

Turn-Taking Strategy on Donald Trump and Joe Biden 2020 Presidential Debate

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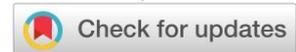
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ABSTRACT

This qualitative research study examines the turn-taking methods utilized during the presidential debate between Joe Biden and Donald Trump, with a focus on utterances and written words. Employing an observational approach (Sudaryanto, 2015), data were collected by closely observing the debate and recording pertinent remarks through note-taking. Several steps were followed in data collection, including initial observation of the debate, transcription of the debate script, and highlighting remarks indicative of turn-taking strategies as proposed by Stenström (1984). Data analysis followed the identification method outlined by Creswell and Poth (2014), involving multiple viewings of the debate video to comprehend the turn-taking methods and categorize the transcriptions to denote their application. The study identified 29 turn-taking strategies based on Stenström's (1984) theory, categorized into three groups: initiating the turn (starting up, taking over, and interrupting), maintaining the turn (utilizing filled pauses, lexical repetition, and introducing new topics), and relinquishing the turn (prompting, appealing, and conceding). These findings offer valuable insights into communication strategies within high-stakes political debates and contribute to a deeper understanding of the interplay between theory and qualitative research.

ARTICLE HISTORY

Published September 16th 2025



KEYWORDS

Discourse Analysis, Turn-Taking Strategy, Presidential Debate.

ARTICLE LICENCE

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1. Introduction

It entails investigating the language traits, structures, and patterns found in different modes of communication in order to discover deeper meanings and social relationships. Paltridge (1992) defines discourse as "a sequence of sentences (or utterances) which are coordinated in a meaningful way, and which are designed to communicate meaning." This definition emphasizes the importance of coherence and meaningfulness in discourse and highlights its communicative function. Paltridge also notes that discourse is not limited to verbal language but can include other forms of communication such as images, music, and gestures.

This study delves into the intricate dynamics of turn-taking during the presidential debate between Joe Biden and Donald Trump. Turn-taking, a crucial aspect of communication, involves the sequencing and coordination of utterances to convey meaning and is central to the functioning of dialogues and debates. In this context, to investigate the language traits, structures, and patterns inherent in turn-taking strategies, seeking to uncover deeper meanings and insights into the social relationships manifest in this high-stakes political discourse.

By scrutinizing the turn-taking strategies employed in the Biden-Trump presidential debate, this research seeks to shed light on the intricacies of political discourse, offering valuable insights into communication practices in high-stakes public forums.

Turn-taking in a conversation can be impacted by a variety of factors, including social standing, dynamics of power, conversation roles, and common cultural expectations. Participants utilize verbal and nonverbal signs like as pauses, tone sequences, facial expressions, and gestures to express their desire to speak or cede the floor. These cues help in the smooth transition between speakers and the establishment of conversational coherence. An example of turn taking in everyday life is pretty common to find, for instance:

JR: "Welcome back"

EM: "Here we go again"

"Nice to see you, and congratulations," JR says.

EM: "Thank you"

"Um, you will never forget what is going on in the world when you think about when your child is born, and you will know for the rest of this child's life that you were born during a strange time," JR says.

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RcYjXbSJBn8>

The participants in the conversation take turns speaking, allowing each person to have their time to contribute. They use verbal fillers such as "um" and "here we go again" to signal the completion of their turn and indicate their readiness to yield the floor. The turn-taking process is marked by a back-and-forth exchange, where JR initiates the conversation with a welcome and congratulations, and EM responds with gratitude.

There is also an instance of adjacency pairs, where one speaker's utterance directly relates to the previous speaker's statement. For example, JR's statement about never forgetting the current world situation when thinking about a child's birth is a response to EM's expression of gratitude.

The turn-taking phenomenon showcases the participants' awareness of their conversational roles and the need to take turns in a coordinated and meaningful way. It allows for a smooth flow of communication, ensuring that both speakers have the opportunity to contribute and engage in the conversation.

JB: "How you doing, man?"

DT: "How you doing?"

Vice President Biden begins the dialogue by asking a question, which serves as a Starting Up. Biden not only opens the discussion with a question, but he also develops a warm and informal tone. This style of opening might be interpreted as an informal approach of engaging in conversation and expressing concern for the other person's well-being.

