

EMOTIONS IN THE DIPLOMATIC SPEECH OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL IN 2023

Mariia HOLTSEVA

Kyiv Metropolitan University, Ukraine

m.holtseva@kubg.edu.ua

ABSTRACT: The primary objective of the analysis is the reconstruction and hierarchy of the connection between emotions and discussed issues in the diplomatic speech at the United Nations Security Council in 2023. Thus, it has been discussed the main reasons for using emotions and their role in diplomacy in 2023. The research is concentrated on such emotions and their impact as – anger, fear, shame, disgust, shame, guilt, sadness, contempt, interest, surprise, and joy. The most emotional topics are connected to the questions of security, war; the least emotional topic relates to poverty. The most frequent emotion is interest, and the least common emotion is joy. As a result, it has been found that emotions in diplomatic meetings are expressed with the help of 1) expressive vocabulary; 2) appropriate grammar; 3) usage of stylistic means, such as litotes, euphemisms etc.; 4) syntactical peculiarities; 5) variety of speech acts. Further multi-vectored interpretations of the reconstructed emotions have been carried out within the frame of the 7-level model of an open system's hierarchical plane. This allowed us to see emotions' spiral evolution at the diplomatic meeting and what is standing behind them.

KEYWORDS: emotions, emotional reactions, diplomatic speech, diplomatic discourse, the United Nations Security Council.

Introduction

Among the typical diplomatic discourse issues, emotions at the United Nations Security Council take a special place in current linguistic studies. Understanding the origin of emotional reactions (based on the universal open system), provoked emotions (desired perlocutionary act), what is hidden beyond them (pragmatics) makes a significant contribution to the development of diplomatic discourse. Emotions are mistakenly believed to be appropriate only in daily life. But as our results of the research have shown, the impact and presence of emotions should not be underestimated. Emotions are making diplomatic communication more colloquial and less formal; thus, they have an impact not only on changing the vector of discussion but also on making final decisions, supporting/promoting the resolutions, and so on. Consequently, the hierarchy of emotions, and their evolution gives us a proper understanding of the background of emotional reactions while debating, supporting partners, provoking opponents, and expressing personal attitudes. And, as a result, this leads to a better understanding of international diplomacy.

Results and discussion

In current international diplomacy, where states discuss issues of global importance, the usage of language is a powerful tool. Diplomatic discourse serves different purposes, including not only international communication, different negotiations, but also – conflict prevention and adopting resolutions. Traditionally, diplomacy is believed to be rational, formal, polite, and strategic organization. However, behind its formality are emotions that can change diplomatic collaboration between countries.

Emotions play a part in our innate nature. And diplomats are not immune to emotional reactions, emotional provocations, lying with the help of emotions etc. While diplomacy is often characterized by carefully and formally made statements, emotions can easily change the tone, further communication or even the whole outcome of diplomatic interaction.

The following article is based on the classification of emotions by C.Izard (2009), which classifies emotions as: anger, fear, shame, disgust, guilt, sadness, contempt, interest, surprise, joy.

In diplomatic discourse the following emotions are presented on the following layers (Holtseva, 2023): 1) lexical (vocabulary that expresses emotions, vocabulary that describes/evokes emotions, emotive clichés) (Krysanova, 2014); 2) syntactical (rhetorical questions, conditional clauses, passive voice, hedging, modal verbs) (Hui, Ma, Li, 2023); 3) grammatical (usually adjectives and adverbs may help to emphasize the idea emotionally); 4) stylistically (for instance, litotes dominate); 5) emotions during different speech acts (such as – constatives, promissives, menassives, directives, performatives, quessitives (Pocheptsov, 2010; Holtseva, 2023).

Based on 270 analyzed diplomatic meetings in 2023, it has been identified 7 main reasons why diplomats are using emotions in diplomatic discourse:

- 1) humanizing diplomatic relations;
- 2) developing negotiations;
- 3) responding to discussed crises;
- 4) expressing an attitude towards members or the discussed issue;
- 5) supporting members of the United Nations Security Council;
- 6) deceiving participants of the United Nations Security Council;
- 7) managing conflicts.

