

**FUNCTIONAL AND LINGUISTIC CHARACTERISTICS  
OF THE BRITISH POLITICAL DISCOURSE:  
R. SUNAK'S SPEECH IN THE UKRAINIAN PARLIAMENT**

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A political speech, as a prepared message with a strong political focus, occupies a significant place in political discourse. The study aims to examine the linguistic and functional characteristics of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Ukrainian-Russian War-era political discourse. The importance of the study lies in the need to examine the linguistic image of the Ukrainian-Russian War and its main political actors in current political discourse. The relevance of this study is also determined by the goal of demonstrating the use of the system of expressive means and stylistic devices in current political discourse using the example of Rishi Sunak's speech. The research methods of the article combine the simple calculation method, the discourse analysis method, the style analysis method, the pure sampling method and the comparative method. We also used the corpus research tool "Voyant Tools" to process and analyze the selected speech. Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Rishi Sunak's speech in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on January 12, 2024 serves as a material for our study. British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak uses a variety of stylistic devices to achieve the desired effect, which is determined by the pragmatic characteristics of the speech and the specifics of the audience to which the speech is delivered. In terms of vocabulary, Rishi Sunak uses rhetorical devices such as metaphor and repetition and words and phrases that convey urgency along with words that express emotions and attitudes. In terms of grammar, the speaker often uses active voice, first and second person pronouns, modal verbs, inversion, superlative degree of adjectives, and logical connectors. The British Prime Minister's speech is convincing due to the use of various combinations of personal and possessive pronouns "we / our", "we / our + you / your", "I / my + you / your" to refer to parties to political interaction; proper geographical names of countries and nationalities; the grammatical category of the present tense to emphasize continuous active actions aimed at the victory of the Ukrainian people, to statistics and figures, and repetition.

## ФУНКЦІОНАЛЬНІ ТА ЛІНГВІСТИЧНІ ОСОБЛИВОСТІ БРИТАНСЬКОГО ПОЛІТИЧНОГО ДИСКУРСУ: ПРОМОВА Р. СУНАКА В УКРАЇНСЬКОМУ ПАРЛАМЕНТІ

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**Ключові слова:** виражальні засоби, стилістичні прийоми, переконання, метафора, війна в Україні.

Публікація спрямована на вивчення лінгвістичних та функціональних особливостей політичного дискурсу прем'єр-міністра Великої Британії Ріші Сунака про українсько-російську війну. Актуальність розвідки зумовлена необхідністю дослідження особливостей використання системи виражальних засобів та стилістичних прийомів у сучасному політичному дискурсі. Для досягнення поставленої мети нами використано метод простого підрахунку даних, метод дискурсного аналізу, метод стилістичного аналізу, метод суцільної вибірки та порівняльний метод. Ми також використали інструмент корпусних досліджень «Voyant Tools» для обробки та аналізу промови. Прем'єр-міністр Великої Британії Ріші Сунак використовує різноманітні стилістичні прийоми для досягнення бажаного ефекту, який визначається прагматичними характеристиками промови та специфікою аудиторії, перед якою виголошується промова. З точки зору лексики він використовує такі риторичні прийоми, як метафора і повторення. З точки зору граматики оратор часто використовує активний стан, займенники першої та другої особи, модальні дієслова, інверсію, вищий ступінь порівняння прикметників. Переконавості промові британського прем'єра надає використання різноманітних комбінацій особових та присвійних займенників на позначення сторін політичної взаємодії; власних географічних назв країн та національностей; граматичної категорії теперішнього часу для підкреслення безперервних активних дій, спрямованих на перемогу українського народу, наведення статистичних даних та цифр, а також перманентних повторів “We are here!”. Проаналізувавши політичну промову Ріші Сунака, ми висновуємо, що система виражальних засобів і стилістичних прийомів у зверненні прем'єр-міністра до українського парламенту (12.01.2024) використовується для впливу на почуття й емоції адресата для привернення уваги до проблем повідомлення, для виконання прагма-комунікативних цілей аналізованого дискурсу.