There are various studies conducted on the turn taking strategy. Research by Rivai (2022) The goal of this study is to examine the turn-taking strategies employed by male host Jimmy Kimmel with female host Ellen DeGeneres on two American television talk shows. Stenstrom theory (1984) was used to examine the information regarding the two presenters' turn-taking approaches. The findings revealed the following. (1) As a male presenter, Jimmy employed a variety of techniques in his interactions with men visitors, such careful start, clear start, uptakes, links, warning filled pause/verbal fillers, silent pause, lexical repetitions, a new start encouraging, and appealing. He, however, did not employ the metacomment and giving up strategy. Furthermore, in a debate with female visitors, he used all of the approaches but the careful start, metacomment, lexical repetition, a new start, and giving up approach. (2) Being a female presenter, Ellen did not employ metacomment, silent pause, or giving up tactics in her conversation with male guests. In contrast, she used all of the approaches except the metacomment tactic in talks with female visitors. (3) In addition, men presenters were found to interrupt female guests more often than male guests.

While prior research has delved into various aspects of turn-taking strategies, this study contributes to the existing body of knowledge in several distinctive ways. First and foremost, it places its emphasis on the dynamics between male and female hosts, shedding light on how gender may influence the application of these strategies in televised conversations. Understanding these dynamics is of particular relevance in the entertainment industry, where effective communication is central to engaging a diverse audience.

Secondly, the study offers a comprehensive examination of the turn-taking techniques employed by both Jimmy Kimmel and Ellen DeGeneres in their interactions with guests of different genders. This nuanced approach allows for a deeper understanding of how hosts adapt their communication styles based on the gender of their guests, an aspect that has been explored to a limited extent in previous studies.

Thirdly, by comparing the turn-taking strategies employed by male and female hosts, this research provides valuable insights into potential patterns or disparities in their communication approaches. Specifically, it examines the frequency of interruption, a notable aspect of turn-taking, when male hosts interact with female guests compared to their interactions with male guests. Such insights can illuminate underlying dynamics and contribute to discussions on gender-related communication patterns within the talk show format.

In summary, this study builds upon prior research by focusing on the turn-taking strategies of Jimmy Kimmel and Ellen DeGeneres, prominent figures in American television, and their interactions with guests of different genders. By doing so, it addresses a significant gap in the literature and offers a nuanced exploration of how gender may influence the

application of these strategies. Additionally, it examines the frequency of interruptions in gender-diverse interactions, providing fresh perspectives on communication dynamics within the context of television talk shows.

A study method called conversational analysis, commonly referred to as conversation analysis (CA), looks at the dynamics, structure, and organization of human talks. It focuses on the in-depth examination of naturally occurring interactions to comprehend how individuals form social acts through dialogue, perceive meanings, and communicate.

Following its introduction and development in sociology, conversational analysis has subsequently been used and developed in a number of academic fields, including linguistics, anthropology, communication studies, and psychology. It is predicated on the idea that speech is a basic social activity through which individuals build connections, negotiate meanings, and carry out a variety of social functions.

When conducting conversational analysis, researchers usually transcribe and examine audio or video recordings of conversations, paying close attention to the participants' non-verbal cues and gestures, turn-taking patterns, use of silence, and specific linguistic devices. Researchers want to learn more about the social norms, expectations, and behaviors that underlie conversational structure by investigating these characteristics.

The goal of conversational analysis is to offer in-depth understanding of the mechanics of social interaction, meaning negotiation, and the means by which social activities are carried out through speaking. It has been used to research a variety of conversational scenarios, such as ordinary discussions, institutional encounters, job interviews, medical consultations, courtrooms, and meetings with customer service representatives, among others. The method that occurs when participants in a discussion take turns speaking or engaging in verbal contact is referred to as turn-taking. It involves the organization and distribution of speaking opportunities among participants in a manner that allows for smooth and coherent communication. Turn-taking is a fundamental aspect of conversation and is governed by social and linguistic rules and conventions. It helps to regulate the flow of conversation, manage the transition between speakers, and ensure that participants have equal opportunities to contribute.

