

Psychological Dimensions of Political Deception: A Case Study of Donald J. Trump's Political Discourse

Nur Al huda Sumantp¹, ^{1*} Ridwan Rasool Alhaq²

¹ Department of Political Science, University of Indonesia, Depok- Indonesia 16424, Email: nur.huda.sum45@ui.ac.id

² Department of Political Science, University of Indonesia, Depok- Indonesia 16424, Email: ridwan.ras.haq89@ui.ac.id

* Corresponding Author: Nur Al huda Sumantp, nur.huda.sum45@ui.ac.id

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.64440/BIRUNI/BIR0035>

ARTICLE INFO

Article history

Received May 02, 2026

Revised May 04, 2026

Accepted Sep 01, 2026

Keywords

Political Deception;
Deceptive Communication;
Evil Personality Traits;
Donald J. Trump;
Public Discourse.



This is an open-access article under the [CC-BY-SA](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/) license.

ABSTRACT

Deception in political discourse is tantamount to psychology, and existing research definitely lacks a precise psychological framework analyzing how strategic lies can be extremely effective in political messaging of the highest order. The research problem includes treating deception as merely a line, as confirmed by traditional political analysis, rather than as a complex psychological process. Scholars depict a major political figure, but they lack a clear model of how specific linguistic cues manipulate the electorate's perceptions, thereby maintaining political loyalty in the wake of factual inaccuracies. The research object and data corpus include the political discourse of the 45th and 47th presidents of the United States of America, Donald J. Trump, and his public statements as a case study. The data corpus includes press conference remarks, rally transcripts, and a curated selection of public speeches from verified social media communications, obtained from major presidential debates and campaign releases. The psychological framework includes cognitive dissonance theory, terror management theory, and social identity theory, which together provide a lens on charismatic authority dynamics. This framework focuses on reinforcing psychological safety Nets for followers, depending on how speakers exploit in-group and out-group biases. The analytical methods include psychological text interpretation through qualitative discourse analysis, combined with an evaluation of defensive framing, systematic inversion of factual consensus, emotional appeals, and, most importantly, linguistic patterns. In this regard, the "Bottomless Pinocchio" project of the Washington Post, which exclusively analyzes Donald Trump's behavior, has been employed to fact-check our discourse. The key findings present in this article include a subjective truth tied to group identity rather than factual accuracy, which is the common notion employed by Trump's discourse; image reframes object defaults through this methodology. This functional deception strengthens in-group solidarity as a cohesive social tool, framing outsiders as attacks on the group itself. At the same time, anyone who tries to correct it is placed in that category. The theoretical contribution includes identity-protective deception in populist rhetoric, an advanced, unified model employed by President Trump to make his politics glow. Thus, it demonstrates that modern populism is not a breakdown of communication but a political line as an active psychological mechanism achieved through identity-based alignment.

1. Introduction

Donald J. Trump is the incumbent president of the United States of America and is unique in nature, as he used all that was in his possession about social media, lies, deception, falsehood, and his personal vendetta to win the presidency twice [1]. His first success at the college electoral vote in 2016 was due to his opponent, Hillary Clinton's purported, or rather suspicious, scandalous involvement in a few affairs, which was never proven, and his second attempt at the presidency was primarily because his main opponent, the then-President Joe Biden, stepped down from the campaign, as Biden's deputy, a female of Indian origin, was a considerably weak candidate to confront Trump, in any presidential debate. First, as researchers, we need to cross-examine fact-checks and analyze what makes Trump a successful candidate in an overwhelmingly pseudo-democratic society, where racism prevails and intellectually diminishes, corroding progress over time.

1.1 Background of the President

Donald John Trump was born on June 14, 1946, in an era when the United States of America had just won World War II and had become the victorious head of the Allies, a superpower of the world with just one opponent left in the northern hemisphere, known as the USSR. This was a particularly important time, as the Normandy landings of 1944 made General Eisenhower the Supreme Allied Commander and a celebrated hero in the US [2]. Thus, promoting him to the rank of President, then the creation of the League of Nations, which was followed by the establishment of the United Nations within the premises of New York and the United States, was a key instrumental figure of US dominance, which is far-reaching to this date [3].

