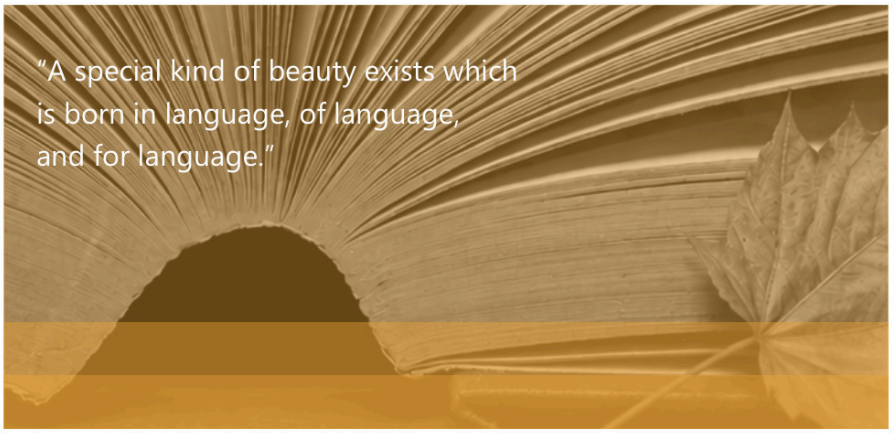
VOLUME 10, OCTOBER 2026
ISSN: 3060-4958







The Lingua Spectrum



UZBEKISTAN STATE WORLD
LANGUAGES UNIVERSITY

MORE INFO:

www.lingvospektr.uz

t.me/thelinguaspectrum

Jalolova G.M.	Structural-semantic classification and etymological layers of astrological vocabulary in English and Uzbek	146
Abduxakimova G.	A Lexico-Semantic Comparative Analysis of Euphemisms Related to the Body, Health and Private Life in Contemporary English and Uzbek Media Discourse (Social Media, Online News and Blogs)	153
Dalieva M.Kh.	Lexical and pragmatic features of English-language media headlines: a corpus study of world health organization news releases	161
Baynazarov Z.M.	Language policy in the Timurid period and the status of the Turkic language	169
Im S.B.	Gallicisms and the Ways They Entered the Russian Language	181
Im S.B.	Karamzin as the Creator of the French Culture of Sensibility in the Russian Language	189
Siddikova F.O.	The representation of hospitality in English and Uzbek: A Comparative Linguocultural Analysis	195
Sadinova M.A.	Binary conceptual oppositions in the linguistic worldview: The life – death model	204
Umarova J.Zh.	Evaluative Language and Metaphor in Museum Discourse: Assessing AI-Based Analysis of the Savitsky Museum Catalogue	228
Xojanov Sh.B.	The study of phraseological units based on modern linguistic theories in K. Karimov's novel "Agabiy"	239
Azimova D.A.	The System of Non-Canonical Antonym Pairs in English Presidential Speeches and Proverbs (Non-Canonical Antonyms as Powerful Rhetorical Instruments)	246
Nasirova R.A.	Phraseological and Paremiological Conceptualization of Moral Values in English and Uzbek	254
Kambarova M.A.	Universal and National-Specific Features in English and Russian Proverbs (based on Proverbs about Homeland)	260
Djalilov M.M.	Neologisms and abbreviations: the interaction of word-formation processes in modern linguistics	267
Sabirova B.U.	The lexical-semantic analysis of Uzbek pragmalinguistic terms "lingvistik kontekst, vaziyat konteksti, ijtimoiy konteks va kognitiv kontekst"	273
Karimova Z.G'.	Illocutionary features of modal and interjection word-sentences in typologically different languages	282
Borisova Ye.V.	Linguistic representation of blame and responsibility in public corporate apologies	289
Yahyaeva E.V.	Vocative words and vocative sentences in Azerbaijani	301
Musayeva S.	Structural and semantic features of phraseological units in the form of word combinations and sentences in Azerbaijani	310

The Lingua Spectrum
Cogito, ergo sum

Jurnal Oliy Attestatsiya Komissiyasi tomonidan 2025-yil 4-yanvar kuni 366/5-sonli qaror bilan tavsiya etilgan milliy ilmiy nashrlar ro'yxatiga kiritilgan

The System of Non-Canonical Antonym Pairs in English Presidential Speeches and Proverbs (Non-Canonical Antonyms as Powerful Rhetorical Instruments)

Azimova Dildora Asliddinovna
dildoraazimova009@gmail.com
Teacher,
National University of Uzbekistan