1.1 Type of Turn-Taking

The turn-taking types you mentioned are derived from Stenström (1984) categorization of turn-taking processes. Here are the three types and their respective processes:

1) Taking the turn Strategy (Starting up, taking over, and interrupting):

- Starting up: This process refers to initiating a new turn after a previous speaker has finished. It involves taking the floor and beginning a new unit of talk.

Example: (Ashidiq & Sariyati, 2022)

BECKY: You know, we're just coming out of this story about Las Vegas. And— while unfortunately it seems that — we as a nation are becoming more and more inured to— to hearing about shooting stories, this one is different in the scale, in the scope of it, in the stories that are coming out right now. Do you ((pointing)) have any reaction to what you heard?

WARREN: Well, you— you never forget or inure to this. em (0.2) And— the one thing I would say is that I— (0.2) I heard that (0.2) shooter got off 200 rounds in 90 seconds or something like that

- Taking over: Taking over occurs when a speaker interrupts or overlaps with the ongoing turn of another speaker to assume the speaking role. This can happen when speakers are eager to contribute or when they perceive a conversational opportunity.

Example: Mulyati et al (2023)

EC: "Then the question number 1: What are the types of materials that are necessary for you to know before writing English language text? Do the students understand the question or not?"

STD: "But after the discussion, we plan to change that question into number 2: What did you prepare before writing?"

LEC: "I think it is also good if you can try to ask junior high school students to see this filling this question; therefore, you can gather the information that you need."

- Interrupting: Interrupting involves intruding into the ongoing turn of another speaker, typically by overlapping their speech or speaking out of turn. Interruptions can be seen as a violation of turn-taking norms, but they can also serve communicative purposes or signal disagreement.

Example: Mulyati et al (2023)

EC: "Okay, but Open question, with a number of questions of more than 20, that is quite a lot, you know."

STD: "If the open question is like: Do you have difficulties in Writing English Language text? What do you think, miss?"

2) Holding-the-turn strategies:

- Filled pause and verbal fillers: Speakers may use filled pauses, such as "uh," "um," or other verbal fillers, to hold onto the turn and indicate their intention to continue speaking. These pauses serve as temporary placeholders and indicate that the speaker has more to say.

Example: "a--- and all this way um—by kind of letting a—well really by just sort of a—starting from" (Sinaga, Tannuany, & Saputra, 2021)

- Silent pause: A silent pause refers to a brief period of silence where the speaker retains the floor without using any verbal fillers. Silent pauses can serve different functions, such as emphasizing a point or gathering thoughts before continuing.

Example: "I... if I... become... your son in law, I...will definitely be... nervous (Sinaga, Tannuany, & Saputra, 2021)

- Lexical repetition: Lexical repetition involves repeating a word or phrase already mentioned in the ongoing turn. This strategy can signal a continuation of the current topic or serve as a way to maintain the speaking role.

Example:

"I mean they you know they they they say vest meaning undergarment." (Sinaga, Tannuany, & Saputra, 2021)

- A new start: A new start refers to beginning a new unit of talk after a temporary pause or completion of a previous statement. It involves initiating a fresh idea or shifting the focus of the conversation.

3) Yielding the turn strategies:

- Prompting: Prompting occurs when a speaker indirectly or explicitly invites another participant to take a turn. This can be done through various linguistic and non-verbal cues, such as asking a question or making a gesture indicating a desire for the other person to speak.

Example: How are you? (Sinaga, Tannuany, & Saputra, 2021)

- Appealing: Appealing involves explicitly requesting or encouraging another speaker to take a turn. This can happen when a participant wants to engage others or seeks input or opinions from specific individuals.

Example: alright, you know, you see, and tag question. (Rivai, 2022)

- Giving up: Giving up refers to voluntarily relinquishing the speaking role and allowing another participant to take a turn. This can happen when a speaker feels they have said enough or when they want to give others an opportunity to contribute.

Example: Mulyati et al (2023)

LEC: "Move to the next question. Do you organize your writing correctly? How do they know? If it is correct or not? Do you use appropriate vocabulary? How do they judge if you correct their vocabulary or not?"

STD : "Maybe they could grammar check... (students have no idea)."