Emotions are not just reactions to different discussed issues, but mostly they are reactions while discussing some precise topics. In the diagram above (Figure 1) it is possible to see the frequency of emotions according to the analyzed amount of diplomatic meetings that shows the following results :

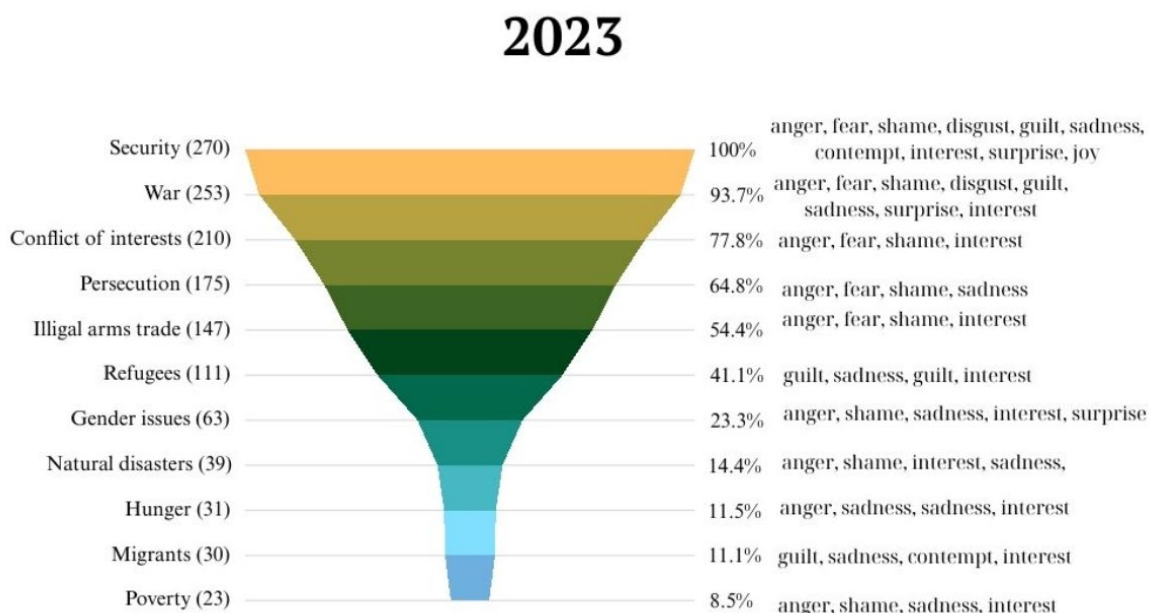


Figure 1. The frequency of emotion among diplomatic meetings at the UN Security Council in 2023

The shown figure represents that the order of emotions is the following – 1) interest, 2) anger, 3) fear, shame, 4) guilt, surprise, 5) sadness, disgust, contempt, 6) joy. Where (1) interest is the most widespread emotion, that deals with complex issues concerning every discussed topic; (2) anger is the second typical emotion due to the fact that disagreements are inevitable in a council with multiple member states; (3) security threats are the very reason the European Union Security Council exists, that's why fear is on the third place together with the emotion of shame, when the situation may not be resolved peacefully/there is no agreement between members/it is too late to change the situation for better etc.; (4) heated discussions about such sharp topics as threats to security, war, human rights etc. might call up guilt and surprise; (5) disgust and contempt are appear less in formal meetings, but they may be felt privately while discussing some specific questions during the diplomatic meetings, while sadness is used mostly to express official sorrow for the victims and acknowledging the suffering caused by the discussed conflicts; (6) reaching some kind of a peaceful

resolution/agreement/acknowledging colleagues'/partners' achievements may bring a certain sense of joy or even relief.

Let us put theory into practice and analyze examples from collected fragments of emotions from the UN Security Council.

Anger might appear from violations of the laws/human rights, personal offence, etc. For example – *We demand an apology. The United Nations and some on the Council rushed to adopt the lies of ISIS-like terrorists and refused to accept the hard evidence of a law-abiding democracy. They should apologize* (Meeting 9443)[several strong emotions are present here, such as anger – the statement with the verb “demand” expresses a sense of authority and dissatisfaction, this directive speech act requires correction of the mentioned information by the United Nations and some members of the Council].

Fear might appear as the potential consequences of unresolved conflicts, inaction, lying, supporting a subjective point of view etc. For example – *But make no mistake, the situation grows worse by the hour, and without an urgent end to the hostilities, I am deeply afraid for the fate of the region's children. But we – and Council members – have the power to help lift children out of that spiral of violence* (Meeting 9462)[“I am deeply afraid for the fate of the region's children” is a direct statement of the speaker's fear for the children's wellbeing in the described conflict; the part “the situation grows worse by the hour..” emphasize the deplorable situation, from Pocheptsov's classification that is a constative speech act that is describing the current situation].