**Introduction.** Language is an integral part of the everyday life of politicians. The right words and language must be found to address listeners and create a positive image of themselves, their political party and the country they represent. Politicians' language skills enable them to communicate ideas, build relationships, promote civic engagement, and influence people's attitudes and behavior. In reality, political actors do not use their language spontaneously: their public speeches and comments are purposeful. Previous research suggests that

political discourse is a reflection of social reality, with key political terms representing the main reliable source of information about current events around the world [Batsevych, 2004; Pavlichenko, 2022; Tymoshchuk, 2021; Tymoshchuk, 2023].

Research into political discourse has a long tradition. There are a large number of published studies examining speeches by political leaders. The interest in analyzing the speech of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Rishi Sunak in the Verkhovna Rada

of Ukraine on January 12, 2024 is significant, as the remarks of the British Prime Minister (PM) serve to draw attention other countries and promote the united collective strength of nations and their strong support for Ukraine, they also represent a multidimensional linguistic phenomenon that includes social, cognitive, discursive and semiotic elements. It is also worth noting that political discourse about the war in Ukraine has dominated world news since February 2022.

**The main aim of this study** is therefore to examine the linguistic and functional characteristics of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Ukrainian-Russian War-era political discourse. There are currently no studies that address this issue. The study attempts to address this gap by focusing on examining the following research questions:

1. What expressive means and stylistic devices did British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak use in his address to the Parliament of Ukraine?
2. What pragma-communicative purposes of political discourse do these expressive means and stylistic devices realize?
3. Which verbal means of persuasion does Rishi Sunak use?

The importance of the study lies in the need to examine the linguistic image of the Ukrainian-Russian War and its main political actors in current political discourse. **The relevance** of this study is also determined by the goal of demonstrating the use of the system of expressive means and stylistic devices in current political discourse using the example of Rishi Sunak's speech.

The **object** of the study is British political discourse. The **subject** of the study is social, cultural, lexico-grammatical and stylistic features of British political discourse. Our study aims to identify specific characteristics of British political discourse as reflected in the content, style, and communicative intentions of Sunak's address.

**Literature Review.** Discourse is defined by modern linguistics as the combination of the extralinguistic, pragmatic and sociocultural elements that accompany the speech act. Recently, the study of political discourse has attracted considerable attention from scholars from various fields, such as linguists, sociologists, psychologists, and mass communication researchers. The focus today is on socio-political vocabulary due to extra-linguistic and inter-linguistic factors.

Many linguists are interested in the question of political discourse and its functional and linguistic features. According to Ukrainian linguist Batsevych, political discourse and political communication are closely related. Political communication functions as a unique type of political relationship that people use to control the spread of sociopolitical ideas [Batsevych, 2004]. Political discourse is a type of institutional discourse that serves the basic purposes

of politics, such as power struggles, the integration and differentiation of political group actors, the development of conflicts and consensus building, the implementation of political actions through language and dissemination of information about them, manipulation of consciousness and control about the behavior of politicians and the public. Political discourse is characterized by: esoteric, fideistic and manipulative nature; relativity of nominations (when the speaker's politics influence the choice of nomination); pragmatically caused semantic uncertainty; emotionality; the important role of phatic communication; and dynamic language due to the fluctuating political environment. These fundamental elements of political communication are applied in a variety of ways, and a politician's ability to communicate and use language effectively ultimately determines how these elements are discussed in public [Abramicheva, 2022]. Analyzing the characteristics of political texts and debates is only one aspect of the study of political discourse. Scholars are fascinated by the linguistic strategies politicians use to shape and control public opinion. We agree with Herus and Kulyk that of all genres (government speeches, parliamentary debates, party manifesto writing, etc.), the political speech is one of the most effective in British political discourse [Herus, Kulyk, 2018, p. 32]. Discourse analysts examine the various rhetorical strategies that political figures use to persuade their audiences. The Ukrainian scholar Pavlichenko has examined the linguistic representation of the Russian-Ukrainian war and its key political actors in the political discourse of the American and British media. Her focus was on the analysis of the primary polarization discursive strategies in political media discourse and the language used to verbalize them. This research argues that polarization is being demonstrated in the media discourse on the Russian-Ukrainian war in 2022 [Pavlichenko, 2022].

