

Contents

Preface	vii
1 Introduction	1
Language and Politics	1
Orwell's Thesis	2
A Question of Meaning	4
Politics and Political Journalism	8
The Role of Journalism in the Political Process	8
The Question of Bias	13
Conclusion	16
2 Language and Myth in American Politics	18
Orwell's Thesis	18
Language and Myth	26
Myths as Simple Causal Theories	28
Myth and Language in American Politics	30
Conclusion	36
3 The Language of American Presidents	38
President John F. Kennedy	38
President Lyndon Baines Johnson	44
President Ronald Reagan	53
Conclusion	56
4 The Problem of Bias in Political Journalism	58
Review of the Recent Literature	60
Nonlinguistic Bias	62
Linguistic Bias	62
Other Asymmetries in Political Journalism	71
Charges of Bias in Political Journalism	73
Conclusion	77

5	Reporting of Political Speech	78
	The Ingredients of Reported Speech	79
	The News Source	80
	References to News Receivers	85
	Reports of Null Speech Events	87
	The Content of Reported Speech	89
	Verbs	93
	Tense and Aspect in Reported Speech	94
	Conclusion	97
6	Identification of Context in News Reporting	98
	Specification of Context in News Reports	100
	Identification of Extralinguistic Context	100
	The Linguistic Context	109
	Conclusion	119
7	Political Bias in News Magazines	121
	Previous Studies	121
	The Present Study	124
	Results of the Study	130
	Conclusion	141
8	Linguistic Aspects of Television Journalism	143
	Introductory Remarks	143
	Live Broadcasts	144
	The Immediacy of Television Journalism	145
	The Structure of Television News Stories	150
	Types of Television News Stories	151
	Instant Television News Analysis	157
	Conclusion	163
9	A Brief Look at Presidential Press Conferences	164
	Implied Criticism	165
	The Reagan Replies	168
	The Great Communicator	169
	Conclusion	172
10	Conclusion	174
	References	179
	Appendix	183
	Index	185