences had lexical predicates, which meant 103 sentences were marked sentences. Almost 30 percent of the whole interview contains modals as well as lexical predicates.

The speakers will be referred to by their initials. They are as follows:

Senator Graham or G

James Carville or C

Newt Gingrich or N

Patrick Buchanan or P

Mary Jo Matalin or M

The excerpts from the interview have been reproduced and presented in their original form and each sentence is represented by the speaker's initial and the number of the excerpt. For example G1 will refer to the first analysis of Graham's discourse, while B 5 refers to Buchanan's fifth sentence or Buchanan's fifth utterance in the interview.

4.2 A GRAMMATICAL ANALYSIS OF THE SPEAKERS OF A TELEVISION INTERVIEW - WAR IN IRAQ

This section describes the transcript of each speaker in the interview has been separated into sentences and analysis is being done at the sentence level. For the original transcript, please refer to Appendix 1. The text is followed by the Categorization Model table where the text is analyzed grammatically for its level of certainty, certainty focus, perspective and the time factor of the utterance. There will be references made to Chapter Two regarding the criterion and its relationship to the truth propositions of the utterances of each of the speakers. Each sentence or excerpt will be tagged with an alpha numeral code for clarity. The presence of

modals and lexical predicates are presented in Table 4.2 and Table 4.3 in Section 4.2.1 respectively.

4.2.1 SPEAKER 1: Senator Graham or G

The table below is an analysis of the number of auxiliary modals used in Senator Graham’s interview excerpts.

can	could	may	might	shall	should	will	would	must
2	0	0	0	0	4	3	6	0

Table 4.2: Frequency count of auxiliary modals used for speaker G.

Below is a table for the number of lexical predicates used in the discourse text for speaker G.

I think	I reported
4	1

Table 4.3: Frequency count of lexical predicates used in discourse text for speaker G.

G has also used 6 low certainty modals of **would** indicating events having a low possibility of occurring. The modal **should** is used 4 times to indicate an obligation or a duty, but an obligation that does need to be followed, as it is not mandatory like the modal **must**. **Should** is a weak modal of commitment to the truth proposition. The modal **will** is used once in question form.

G has used the lexical predicate “**I think**” four times and “**I reported**” once, indicating the frequency of uncertainty of topics discussed in his interview compared to his conviction of certainty.

The following are analysis tables of sentence by sentence analysis of marked sentences containing epistemic expressions.

Text G1

What Senator Kerry has said is that **if** he had taken the country to war based on what he knew at that time, he **would have taken** it to war in a different fashion; it **would have been** with allies, with a clear plan of occupation and exit from Iraq.

Analysis 1

Certainty Levels	Analysis: The use of “if” refers to a conditional event, something that has not happened and will not happen so the modal would shows very low certainty of the event uttered and the modal. Would has been used 2 times.
Perspective	Analysis: reported speech , subjective
Certainty Focus	Analysis : Based on abstract information
Time	Analysis : Past Tense

Text G2

I **would completely agree** with what Pat has just said and **would add** this, that the war in Iraq has been a distraction from the real war on terror.

Analysis 2

Certainty Levels	Analysis: would add, would completely agree. Would in grammatical terms is the past tense of the modal will, but here it represents an epistemic indication of a very low level strength of the commitment.
Perspective	Analysis : Speaker’s point of view
Certainty Focus	Analysis: personal opinion, subjective
Time	Analysis: Past tense

Text G3

He has been explicit and he needs to continue that. I **would suggest** he also needs to say that the issue is now beyond Iraq; it is now Iran; it is now North Korea.

Analysis 3

Certainty Levels	Analysis : Would suggest is a low certainty proposition, indicating that when the time arises the Senator might not even give his suggestion, maybe refraining to comment.
Perspective	Analysis: Speaker's view,
Certainty Focus	Analysis: An opinion, Subjective
Time	Analysis past tense

Text G4

Will we have a president for the next critical four years who **will apply** the same standards of judgment, or lack of judgment, preparation or lack of preparation, to wars in those countries that we have seen in Iraq?

Analysis 4

Certainty Levels	Analysis: Will we have a president ...is the inverted form of the modal in question form in the interrogative. Will apply , will we have shows a moderate level of certainty
Perspective	Analysis: personal opinion
Certainty Focus	Analysis: the modal will we have indicates a prediction, subjective.
Time	Analysis: future Tense

Text G5

I reported, with as much precision as **I can**, what General Franks told to me in that meeting at Central Command in February of 2002.

Analysis 5

Certainty Levels	Analysis : I reported
Perspective	Analysis: Speaker's power of authority because dynamic lexical predicates are used to express the subject's power.
Certainty Focus	Analysis : It is an objective statement based on actualities.
Time	Analysis : Past Tense

Analysis 6 : refer to Text G5

Certainty Levels	Analysis: I can is a dynamic modal used by a man of authority, indicating a very high certainty of actions and commitment because it refers to the ability of the subject.
Perspective	Analysis: Speaker's Power of Authority
Certainty Focus	Analysis : Factual statement of an action by the speaker, Objective
Time	Analysis : Present Tense

Text G6

He laid out a very precise strategy for fighting the war on terror. First, we **should win** the war in Afghanistan; second move to Somalia, which as he described was almost anarchy but with substantial number of al-Qaeda cells, then to Yemen, and that we **should be very careful** about Iraq because our intelligence was so weak that we didn't know what we were getting into.

Analysis 7

Certainty Levels	Analysis: should win, should be very careful. Should is considered a marker of epistemic necessity. Epistemic modals are applied on actions of the future. The modal should is a modal of duty and obligation. Epistemic modals must be performative in nature to be called epistemic, so the modal should here only expresses a likelihood of events occurring, so the level of certainty is moderate. For high certainty and conviction to the utterance the better choice is shall instead of should .
Perspective	Analysis: Speaker's view
Certainty Focus	Analysis: It is an objective assessment of a situation from a person in authority.
Time	Analysis: past tense

Text G7

And then, interestingly suggested that several European countries knew more about the reality of the situation in Iraq than we did, and that we **should look** to them for advice .

Analysis 8

Certainty Levels	Analysis : should look is used as epistemic necessity, but it is a likelihood of an event with moderate level of certainty
Perspective	Analysis: According to third party opinion, the suggestion is from some other source, as it refers anaphorically to the subject He in Text 7, which is identified as General Franks in Text 5, reported speech
Certainty Focus	Analysis: It is an objective assessment by an authorized spokesman of the military.
Time	Analysis: past tense

Text G8

I would agree with Speaker Gingrich.

Analysis 9

Certainty Levels	Analysis: Would agree is a low certainty modal and according to Palmer (1990), it is used to denote remote chances of anything happening. It is not considered epistemic because it is considered an unreal situation..
Perspective	Analysis: Speaker's Perspective
Certainty Focus	Analysis :Opinion of low esteem, Subjective
Time	Analysis Past Tense

Text G 9

If the commander in chief in Iraq feels that more troops are necessary and we are unable to fill that need either from Iraqis who are prepared to assume more of their defense of the country or international forces, then I think we don't have any choice.

Analysis 10

Certainty Levels	Analysis : If is a conditional which makes the low certainty expression unreal; I think is a low certainty expression
Perspective	Analysis: Speaker's View
Certainty Focus	Analysis: It is a subjective sentence because it is, from the speaker's point of view as he uses the conditional if. For an objective assessment, the speaker should quote Text 10 without the if conditional, and without the lexical predicate I think.
Time	Analysis: Present Tense

Text G10

I think the key question ought to be which of the many enemies that we face around the world, particularly in the Middle East and central Asia, has the greatest potential to kill Americans. And there is no question that greatest enemy is al-Qaeda and the other international terrorists.

