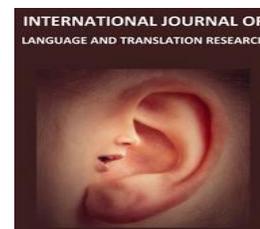# Imagining the Peoples of Europe: Populist Discourses across the Political Spectrum—A Review

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Abstract

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Keywords:

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The Debate about populism is exuberate. It is, therefore, obligatory for discourse scholars to disengage themselves from this perceptual and linguistic confusion and remove to the analytical view of what these parties claim and how these claims include appeals to the "people", and how their political style and condition occur simultaneously or overlap. The category of populism itself cannot be used in a non-reflexive manner as a social-scientific analytic use of this term may or may not overlap with the way this category is used in everyday political language use. This volume contains articles that problematize and analyzed both the table of populism" and the notion of the people" in different European contexts from a wide variety of several discourse-analytical and discourse theoretical perspectives.

The political lands scape in Europe is going through a time of rapid change, with new movements and players that assert to vocalize the will of people, political parties, and ways of doing politics are established.

As Populism has become a common term in contemporary political debates. Academic interest was generated by this term. The Debate about populism is exuberate. It is, therefore, obligatory

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for discourse scholars to disengage themselves from this perceptual and linguistic confusion and remove to the analytical view of what these parties claim and how these claims include appeals to the "people", and how their political style and condition occur simultaneously or overlap.

The category of populism itself cannot be used in a non-reflexive manner as a social-scientific analytic use of this term may or may not overlap with the way this category is used in everyday political language use. This volume contains articles that problematize and analyzed both the table of populism" and the notion of the people" in different European contexts from a wide variety of several discourse-analytical and discourse theoretical perspectives.

Various authors in the volume take a Laclavian perspective on populist discourse, but interestingly they use this perspective to differentiate degrees on different levels of analysis and using the various methodological approach.

The authors in this volume compound different approaches to catch up with the topic and data under discussion.

Chapter 1

Chapter 1 is about the populist political logic and the analysis of the discursive construction of "the people" and "the elite". Benjamin De Cleen the writer of this chapter, argues populism as a particular discursive political logic as a special way of formulating political demand in the name of "peoples" and citizens as members of "the people". The central concern of the discourse – theoretical approach to populism (Laclau 1977, 2005 a, 2005 b, Stavvakakis,2004, Stavvakakis and Katsambekis 2014, Decleen & Stavvakakis 2017) rather than for example conceptualization of populism as communication style, (e.g. Jagers and Walgrave 2007) or as thin ideology (Mudde, 2004; Mudde and Rovira Kaltwasser, 2017).

In politics and Marxist theory, Haclau (1977-10) identified two main obstacles to the improvement of the concept. Politics in discourse theoretical way "the connotative articulation of concept at the level of discourse and the rationalist articulation into necessary paradigms.

There are various approaches to populism. Populism has been defined as an ideology or doctrine (McRae) as a thin ideology – a more limited series of ideas about how to evaluate " the people" and the "elite" and about the role of the people and the elite in politics. (Canovan 2002, Stanely 2008). In this chapter, the writer covers a variety of populism, identified the distinct character of

populism, and defines populism as a political logic. This definition is limited to a particular form of politics and therefore applicable in the empirical analysis of populist politics.

Populism is structured around a vertical down/up axis that resources to power status, and hierarchical position (Dryrberg 2003: 8: 2006; Laclav 1977; Meny and Surel 2002: 12; Mudde 2007; Ostigy 2009). "The people" is located on the down end of this axis as a large and powerless group and "the elite" is located on the up end as a small and powerful group.

Chapter 2

Chapter 2 is about examining the space of dialogue in discourse about populism. The writers of this chapter are Chiara Degano and Federico Giulio Sicurella. They define the space of dialogue as the joint result of relevant argumentative strategies at the level of definition, evaluation, argumentation, and dialogically. They handle definition and evaluation as two separate analytical dimensions that argumentative representation of populism could be distinguished from the evaluative attitudes that the authors accept. Argumentation is a multi-dimensional concept but this analysis will be limited to those topoi' that reach the distinguished position in newspaper commentary about populism. In contemporary discourse analytical research, this concept is hidden at the interface of issues related to evaluation and polyphony. The writers' analysis of two British and Italian samples.