The Bretton Woods conference in the UK gave US capitalism the primary seat in the world's financial systems. Against this backdrop, Donald Trump was born into a wealthy New York family and never had to earn money, as everything was given to him through inheritance. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania at the tender age of 22 in 1968 with a bachelor's degree in economics [4].

After his elderly relatives passed away, he took over the family's real estate business in 1971, renaming it the Trump Organization, and began building and acquiring casinos, hotels, skyscrapers, and his earnest hobby, golf courses [5]. Alongside this, he launched many side ventures by licensing the Trump name, and his reputation as a businessman can be understood through six business

bankruptcies he filed in the 1990s and 2000s. From 2004 to 2015, he also joined his other cohort, The Apprentice [6]. He bolstered his reputation as a wealthy tycoon, fueling falsehoods prevalent in the United States of America through yellow journalism and the media [7].

This segment allowed Trump to present himself as a political outsider, as he had no familial links to the presidency like the then-President George W. Bush, nor was he a governor or a statesman like Bill Clinton, or a lawyer like Barack Hussein Obama. Eventually, in the run-up to the 2016 presidential election, Trump won the primaries. Still, winning the election was not his forte; as a Republican candidate of the Grand Old Party (GOP), he faced a much stronger contender, Hillary Clinton, the wife of former President Bill Clinton [8].

1.2 Rise to Power

Over 11 years of hosting The Apprentice (2004-2015), Trump gained popularity in the media [9]. However, all of his arguments were fake, not able to comprehend to any intellectual mind but due to the masses in the United States became exposed to some change they voluntarily or rather involuntarily came in the guise of Trump's campaign and hence he announced his presidential candidacy in 2014 late which became quite popular in 2015 throughout the republican debates he had certain awful moments with several other candidates including but not limited to Marco Rubio, Jeff Bush who was the younger brother of George W Bush and other republican senators governors and candidates where Trump, proved to be bringing in every idiotic argument and trying to push for validity [10].

As he won the election against the Democratic Party nominee, Hillary Clinton, his presidency started with racism, as he imposed a travel ban on seven Muslim-majority countries, which are OIC members, expanded the United States-Mexico border wall, and enforced a family separation policy on the border. He rolled back environmental and business regulations by signing tax cuts and the JOBS Act and appointing three Supreme Court justices of his own choosing [11]. He withdrew the US from climate and trade agreements, started a trade war with China, and even undermined the fundamentals of the World Trade Organization through his imprudent behavior [12]. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, he downplayed its severity, visited New Delhi, contradicted health officials, and signed the bipartisan CARES Act [13].

Joe Biden, the former vice president and presidential candidate, contested the 2020 presidential election. Still, Trump refused to concede defeat and attempted to overturn the result through his populism, which resulted in the January 6th attack on Capitol Hill in 2021. He was declared a felon was impeached twice in 2019 for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress and in 2021 for

incitement of insurrection but acquitted by the Senate both times and inherent he wired his influence through several other things in 2023 Trump, was found liable in New York State civil cases for sexual abuse and defamation and business fraud in May 2024 he was even found guilty in a New York State court on 35 counts of falsifying business records making him the first US president convicted of a felony [14]. Nonetheless, even this bad track record of Trump did not stop him from winning another election, and this shows us the mindset of the US electorate, who voted for a person who had two federal felony indictments for retention of classified documents and obstruction of the 2020 elections, which were dismissed without prejudice. Thus, Trump began his second presidency by initiating massive layoffs of federal workers through tariffs imposed on nearly all countries at the highest level since the Great Depression, and he signed the One Big Beautiful Bill Act [15].

His administration's actions are absolutely a reminiscent of targeting political opponents and civil society restriction of transgender rights mass deportation of undocumented immigrants especially the students and his blind faith and support for the state of Israel for any actions conducted by them lately by 2026, Donald J Trump, participated in a war which had nothing to do with the US, but on Israeli insistence attacked Iran and destroyed his entire credibility in and of himself [16].

1.3 The seedlings of deception

Since Trump has a criminal background and absolutely no credibility whatsoever to become the president of the United States of America, he used mafia tactics to become an undoubted figure of influence on the masses through his radicalism of infidelity, racism, and white supremacy, which are all characteristics of anti-constitutional and anti-state feelings for the USA. Hence, his primary deception began on his Twitter account, now known as X, where he spread so many lies that they started to look like the truth and deceived the masses through his deceptive persona and entangled mindset, creating confusion among the public [17]. His behavior is classified as misogynistic to the core, as he has absolutely no respect for the opposite gender. He targets journalists and other people in the media to gain attention, as his Latin American campaign pursued an attack alleging drug traffickers, and he even allowed a military raid into Venezuela, capturing the country's president, which is totally non-American in terms of his approach [18].