Analysis 11

Certainty Levels	Analysis: I think indicates a low certainty expression, but it can also be a politeness strategy, a deliberative act either to invite opinion. It is a strategy where the speaker is not making a claim of his knowledge because the speaker is unsure of his facts.
Perspective	Analysis: speaker's view
Certainty Focus	Analysis : Subjective as it is an opinion based on attitude.
Time	Analysis: Present Tense

Text G11

They **should be** our primary focus and not the distraction of, as Pat has said, a foe but a foe that was contained.

Analysis 12

Certainty Levels	Analysis: should be is a very weak modal
Perspective	Analysis: speaker's view based on someone else
Certainty Focus	Analysis: subjective because it is an opinion.
Time	Analysis: Future Tense

Text G12

If there's one lesson that comes from both 9/11 and the Iraq War is the unreliability of American intelligence and I am distressed to say that but it is the truth. **I think** we have an urgent need to reform our intelligence agencies so that we **can recapture** the credibility of the world and we're feeling it already today. We don't have to get into an Iran situation. The Chinese are questioning our intelligence relative to North Korea, which is affecting the negotiations that are going on to try to disarm North Korea from its nuclear capabilities.

Analysis 13

Certainty Levels	Analysis: I think , here the speaker speaks with low certainty of what his government is able to do. The sentences are a combination of a dynamic modal and a low certainty lexical predicate, indicating a very low certainty overall situation. The speaker might be absolutely right but when he inserts an element of uncertainty in his expression, the certainty level falls.
Perspective	Analysis: Speaker's view
Certainty Focus	Analysis: It is a subjective utterance because the utterance is considered abstract as it expresses doubt. The speaker is uncertain about his truth proposition.
Time	Analysis: Present Tense

Analysis 14

Certainty Levels	Analysis: can recapture is a deontic as well as dynamic modal as it is quoted by people in power, so on its own it is a high certainty sentence, but it is preceded by the lexical predicate I think which makes it a low certainty sentence.
Perspective	Analysis: Speaker's View
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Objective, based on reliable information from speaker
Time	Analysis: Present Tense, because the modal CAN cannot be the Future Tense.

Text G13

I think that our policies have been the key to the terrorist motivation.

Analysis 15

Certainty Levels	Analysis: I think , is used to show low certainty, which means the speaker does not think that their policies were the cause of the war.
Perspective	Analysis: The Senator's perspective
Certainty Focus	Analysis: it is based on his own opinion, subjective
Time	Analysis: Present Tense

Text G14

In the book, **you'll see** several discussions with leaders in Egypt and Syria and Lebanon, and they all point to the urgency of the United States being fully engaged with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to try to bring it to a resolution and a concern that President Bush has not been significantly committed to achieving that goal .

Analysis 16

Certainty Levels	Analysis: you'll see , according to Chaffe's typology is a sensory perception judgment so it is of high certainty that the speaker has seen what he is talking about and he knows for sure others will see too. <i>Will</i> is a modal of prediction here. You" ll , is a contraction for the modal You will
Perspective	Analysis: From a Professional point of view, it is an objective statement based on actualities.
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Based on a report
Time	Analysis: Future Tense

4.2.2 Speaker 2 James Carville or C

Table 4.4 is an analysis of the number of auxiliary modals used in James Carville's or speaker C interview excerpts

can	could	may	might	shall	should	will	would	must
2	0	0	1	0	2	3	7	0

Table 4.4 Frequency count of auxiliary modals in James Carville's transcript

I think	I assume	I expect	well	sure	probably	possibly
17	1	1	1	1	2	2

Table 4.5: Frequency count of lexical predicates used in discourse text for speaker C

James Carville has used the modal **can** five times, and since the modal **can** is a dynamic modal, and its subject oriented, it indicates the power of the speaker. Two weak modals of uncertainty are used **would** and **might** are used seven times and once respectively indicating very little commitment to the utterances by the speaker. **Will** is a modal of prediction and it is used three times. The modal **should** is used two times indicating a non mandatory situation, where the speaker feels that there is no compulsion on the part of the listener to obey to regulations or adhere to obligations. The lexical predicate **I think**, was used 17 times throughout his utterances. **I assume** and **well** were used once and these are also expressions of uncertainty but known as hedges or mitigating devices. C also uses 5 lexical predicates of high certainty indicating his commitment to his utterances and they are **probably**, **possibly** and **I expect**.

The following are analysis tables of sentence by sentence analysis of marked sentences containing epistemic expressions.

Text C1

I think they're saying early next week, so **I assume** it's going to be Monday or Tuesday, or something like that. But last night, he was having dinner in his room with Senator Clinton, Chelsea.

Analysis 1

Certainty Levels	Analysis: I think is a moderate certainty level proposition indicating the speaker's commitment to the truth but it is a case of not absolute certainty. I assume is a lexical predicate indicating an affective value to the spoken text; it is an attitude marker indicating the speaker is taking for granted; he is very certain of an event, without prove which is very similar to I think .
Perspective	Analysis: It is based on information from a source so it is considered as a reported point of view
Certainty Focus	Analysis: It is not a judgment passed by the speaker of the truth as it is based on facts. Objective.
Time	Analysis: Present Tense

Text C 2

And he said, "Call me back. It's not like **I can go** anywhere."

Analysis 2

Certainty Levels	Analysis: Can go is a modal of volition where the speaker talks with authority about his actions so it is not epistemic. However it is in the negative.
Perspective	Analysis : speaker's perspective or point of view
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Its objective.
Time	Analysis: Present tense

Text C3

Well, sure. He's had a bad August. And--but it's eminently fixable. **I think** he's starting to do better. The question they've got to point to is--you know, the country has had a bad August. And once that happens, going to do fine.

Analysis 3

Certainty Levels	<p>Analysis: Well, sure. I think</p> <p>The speaker speaks with conviction because he uses certainty markers which are considered as epistemic comments with the use of <i>well</i> and <i>sure</i>. The certainty marker <i>I think</i> is a low certainty indicator because the speaker is not sure of his claim.</p> <p>It is a situation where the speaker is certain but not totally. So the passage is a moderate certainty passage.</p>
Perspective	<p>Analysis: Whatever is said is indirect involvement of 3rd parties as the authority as well as experts on the issues are identified and quoted.</p>
Certainty Focus	<p>Analysis: The facts are concrete as they are factual information. Objective assessment was made.</p>
Time	<p>Analysis: Present tense</p>

Text C4

And I think once they focus on that, from unemployment number to poverty numbers to more soldiers in Iraq being wounded to everything else--and **I think** that Senator Kerry is putting things in place that's going to improve his campaign .

Analysis 4

Certainty Levels	Analysis: I think , is a lexical verb and it is used two times within the same sentence indicting the speaker is unsure of his claims. He is unsure because he has does not unsure if the subjects 'they' will focus on the three issues he is talking about. It is hoped by the speaker that the subjects notice or focus all the factors he is quoting.
Perspective	Analysis: Speaker's point of view
Certainty Focus	Analysis: An opinion which consists of generalized statements cited by the speaker is considered subjective. The second sector of the text is also the speaker's personal opinion about a senator as it is not supported by facts.
Time	Analysis: Present tense

Text C5

I expect that to happen in the next three days.