Annotation *This article examines the structural, semantic, and pragmatic functions of non-canonical antonym pairs in English-language political discourse and traditional English proverbs. Unlike canonical antonyms, whose opposition is conventionalized in the lexicon, non-canonical pairs acquire contrastive force through context, rhetorical organization, and communicative intention. The study considers presidential addresses by John F. Kennedy, Barack Obama, Theodore Roosevelt, and Jimmy Carter, alongside proverbs such as "Haste makes waste" and "The pen is mightier than the sword." Using contextual-semantic, discourse-pragmatic, and comparative analysis, it explores how speakers construct temporary oppositions to frame political choices, encourage action, and shape collective identity. In proverbs, comparable contrasts compress social experience into memorable moral statements. The analysis suggests that antonymic opposition is not limited to dictionary-listed pairs: words from different semantic fields can function as contextual opposites when a discourse establishes a meaningful contrast. The article highlights the rhetorical flexibility of non-canonical antonymy across political and proverbial genres.*

Keywords *Non-canonical antonyms, contextual antonyms, political discourse, presidential speech, proverbs, semantic polarity, rhetorical contrast*

Prezidentlar nutqida va maqollarida nokanonimik antonim juftliklar tizimi (Nokanonimik antonimlar kuchli ritorik vosita sifatida)

Azimova Dildora Aslitdin qizi
dildoraazimova009@gmail.com
O'qituvchi,
O'zbekiston Milliy universiteti

Annotatsiya *Ushbu maqolada ingliz tilidagi siyosiy diskurs va an'anaviy ingliz maqollarida uchraydigan nokanonik antonim juftliklarining strukturaviy, semantik hamda pragmatik vazifalari tahlil qilinadi. Lug'aviy tizimda barqarorlashgan kanonik antonimlardan farqli ravishda, nokanonik juftliklar kontekst, ritorik tuzilish va kommunikativ maqsad ta'sirida qarama-qarshi ma'no kasb etadi. Tadqiqot materiali sifatida Jon F. Kennedi, Barak Obama, Teodor Ruzvelt va Jimmi Karter nutqlari, shuningdek, "Haste makes waste" hamda "The pen is mightier than the sword" kabi ingliz maqollari o'rganiladi. Kontekstual-semantik, diskursiv-pragmatik va qiyosiy tahlil usullari orqali siyosiy notiqlar vaqtinchalik qarama-qarshiliklardan siyosiy tanlovni talqin qilish, harakatga undash va jamoaviy o'zlikni shakllantirishda qanday foydalanishi ko'rsatiladi. Maqollarda esa bunday kontrastlar ijtimoiy tajriba va axloqiy xulosalarni ixcham, esda qolarli shaklda ifodalaydi. Tahlil antonimik oppozitsiya faqat lug'atlarda qayd etilgan juftliklar bilan cheklanmasligini*

ko'rsatadi: turli semantik maydonlarga mansub so'zlar ham kontekst mazmunli qarama-qarshilikni yuzaga keltirganda nokanonik antonim sifatida ishlashi mumkin. Maqola siyosiy nutq va paremiologiyada nokanonik antonimiyaning ritorik imkoniyatlarini yoritadi.

Kalit so'zlar *Nokanonikal antonimlar, kontekstual antonimlar, siyosiy diskurs, prezident nutqi, maqollar, semantik qutblilik, ritorik kontrast*

Система неканонических антонимических пар в речах президентов США и английских пословицах (Неканонические антонимы как мощные риторические инструменты)

Азимова Дилдора Аслитдиновна
dildoraazimova009@gmail.com
Преподаватель,
Национальный университет Узбекистана

Аннотация *В статье рассматриваются структурные, семантические и прагматические функции неканонических антонимических пар в англоязычном политическом дискурсе и традиционных английских пословицах. В отличие от канонических антонимов, закреплённых в лексической системе языка, неканонические пары приобретают противопоставительное значение благодаря контексту, риторической организации и коммуникативному намерению. Материал исследования включает президентские выступления Джона Ф. Кеннеди, Барака Обамы, Теодора Рузвельта и Джимми Картера, а также пословицы, например «Haste makes waste» и «The pen is mightier than the sword». На основе контекстуально-семантического, дискурсивно-прагматического и сравнительного анализа выявляется, как ораторы создают ситуативные противопоставления для представления политического выбора, побуждения к действию и формирования коллективной идентичности. В пословицах сходные контрасты сжато передают социальный опыт и нравственные выводы. Анализ показывает, что семантическая оппозиция не ограничивается словарными антонимическими парами: слова из разных семантических полей могут становиться контекстуальными противоположностями, если дискурс формирует между ними значимое противопоставление. Статья раскрывает риторические возможности неканонической антонимии в политической речи и паремиологии, а также зависимость интерпретации от конкретной коммуникативной ситуации.*