Shame is unlikely to appear openly as it might be considered as weakness. But this emotion might be provoked by the opponent. For example – *Now, as it attempts to carry out that plan, it is searching for justifications. Blame the United States. Blame the Republic of Korea and Japan. Blame the sanctions. Blame the Council. Blame anyone, but the one that actually bears responsibility for pursuing weapons in violation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons – the regime of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea* (Meeting 9514)[there are the indirect attempts to provoke shame(with the help of imperative anaphora – *blame*) in order to show that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is breaking an agreement, this could indirectly shame them for violating the international law; also, there is one more tactic to make the Democratic People's Republic of Korea feel ashamed for their behavior that is shifting the responsibility, constantly blaming other countries (Blame the United States. Blame the Republic of Korea and Japan. Blame the sanctions. Blame the Council. Blame anyone, but the one that actually bears responsibility); from Pocheptsov's classification this passage may be considered as a not pure directive (Think about who is responsible)].

Disgust is not that widespread, but if used, in this case it disapproves actions, heard information, presented resolution etc. For example – *Instead, Russia spends its time in the Council criticizing legitimate assistance provided to defend Ukraine from Russia's illegal actions. Meanwhile, it is a fact that Russia procured armaments for its aggression against Ukraine through channels expressly prohibited by the Council and its resolutions* (Meeting 9501)[the noun phrase “illegal actions” and the verb phrase “expressly prohibited” together with a litote “legitimate assistance” indicate an indirect implication of disgust towards Russia and its actions; this passage may be considered as a constative speech act(it is a fact that Russia procured armaments for its aggression against Ukraine)].

Guilt does not appear very often, it can express regret for unintended consequences. This emotion might be considered as the emotion of weakness, thus it is expressed mostly indirectly. For example, an attempt to provoke this emotion – *The Russian Orthodox Church has become accustomed to State and near-State Ukrainian media outlets viewing any of our testimony in defence of the rights of worshippers in Ukraine as evidence of guilt of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church* (Meeting 9481) [defensive tone of the statement (in defence of the rights of worshippers in Ukraine) is used as an attempt of further accusations of the opponent; also, shifting blame (state and near-State Ukrainian media outlets) portraits their actions as evidence of guilt; this is an example of partially constative speech act (*The Russian Orthodox Church has become accustomed...*)].

Sadness is not one of the main emotions, but if it appears, that might happen as a reaction to the loss of human lives, the endless cycle of violence, broken promises, and failed negotiations. For

example, it may be quite formal, like a rule from a diplomatic protocol – *First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere condolences to the Libyan people following the numerous casualties and large-scale destruction caused by the storm and flooding in the north-east of the country* (Meeting 9438)[an expressive official speech act (*I would like to express my sincere condolences*), that focus on sadness, sympathy and care].

Contempt is a quite risky emotion and usually is not expressed directly. This emotion shows a feeling of disgust and disapproval for someone or something. For example – *All of these words still apply, but today I offer another word: ridiculous. It is ridiculous to assert that this launch, in addition to the short-range ballistic missile launch, is in any way justifiable or an appropriate response to a meeting* (Meeting 9514)[the speaker isn't just disagreeing, they are showing the clear emotion of contempt via the directive speech act (*It is ridiculous to assert...*); repetition of a litote “*ridiculous*” expresses a strong negative judgment, suggesting the idea of launching (“*justifiable, appropriate*”)as absurd].

Showing **interest** encourages present participants of a diplomatic discussion to have an open communication, hear what others are talking about and be heard by others. Also, a subjective interest can be present, mostly indirectly. For example – *That includes countries of the European Union, which Ukraine so desperately seeks to join. In other words, Ukraine should have stopped being anti-Russia and should have returned to normal, civilized and good neighbourly development* (Meeting 9464)[there is no direct expression of interest, but there is an indirect self-interest (what“*Ukraine should have done*” regarding Russia suggests the speaker's interest in influencing Ukraine's behavior to be suitable for Russian interests); an euphemism “*should have returned to normal, civilized and good neighbourly development*” shows a desired outcome that benefits first of all Russia; the following passage may be considered as a partially constative speech act(Ukraine is looking for different ways to join the European Union)].