Analysis 5

Certainty Levels	Analysis: I expect is a high certainty marker indicting the speaker's conviction to his truth proposition, but it contradicts the uncertainty of the previous sentences which is about the same issue, which is "putting things in place to improve their campaign"; the certainty level is rather confusing or ambiguous.
Perspective	Analysis: Speaker's perspective or point of view.
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Based on facts from authorized personnel so it is objective.
Time	Analysis: Present Tense

Text C 6

President Bush is doing nothing to put policy into place that's going to improve what's happening in America, and **I think** that's a big difference.

Analysis 6

Certainty Levels	Analysis: I think is a lexical verb, indicating the speaker's non commitment to his utterance because he is unsure. So this is a moderate certainty sentence.
Perspective	Analysis: reported point of view mixed with a personal opinion.
Certainty Focus	Analysis: It is a subjective comment based on attitude.
Time	Analysis: Present tense

Text C 7

And **I fully expect**, if you look at the totality of the polls, that this race **will be** single digits here next week.

Analysis 7

Certainty Levels	Analysis: I expect is a high certainty lexical verb, indicating commitment from the speaker to his utterance. The modal will indicates a prediction of events, but it is within the same sentence as the conditional if indicating an unreal situation. The speaker does not expect his listeners to look at the polls, but he is predicting its outcome.
Perspective	Analysis: Speaker's point of view based on facts,
Certainty Focus	Analysis: High Factuality and objective comment.
Time	Analysis: Present tense

Text C 8

You know, Tim, when Kerry gets back--this week there was a study by the Royal Institute of Foreign Affairs in Britain, **probably** the most prestigious foreign policy group in the world, that says basically Iraq is a failure.

Analysis 8

Certainty Levels	Analysis: Probably is a high certainty marker of a future event. It is an epistemic marker, and it is supported by evidence; when someone uses the definite modal probably, it means it is based on reliable information.
Perspective	Analysis: It is based on expert opinion
Certainty Focus	Analysis: It is based on factual information but an inference, which will make it subjective. The Royal Institute of Foreign affairs is considered by James Carville as a highly prestigious institution and he quotes the group's findings.
Time	Analysis: Present

Text C9

I'm not going to sit here and spin you--spin Democrats around the country that President--that Senator Kerry's had a good August. He hasn't. But I **can tell** you this: He knows that.

Analysis 9

Certainty Levels	Analysis: The modal can is a dynamic modal indicating power and actuality, so it is a high certainty sentence.
Perspective	Analysis : Speaker's perspective
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Subjective comment based on judgment.
Time	Analysis: Present tense

Text C 10

The best we **can hope** for is to muddle through. The most likely scenario is that you have a civil war with seven different things. I'm not going to sit here and spin you--spin Democrats around the country that President--that Senator Kerry's had a good August .

Analysis 10

Certainty Levels	Analysis: Can hope is a dynamic modal verb indicating what is possible or should be implemented. It is a commitment to the truth by the speaker as he uses it with the pronoun
Perspective	Analysis: speaker's view
Certainty Focus	Analysis : subjective, speaker's belief
Time	Analysis: Present Tense

Text C 11

The second point I want to make here is **I think** that what Senator Kerry needs to talk about is how, because of miscalculations--**I would call** it incompetence, but **we'll** leave the word "miscalculations"--in Iraq, we're bleeding \$200 billion of taxpayer money while we're watching the biggest increase in Medicare payments in the history of the program.

Analysis 11

Certainty Levels	Analysis: The modal will is a modal of volition as it is used by a man of authority. So it is not used as an epistemic device because it is a high certainty expression used by a man of authority. WILL is considered a modal of volition. I think is a lexical verb which acts as a modal indicating the speaker does not want to make a claim. In would call , the whole sentence is in the present tense but the modality marker would is in the past, indicating that the statement is a possibility or an ability of the past and not the present. Since there are two low uncertainty modalized expressions in the sentence, the sentence is of low certainty.
Perspective	Analysis: Speaker's view
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Based on factual information, so it is an objective assessment.
Time	Analysis: Present Tense

Text C 12

And, you know, **I think** the president knew that when he spoke Thursday night when he was saying how satisfied he was with everything.

Analysis 12

Certainty Levels	Analysis : The lexical verb or lexical predicate I think is a moderate level certainty marker as the speaker abstains from making a claim. The speaker is not committed to his utterance.
Perspective	Analysis : Speaker's perspective
Certainty Focus	Analysis: It is based on a belief which makes the sentence subjective .
Time	Analysis: Present tense

Text C13

You know what? **I can look** back and say, "The authorization vote, had we not gone to war and watched, had we not gone to war, we **would have left** inspectors in there." We didn't go to war with the right plan, I mean--and that's the point. There was no planning for this. The vice president sat right in this chair and said, "We expect to be greeted with roses." We were going to be liberators. They were told otherwise. Now, the president has admitted that, has admitted that he made this mistake. This is a mistake of a giant proportion. And what's the consequence of this to the American people? We're in a quagmire in Iraq. We're spending money

Analysis 13

Certainty Levels	Analysis: Can is a dynamic modal indicating the speaker's power or authority. Can look indicates the ability of the speaker to reflect on the past and speak his mind. would have left is a low certainty modal indicating an event which might have existed in the past.
Perspective	Analysis: Speaker's perspective
Certainty Focus	Analysis: It's a subjective because the discourse was not uttered at the time the event occurred and the speaker is expressing an exactly contradictory opinion to his previous judgement of what his government should have done.
Time	Analysis: Can look (Present Tense), Would have left (Past Tense)

Text C 14

Not at all because **if** the war **would have been authorized** and the president, in the time that he went to war--we knew there weren't--we had a pretty good idea there weren't weapons of mass destruction. Walter Pincus knew it, Washington Post knew it. The CIA knew it.

Analysis 14

Certainty Levels	Analysis: would have been authorized indicates a state of probability in the past, and not present, so it is a low certainty modal. But within the same sentence it is preceded by the conditional if which indicates a situation which does not exist.
Perspective	Analysis: Speaker's perspective
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Belief
Time	Analysis: Past tense

Text C 15

And so John Kerry **would have never gone** to war when he was given the lighter information from March

Analysis 15

Certainty Levels	Analysis: would have never gone is a low certainty modal as it refers to a state of possibility in the past; an action that did not occur.
Perspective	Analysis: Speaker's view
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Speaker's opinion. Subjective,
Time	Analysis: Past Tense

Text C 16

You know, it's a shame, because Senator Miller's had a distinguished mid-career, and I'm very sad for him and the people that work for him that he's going to be remembered, as Joe Klein said, you know, **probably** the most, you know, hate-filled speech that he's ever seen at a convention

Analysis 16

Certainty Levels	Analysis: Probably , The lexical predicate above is an epistemic marker of certainty, also called an adverbial modifier. It is a high certainty marker.
Perspective	Analysis: Reported speech, from other sources and in this context it is a quote by Joe Klein.
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Subjective because speaker is emotional with his own views, while reviewing a factual event.
Time	Analysis: Present Tense

Text C 17

But the problem is, how does a man who sits on this thing, the vice president, who says that we expect to be greeted with roses and you said--you asked him in a follow-up question, "Well, suppose there's insurgents?" He said, "Tim, we don't expect that." How **could he possibly, possibly** question John Kerry's judgment about being fit to make decisions as a commander in chief?

Analysis 17

Certainty Levels	Analysis: could possibly is a low certainty epistemic expression with possible +modal because it behaves as a conditional, indicating no implication of actuality. It is rather ambiguous. It is like saying cannot, can, can , a direct paraphrasing of the two epistemic expressions possibly.
Perspective	Analysis: Speaker's Views
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Subjective assessment.
Time	Analysis: Past tense

Text C 18

The record of this administration is already out there. The president has admitted--and when it comes to the war on terror, in June, President Bush said, we **can win** the war on terror .