These turn-taking processes and strategies help shape the flow of conversation, manage interruptions, and ensure a balanced and cooperative exchange of speaking turns. Cultural and social norms also play a role in shaping turn-taking practices. Some cultures may have more structured turn-taking patterns, with strict rules regarding the order and duration of speaking turns. In contrast, others may allow for more overlap and interruption.

Researchers in the field of conversation analysis examine turn-taking as a means to understand the underlying mechanisms and patterns of conversation, including how participants coordinate and negotiate their speaking roles, manage interruptions, and maintain conversational coherence.

Another study that conducted the turn taking strategy research by Sinaga, Tannuary, and Saputra (2021). The objectives of this study were to identify the various types of turn-taking procedures used by Jokowi, the president, and Boy William on their channel on YouTube, Nebeng Boy. The researchers used Stenstrom's (1984) theory. This theory describes three categories: taking the turn (starting up, taking over, interrupting), holding the turn (filled pause, silent pause, meta-comments), and yielding the turn (prompting, appealing, giving up). Because the data the researcher did not use quantitative or statistic form in the data analysis, the researchers utilized a qualitative descriptive technique to explain the turn-taking tactics that contained in the interaction among Mr. Jokowi and Boy William in Nebeng Boy YouTube Channel.

There are similarities and differences between prior and current study. The two mentioned studies and the current research share a common focus on analyzing turn-taking strategies in specific contexts using Stenstrom's theory. They all aim to understand how different speakers employ various techniques to manage and navigate conversational exchanges. In terms of differences, the prior and current study used different data source, the first study by Rivai focuses on the turn-taking tactics used by two different presenters, Jimmy Kimmel and Ellen DeGeneres, in American TV talk programs. On the other hand, the second study by Sinaga, Tannuary, and Saputra explores the turn-taking methods employed by President Jokowi and Boy William on their YouTube channel, Nebeng Boy. While the current research used data source from Presidential Debate between Joe Biden and Donald Trump. The previous studies examine gender-specific turn-taking strategies employed by male and female presenters with different guests, while the current study explores the overall turn-taking strategies used by political candidates in a high-stakes political debate. The findings of the current study provide valuable insights into the dynamics of turn-taking and communication strategies in a political debate context. Overall, these studies contribute to our understanding of turn-taking behaviors and shed light on the various strategies employed in different communication settings.

2. Methodology

This study employed qualitative research to scrutinize turn-taking strategies, drawing its data from the televised presidential debate between Joe Biden and Donald Trump. In line with Sudaryanto (2015) observational approach, the research team closely observed the entire debate and meticulously documented a transcript of the discussion, with a particular focus on segments indicative of turn-taking techniques, as outlined by Stenström (1984). Data analysis followed the identification method proposed by Creswell and Poth (2014), encompassing key steps such as acquiring the debate video and transcript, systematically sorting the data, and conducting in-depth examinations of the video by repeatedly watching it to comprehend the various turn-taking methods employed by the participants. The collected transcripts were carefully classified to identify and label specific instances where turn-taking strategies were utilized. This structured methodology aimed to provide a comprehensive and systematic exploration of turn-taking strategies in the context of a presidential debate, offering insights into the intricacies of communication dynamics in high-stakes political settings.

3. Result and Discussion

In this study, turn-taking strategies were categorized according to Stenström's (1984) framework, which encompasses three primary types of turn-taking strategies. The first category, "Taking the Turn Strategy," comprises three subtypes: "Starting up" (4 instances), "Taking over" (3 instances), and "Interrupting" (3 instances). The second category, "Holding the Turn Strategy," includes "Filled pause/verbal fillers" (3 instances), "Lexical repetition" (3 instances), and "New start" (4 instances). The third category, "Yielding the Turn Strategy," encompasses "Prompting" (3 instances), "Appealing" (3 instances), and "Giving up" (3 instances). In total, the analysis identified 29 instances of turn-taking strategies during the debate, as based on Stenström's theory. For the sake of discussion, researchers focused on 18 instances within each strategy category.