Ключевые слова *Неканонические антонимы, контекстуальные антонимы, политический дискурс, президентская речь, пословицы, семантическая полярность, риторический контраст*

Introduction

Antonymy is a foundational universal semantic relation characterized by the structural opposition of meanings within the same language subsystem. Traditional lexicology distinguishes between canonical (systemic/linguistic) antonyms, which are fixed in the language code and recognized outside of specific utterances (e.g., *begin/end*, *life/death*), and non-canonical (contextual/occasional/speech-based) antonyms, which are generated ad-hoc within a concrete discourse environment. Non-canonical antonyms do not feature in standard dictionary entries as polar pairs. Instead, they are coerced into opposition by speakers and writers to achieve heightened expressiveness, emotional resonance, or ideological polarization.

This paper examines how non-canonical antonym pairs function in two distinct yet culturally influential macro-genres:

1. Oratorical political discourse (English presidential speeches): Where leaders construct temporary oppositions to persuade constituencies, justify policy, and frame political adversaries.
2. Paroemiological discourse (English proverbs): Where concise folk wisdom utilizes unexpected or extended semantic contrasts to deliver moral axioms and universal truths.

By juxtaposing these two spheres, we aim to uncover the cognitive and stylistic mechanisms driving non-canonical polarization.

Main part

Though antonymy has been the subject of continual linguistic scrutiny, yet it is recognized as the most robust of the lexico-semantic relations. Before studying antonyms and their functions, one has to decide, whether to use the term antonym in its broad or narrow sense. In its broad sense, antonymy covers a wide range of word pairs expressed by different part speech categories as long as these words expressed are opposite of each other. In the narrow sense, however, antonymy is a relation that holds between a small number of adjective-adjective pairs only (Lyons 1968, Cruse 1986). Some linguists such as John Lyons and Alan Curse (1986) hold the view that the term antonym should apply only to a specific type of semantic opposition, involving *gradable opposites*. In contrast to the position held by Lyons (1968) and Cruse, it is clear that Ruth Kempson (1977), thinks of antonymy from the opposite standpoint; she describes what she calls simple binary opposition; what Lyons calls "ungradable opposition". There is a link between the technical term antonymy and the universally recognized concept of "opposites". The terms opposites and antonyms are used interchangeably and antonyms are supposed to be a specific sub-class of opposites.

These aspects have been identified and exemplified under several polyonymic terms, including 'opposition' (Aristotle, qtd. in Correia, 2017), 'contrast' (Lyons, 1977), 'oppositeness' (Cruse, 1986), and 'antonymy' (Cruse, 2000a, 2000b). Although all these semantic notions have interchangeably been defined and typified with paradigmatically selective and context-free illustrative examples, only two of them have been used more often namely, 'opposition' (Cruse, 1986, Cruse, 2000a, 2000b, Mettinger, 1994, Löbner, 2002, Davies, 2012, Davies, 2013) and 'antonymy' (Lehrer and Lehrer, 1982; Fellbaum, 1995; Cruse, 2000a, 2000b; Jones, 2002; Murphy, 2003; Saeed, 2003; Kotzor, 2010). Of all such concepts choice goes to 'antonymy' as the most common term for all canonical opposites in spoken and written discourses. By 'canonical' we mean conventional opposites that elicit each other in free word-association experiments and neutral contexts – opposites claimed by the clang phenomenon, i.e., intuitions native speakers of a language have (Muehleisen, 1997), to be good opposites out of context. Native speakers

of a language are said by Hurford et al. (2007) to be the primary source of information about meaning. Jones (2002) in using 'antonyms' in reference to a pair of words whose meanings are lexically or semantically and morphologically or non-morphologically opposed in neutral and unbiased contexts, as in 'happy/sad' and 'happy/unhappy'.