Analysis 18

Certainty Levels	Analysis: Can win is a modal of volition as it is an utterance by a person of authority. Can is a dynamic modal indicating high certainty in the proposition.
Perspective	Analysis: Reported speech
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Objective assessment
Time	Analysis: Present tense

TEXT C 19

By August, he had changed his mind and said we **can't win** the war on terror

Analysis 19

Certainty Levels	Analysis: The negative of can is can't and this utterance indicates a high certainty because it is a dynamic modal.
Perspective	Analysis It is a quote from someone else, which includes the speaker as well as the listener, as a reported speech utterance.
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Objective comment based on a report.
Time	Analysis: Present Tense

Text C 20

So **I think** there are legitimate questions about judgment.

Analysis 20

Certainty Levels	Analysis: I think is a very low certainty expression., because the speaker is not making a claim of certainty.
Perspective	Analysis: Speaker's point of view
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Subjective comment because it is the speaker's opinion.
Time	Analysis: Present Tense

Text C 21

I think there are legitimate questions that don't relate to what happened in Vietnam or not. But they relate to the record of this administration, the miscalculations, the errors and they are all in that report from this royal institute in London, that we've already lost this. We're not going to have a democracy there.

Analysis 21

Certainty Levels	Analysis: I think is a lexical predicate indicating uncertainty as the speaker is unsure of his claims, or he deliberately does not want to make a claim of the situation, which is he knows about and states in the next sentence. The speaker does want a direct confrontation of views from his fellow participants who also belong to the opposing party.
Perspective	Analysis: Speaker's perspective
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Judgment based on speaker's opinion so it is a subjective utterance.
Time	Analysis: Present tense

Text C 22

I'm not sure this is going to be, either. **I'm not sure.** **And I think...**

Analysis 22

Certainty Levels	Analysis: I'm not sure , and I think are low certainty markers
Perspective	Analysis: Speaker's point of view
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Opinion by speaker so it is subjective
Time	Analysis: Present tense

Text C 23

Yeah. I mean, **I think** it not--what I--the reason that I've become a little more optimistic is **I** you're going to see that problem being addressed early this week. **I think** Senator Kerry's already changed from this August strategy, which is--let's just say that it was a--mistakes were made, and we're moving on. **And I think** if that happens, **I think** this thing is going to come back, and **I think** people are dissatisfied that this administration is so satisfied with things.

Analysis 23

Certainty Levels	Analysis: The lexical predicate I think is used 8 times to indicate a low certainty proposition. The whole passage has no modal, but the modality is expressed by I think , which is an epistemic uncertainty marker. It indicates no confidence in the truth of the utterance. The speaker is totally withholding claims to the truth by using the I think lexical predicate to mitigate and manoeuvre a sensitive situation, thus creating doubt. Or he is being cautious and he dares not make a claim.
Perspective	Analysis: The utterances are the speaker's point of view.
Certainty Focus	Analysis: The use of I think can be considered as assessments or predictions which place the discourse as abstract information and therefore it is subjective.
Time	Analysis: Present tense

Text C 24

The senator said at his convention that he **would respond** with certain and swift action after an attack.

Analysis 24

Certainty Levels	Analysis: would respond is a low certainty marker indicating a reaction which might have occurred in the past but will not occur in the present day, indicating non actuality
Perspective	Analysis: Reported speech
Certainty Focus	Analysis : Objective, (Chaffe's typology) Chaffe's Typology lists sensory perception as high certainty, so when it is based on this speaker attending a convention and relating what he had heard.
Time	Analysis : Past Tense

4.2.3 Speaker 3 Newt Gingrich, or N

The table below is an analysis of the number of auxiliary modals used in Newt Gingrich's interview excerpts

can	could	may	Might	shall	should	will	would	must
2	0	0	1	0	2	3	7	0

Table 4.6 : Frequency count of auxiliary modals in Newt Gingrich's transcript or speaker N

I think	I said	I believe	I think absolutely
9	1	1	1

Table 4.7 : Frequency count of lexical predicates used in discourse text for speaker N

This speaker has spoken in the interview with seven low certainty modals of the **would** variety, indicating unreal situations. He has used the modal **should** which is a modal of obligation to perform and obey but it is not mandatory. He has used the weak modal **might** which is similar to would indicating uncertainty and no convictions to truth propositions. Modal **can** is a dynamic modal indicating the ability of the speaker. The modal is used three times and it can be used as a modal of volition or prediction.

The following are analysis tables of sentence by sentence analysis of marked sentences containing epistemic expressions.

Text N 1

I think absolutely, Tim.

Analysis 1

Certainty Levels	Analysis: I think absolutely , Absolutely is high certainty marker preceded by low certainty marker , indicating a moderate level certainty expression.
Perspective	Analysis: Speaker's View
Certainty Focus	Analysis : This is subjective comment because it is not supported by facts. However if the statement is cataphorically linked to Text N 2, then it is an objective comment based on a true event.
Time	Analysis: Present tense

Text N 2

You can't be in the middle of a real war and have real effort by your enemy to kill you and not have some impact.

Analysis 2

Certainty Levels	Analysis: can't be, negative polarity of the modal CAN in contraction indicates a dynamic speaker, because the modal CAN is a dynamic modal used by people who are sure of their utterances, so this is a high level certainty statement.
Perspective	Analysis: Factual comment based on a true event.
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Objective statement because he is indicating to his listeners and involving them with the real situation which is War in Iraq.
Time	Analysis : Present Tense

Text N 3

This is a war election; this is not a peace and prosperity election. And the country **will have to render** summary judgment: Is President Bush right that this is a necessary war?

Analysis 3

Certainty Levels	Analysis: will have to render is moderate certainty marker, as it is a prediction of an event which has not yet occurred, but the probability is there for it to occur.
Perspective	Analysis: Speaker's opinion
Certainty Focus	Analysis : opinion based sentence, which is subjective
Time	Analysis: Future Tense

Text N 4

I think this is the central question of whether or not the commander in chief **should stay** or whether or not you need a new commander in chief.

Analysis 4

Certainty Levels	<p>Analysis :</p> <p>I think indicates uncertain circumstances, while should stay is a low certainty marker. I think is also considered a conventionalized indicator of polite behavior, so the speaker could be showing respect towards someone in authority, and in this case the commander in chief. It is a counter-claim-making device used by speakers to protect themselves because it can contradict existing facts.</p> <p>Should stay is a weak modal of duty and obligation, and it is weaker than the modal must, so the action of staying can be annulled, meaning the commander in chief can leave. The speaker is actually telling the commander in chief to leave but in a respectful way, beating round the bush way, to save the face of the Commander.</p> <p>The whole sentence becomes a low certainty sentence.</p>
Perspective	Analysis : Speaker's View
Certainty Focus	Analysis:It expresses the speaker's feelings and emotions , so it makes the sentence subjective.
Time	Analysis : Present Tense, Past tense

Text N 5 I believe it is unequivocally a necessary war

Analysis 5

Certainty Levels	Analysis : It is a mixture of certainty with uncertainty, I believe is a hedging device classified as an attitude marker, very similar with I think . It is a moderate certainty expression.
Perspective	Analysis: Speaker's point of view
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Subjective because it is a personal opinion.
Time	Analysis : Present Tense

Text N 6

And **I think** what you just saw in the Chechen attack on Russians is a reminder of how **absolutely right** Senator John McCain was on Monday night to say, "The question is not war or peace. The question is war or something much worse."