Table 1. Turn-Taking Strategy

Types of Turn-Taking Strategy		Frequency
Taking the Turn Strategy	Starting up	4
	Taking over	3
	Interrupting	3
Holding the Turn	Filled pause/verbal fillers	3
	Lexical repetition	3
	New start	4

Yielding the turn	Prompting	3
	Appealing	3
	Giving up	3
Total		29

1) Taking the Turn Strategy

Starting Up Strategy

Data 1

JB: "How you doing, man?"

DT: "How you doing?"

During the debate between Joe Biden (JB) and Donald Trump (DT), Vice President Biden initiates the dialogue with a friendly question, saying, "How you doing, man?" This question not only marks the beginning of his turn but also establishes a warm and informal tone. Biden's approach can be interpreted as an informal way of engaging in conversation and expressing concern for the other person's well-being.

Data 2

CW: "Okay, gentlemen, gentlemen. Let me move on to questions about the future because you both have touched on two of the questions I'm going to ask."

Moderator Chris Wallace (CW) employs the "starting up" strategy to initiate a transition to a new topic. He states, "Okay, gentlemen, gentlemen. Let me move on to questions about the future because you both have touched on two of the questions I'm going to ask." With this statement, Wallace signals his intention to redirect the conversation toward discussing future-related topics. This strategic move helps set the context and purpose for the forthcoming questions.

Taking Over Strategy

Data 3

JB: "How you doing, man?"

DT: "How you doing?"

In this exchange between Joe Biden (JB) and Donald Trump (DT), Trump employs a turn-taking procedure known as "taking over." When Biden initiates the dialogue by asking, "How you doing, man?" Trump responds with, "How you doing?" This response reflects Trump's active participation in the conversation. By acknowledging Biden's salutation and responding in kind, Trump seizes the initiative in the discourse and keeps the discussion flowing. In doing so, he becomes an active participant in the ongoing dialogue.

Data 4

CW: "Okay, gentlemen, gentlemen. Let me move on to questions about the future because you both have touched on two of the questions I'm going to ask..."

DT: "Well, I've spoken to the companies and we can have it a lot sooner. It's a very political thing because people like this would rather make it political than save lives."

During the debate, moderator Chris Wallace (CW) transitions the conversation by stating, "Okay, gentlemen, gentlemen. Let me move on to questions about the future because you both have touched on two of the questions, I'm going to ask..." In response, President Donald J. Trump (DT) employs the "taking over" strategy to assert his viewpoint and guide the conversation toward his own agenda. Trump's statement, "Well, I've spoken to the companies and we can have it a lot sooner. It's a very political thing because people like this would rather make it political than save lives," demonstrates his active role as the speaker. By seizing the opportunity to assert his perspective and redirect the discourse, Trump effectively shapes the conversation according to his own interests.

Interrupting Strategies

Data 5

DT: "That's not what you've said and it's not what your party is saying-"

JB: "That is simply a lie"

DT: "Your party doesn't say it. Your party wants to go socialist medicine and socialist healthcare"

In this exchange, President Donald J. Trump (DT) makes a statement: "That's not what you've said and it's not what your party is saying-" Vice President Joe Biden (JB) interrupts Trump's comments by stating firmly, "That is simply a lie." Biden's interruption serves as a forceful conversational strategy to stress his own viewpoint and challenge the accuracy of Trump's assertion. It underscores Biden's strong disagreement with Trump's statement, making it clear that he believes it to be incorrect.

Data 6

DT: "Well, I've spoken to the companies and we can have it a lot sooner. It's a very political thing because people like this would rather make it political than save lives."

JB: God.

DT: "It is a very political thing. I've spoken to Pfizer, I've spoken to all of the people that you have to speak to, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson, and others."

During a different part of the debate, President Trump (DT) is in the midst of explaining his interactions with pharmaceutical companies when Vice President Joe Biden (JB) interrupts with a brief exclamation, saying, "God." This interruption serves as a spontaneous expression of surprise or disbelief, indicating Biden's emotional response to the topic being discussed. By interjecting with this exclamation, Biden momentarily diverts attention and potentially influences the direction of the conversation.

2) Holding the turn Strategy

Filled Pause/Verbal Fillers

Data 7

CW: "Well, all right. **All right.** Let's talk. We've got a lot to unpack here, gentlemen. We've got a lot of time. On healthcare, and then we'll come back to Roe V. Wade."