Surprise, like previous emotions, is not a commonly displayed emotion. However, diplomats and invited guests might express surprise as an unexpected reaction or a long-awaited reaction. For example – *The turbulence of the past cannot make us forget Operation Sangaris, which managed to stem the bloodshed caused by the Séléka at the height of the crisis. The challenges are still many, but great strides have been made, much to everyone's surprise* (Meeting 9454)[in the following passage it is possible to identify a litote “*to stem the bloodshed*”, an euphemism “*the challenges*” that emphasizes the positive expected outcome “*great strides have been made, much to everyone's surprise*”; the mentioned passage may be considered as expressive (*to stem the bloodshed caused by the Séléka at the height of the crisis*) with elements of a constative speech act about the current situation].

In rare occasions the emotion of **joy** is expressed satisfaction and relief after the heard information, signed resolution etc. Very often this emotion is quite formal and follow the diplomatic protocol. For example – *The Central African Republic is therefore delighted to see support for the restoration of State authority as a top priority and would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all the partners that have enabled the Central African Republic to take great strides forward in that regard, as the State now controls vast swathes of the territory* (Meeting 9476)[this statement expresses rather formal joy(“*delighted to see support, to express our gratitude*”), together with a sense of achievement and appreciation (“*to take great strides forward in that regard*”); that is why we may consider it as a partially constative speech act (*as the State now controls vast swathes of the territory*)].

Detailed emotional dynamic in 2023 is the following:

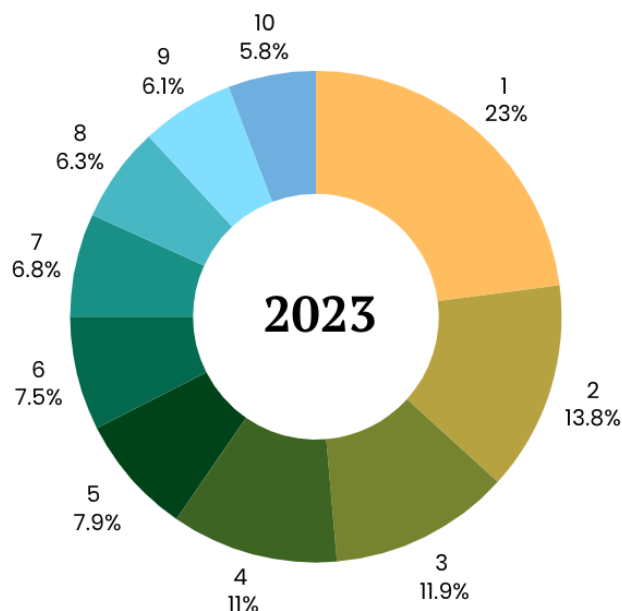


Figure 2. Dynamic of emotions within diplomatic speeches in 2023

Where number 1 is the emotion of interest, number 2 is anger, number 3 is fear, number 4 is shame, number 5 is guilt, number 6 is surprise, number 7 is sadness, number 8 is disgust, number 9 is contempt, number 10 is joy. Speaking about diplomatic meetings, the results are next: 1) interest – 270 meetings, 2) anger – 162 meetings, 3) fear – 140, 4) shame – 129 meetings, 5) guilt – 93 meetings, 6) surprise – 88 meetings, 7) sadness – 80 meetings, 8) disgust – 80 meetings, 9) contempt – 74 meetings, 10) joy – 72 meetings.

Thus, the focus on the emotion of interest might suggest a priority of information exchange, finding the common sense, the golden middle. Also, the UN Security Council deals with a wide range of complex issues, which naturally provokes a high level of interest. The presence of such emotions as anger (162 meetings), fear (140 meetings), contempt (74 meetings) points to a quite tense atmosphere among participants. These emotions could be provoked or arise out of disagreements and different violations of personal interests.

Theoretical framework or Literature Review

It is vital to take a closer look at the works that analyze the connection of emotions and diplomatic discourse.

At first, it is important to note the place of emotional intelligence that focuses on the diplomats' ability to understand, use, cope with their emotions and the emotions of other people (Prabhakar, 2022). For us it is curious to see the concept of emotional intelligence in the aspect of the following stages – recognizing, utilizing, comprehending, managing emotions and emotional information. Based on this approach and modernizing the theory of an open system (Kolesnyk, 2020), we have managed to see the hierarchy of emotions in diplomatic discourse.

Dealing with the analysis of emotions is impossible without their connections with international relations. Simon Koschut and Todd H. Hall have clearly explained how emotions are not only expressed and managed within different diplomatic interactions, but also why emotions can not be ignored during diplomatic negotiations and interpersonal communications (discourse and emotions in international relations (Koschut, Hall, 2017). That is why, we may consider this research as the second step in the classification of emotions, presented by C. Izard (2009).