We review previous studies that have analyzed Rishi Sunak's political discourse and rhetorical devices he uses to persuade his audience. British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's first speech was examined by Ukrainian scholars in terms of the implementation of the persuasion strategy in the context of the rhetoric of needs. The researchers claim that the study of the Prime Minister's speech showed how the strategies of solidarity, appreciation, criticism, praise, assurances and warnings were used to implement the persuasion strategy. The above strategies are based on addressing feelings and basic human needs, such as the need for security, self-realization, belonging and respect. They conclude that in political speeches, appealing to the audience's need for self-actualization and reputation can be helpful in conveying a positive image and persuading the audience [Vyskushenko, Mosiienko, Svyrydiuk, 2023]. Through the lens of critical

discourse analysis (CDA), another study examines Rishi Sunak's inaugural speech as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom on October 25, 2022. To understand the underlying meanings and intentions behind Sunak's words, the researchers examine his speech in text, discourse practice, and social levels using Norman Fairclough's three-dimensional framework. This is done through an analysis of Sunak's use of linguistic devices at micro and macro levels, as well as through examinations of discourse practice and the social context of speech [Pham, N.K.A. Nguyen, T.H.A. Nguyen, D.K. Nguyen, 2024].

From an anthropological-pragmatic perspective, Maciej Buczowski and Marta Strukowska examine the discursive patterns of the two most recent inaugural speeches by British prime ministers. Using a qualitative-centered examination of critical discourse analysis and speech act theory, the research uncovered hidden messages in illocutionary communication acts of public political speeches. It is assumed that both speeches are essentially embedded in threatening rhetoric, which gains its persuasive power primarily through the use of appeals to ethos and pathos. Polish scholars believe that Rishi Sunak's tactics are primarily based on the use of assurances and statements that reflect his patterns of legitimacy by creating a credibility framework and equating it with the fearmongering framework [Buczowski, Strukowska, 2022]. K.M. Nesterchuk analyzed the emotionally expressive linguistic devices used in English political discourse through the speeches of British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak (Prime Minister's Speech at the CBI Conference: November 21, 2022 and Prime Minister's Statement to the House of Commons at the G20 Summit: November 17, 2022) [Nesterchuk, 2023].

Previous researches can only be considered a first step towards a more profound understanding of Rishi Sunak's modern political discourse. The literature review shows that most early studies mainly focus on analyzing his first speech as the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom on October 25, 2022. Although studies on British modern political discourse have been conducted by some authors, the problem of

its functional and linguistic characteristics is still insufficiently explored. To our knowledge, no prior studies have examined Rishi Sunak's other speeches, in particular his speech in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on January 12, 2024.

**Methods.** The research methods of the article combine the simple calculation method, the discourse analysis method, the style analysis method, the pure sampling method and the comparative method. We also used the corpus research tool "Voyant Tools" (<https://voyant-tools.org/>) to process and analyze the selected speech. It is an open access tool for corpus linguistics that serves as a web-based platform for text analysis. The program allows scientific analysis of the text, highlighting the frequency of use of lexical units in the corpus, creating diagrams, etc.

**Results and discussion.** Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Rishi Sunak's speech in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on January 12, 2024 serves as a material for our study. The PM speech aimed to unite the free world to support the Ukrainian people in their war against Russia. The speech's focus on democratic society and its reference to the fragile situation of the Ukrainian people in their difficult struggle for freedom and independence show the deep pragmatism of the text. Figures 1 and 2 below show the most frequently used words in Sunak's speech. "Ukraine" (25), "war" (11), "security" (8), "people" (8) and "defense" (8) are the five most common words without functional parts of speech. The word cloud summarizes the key themes and issues highlighted in Sunak's speech, emphasizing the focus on Ukraine, the challenges of war and security, the impact on people, and defense and protection strategies.