During the debate, moderator Chris Wallace (CW) employs the phrase "Well, all right. All right. Let's talk. We've got a lot to unpack here, gentlemen. We've got a lot of time. On healthcare, and then we'll come back to Roe V. Wade." In this example, Wallace's repeated use of "all right" may be interpreted as a filled pause or a verbal filler. The repetition of "all right" serves to fill small pauses and maintain the flow of conversation as the host organizes their thoughts or transitions to another topic. It signals that the moderator remains in control of the discussion and is about to introduce the next subject.

Data 8

DT: "**Well**, first of all, I guess I'm debating you, not him, but that's okay. I'm not surprised."

President Donald J. Trump (DT) begins his response with the word "Well" when reacting to a question during the debate: "Well, first of all, I guess I'm debating you, not him, but that's okay. I'm not surprised." In this context, "well" functions as a filler. By using the word "well," President Trump indicates his transition from Chris Wallace's question to his own response. It provides him with a moment to gather his thoughts and prepare his argument. The use of "well" allows him to pause briefly before addressing the topic at hand.

Lexical Repetition

Data 9

JB: "There is no manifesto, **number one...number two...**"

Vice President Joe Biden (JB) employs a structured argumentative technique during the debate, stating, "There is no manifesto, number one...number two..." This repetition of "Number one" and "Number two" serves to structure and

emphasize his arguments effectively. By using this structured format, Biden creates a logical and well-organized framework for presenting his points. The repetition of "Number one" and "Number two" not only underscores the importance and validity of his ideas but also aids in audience comprehension. It allows listeners to readily connect with his argument and grasp the key points he wishes to emphasize. This use of lexical repetition strengthens his argument and enhances its effectiveness in the discussion.

Data 10

DT: "It's become very political because the **left**... Or I don't know if I call them **left**, I don't know what I call them."

In his statement, President Donald J. Trump (DT) repeats the word "left" to emphasize his perspective on the political nature of the issue under discussion: "It's become very political because the left... Or I don't know if I call them left, I don't know what I call them." This repetition of the term "left" serves multiple purposes. Firstly, it reinforces his belief that there is a political agenda at play, highlighting his assertion that the topic has become highly politicized. Through this repetition, President Trump draws attention to his viewpoint and underscores the significance of the political dimension within the discourse. This lexical repetition aids in emphasizing his perspective and the political nature of the issue at hand.

New Start

Data 11

CW: "All right, the second subject is COVID-19, which is an awfully serious subject."

Moderator Chris Wallace (CW) introduces a significant shift in the debate by stating, "All right, the second subject is COVID-19, which is an awfully serious subject." With this declaration, Wallace signifies a clear transition from the previous topic to a new one. He explicitly communicates the change in the discussion's direction, highlighting the importance of the issue at hand. His remark not only marks a new beginning but also emphasizes the gravity of the topic, urging the participants to treat it with the seriousness it deserves.

Data 12

CW: "Well, all right. All right. Let's talk. We've got a lot to unpack here, gentlemen. We've got a lot of time. On healthcare, and then we'll come back to Roe V. Wade."

In this instance, Chris Wallace (CW) acknowledges the preceding discussion and facilitates a smooth transition to a new topic—healthcare. By stating, "Well, all right. All right. Let's talk. We've got a lot to unpack here, gentlemen. We've got a lot of time. On healthcare, and then we'll come back to Roe V. Wade," Wallace not only recognizes the prior conversation but also specifies the upcoming subject of discussion, which is healthcare. This signals a fresh start and provides a clear direction for the participants to focus their discourse on the specific topic of healthcare, effectively guiding the flow of the conversation.

3) Yielding the Turn Strategy

Prompting Strategy

Data 13

CW: "Sir, it's his two minutes"

When Chris Wallace interrupts President Trump as he attempts to reply to Vice President Biden's comments, he applies the prompting approach. Chris Wallace informs President Trump that Vice President Biden has been allotted speaking time. President Trump is reminded to cede the turn and let Vice President Biden keep on speaking.

Data 14

CW: "Vice President Biden, you want to respond?"