Analysis 6

Certainty Levels	Analysis: I think is a moderate to low certainty indicator but it is used in the same sentence with the term absolute right which is classified as absolute certainty. It is a true event but made shady with the expressions I think .
Perspective	Analysis: Directly involved parties, the victims.
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Objective expression as well as being ambiguous.
Time	Analysis : Present Tense

Text N 7

And let me just say, before we go to our two good friends, imagine a world in which Saddam Hussein was still trying to get weapons; imagine a world in which Saddam Hussein was still paying \$25,000 per suicide bomber; imagine a world in which terrorists were still active, trying to organize themselves in Baghdad without this kind of counteroffensive. **I think that would be** a much more dangerous world than where we are now.

Analysis 7

Certainty Levels	Analysis: I think is a moderate level certainty device and would be is a low certainty modal, indicating uncertainty. I think expresses a non claiming expression of the truth while would indicates an unreal situation.
Perspective	Analysis : Speaker's Point of View
Certainty Focus	Analysis : It is an opinion so the sentence is subjective.
Time	Analysis : Present tense and Past tense

Text N 8

Well, let me just go through--because several things **shouldn't** be left unchallenged. Senator Graham talks about Hamas and Hezbollah

Analysis 8

Certainty Levels	Analysis: Well , is a hedging device used as a modality device, it is usually a mitigating linguistic device. Shouldn't be unchallenged is a low certainty marker. The modal shouldn't is negative. Should is a modal of obligation and duty, but it is a weak modal of necessity when compared to the modal must. There is no compulsion placed on the listeners, obligations and duty aside, but since it is in the negative it can mean just the opposite.
Perspective	Analysis: Speaker's opinion which is mitigated.
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Subjective statement because it is based on emotion and attitude
Time	Analysis: Past Tense

Text N 9

The fact is, Saddam Hussein was paying \$25,000 to the family of every Hamas and Hezbollah bomber.

Analysis 9

Certainty Levels	Analysis: The fact is an absolute high certainty epistemic expression, because it indicates the speaker knows exactly what has happened which means total involvement of the speaker with the topic indicated.
Perspective	Analysis: Directly involved parties who are the, the victims., recipients of the payment. The information is a direct report from the war zone where American Intelligence gathered information.
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Objective because the speaker feels he can prove what he is saying.
Time	Analysis: Present Tense

Text N 10

The fact, is Ansar al-Islam, which is a terrorist organization, was in Iraq. This is part of the war on terror.

Analysis 10

Certainty Levels	Analysis: The fact is an absolute high certainty epistemic expression, involvement with the topic indicator. The fact is an absolute high certainty expression.
Perspective	Analysis: Indirectly involved 3 rd parties example the experts.
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Objective because the speaker must have the facts to make such claims.
Time	Analysis: Present tense

Text N11

Second, as you point out, General Tommy Franks **apparently** thought this was a very real part of the war on terror, because he spoke at the Republican convention endorsing the president.

Analysis 11

Certainty Levels	Analysis: apparently (meaning is from appearances), Chaffe's typology considers visual perception as true, so it is a high certainty proposition (Refer to Chapter 2).
Perspective	Analysis: Expert point of view, indirect involvement of third parties.
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Objective because it is based on reports made at a convention.
Time	Analysis : Past Tense

Text N12

So I **can cite** clips from *MEET THE PRESS* where I've already agreed with Jim Schlesinger before his report.

Analysis 12

Certainty Levels	Analysis: can cite is a dynamic modal where can indicates high certainty expression.
Perspective	Analysis: Point of View from third party experts.
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Objective, because it is supported with clips or evidence.
Time	Analysis : Present tense

Text N13

I think it was a mistake.

Analysis 13

Certainty Levels	Analysis: I think , is used as an expression to avoid claim making, thus protecting the speaker from being challenged by his listeners. It is used to convey deference and respect for readers.
Perspective	Analysis: Speaker's point of view, commenting on a factual event in an uncertain manner.
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Subjective comment because it is a personal opinion.
Time	Analysis : Present Tense

Text N 14

I think Tommy Franks' campaign was brilliant.

Analysis 14

Certainty Levels	Analysis: I think is a moderate level certainty expression where the speaker is withholding full commitment to his claim. The speaker does not want to express his awe of Tommy Franks whom he considers as excellent, so he does not come out right out and say what he wants to say. On the other hand, the speaker also uses Aristotle's political rhetoric based on ethos, his own credibility, pathos trying to appeal and persuade his listeners to agree with him. Karkkainan calls this a strategy of being polite and humble to the listeners.
Perspective	Analysis: Speaker's perspective.
Certainty Focus	Analysis: It is the speaker's judgment or assessment
Time	Analysis: Present Tense.

Text N15

I think that **would be** a much more dangerous world than where we are now.

Analysis 15

Certainty Levels	Analysis: I think is used by the speaker because he does not want to make a claim so it is a low certainty expression. It is also a persuasion tactic to appeal to the pathos, or affective part of the listeners. Would be is used to indicate a tentative or an unreal situation.
Perspective	Analysis : Speaker's point of view
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Subjective opinion because it is based on attitude.
Time	Analysis : Present tense

Text N16

And the real question--**I think** Pat Buchanan put it pretty clear?

Analysis 16

Certainty Levels	Analysis: I think is a low certainty marker. Newt Gingrich is commenting on his fellow participant's comments, and he uses I think , also a rhetoric art of persuasive talk known as pathos. Refer to Chapter Two, Page 7..
Perspective	Analysis: Speaker's point of view
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Subjective comment based on opinion.
Time	Analysis : Present Tense

Text N 17

Would John Kerry, as commander in chief, **hang** tough until the Iraqi people have a free country, or **would he find** some excuse to withdraw, even **if** it led to a dictatorship or, even worse, to a vicious civil war.

Analysis 17

Certainty Levels	Analysis: Would hang, would find are low certainty markers in the past indicating events that never took place.
Perspective	Analysis : Speaker's point of view
Certainty Focus	Analysis : It is a subjective opinion
Time	Analysis : Past Tense WOULD indicates low certainty

Text N18

We **might** and **I think** the president **will say** that he **will do** what General Abizaid recommends, but we do not need a 500,000 or 600,000-man force.

Analysis 18

Certainty Levels	Analysis : might is an extremely low certainty marker, but it is epistemic, meaning ‘t might be possible’, but in a remote sense. Might is used when the speaker wants to indicate less certainty, indicating an unreal situation. I think , is an expression of politeness in this sentence as the speaker is talking about his President or Ruler and is avoiding making a claim as claim making must be supported with data or evidence. will say , and will do are high certainty modals indicating actions.
Perspective	Analysis : reported point of view
Certainty Focus	Analysis : Third party involvement, therefore it is subjective
Time	Analysis : Past Tense

Text N 19

Sometime in the next six months, we're going to be there and **I think** over time we're going to grind down the terrorists and the evil people.

Analysis 19

Certainty Levels	Analysis : I think is a low certainty comment because the speaker does not want to make a claim for fear of direct challenge from his listeners.
Perspective	Analysis : Speaker's point of view
Certainty Focus	Analysis: It is subjective because the speaker is not making a claim with certainty.
Time	Analysis : Present Tense

Text N 20

Tim, listen, **can I just interject** something here for a second because **I think** it's too easy to just chant al-Qaeda and ignore things.