Sunak's pronoun use is also noteworthy (Table 1). PM attempts to build trust with the audience by using the inclusive first-person pronoun "we." Its frequent use (21.56%) strengthens the feeling of unity and solidarity between the speaker, the audience and the Ukrainian people. By using the pronouns "we" and "our" Sunak also conveys a shared sense of responsibility and unity in support of Ukraine and Ukrainians, emphasizing cooperation between

Table 1

**Frequency of Personal and Possessive Pronouns in Rishi Sunak's Speech**

Pronouns	Personal Pronouns	Times Appeared	Relative Frequency	Possessive Pronouns	Times Appeared	Relative Frequency
First person	I	19	16.38%	My	2	4.08%
	We	25	21.56%	Our	20	40.82%
Second person	You	31	26.73%	Your	19	38.77%
Third person	He	9	7.75%	His	1	2.04%
	She	0	0%	Her	0	0
	It	23	19.83%	Its	3	6.12%
	They	9	7.75%	Their	4	8.17%
Total		116	100%	Total	49	100%

Ukraine and Britain, and potentially appealing for collective action from other countries. The frequent use of “I” (16.38%) highlights his personal involvement, determination, and leadership as the Prime Minister. By engaging listeners directly through “you” and “your,” he aims to connect with listeners on a personal level so that listeners feel included in the message and personally addressed. With such a strategy, PM takes the responsibility of making promises and commitments to the listeners (fig. 1).

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak supports his arguments with statistics and figures (e.g., £2.3 billion of military aid; over 12 billion pounds of aid to Ukraine; the biggest single defense package so far, with £2.5 billion) to present factual events and sound more convincing as a speaker. A similar conclusion was reached by Olena Yankovets, the scholar claims that using the actual information and appealing to facts is a characteristic feature of Rishi Sunak’s speeches [Yankovets, 2023].

Sunak focuses on the key issues important to Ukrainians, such as Britain’s full support for Ukraine in the war against the aggressor, and emphasizes the achievements in solving them: *“We have trained tens of thousands of Ukrainian soldiers, we led the way in delivering helicopters, ships, tanks, armored vehicles, air defense and electronic warfare systems, anti-tank missile systems such as NLAW, Javelin, Storm Shadow missiles to reach behind enemy lines and defend against aggression in the Black Sea. Humanitarian and economic support, and the strongest set of sanctions ever to deliberate russia’s economy. I am proud that we have provided over nine billion pounds of support so far, but I want to go even further”* [Sunak, 2024].

Another type of argument Prime Minister Sunak employs in his speeches to convince the audience is quoting authoritative people or sources to support his arguments. For example, Sunak honors *“the great Winston Churchill”* [Sunak, 2024] and quotes

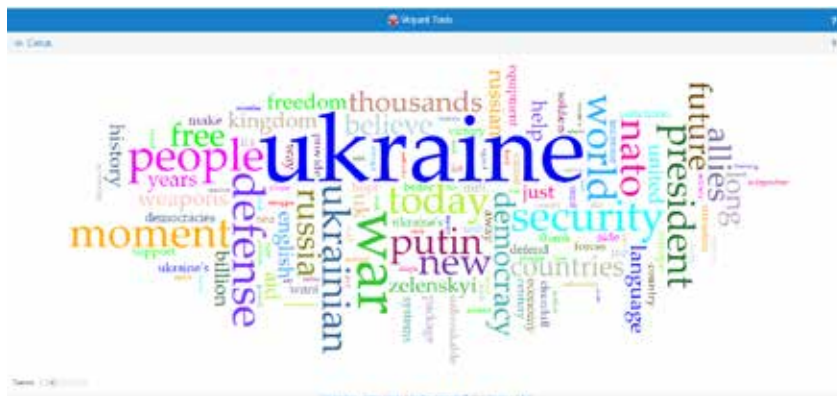


Fig. 1. Word-cloud of Sunak’s speech most frequent words



Fig. 2. Diagram of word usage in Sunak’s speech

his words “*As Churchill said, there are two kinds of nationalism: “The crazz for supreme domination by weight or force, which he called a danger and a vice”, or nationalism that comes from “love of country and readiness to die for country, love of traditions, culture, and the gradual development of a social entity worthy of nationality. He called it “the first of the virtues”*” [Sunak, 2024]. He quotes Churchill’s words to underscore the importance of a positive and constructive form of nationalism, meaning the national struggle of the Ukrainian people. Churchill’s words about nationalism reflect values that are often cherished in Western democracies, we mean love of country, respect for tradition, and commitment to social progress. Sunak also appeals to them hoping to resonate with his audience in support of the European integration goals of the Ukrainian people.