Chapter 3

Chapter 3 is about European populism(s) as a counter-hegemonic discourse. The writers of this chapter are Arthur Borriello and Samuele Mazzolini. They talked about "Re- politicizing" and "Re-nationalizing" politics. In order to assess the populist logic and counter-discursive strategy that these movements present, they carry out a corpus-based analysis of their discourse. The writers try to find similarities between Podemos and M5S (Movimento Cinque Stelle). The identification of the "constitutive other" takes much systematic form in Podemos discourse, as epitomized by more frequent terms related to the systematic dimension of the entity they oppose, such as neoliberal (ism) and oligarch(y). Whereas M5S insists on the corruption of the political class as a moral question.

Chapter 4

Chapter 4 is about Islamic conservative populism in Turkey, and is written by Hayriye Ozen. This study focuses on the Islamic/conservative populism of Justice and the development party (AKP) in Turkey. The writer focuses on a different type of right-wing populism from the Laclavinan perspective, populism does not consider the content of politics or the ideology of the movement. Rather it is a "political logic". The writer talked about the condition of the AKP's populism and explain the roots of AKP as a new populist force. In Moffit's (2015: 90) words, this "Performance of the crisis" by the AKP played an important role in the constitution and reconstitution of its populism. In this chapter, the writer elaborates on the role of people as a signifier of Islamic/ conversation.

Chapter 5

Chapter 5 is about the articulation of "the people". In the discourse of Podemos, and is written by Nicolina Montesano Montessori and Esperanza Morales-López.

This chapter is focused on the construction of Pueblo people and Patria's "homeland" in the Spanish discourse of Podemosant the party's relation to *la gent* the people between June 2016 and its second political conference, Vistalegre 2. February (2017). The writers analyzed what they considered the key discursive resources in the selected data and analyze them individually and socially. The writers explain Podemos's relationship with the people as a synecdoche, and the other explanation is to refer to Podemos as the people, a popular movement.

Chapter 6

Chapter 6 of this book is about building left-wing populism in Denmark, moving away from the right. This chapter is written by Oscar Garcia Agustin.

In the Danish context, populism is usually associated with the radical right-wing. However, the left-wing Red-Green Alliance is a Danish socialist party established in 1989. The writer talked about radical left and populist moments and conditions for a populist left-wing party in Denmark.

Chapter 7

Chapter 7 is written by Andreas Onnerfors, performing "the people". The populist style of politics in the German PEGIDA - movement. This chapter analyses the construction of the people in the populist style of politics as performed in the German PEGIDA- movement. This chapter tries to show how PEGIDA manage to extract the image of "crisis" as a driving force to construct, represent and articulate the voice and the claims of "the people" as a political audience and actor in order to create a performative stage for the expression of spread political position coagulating around narrative string circulating in a more general German and European New Right (ENR) discourse (Moffitt 2016). The writer in this chapter explains the Germane concept of "Volk" that in the ethnocultural sense refers to a collective united by language, culture, and a shared past. The writer thinks that it is useful to consider populism as a communicative style, as a performative strategy, and even as a mode of politics, with a logic of its own. In this chapter, the writer tries to define PEGIDA on the public stage. Henning Claims that PEGIDA represents a cross-section of society, which accurately can be called the people and appears to be a new power to count on, displaying non-compliance on the street: "The people assemble as if it would have waited for the occasion", and the people has become non-compliant and refuses to take orders from a political caste chasing it towards the abyss. The writer also explains PEGIDA as part of the ENR discourse.