Analysis 20

Certainty Levels	Analysis: can interject is a dynamic modal indicating the man is using his power to ask or offer. Here the level of certainty is high, while the second part of the sentence uses I think and it is a low level certainty marker. I think is used to avoid making a direct claim as the speaker does not want a direct challenge from his listeners.
Perspective	Analysis : Speaker's point of view
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Subjective as it is an opinion
Time	Analysis : Present Tense

Text N 21

If we end up with a North Korea selling nuclear weapons to terrorists or we end up with an Iran giving nuclear weapons to terrorists or if Saddam's 12 laboratories, which we know existed now--we found all 12 of them—12 laboratories run by a secret police to develop biological weapons and been giving to terrorists, no one **should underestimate** why the president said "axis of evil" and how dangerous these three rogue states were, these three rogue dictatorships were if their weapons end up in terrorist hands.

Analysis 21

Certainty Levels	Analysis : If conditional is used to indicate an impossible event. Should underestimate is a moderate level certainty negated with the If conditional to an unreal status.
Perspective	Analysis: speaker's point of view
Certainty Focus	Analysis : Abstract information based on subjectivity
Time	Analysis : Future conditional

Text N 22

It is available to the public and we just have to tie together nuclear weapons in North Korea, nuclear weapons in Iran, the potential for nuclear, chemical and biological weapons in Iraq and **the fact** that they **would clearly give** these weapons to people who have said publicly they're prepared to kill million of Americans. That's a public statement.

Analysis 22

Certainty Levels	Analysis : The lexical predicate the fact indicates a high level certainty information of weapons given out while would clearly give is a low level certainty modal as it is supposed to be an action of the past making the situation an unreal situation.
Perspective	Analysis: The details are part of a statement made by the aggressors who said they would kill in public and heard by the speaker's people. It is grammatically a reported speech act.
Certainty Focus	Analysis :It is an objective utterance based on a public statement by America's aggressors
Time	Analysis : Present Tense

Text N 23

Well, let me go through the facts. President Bush is the first American president to actively advocate a Palestinian state but he said it has to be a Palestinian state based on democracy and a willingness to co-exist with Israel.

Analysis 23

Certainty Levels	Analysis : Well , is a mitigating term, a hedging device, and it refers to the speaker indicating the possibility of something happening is high.
Perspective	Analysis: It is a factual statement, but mitigated.
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Objective because of the word "facts", like the statement which is factual to the American people.
Time	Analysis: Present Tense

Text N 24

He said basically if we **would pull** out of the biggest oil region on the planet, allow people like bin Laden to dominate the oil supply of the entire industrial world, give up the right to have female American soldiers go in places that bin Laden defines--and remember, the al-Qaeda irreconcilables define Spain as al-Jazeera and argue that they have a right to reclaim Spain, and some of them have demand that Rome become a Muslim city.

Analysis 24

Certainty Levels	<p>Analysis:</p> <p>The IF conditional renders the whole paragraph as unreal and would pull out is a low certainty modal expression indicating that the events stated in the whole one sentence paragraph is unreal.</p> <p>When the pronoun <i>we</i> is linked to the modal 'would', it indicates the speaker involving the listeners, but it is stated with the conditional IF indicating a hypothetical situation.</p>
Perspective	Analysis: Reported point of view, based on information gathered because of the expression "He said....."
Certainty Focus	Analysis: An unreal situation, which indicates a hypothetical situation and this is classified as subjective.
Time	Analysis :Past Tense

Text N 25

So it's a little bit too easy to say, "Gee, **if only** we betrayed Israel and abandoned democracy in the Middle East and withdrew from the region, everything **would work**."

Analysis 25

Certainty Levels	<p>Analysis:</p> <p>The use of If indicates an unreal situation. Would work is a very low certainty modal indicating a past event, so the whole situation does not exist.</p>
Perspective	Analysis: Speaker's point of view
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Considered an abstract situation
Time	Analysis: Past Tense

4.2.4 Speaker 4 Pat Buchanan or P

The table below is an analysis of the number of auxiliary modals used in Patrick Buchanan's interview excerpts.

can	could	may	might	shall	should	will	would	must
2	3	0	0	0	2	1	6	0

Table 4.8 Frequency count of auxiliary modals in Patrick Buchanan's transcript or speaker P

I think	I believe	certainly
5	4	2

Table 4.9: Frequency count of lexical predicates used in discourse text for speaker P

This candidate uses two dynamic modals **can**, and the volitional modal **will** which is used as a conditional. The other modals are all low certainty modals indicating low certainty in the truth propositions being uttered.

The speaker also uses lexical predicates or verbs like **certainly** (2 times), **I believe** (4 times) and **I think** (5 times) and these indicate different levels of certainty. **Certainly** and **I believe** are high level commitments to the truth by the speaker while **I think** is a low level certainty.

The following are analysis tables of sentence by sentence analysis of marked sentences containing epistemic expressions.

Text P 1

Certainly, Tim, **I believe** it is an unnecessary war; it is an unwise war. The United States, by invading that country and taking over its capital, we have inflamed the entire Middle East and Arab and Islamic world. American prestige and support for the president and the United States has never been lower in that part of the world. And Mr. Rumsfeld's question has been answered.

Analysis 1

Certainty Levels	Analysis: Certainly plus I believe , both high certainty expressions, indicate a high commitment to the truth from the speaker towards his ideas and it is a high certainty comment.
Perspective	Analysis: The speaker's perspective
Certainty Focus	Analysis: It is an opinion, because he agrees with the speaker and gives a high certainty reply as a response.
Time	Analysis: Present tense

Text P 2

He asked, "Have we been creating more terrorists than we are killing?" When he said that, some 5,000 insurgents were said to be in Baghdad by General Abizaid. The latest count is 20,000. **I believe** this war itself is creating a pool, a spawning pool out of which Osama bin Laden can draw recruits.

Analysis 2

Certainty Levels	Analysis : I believe , is a high certainty truth proposition, but classified as reasoning and thinking in USAS Code X.2.1.
Perspective	Analysis: The speaker's perspective
Certainty Focus	Analysis: The speaker is assessing the situation
Time	Analysis: Present Tense

Text P 3

I think that there has been nothing that has done more to put Osama bin Laden, **if you will**, in the mainstream of the Arab cause of nationalism than what appears to the Arabs to be to be a near-imperial adventure by the United States in Iraq.

Analysis 3

Certainty Levels	Analysis: I think, if you will are uncertainty lexical predicates and with the inclusion of the conditional IF , the whole sentence becomes an unreal comment, indicating very low commitment to the statement uttered. The speaker does not believe his in own convictions.
Perspective	Analysis: The speaker's perspective, as well as reported point of view (but the If conditional makes the act unreal.)
Certainty Focus	Analysis: The speaker's emotional opinion so it is a subjective comment.
Time	Analysis: Present Tense

Text P 4

Well, certainly, the Iraqi people are **probably** safer as a consequence of the American liberation and overthrow of Saddam Hussein.

Analysis 4

Certainty Levels	Analysis: Well , is a mitigating linguistic device (hedge), Certainly is a high certainty lexical predicate. Probably is also a high certainty lexical predicate acting as an epistemic modal. According to USAS Code A 7 probably is a modal lexis which is considered abstract. However Jordan R,s explanation in Table 5 says probable is a moderate level of certainty expression. A statement of claim being made but not totally convicted to the truth proposition.
Perspective	Analysis : Speaker's point of view
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Based on factual information on the events at that time.
Time	Analysis : The Present tense

Text P 5

The problem, Tim, is this: Now, that Saddam Hussein is gone, what we have is a situation in Fallujah and Ramadi where Sunni fundamentalists are in control and the Shias are rising up in the south, and we--and Americans are dying, and we do not have enough troops, **in my judgment**, in place to win this war.