If we analyze the theoritical foundation of antonymy (especially canonical and non-canonical pairs), Lyons (1977, 1968) distinguished between gradable, complementary, and converse antonyms, Cruse (1986, 2004) proposed diagnostic tests for antonymy and discussed "indirect antonymy", Palmer (1976) examined antonymy within broader sense relations. They studied antonyms by structuralistic approach. When it comes to cognitive semantic approach, Croft and Cruse (2004) showed antonymy as conceptual opposition rather than purely linguistic; Murphy (2003, 2006) explained pragmatic and discourse factors in antonym selection; Jones et al. (2012) analyzed cognitive salience and cultural influence on antonym canonicity.

More than members of any other semantic relation (synonyms, hyponyms, etc.), antonym pairs are able to achieve special, 'canonical' status in a language. In the literature, some (e.g., Gross et al., 1989; Charles et al., 1994) assume that antonym pairs are either canonical (for example *old/young, cold/hot* and *happy/sad*) or non-canonical (*aged/youthful, cool/hot, happy/miserable*), while others assume or argue for a continuum between the two categories (e.g., Herrmann et al., 1979; Murphy, 2003). Among the methods that have been used to investigate antonym canonicity are word association tests (Deese, 1965; Clark, 1970), judgement tests (Herrmann et al., 1986) and elicitation experiments (Paradis et al., forthcoming). To conclude, the concepts of canonical and non-canonical antonyms (often referred to in lexical semantics as antonym canonicity) were heavily developed, defined, and popularized by the linguist M. Lynne Murphy, alongside collaborative work with other prominent linguists like Carita Paradis, Steven Jones, and Caroline Willners.

M. Lynne Murphy, Carita Paradis, and Steven Jones established the theoretical and corpus-based frameworks for canonical vs. non-canonical antonyms, S. Kotzor (2010) pushed this research into the fields of psycholinguistics and cognitive neuroscience. Her contributions include: mental lexicon modeling. She proposed dynamic psycholinguistic models explaining how conceptual opposition translates into neural and lexical storage. Her empirical studies test how strongly speakers link canonical pairs (*hot/cold*) versus non-canonical or less frequent pairs, measuring processing speeds (via tasks like antonym-decision tasks).

She heavily investigated the transition zones between highly conventionalized (canonical) opposite pairs and context-dependent (non-canonical) pairs, demonstrating how frequency, conceptual symmetry, and entrenchment affect how quickly our brains recognize opposites. In short, while M. Lynne Murphy and her contemporaries defined canonical and non-canonical antonyms from a lexical and corpus-linguistic perspective, Sandra Kotzor provided the experimental, psycholinguistic proof of how those categories actually function inside the human mind and brain.

To operationalize the distinction between canonical and non-canonical antonyms within this study, we adopt the cognitive-lexical architecture proposed by Kotzor (2021). Oppositeness is treated not merely as an abstract logical relation between word meanings, but as a cognitively driven phenomenon constrained by the mental lexicon's organizational principles. Following Kotzor's multi-method approach, lexical items do not exist in isolation; rather, highly entrenched antonymous pairs form privileged associative and conceptual links that accelerate processing speed and reduce cognitive load during comprehension. Consequently, our

analysis measures lexical distance and contextual flexibility along a continuum, accounting for both the pure conceptual symmetry characteristic of canonical pairs and the pragmatic coercion required to interpret non-canonical alternatives.

Materials and Methods

The empirical base of this study comprises: Corpus A (Political Speeches): Transcripts of canonical speeches delivered by United States presidents, including Abraham Lincoln (e.g., Gettysburg Address), John F. Kennedy (1961 Inaugural Address), and Barack Obama (2004 DNC Address and 2009 Inaugural Address). Corpus B (Proverbs): A selected corpus of traditional English proverbs sourced from standard paroemiological dictionaries (such as *The Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs*).

The research employs a mixed-method descriptive framework combining:

- Contextual and semantic analysis: to identify instances where words normally neutral to one another are forced into polar semantic opposition.
- Discursive and pragmatic analysis: to examine the rhetorical functions (e.g., antithesis, contrastive framing, polarization) of non-canonical pairs in persuasion.
- Comparative method: to evaluate structural and functional similarities and divergences between presidential rhetoric and folk proverbs in handling contextual polarity.