At same time we should pay attention to public diplomacy, that examines the role of emotions in shaping public opinion and influencing international relations (Pavón-Guinea, Codina, 2024; Hall, 2016).

However, the diplomatic discourse and its emotions is very close to the political discourse. That is why, emotion discourse analysis in political contexts identifies and explains how and why emotions appear within political communications, that includes diplomatic interactions (Koschut, 2017). Therefore, to provide a deep analysis of emotional background of communication, it is needed to use a set of different linguistic tools, such as – Lingualyzer, that is a quantitative text analysis tool for conducting a multidimensional analysis (Combei, Reggi, 2023).

Methodology

To develop a profound analysis of emotions in diplomatic discourse within the meeting of the UN Security Council in 2023, it has been used as a multi-level approach.

Our first step was to focus on emotions within diplomatic discourse extracts. Therefore, our first method was *theoretical*, which helped us to analyze the collected data, diplomatic and political discourse findings, their comparison, systematization, and generalization.

To identify emotions, it has been decided to **involve the 7-level model of an open system's hierarchical plane (Figure 3)** for conducting the multi-vectored integrative interpretations of the speaker's emotions.

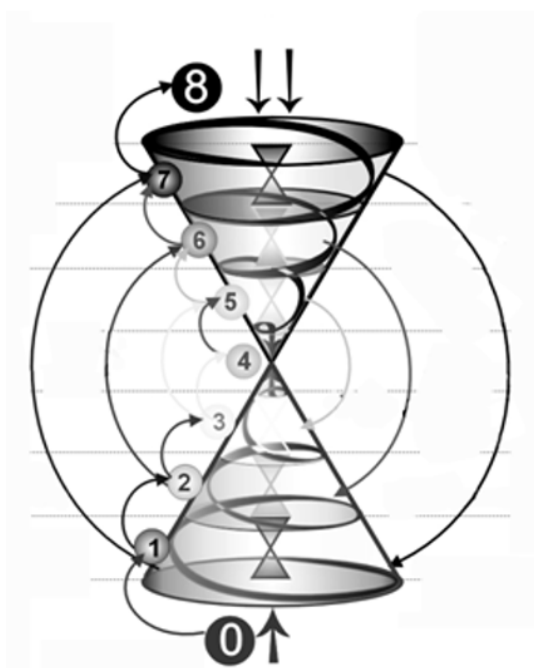


Figure 3. Hierarchical structure of an open system

This model provides a generalized framework, where an open system of diplomatic discourse goes down the spiral:

level 7 holds an axiomatic vision of the world, thus determining at level 6 the interests, intentions, emotional reactions of a smaller group of participants during any diplomatic communication (for example, military alliances), this level also determines the pragmatics of level 1 (achieving the desired outcome at a definite diplomatic meeting of the UN Security Council). Further, level 6 intentions determine level 5 intentions (influence on addressee/enemy alliance/seeking support from allies) and characterize level 2 intentions (optimizing communication within the diplomatic discourse). Intentions of level 5 points at the maintaining/establishing connections during a diplomatic interaction under the influence of situational intentions at level 4, which deals with the direct fulfillment of a discussed situation and further interactions with other discourses (diplomatic discourse together with political discourse, military discourse, etc.) and also determines further intentions of the level 3, that is meant to improve the diplomatic system, and model the fake status

quo. Intentions at level 4 are about the achievement of the most desired perlocutionary effect during competitive diplomatic interactions.

The described model gives a detailed generalized frame for interpreting and reconstructing pragmatics of discourse acts in the diplomatic discourse and their emotional aspects.

The study was conducted with the help of Sketch Engine and personal findings.

Our next step was to conduct quantitative and qualitative analysis of the gathered results with the help of *mathematical statistics*.

Conclusions

Emotions play a significant role in diplomatic discourse, which has made it possible to identify the connections between emotions and discussed issues during the diplomatic meetings. While the main emotion is interest, the prevalence of emotions like anger, fear, shame indicates a rather tense atmosphere between diplomats and the guests.

However, the emotions during diplomatic meetings of the UN Security Council in 2023 highlight the humane element of diplomacy that undeniably plays a crucial part in shaping the international society. Also, emotions may be used as a powerful tool in achieving the desired perlocutionary goal, changed vector of discussion, agreement, or disagreement within the majority of present participants at the diplomatic meeting.

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