Analysis 5

Certainty Levels	Analysis: In my judgment , is a high certainty expression, acting as an epistemic, but it is the judgment of the speaker and no one else.
Perspective	Analysis: Speaker's point of view
Certainty Focus	Analysis : Subjective because it is a personal opinion
Time	Analysis: Present Tense

Text P 6

What you **could have** here and what the risk is: that having overthrown this one devil, we **could have** seven devils enter in his place.

Analysis 6

Certainty Levels	Analysis : Could have, could have..... is a low certainty modal because it is only a statement of possibility and not actuality. The action and the event will not occur.
Perspective	Analysis : The speaker's own perspective
Certainty Focus	Analysis : An opinion based on a prediction
Time	Analysis: Past tense

Text P 7

This **could turn** into a failed state in chaos and civil war, where the United States is forced out or either forced to double our troops in there. And if that happens, Tim, we've got ourselves a hellish situation there. It was not a problem. Saddam was a criminal and a thug and a brute, but he was no threat to a country that flew 40,000 sorties over Iraq in 10 years. He did not shoot down a single one.

Analysis 7

Certainty Levels	Analysis: could turn , could indicate a possibility of an event, not an actuality, so it's a low certainty statement.
Perspective	Analysis : Speaker's point of view
Certainty Focus	Analysis: An opinion based on a prediction.
Time	Analysis: Past Tense

Text P 8

This is the question that, **I think, should be put** to John Kerry and the president of the United States in the debates: "Mr. President, if John Abizaid comes to you and says, 'We **can't do** it with the present complement, we need 75,000 more American troops'--what **would you do**, John Kerry?"

Analysis 8

Certainty Levels	<p>Analysis: I think is a low certainty lexical prediction because of low commitment to the whole truth proposition.</p> <p>In should be put, should is a moderate level certainty marker, as it is acting as an obligation or duty but not compulsory like the modal <i>must</i> which is definite.</p> <p>Can't do is in the negative polarity form of a dynamic action, and of high certainty as it is an utterance of a man with power. Can't do is a negative polarity dynamic modal, indicating the speaker speaks with full commitment to his proposition.</p> <p>Would do is a low certainty commitment and it is in the interrogative form of a question that was never asked as it is a past non -actuality. The whole sentence consist of two parts, the first part questioning the people in power is not mandatory, and the</p>
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	second part is a section of dynamism but not a compulsion to act in the vent discussed. The whole sentence is of low certainty.
Perspective	Analysis: It is a personal assessment by the speaker.
Certainty Focus	Analysis: It is a very long sentence with four expressions of modality, of which two are of low certainty and subjective opinion.
Time	Analysis: Present tense

Text P 9

What **would** you **do**, George W. Bush?

Analysis 9

Certainty Levels	Analysis : would you do in a question form or in the interrogative is a low certainty question, indicating a non actuality and the person the question is directed to does not have to respond, as it is a question for a reply in the tentative state.
Perspective	Analysis: Speaker's point of view
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Subjective. Because It is a question expecting an answer but a tentative form of an answer with the modal would .
Time	Analysis: Past Tense

Text P 10

If it were up to me, Tim, I think I **would execute** a strategic withdrawal from Iraq.

Analysis 10

Certainty Levels	Analysis: If conditional indicates the whole sentence is an unreal act, so the event will never occur. When the If conditional collocates with the modal would execute which is a low certainty modal, the event discussed will never occur.
Perspective	Analysis: Speaker's point of view
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Abstract information so it is subjective
Time	Analysis : Past tense

Text P 11

I think it was a terrible mistake.

Analysis 11

Certainty Levels	Analysis: I think is a low certainty lexical predicate which indicates very low commitment from the utterer of the sentence.
Perspective	Analysis : Speaker's perspective
Certainty Focus	Analysis: It is an opinion., where the speaker is with- holding facts, so it is a subjective statement.
Time	Analysis : Past Tense

Text P 12

We're going to pay consequences one way or the other. And my feeling is probably it **would be** better for us in the long run **if** we withdrew.

Analysis 12

Certainty Levels	Analysis: would be is a low certainty modal of conviction by the speaker and with the IF conditional it is an unreal situation.
Perspective	Analysis : Speaker's point of view
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Subjective opinion
Time	Analysis: Past Tense

Text P 13

Who promised us, Tim, a cakewalk? Who promised the president a rose garden? Who failed to prepare for what **would happen** after we took Baghdad and Iraq?

Analysis 13

Certainty Levels	Analysis: would happen is a question which will be responded with a non actuality event. So it is a question form which will not demand a high certainty answer. This is a low certainty question as it behaves like a conditional.
Perspective	Analysis: the speaker is conjuring hypothetical situations. The speaker was implying that someone did not prepare them to go to war.
Certainty Focus	Analysis: According to the criterion's characteristics, the statement above is an opinion which is considered abstract assessment. So it is subjective.
Time	Analysis: Past Tense

Text P 14

Who are the men responsible for this and why has the president of the United States not removed any of them? Most of them over in the Pentagon are the neoconservative war hawks who planned, prepared and propagandized for a war in Iraq as far back as 1996. This was their class project. **I believe** they imposed it upon the president. The president bears full responsibility for accepting it.

Analysis 14

Certainty Levels	Analysis: According to USAS Code X.2.1, Chapter 2, I believe is classified as a thought or a belief, because it has to do with conceptualizing, formulating or having an image, acts relating to reasoning, thinking with a certain level of belief or skepticism. It is an epistemic expression of assumption or presumption.
Perspective	Analysis : Speaker's Point of View
Certainty Focus	Analysis: It is considered subjective because it has to do with a person's level of reasoning.
Time	Analysis: Past Tense

Text P 15

But why he has not removed these people from office, **I cannot** for the life of me understand.

Analysis 15

Certainty Levels	Analysis: I cannot is a dynamic modal CAN in the negative, , Can or cannot means able or unable to do something. Here the speaker is admitting that he has no ability in understanding what is happening., which is an expression native speakers will understand easily.
Perspective	Analysis : Speaker's Point of View
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Subjective. It is an attitude based on emotion.
Time	Analysis : Present Tense

Text P 16

Sure. That's one of the reasons given by Osama bin Laden. In his fatwa of 1998, he wrote that there are three causes of the problems and three causes for a declaration of war by all Arabs and good Muslims against the United States. One, America's imperial presence on the sacred soil of Saudi Arabia. Secondly, the sanctions policy against Iraq which was persecuting and basically starving, he said, the Iraqi people, and we were planning another invasion. Third is the United States' uncritical support of the Ariel Sharon regime in Israel, which he argued is persecuting the Palestinian people.

Analysis 16

Certainty Levels	Analysis: Sure indicates a high level of certainty based on past actual event (Fatwa of 1998)
Perspective	Analysis: Reported point of view from third party
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Based on factual information therefore, it is objective
Time	Analysis: Past Tense indicating events which have already occurred.

Text P 17

In my judgment, Chris, this one-sided support for Sharon, the refusal to condemn that wall snaking through the West Bank, the agreement to support Sharon's claim to virtually half of the West Bank, this has caused enormous hostility and animosity and hatred for this country in that part of the world, not just among the Palestinians. And if we want to drain off some of this hatred, this venom against us, we have got to adopt a more evenhanded policy here. We have got to stand up for the same rights for the Palestinian people, a homeland, a nation, a state of their own, a viable one, on the land their forefathers farmed for a thousand years, because those are first our principles and secondly, that is in the national interest of the United States of America. I don't care what Ariel Sharon believes.