Chapter 8

Chapter 8 is about the discursive construction of the people in European political discourse, by Naomi Truan. In this chapter, the writer talked about "people" from a cross-linguistic perspective. The people represent the entry members of parliament (MPS) speak to, about, and on behalf of. In political science, mentioning the people immediately raises the concern of populist message or stance. The writer explains the relationship between people and populism. In this chapter, the writer tries to elaborate on the meaning of people-volk and people in the three corpora, and provide elements of explanation for the specific use of lexemes volk in German and people in French. The written in the second step show that "people" are mentioned to stage people's assumed expectations. It, therefore, emphasizes a common ground that unites political discourse in the language of people around the world.

Chapter 9

Chapter 9 is about standing up for "real people" by Samuel Bennett. This chapter investigates how the UK Independence Party (UKP) discursively constructed 'the people' during 2016.

'Brexit' referendum campaign. In this chapter, we found that there are two key groups, Elite mainstream political actors and migrants. From the writer's viewpoint, populism is a specific discursive strategy. We can find some characteristics of populist political parties in this chapter. In this chapter, the writer investigates that the language of UKIP's Brexit campaign was the prototypical right-wing populist party.

Chapter 10

In this chapter written by Raluca Mihaela Levonian about "The people" in the discourse of the Romanian government and opposition, the writer analyzes the discourse of government and opposition parties in Romania, between 2011, and 2012. The writer found that the government tended to present "people" as the only agent responsible for their material well-being, and denied the possibility of their influence in decision-making in the political sphere. In this chapter different concepts are elaborated such as the cultural dimension of "the people", and the material dimension.

The political dimension, political actors.

The results of the study show that the recurrence of terms such as 'people' or "citizens" in political speeches cannot represent an indicator of populism by itself.

Chapter 11

Chapter 11 is about the Volk (people) and its modes of representation by Alternative für Deutschland - AFD (Alternative for Germany) that is written by Miguel Ayerbe Linares. The concept of the German (people) is central in the discourse of the new political party Alternative für Deutschland (AFD) which in (2013) emerged on the political scene. The writer of this study focuses on the bulletin AFD-Kompakt, the election manifesto, and the Twitter accounts of the party. The writer analyzed lexeme used to refer to the people and took into account their connotation in the historical context of German nationalism. The AFD thus presents itself publicly as the only authentic alternative political project for "the people" and for Germany.

Chapter 12

This chapter is about measuring people-centrism in populist political discourse and is written by Maarten van Leeuwen. This study analyzed "people-centrism" which is one of the most frequently analyzed discourse characteristics. It means to what extent "the people" are put the focus of attention in a politician's discourse. The researcher of this study analyzes the syntactic position in which "the people" are presented and uses strategies of perspective or attributed viewpoint based on our understanding of how politicians put "the people" in the center of attention in their discourse. The purpose of this chapter is to study populism in two ways. The first aim is to deepen our understanding of how politicians can put "the people" in the center of attention in their discourse and second on a more programmatic level, and also how linguistic approach to populist discourse.

Chapter 13

Chapter 13 is about populist discursive surrounding the immigration quota referendum in Hungary by Peter Furko. The aim of the study in this chapter is to identify populist discursive strategies used by government and opposition parties in the course of the parliamentary debate that related to (anti-) immigration in general and the immigration quota referendum in particular. In this chapter, the writer talked about populist discursive strategies in parliamentary speeches which consist of combining critical discursive analytical and corpus linguistic approaches and the characteristic of parliamentary speech as a sub-genre of political discourse, and political lexical. The writer explains the difference between the populist and nationalist discourse on the content level. In addition to content level differences, the study elaborates several linguistic manifestations of discursive strategies that were not identified in connection with naturalistic discursive practices.

Conclusion

This book consists of thirteen essays and in each essay, the writers try to elaborate on the concept of populism. They try to explain populism by answering different questions related to different countries. Their research method and analysis of each study can help the reader to find the meaning. The other positive point of this book is that in each chapter, and at the end of the study there are some comments for future study and readers have the opportunity to think about

limitations and start their own study. There are some references at the end of, each chapter that help readers to use them. All of the articles are about European people which makes this book unique.

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