He also quotes Taras Shevchenko, the great Ukrainian poet. These words sound symbolic and relevant from the speech of the British Prime Minister in 2024. We mean Taras Shevchenko’s will to “*break chains,*” which symbolizes freedom from oppression or external control, while “*joining the family of free nations*” symbolizes integration of Ukraine into the community of independent and democratic countries. Quoting well-known historical figures such as Shevchenko, Churchill and Kennedy is rhetorically effective in capturing the audience’s attention and reinforcing Sunak’s key messages.

Thus, the argumentative potential of political communication is significantly increased through intertextuality, especially through quotations. S.V. Sokolovska came to a similar conclusion. The researcher notes that in the speeches of British politicians, the main form of intertext is a direct quote, while indirect and allusive quotes work to a lesser extent. British heads of state and government often resort to fragmentary quotations, i.e. quotations in the text of a speech that logically complete in the immediate context [Sokolovska, 2014].

In his speech British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak drew parallels between Britain’s struggle in World War II and Ukraine’s current struggle. He said, “*1940 was our finest hour. In Ukraine, it was 2 years ago, when you started to resist the Russian invasion. Perhaps today is more like 1942. It was a moment in the middle of that war when the progress on the battlefield was difficult, the defense industry was under severe strain, and the population was becoming tired. It must have been difficult to see the light ahead. But the British stood firm*” [Sunak, 2024]. The phrase “*our finest hour*” [Sunak, 2024] refers to a period of great courage, determination, and resilience in British history, particularly during the darkest days of World War II when Britain stood alone against Nazi Germany. The PM suggests that when Ukraine in 2022 (2 years ago) began actively

resisting the Russian invasion it was Ukrainian finest hour. However, comparing the current situation in Ukraine to 1942, the speaker suggests that Ukraine’s struggle against Russian aggression may be at a critical point, similar to the turning point in World War II. Sunak believes that the current challenges facing Ukraine are significant and that its road ahead may be difficult. The metaphorical expression “*it must have been difficult to see the light ahead*” [Sunak, 2024] conveys the above-mentioned idea of uncertainty and the struggle to find hope in the face of difficulties.

Rishi Sunak uses lots of proper names, which is normative to the given type of discourse: *President Zelenskyi (Volodymyr Zelenskyi), President John F. Kennedy, Winston Churchill, Taras Shevchenko, UK (United Kingdom), Ukraine, Iran, North Korea* and so on. The usage of abbreviations (*NATO, EU, G7, UN*) gives rhythm and emphasis to a given utterance and even save time in speech.

In order to convey the ideas of defending a free, democratic world, supporting the Ukrainian people in restoring sovereignty and defending independence, Prime Minister Sunak uses a system of expressive means and stylistic devices that draw the listeners’ attention to the ideas expressed, appeal to the addressee’s feelings and emotions, and demonstrate the importance of the information being presented.

Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Rishi Sunak’s speech in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on January 12, 2024 contains present perfect tense to show Britain’s leading role since the first hours of Russian aggression in helping the Ukrainian people defend themselves (1, 2) and “*to think about what you have already achieved*” [Sunak, 2024] (3, 4) as well as it contains the future tense (5, 6) to increase confidence in Ukraine’s victory over the aggressor and to express support for Great Britain.

1. *We have trained tens of thousands of Ukrainian soldiers...* [Sunak, 2024].

2. *I am proud that we have provided over nine billion pounds of support so far, but I want to go even further* [Sunak, 2024].