Ever since 2015, Trump's leadership style, often referred to as Trumpism, and his beleaguered political agenda have reshaped the identity of the Republican Party. Subsequent actions and comments of Trump have been characterized as misogynistic or racist and even Islamophobic [19]. He has made false assertions, issued misleading statements, campaigned, led the presidency to an unprecedented degree in American politics, and promoted conspiracy theories. Thus, Trump's

actions have been described by researchers as authoritarian, contributing to a pseudo democratic society. After his first term, scholars and historians ranked him as one of the most influential presidents in American history; now the question is how such a deceptive man became the most powerful person in the world by becoming president of the world's leading superpower. The next sections will examine this hyperphobia, which has created a lot of dissent within the US.

To contextualize the study we have done a foundational elements breakdown referring to the psychological analysis of Donald J trump's political disc groups as the research gap is the missing link where current political communication extensively documents the frequency and functionality of Donald J drop but the literary challenge misstatements as primarily merely treating deception to a fact checking lens. A clear gap remains in the systematic integration of political linguistics with broader social and clinical psychological theory. Existing research often fails to explain the psychological mechanisms that allow these forces to resonate with a dedicated base rather than alienating them. The critical psychological analysis is imperative, as we are unfortunately beyond a rational choice where traditional political models often assume that the suffrage will penalize dishonesty toward the candidates. A psychological perspective is definitely important in explaining how deception affects a person's rational fact-checking. The identity and emotional resonances umm uncovered through political falsehood as lying satisfies deeper human needs including but not limited to the desire for cognitive consistency existential anxiety reduction and emotional validation through a secure sense of belonging which trump has been exceptionally good at. The employed psychological theories can be the social identity theory SIT which examines how explorative in Group versus out group dynamics have taken this course in recent politics turning belief in the leaders narrative into a core marker of tribal belonging. Cognitive dissonance theory analyzes how people reconcile factual contradictions by adopting defensive psychological frameworks provided by the orator—charismatic authority through populist psychology.

Another aspect is how the personal bond between the follower and their leader legitimizes alternative truths as a form of celestial value. The political communication analysis also consists of several aspects. Aspects of political communication that could be analyzed further include lexical and rhetorical framing, such as the adaptation of metaphors and defensive scripts used to invent factual consensus, and the choice of idioms, labels, and critical media as fake news, for example. Narrative structures also play a key role, with overarching storylines of triumph, persecution, and grievance that contextualize individual

inputs into a cohesive worldview. Definitely, the emotional appeals play a role, as pride, anger, and anxiety are strategically triggered and managed through public rallies, the transcript, and social media interactions to bypass critical cognitive processing

.Trump's Theoretical Framework for Political Gain

Indeed, it is incredible that in such a postmodern, digitalized world, a man can intricately divide communities and countries and establish falsehoods; hence, it is important to understand Trump's individual theoretical framework, which he has used constantly for political gain. In this regard, we should also understand that it is not him as an individual, but a comprehensive lobby backed by a cohort that includes people, organizations, individuals, political advisors, and media personalities whom he has purchased over time within the yellow journalistic circle of the USA. The vertices of his political matrix are analyzed below;

2.1 Political Deception

Political deception is the art of deliberately spinning the truth through falsehoods, false promises, fabrications, and lies by political stakeholders to manipulate public perception and secure power. This political deception is a subcategory of populism, another political doctrine in which people do not rely on intellect but instead follow the deception of their peers and end up in hero worship, not realizing what is good for them. This is the case in Western Europe, where the rise of populism has brought factions within European Society and weakened the European Union to a greater degree [20].

In the United States of America, Donald Trump has left no stone unturned in usurping the public interest because of his personal vendetta, using key mechanisms that involve the active formation of facts, propaganda, exaggeration, and continuous falsehoods. The motives include deflecting criticism, manufacturing consensus, and using self-presentation, prestige, and image; thus, a false image of the political situation is presented to the masses, serving the deceiver's constant imaginative purpose. This aspect of political delusion erodes public trust in democratic institutions, fostering extreme cynicism and distrust in their own armed forces, judiciary, and the financial system revolving around them. Hitherto, several challenges have arisen in such political engagements, as these challenges and detections act as caveats to reform, progress, and stability. The repercussions include voter perception, as the electorate struggles to spot planned lies that rely on superficial cues rather than factual accuracy [21].