During the debate, as tensions escalated and the candidates sparred over various topics, including the economy and healthcare, moderator Chris Wallace (CW) directly addresses Vice President Biden with the question, "Vice President Biden, you want to respond?" This direct address serves as an invitation for Vice President Biden to provide his response to President Trump's statements. By offering Biden this opportunity to share his perspective, Chris Wallace ensures that both sides of the argument are heard and that the discourse remains balanced and inclusive.

Appealing

Data 15

DT: "A lot of people, between drugs and alcohol and depression, when you start shutting it down, you take a look at what's happening at some of your Democrat-run states where they have these tough shutdowns. And I'm telling you it's because they don't want to open it. One of them came out last week, you saw that, 'Oh, we're going to open up on November 9th.' Why November 9th? Because it's after the election. They think they're hurting us by keeping them closed. They're hurting people."

In this instance, moderator Chris Wallace initiated a discussion about the state of the economy, acknowledging its unexpected recovery following the initial COVID-19 pandemic-related shutdowns. President Trump interrupts the flow of the conversation and challenges the actions of Democrat-run states regarding their shutdown measures. By interjecting with statements like "it's because they don't want to open it" and "they think they're hurting us by keeping them closed," he insists on addressing his perspective and challenges the motivations behind the shutdowns. By employing these appealing strategies, President Trump aims to challenge the current speaker, in this case, the statements made by Chris Wallace and Vice President Biden. He attempts to redirect the conversation and assert his viewpoint, emphasizing the negative consequences of prolonged shutdowns and attributing political motivations to the decisions of Democrat-run states.

Data 16

JB: "Release your tax return"

He is using an appealing strategy to challenge President Trump to be transparent about his tax returns. Biden is urging Trump to provide the public with access to his financial information, specifically his tax returns, which has been a topic of debate and speculation. By making this appeal, Biden is putting pressure on Trump to address the issue and potentially reveal information that could be relevant to the discussion. This interruption serves as a direct challenge to Trump's transparency and accountability.

Giving Up

Data 17

JB: "He told us what a great job Xi was doing. He said we owe him debt of gratitude for being so transparent with us. And what did he do then? He then did nothing. He waited and waited and waited. He still doesn't have a plan."

DT: Wrong.

CW: Sir, it's his two minutes

DT: It's so wrong.

Giving up is a method adopted by President Trump as he decides to stop speaking when Chris Wallace reminds him of Vice President Biden's time to talk. Despite remarking, "It's so wrong," in reaction to Vice President Biden's remarks, President Trump is not keen on continuing his rebuttal or extending his speaking time.

Data 18

CW: "Well, frankly, you've been doing more interrupting than he has."

DT: "Well, that's all right, but he does plenty"

CW: "Well, sir, less than"

DT: "He does plenty."

CW: "No, less than you have. Let's please continue on."

In this instance, Chris Wallace initially tries to assert control over the situation by pointing out that President Trump has been interrupting more than Vice President Biden. However, when the interruptions persist, Wallace eventually gives up on his efforts to enforce order and proceeds with the discussion, acknowledging that he cannot completely control the

candidates' behavior. By saying "No, less than you have" in response to President Trump's claim that Vice President Biden interrupts as well, Chris Wallace attempts to correct the record and maintain some semblance of fairness in the debate. However, when it becomes clear that both candidates continue to interrupt each other, Wallace decides to move forward and says, "Let's please continue on." This indicates his acknowledgment that maintaining order has become challenging and that he is temporarily giving up on his attempts to control the interruptions.

4. Conclusion

Finally, this study examined 29 instances of turn-taking strategies in the Joe Biden and Donald Trump Presidential Debate, classifying them as taking the turn (starting up, taking over, interrupting), holding the turn (filled pause/verbal fillers, lexical repetition, new start), and yielding the turn (prompting, appealing, giving up). These findings provide understanding on the complex nature of turn-taking in high-stakes political debate, emphasizing the frequency of interrupting as a competitive strategy. Importantly, these findings add to a better understanding of the linguistic intricacies of political communication, suggesting that turn-taking methods have a major rhetorical impact on the flow of discourse and public perception.

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