Results

Typology of non-canonical antonymy in presidential discourse

The non – canonical antonyms are studied in the speeches of different American presidents of various times, so as to see whether the time has got its imprint on the function of antonymic pairs in political discourse. Throughout the speeches of the presidents of the United States of America we come across a number of non- canonical antonym pairs which are not fixed as antonyms in dictionaries. In presidential speeches, non-canonical antonyms frequently emerge through syntactic parallelism and structural framing (such as the *X, not Y* formula or correlative conjunctions). Presidents manipulate words to construct immediate ideological or moral divides:

1. *"Let us never negotiate out of fear. But let us never fear to negotiate."* (John F. Kennedy, Inaugural Address, 1961). Here, the components of the standard lexical pair (*negotiate* and *fear*) are inverted syntactically and semantically. *Fear* and *negotiate* are not systemic antonyms. However, through chiasmus and syntactic mirroring, Kennedy forces a non-canonical opposition between passive surrender (*fear*) and proactive diplomacy (*negotiate*), redefining the boundaries of Cold War foreign policy stance.
2. *"There is not a liberal America and a conservative America – there is the United States of America."* (Barack Obama, 2004 Democratic National Convention Address). While *liberal* and *conservative* are conventional political opposites, Obama embeds them in a contextual construction that negates their absolute divisive power, creating a non-canonical dynamic where partisan labels are contrasted against unified national identity (*United States*).
3. "*The man who does nothing cuts the same sordid figure in the pages of history, whether he be a cynic, or fop, or voluptuary* "(Citizenship In A Republic. Theodore Roosevelt, April 23, 1910). The main mission of non- canonical antonyms here is to show that every man creates his history, his fate and everybody should live in a way that his name be remembered and be saved in the leaves of history.
4. "*Character must show itself in the man's performance both of the duty he owes himself and of the duty he owes the state*" (Citizenship In A Republic. Theodore

Roosevelt, April 23, 1910). Every person is a part of society, a part of the country he lives in, and besides the duties which he owes to himself and family, every member of the society has some duties to his country as well.

5. "*But let me say, with respect to other countries, that I am wholly opposed to the Catholic or Protestant, to compel, prohibit, or persecute the free exercise of any other religion" ("I believe in an America Where the Separation of Church and State is absolute*". John F. Kennedy, September 12, 1960). Kennedy states that the most serious issues of the election were not religious and assured his audience that his Catholic faith would not impact on his public live. Freedom of religion is considered by many people and nations to be a fundamental human right. Religion should not interfere with politics.
6. "*Human identity is no longer defined by what one does, but by what one owns. But we have discovered that owing things and consuming things does not satisfy our longing for meaning. We've learned that piling up material goods cannot fill the emptiness of lives which have no confidence or purpose*" ("Crisis of Confidence." Jimmy Carter, July 15, 1979). Here the president infers that materials dominants in American life. A materialistic person is someone who has a preoccupation with the owning of material possessions and equates them to happiness and fulfillment. But owning something and consuming something won't make people happy.
7. "*We've got to stop crying and start sweating, stop talking and start walking, stop cursing and start praying*" ("Crisis of Confidence". Jimmy Carter, July 15, 1979). In the above sentence the role of context-driven autonyms is to state that the government should stop talking and start acting. Actions speak louder than words. And people should stop cursing and start trusting their government again.

Non-canonical antonymy in English proverbs

Proverbs rely heavily on binary opposition for mnemonic efficiency and rhythmic balance. While some use canonical antonyms (e.g., *easy come, easy go*), many forge non-canonical, highly creative oppositions between abstract concepts or concrete imagery.

1. *"Haste makes waste."* The words *haste* (speed/hurry) and *waste* (loss/destruction) are not systemic linguistic antonyms. Outside this proverb, the antonym of *haste* is *slowness* or *deliberation*, while the antonym of *waste* is *conservation*. Within the proverb's rhyming microstructure, they become contextual antonyms linking excessive speed directly to negative resource depletion.
2. *"Pen is mightier than the sword." Pen* (intellect, diplomacy, written word) and *sword* (military might, physical violence) form a classic non-canonical antonymic pair. Lexically, they are simply nouns denoting writing and fighting tools. Pragmatically, the proverb elevates them into a permanent conceptual opposition representing intellectual power versus physical coercion.
3. "*Actions speak louder then words*". *Action* (physical deed) and *word* (speech utterance) are basic noun categories, not inherent antonyms. Outside of this proverb, their relationship is complementary or sequential (we speak *and* we act). The proverb forces them into a non-canonical antonymic hierarchy by attaching comparative adverbs (*louder*), transforming them into a measure of reliability, truthfulness, and integrity.
4. *"Empty vessels make the most sound."* Empty vessels (*ignorant/foolish people*) / Sound (*superficial noise/boastfulness)* contrasted implicitly with Full vessels

(*wise people*) / Silence (*humility*). Lexically, *vessel* and *sound* have no polar relationship. The proverb constructs a vivid metaphor where physical capacity (emptiness) is equated with communicative arrogance, creating an inverted non-canonical opposition to the conventional value of quiet wisdom.