In contrast, the verbal appeal of lies can blind people to the truth. The postmodern threats of digital platforms, polarized media ecosystems, digitalization, deepfakes, and artificial intelligence also

accelerate deception through institutionalization, making falsehood harder to detect [22]. The truth remains in the backburner the legal reform is another angle where several jurisdictions have explored regulatory frameworks through promulgating personal data protection acts cyber laws end other criminal penalties and punitive measures to explore regulatory frameworks through deliberation of falsehoods during election campaigns but this is a long way to go as personalities like Trump, are a caveat in and of themselves, thus circumventing any reform to take place if such people are in power and authority [23].

2.2 Personality and Deception

Political scientists, linguists, and psychologists have collectively studied Donald Trump's personality and have extensively documented how he uses deception. It is a widely recognized concern among political leaders that a combination of a domineering communication style, extreme narcissism, and a strategic view of pseudo-truth drives the personality profile of Donald Trump. Furthermore, the dark pride and deception of Trump's personality frequently lead experts to determine his personality as the "*Dark Triad*", a trio of traits consisting of psychopathy, Machiavellianism, and narcissism [24]. The malignant narcissism that Trump exhibits is a grandiose self-image, an intense requirement for admiration, and extreme sensitivity to criticism. Deception serves to protect his ego in his rhetoric; for instance, he frequently inflates crowd sizes, personal achievements, and wealth, while he is the number one loser in the US and elsewhere. Machiavellian manipulation is a goal-driven, highly strategic personality trait that is willing to use misinformation to maintain power, authority, and control of the argument. Instead of recognizing falsehood as a failure of ethics, morality, and character, a Machiavellian personality like Donald Trump perceives such a demeanor as a practical tool for dominance, negotiations, and holding a false argument [25]. In the case of Trump, the rules of engagement, which biographers and analysts have underscored, are a set of rules that Trump adopted earlier in his career, way back in 1971, when he became the president of his family corporation. His mentor, Roy Cohn, taught him to always claim victory through deceit, attack constantly, and deny everything, because deception is baked into this combat-style approach to life [26].

2.3 Truthfulness and Credibility

In the case of Donald Trump, a different pattern of lying has emerged in the first quarter of the 21st century, as traditional fact-checking data shows Trump makes significantly more falsehoods and misleading statements than the average public government official. However, psychologists note that his style of deception does not fit the typical clinical definition of a compulsive liar, which involves

lying for no reason. On the contrary, Trump's untruths are highly functional and serve distinct goals through his condescending persona, which he calls preemptive strikes and personal vendettas. His application of hyperbole as a sales tool comes from his background in reality, where Trump relies heavily on exaggeration as a salesman, as he frequently employs superlatives describing things as the world's best, biggest, tallest, highest, most important, most imperative, most significant in history to force his virtual reality onto the public. The signposts, identified through linguistic channels, include his call sign, and a recent study published in PLOS ONE analyzed Trump's communications, describing his factually incorrect statements using specific language patterns where he's well trained [27]. At the same time, when his falsehoods are exposed, his statements often show higher markers of certainty, cognitive load, and negative emotion. He uses fewer direct connections to anecdotal sources, relying purely on his personal authority as if he is the be-all and end-all of impeccable truth, which he determines and views through his own perspective. The subtle physical clues which he gives researching tracks his video appearances where he is well trained to come in front of the media through his 11 year experience from 2004 to 2015 in the Apprentice TV Show, Trump, does not exhibit standard body language giveaways or verbal signpost while he is lying, however his blink rate increases and subtle facial dynamics constantly and significantly change he is more likely to give a polite smile which is tighter that does not involve the muscles around his eyes. Still, these are simple repercussions of observations made by scholars [28].