Analysis 17

Certainty Levels	Analysis: In my judgment, is a high certainty epistemic expression but according to the Analysis model is abstract information. This is because the whole sentence consists of a proposition which is judged by the speaker himself, so it is not an empirical objectivity. Abstract information is classified as low certainty.
Perspective	Analysis: Speaker's point of View
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Subjective (must be factual otherwise it is an assessment and attitude, which is emotional).
Time	Analysis: Present Tense

Text P 18

This is the fundamental point. Are they attacking us because of who we are and what they believe or are they attacking us because of what we do? **I believe** it is our policies, not our principles that are causing these attacks. Osama bin Laden wasn't sitting in some cave in Afghanistan and stumble on the Bill of Rights and go bananas. It is because of what we are doing. Most fundamentally, it wasn't Israel number one. Number one, Saudi Arabia, female soldiers, American soldiers sitting there on the land of Mecca and Medina.

Analysis 18

Certainty Levels	Analysis: I believe is a moderate level certainty marker, because according to USAS Code X.2.1, it is a person's level of reasoning, either a presumption or an assumption.
Perspective	Analysis : Speaker's point of view
Certainty Focus	Analysis : Subjective as the utterance is an opinion.
Time	Analysis : Present tense

Text P 19

Well, personal...

Analysis 19

Certainty Levels	Analysis: Well, personally Absolutely High Level of certainty because of commitment. Well is a hedging device for mitigation and it is followed by Text 20
Perspective	Analysis: It is the speaker's point of view
Certainty Focus	Analysis: It is subjective because it is a personal opinion.
Time	Analysis: present tense statement based on Text 20.

Text P 20

We also **need** to investigate whether there is a nest of Pollardites in the Pentagon who have been transmitting American secrets through APAC, the Israeli lobby, over to Reno Road, the Israeli embassy, to be transferred to Mr. Sharon. Now, I did not know until this weekend's stories in The Washington Post that this is exactly what is being talked about; that certain individuals over there in Mr. Feith's shop or beneath him have been transmitting these secrets.

Analysis 20

Certainty Levels	Analysis: need is considered a modal by Palmer (1990), and it is an epistemic necessity, with a high certainty expression
Perspective	Analysis :Reported point of view, from witnesses as well as victims
Certainty Focus	Analysis: It is an objective assessment, because the second statement supports the first statement cataphorically where the Washington Post, is the reporting agency.
Time	Analysis: Present Tense

Text P 21

No one **should assume** guilt on anyone's part. But if this has been going on, Tim, we are getting dangerously close to the T-word.

Analysis 21

Certainty Levels	Analysis: Should is modal of duty and obligation so the listener as well as the speaker do not have to adhere to the statement. Should assume is a low level certainty statement. With the verb assume, should assume becomes an epistemic expression., indicating there is truth behind the utterance but the speaker does not utter it with a sense of conviction.
Perspective	Analysis: speaker's opinion.
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Subjective, to assume is a term relating to a level of belief brought about by thought or belief. USAS Code X.2.1
Time	Analysis : Past tense

Text P 22

And I **would urge** the president of the United States to get out in front of this, to take this investigation away from Mr. McNulty and give it to Patrick Fitzgerald and let them look into it because if the president can-- I'm sure the president has no involvement in this. But questions have been raised, and this is not something on the Internet.

Analysis 22

Certainty Levels	Analysis: would urge is a low certainty marker, whereby the speaker is not urging his president to speak or act, as it is modal of non actuality or being tentative. For a high certainty statement, the speaker should have omitted the modal would and used only the verb urge.
Perspective	Analysis: Speaker's Point of View
Certainty Focus	Analysis: It is a belief so it is subjective
Time	Analysis: Past Tense

Text P 23

This is The Washington Post doing this, moving all this around, and so **I think** there clearly needs to be an investigation.

Analysis 23

Certainty Levels	Analysis: I think , a low certainty expression, showing very little commitment to the utterance, where the speaker does not really force any sort of action or at the same time the speaker feels that action ought to be taken, so it creates a state of ambiguity.
Perspective	Analysis: The speaker's point of view
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Subjective, because the speaker feels that the newspaper is doing something to manipulate and influence.
Time	Analysis: Present tense

4.2.5 Speaker 5 Mary Joe Matalin, American political consultant

The table below is an analysis of the number of auxiliary modals used in Mary Jo Matalin’s interview excerpts.

The number of auxiliary modals used in Mary Jo Matalin’s interview excerpts.

can	could	may	might	shall	should	will	would	must
1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0

Table 4.10: Frequency count of auxiliary modals in Mary Jo Matalin’s transcript

The analysis indicates the modalization of sentences in Matalin’s interview. Matalin uses no lexical predicates in her interview indicating she does not use any meta-discourse or hedging devices to mitigate her statements. She uses one dynamic modal, **can** and one volitional modal **will** to stress the importance of her commitments to the truth propositions.

The following analysis is based on marked sentences by speaker M.

Text M 1

I **will say** again we went through a stock bust.

Analysis 1

Certainty Levels	Analysis: With I will say , here the speaker speaks with conviction, so the modal WILL is used as volition. I say indicates a lexical predicate of very high certainty to the whole truth proposition. It is a truth proposition said with full commitment to the truth.
Perspective	Analysis: Speaker’s perspective.
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Based on factual information which the country had faced, Matalin dares make a truth proposition
Time	Analysis: Future Tense

Text M 2

Because the president acted as fast, as swiftly and as effectively as he did, we were able to stem this recession and **can have** steady growth.

Analysis 2

Certainty Levels	Analysis: can have is a dynamic modal used by a speaker to express the ability, and the pronoun WE is used to indicate she is including her President as well as her listeners. This is a high certainty statement.
Perspective	Analysis: The speaker's point of view.
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Factual comment
Time	Analysis : Past tense indicating actuality of events and the present tense.

Text M3

The senator said at his convention that he **would respond** with certain and swift action after an attack.

Analysis 3

Certainty Levels	Analysis: Would respond is a low certainty modal which indicates no response.
Perspective	Analysis: It is the reported point of view.
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Details based on facts, so it is objective.
Time	Analysis: Past tense

Text M 4

No, this is--you know, Senator Miller is a man of great passion. **If you look at his 1992 keynote Democratic convention speech, he was equally passionate.** This is a man who is angry at his party, his party who left him. He is a delightful and loving and wonderful man who officiate at our wedding

Well, you know, Senator Miller...

Analysis 4

Certainty Levels	Analysis: If is a conditional which indicates that the event might never have occurred to the other listeners of the interview, and the lexical predicate Well has a mitigating effect of the whole statement.
Perspective	Analysis: Speaker's assessment. based on what she saw, by Chaffe's typology it is visual perception and considered true.
Certainty Focus	Analysis: Subjective, it is based on personal judgment
Time	Analysis :Past tense

4.3 SUMMARY

Chapter 4 is a detailed manual sentence by sentence analysis of discourse from the television interview focusing on War in Iraq. The technique used was based on the framework of Rubin, Liddy and Kando. It simplifies the analysis by creating a step by step procedure to present an analysis of how high the certainty level a truth proposition has in the utterances of the five politicians in their discussion. The criteria in question are certainty levels, certainty focus, perspective and time. The analysis also includes frequency counts done on the presence of modal auxiliaries and lexical predicates throughout the discourse.