3. *Russia’s military vastly outnumbers Ukrainian forces, but you have already regained half of the occupied territory* [Sunak, 2024].

4. *You have held the East, reopened vital shipping lanes to help feed the world, and increasingly made Crimea into a vulnerability for russia, not a strength* [Sunak, 2024].

5. *Well, Ukraine will not yield, and the United Kingdom will never walk away!* [Sunak, 2024]

6. *The United Kingdom will be there from the first moment to the last* [Sunak, 2024]

The UK Prime Minister speech contains verbs *can* and *must* to demonstrate possibilities and actual necessary steps and measures to defend the free,

democratic world from the Russian Federation: “*And, to echo Churchill, we must give you the tools and I know you will finish the job*” [Sunak, 2024]; “*And we cannot and will not falter now, because aid to Ukraine is an investment in our own collective security*” [Sunak, 2024].

Rishi Sunak employs a great number of epithets, both of the adverbial and adjectival nature, they make his speech more emotional, expressive, on one hand, and more convicting, on the other hand: “*vital shipping lanes*” [Sunak, 2024], “*bombs deliberately aimed at homes and hospitals*” [Sunak, 2024], “*russia’s military vastly outnumbers Ukrainian forces*” [Sunak, 2024], “*an economy severely weakened by sanctions*” [Sunak, 2024]. The usage of the Superlative degree of Adjectives functions as intensifiers within Rishi Sunak’s speech showing the highest rank of quality of the described objects: “*the greatest threat*”, “*our finest hour*”, “*the strongest set of sanctions*”, “*the biggest single defense package*”, “*the greatest moment in the history of our relationship*”, “*the earliest days of the invasion*” [Sunak, 2024]. The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Rishi Sunak started his speech: “*I’ve come from the world’s oldest Parliament to address the world’s bravest*” [Sunak, 2024]. The superlative degree of the adjective “*brave*” in the form of “*bravest*” is used to describe Ukrainian parliamentarians, emphasizing their bravery and strength, metaphorically portraying them as warriors fighting for the freedom of their nation.

The Prime Minister speech before the Ukrainian Parliament is characterized by the usage of metaphors, which “make the given discourse emotionally colored by transforming the qualities of some phenomena, objects, subjects and events into the sphere of some other items” [Humeniuk, 2023, p. 114]. The metaphor “*echoes of Britain’s own history*” [Sunak, 2024] draws a parallel between the current situation in Ukraine and historical events in Britain, suggesting that as Britain has overcome challenges in the past, Ukraine can also win its current struggle. Metaphorically, “*light ahead*” symbolizes hope and the possibility of a brighter future despite the darkness of the present circumstances.

To influence the listeners’ mind, politicians often repeat certain words and phrases that have the greatest semantic load and are therefore important in their speeches. Repetition in political discourse is one of the most effective means of influencing the recipient’s mind. Due to frequent use, certain words and phrases are imprinted in the addressees’ memory and become personally significant for them [Frasyniuk, 2020, p. 132]. Repeating several times “*We are here*”, Sunak emphasizes the role played by British society for the Ukrainian people during the Russian invasion, underlines the role of the UK

with allies in supporting the independence struggle of the Ukrainian people, points out the strong hope and readiness of British community to go ahead with the Ukrainian people, with the democratic world up to the Ukrainian victory. Echoing Zelenskyy’s message “*We are here*”, Sunak promises to stand with Ukraine against Russian aggression and assures that support will not change despite the difficult circumstances.

Rishi Sunak promises, “*we will rally to Ukraine’s side and defend our common cause – of democracy over dictatorship, freedom over tyranny, and the rule of law over anarchy*” [Sunak, 2024]. The antithesis “*democracy over dictatorship, freedom over tyranny, and the rule of law over anarchy*” [Sunak, 2024] demonstrates the metaphorical necessity of both moral and practical choosing the right side, although the structure of each opposition clearly indicates the speaker’s commitment to positive values and the inclination to make a decision in their favor. With the words “*we will rally to Ukraine’s side and defend our common cause*” [Sunak, 2024], Prime Minister metaphorically calls for action and the need for solidarity in supporting Ukraine in its struggle, using the personal pronoun “*we*” and the possessive pronoun “*our*” to characterize the “*common cause*”, verbally contrasting the “*Ukraine’s side*” with Putin and “*his allies in North Korea, Iran and elsewhere*” [Sunak, 2024].