5. *"Fine words butter no parsnips."* Fine words (flattery, empty promises) / Butter parsnips (practical utility, tangible results, nourishment). This is a classic English idiom-proverb featuring a striking non-canonical opposition. *Words* and *parsnips* belong to entirely different semantic fields (linguistics vs. root vegetables). By asserting that verbal eloquence cannot substitute for practical sustenance, the proverb creates a sharp pragmatic contrast between rhetoric and reality.

Comparative Functional Matrix

Feature	Presidential speeches	English proverbs
Primary goal	Persuasion, policy framing, mobilization	Moral instruction, universal truth delivery
Antonymic formation	Dynamic, ad-hoc, context-dependent	Formulaic, compressed, culturally entrenched
Syntactic device	Chiasmus, parallelism, antithesis	Binary rhythm, ellipsis, alliteration
Cognitive impact	Immediate ideological polarization	Long-term memorability and gnomic wisdom

Table 1. *Comparison of speeches and proverbs*

Proverbs compress centuries of social observation into short, memorable units, frequently utilizing unexpected semantic clashes to make their moral point stick.

Conclusion

The investigation into non-canonical antonym pairs reveals that semantic opposition is not restricted to fixed dictionary pairs. Both English presidential speeches and traditional proverbs actively exploit non-canonical antonyms as powerful rhetorical instruments.

While presidents use contextual opposites to polarize political choices, inspire action, and reshape public discourse in real time, proverbs employ condensed non-canonical pairs to anchor enduring cultural wisdom into memorable linguistic formulas. In both domains, the creation of ad-hoc polarity demonstrates the immense flexibility of the English lexicon under strategic pragmatic pressures.

References:

1. Carter, J. (1979, July 15). *Crisis of confidence* [Speech].
2. Cruse, D. A. (1986). *Lexical semantics.* Cambridge University Press.
3. Cruse, D. A. (2000a). *Lexical semantics.* Cambridge University Press.
4. Cruse, D. A. (2000b). *Meaning in language: An introduction to semantics and pragmatics.* Oxford University Press.
5. Croft, W., & Cruse, D. A. (2004). *Cognitive linguistics.* Cambridge University Press.

6. Fellbaum, C. (1995). Co-occurrence and antonymy. *International Journal of Lexicography, 8*(4), 281–303.
7. Jones, S. (2002). *Antonymy: A corpus-based perspective*. Routledge.
8. Jones, S., Murphy, M. L., Paradis, C., & Willners, C. (2012). *Antonyms in English: Construals, constructions and canonicity*. Cambridge University Press.
9. Kempson, R. M. (1977). *Semantic theory*. Cambridge University Press.
10. Kennedy, J. F. (1961, January 20). *Inaugural address* [Speech].
11. Kotzor, S. (2010). *Lexical opposition: An investigation into canonical and peripheral phenomena of antonymy* [Doctoral thesis]. University of Oxford.
12. Kotzor, S. (2021). *Antonyms in mind and brain: Evidence from English and German*. Routledge.
13. Lehrer, A., & Lehrer, K. (1982). Antonymy. *Linguistics and Philosophy, 5*(4), 483–501. https://doi.org/10.1007/BF00355584
14. Lincoln, A. (1863, November 19). *The Gettysburg Address* [Speech].
15. Lyons, J. (1968). *Introduction to theoretical linguistics*. Cambridge University Press.
16. Lyons, J. (1977). *Semantics*. Vols. 1–2. Cambridge University Press.
17. Murphy, M. L. (2003). *Semantic relations and the lexicon: Antonymy, synonymy and other paradigms*. Cambridge University Press.
18. Murphy, M. L. (2006). *Semantic relations and the lexicon*. Cambridge University Press.
19. Obama, B. (2004, July 27). *Democratic National Convention keynote address* [Speech].
20. Obama, B. (2009, January 20). *Inaugural address* [Speech].
21. Palmer, F. R. (1976). *Semantics* (2nd ed.). Cambridge University Press.
22. Roosevelt, T. (1910, April 23). *Citizenship in a republic* [Speech].
23. Speake, J. (Ed.). (2008). *The Oxford dictionary of proverbs* (5th ed.). Oxford University Press.