We can state that Rishi Sunak uses a large number of polysyndeton in his speech, which is one of his unique features and forms his distinctive style. For example, “*And the ordinary people of Ukraine, who have endured more than anyone could have to bear: rockets and bombs deliberately aimed at homes and hospitals, shelters and schools, torture, rape, children kidnapped. You have met this depravity with bravery and defiance, with your unique, unbreakable Ukrainian spirit, and all of us in the free world salute you*” [Sunak, 2024]. The given example includes the use of polysyndeton when the conjunction *and* is repeated several times in order to slow down the pace of speech, highlight the information about the mentioned topics, objects, phenomena and focus the listeners’ attention on the facts. Another feature of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak’s speech in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on January 12, 2024 is the combination of several polysyndeton and asyndeton within the limited speech space, resulting in sudden changes in tempo when slow speech tempo is suddenly changed, transferred to high-speed speech tempo or the other way around.

Conditionals play a crucial role in political discourse. The Prime Minister speech before the Ukrainian parliament contains first conditional sentences to frame possible scenarios. By using these grammatical forms, the addressee aims to create a probable picture and encourages the perception of

an imaginary situation: “*If russia ever again invades Ukraine again, the UK will come to your aid with swift and sustained security assistance*” [Sunak, 2024]. By presenting hypothetical situations and their potential outcomes, Rishi Sunak argues for urgent assistance to Ukraine: “*If we waver now, we embolden not just putin, but also his allies in North Korea, Iran and elsewhere*” [Sunak, 2024].

Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Rishi Sunak’s speech in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on January 12, 2024 is characterized by the usage of inversions:

1. “*From the very beginning, the British people spontaneously flew the Ukrainian flags*” [Sunak, 2024].

2. “*And as a symbol of our unbreakable alliance, I bring you today the flag of the United Kingdom...*” [Sunak, 2024].

According to Natalia Humeniuk, “inversion, or making the unusual word order of the sentence, has the potential to provoke addressee’s attention to the given information with something unusual” [Humeniuk, 2022, p. 17]. The variants of inversion within Rishi Sunak’s speech are of the type with the adverbial modifiers used to highlight the immediate support the British people showed Ukraine in the face of the invasion, stressing the solidarity and unity between the two nations.

**Conclusions.** Thus, political discourse is a complex multilevel phenomenon that can be seen as a reflexive linguistic communication within the political space. Political discourse is based on a mechanism aimed at structuring verbal and semantic reality through the communicative interaction of subjects. A political speech, as a prepared message with a strong political focus, occupies an extremely important place in political discourse.

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak uses a variety of stylistic devices to achieve the desired effect, which is determined by the pragmatic characteristics of the speech and the specifics of the audience to which the speech is delivered. In terms of vocabulary, Rishi Sunak uses rhetorical devices such as metaphor and repetition and words and phrases that convey urgency along with words that express emotions and attitudes. In terms of grammar, the speaker often uses active voice, first and second person pronouns, modal verbs, inversion, superlative degree of adjectives, and logical connectors. The British Prime Minister’s speech is convincing due to the use of various combinations of personal and possessive pronouns “we/our”, “we/our + you/your”, “I/my + you/your” to refer to parties to political interaction; proper geographical names of countries and nationalities; the grammatical category of the present tense to emphasize continuous active actions aimed at the victory of the Ukrainian people, to statistics and figures, and repetition: “We are here!”.

These expressive means and stylistic devices are used with the purpose of influencing the feelings and emotions of the addressee, provoking the addressee’s attention to the problems of the message, fulfilling its pragma-communicative purposes by putting them in a strong position of perceiving information.

To conclude, an area worth further investigation is researching the peculiarities of these expressive means and stylistic devices translation of Rishi Sunak’s speech into Ukrainian.

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