2. Deceptive Communication

The deceptive communication of Donald Trump definitely has an indelible impact on politics, as Trump's personality, blended with strategic deception, has fundamentally created a paradigm shift in post-modern political culture. He has deepened polarization showing that his dark personality traits enact as catalyst for extreme polarization Trump's confrontational style creates an intense bond with his base while deeply alienating critics and verbally telling them to shut up just because he doesn't like their arguments one such case is his interaction with the CNN journalist where he not only criticized the CNN corporation but also individually condescending on the journalist calling him rude [29]. Trump's personality characteristics, in the case of an alternative reality, through constantly repeating disproven claims and labeling mainstream fact-checkers as biased, and through a public that is in oblivion to the truth, successfully create a separate media ecosystem where his words replace traditional institutional facts for millions of followers and thus create a persona which is a façade of falsehood [30].

2.1 Forms of Deception

Donald Trump possesses several distinct forms of deception ranging from simple exaggerations to deeply coordinated alternative narratives. Thus, data analysts, political scientists, and fact-checkers classify his false statements into several stereotypes depending on which goal he was trying to achieve. In this regard, self-aggrandizement, which is hyperbole and bragging, is the most common form of deception used by Trump, often termed or code-named as the salesman in stock, which is reminiscent of his profession, real estate. He alters facts to depict himself, his achievements, his wealth, his business, which should look as large as possible to the naked eye. He uses trivial personal details to inflate simple facts, such as crowd size at his political rallies, ratings given to his speeches on television, or even the weather or climate change during an event. His economic and historical exaggeration is beyond anyone's comprehension, as he frequently claims credit for creating the greatest economy in the history of the universe, bypassing the biggest tax cuts ever, which is a blatant lie, and even official data always proves him otherwise, which is a dangerous aspect for a rhetorical moron to sit in the president's seat.

2.2 Rhetorical Strategies

Trump, is quite strategic as his bottomless Pinocchio which is the repetition of debunked names is outlawing many authentic the reports as traditional politicians normally stop repeating a claim once fact checkers prove it is false as in the case of the Monica Lewinsky case against Bill Clinton where he finally accepted when the star report was made public that he did had an affair with the White House interned Monica Lewinsky nonetheless Trump, uses a form of deception based on relentless repetition while outlasting the media through fact checkers at the Washington Post had to invent a brand new strategy called the "*Bottomless Pinocchio*" specifically for Trump, it describes false statements that he repeats at least 20 times in a setting [31].

Another rhetorical strategy is the reputation effect, also known as the ripple effect, where a false statement can be repeated over and over. Still, people naturally start to believe it is true because it sounds familiar, which is the bottom line of Trump's evil mindset.

2.3 Emotional Appeals

Nonetheless, in the United States, people respond to emotional appeals with discursive deflection through the fake news mirror instead of defending his actions with facts. Trump uses a strategy called deflection; he flips the accusation onto his critics to confuse the public while attacking the messenger. When faced with a negative true story, he labels the mainstream news organization as fake news or the "fools of the people." He also accuses his opponents of his own flaws; for example, he accuses them of an attack, then immediately claims his political rivals are doing the same thing, thus

justifying 2 wrongs and making it harder for the public to trust him or the other narrative. Trump often promotes conspiracy theories, sometimes against himself. Consequently, in other cases against the country or at large against humanity, as he frequently derives unverified, disproven conspiracy theories to build a strong narrative with his followers and attacks several institutions across the globe, the World Trade Organization is a classic example of his corrupted, corroded mindset, which has led to such a demeanor [32].

The Paris Agreement, which were the backbone of climate change in the world, has been jeopardized by this one single person, as he undermines institutions and has famously pushed theories about the birth certificate of former President Barack Obama, which is known as birtherism, voter fraud, and conspiracy theories against him in the Supreme Court [33]. His unvalidated health claims during his first term are heavily unproven medical cures for major health crises like COVID-19, which researchers noted became a massive driver of public misinformation. At the same time, he was the greatest advocate of not getting vaccinated, and because of his attitude, the Pfizer vaccine was delayed not only in the USA but across the globe. Policy distortion and chronology shifting are another major blow to Trump's demeanor, as he alters timelines and specific policy details to make his administration look highly successful and, in turn, attack his opponents' records. He flips timelines regularly when he takes credit for positive trends that actually started when he was not in office; he blames the opponent for issues that happened under his watch and misrepresents laws, regularly distorting what a bill or policy will do, such as claiming an opponent's tax plan will raise taxes on every single citizen when it only targets a specific high-income bracket.

3. Truthfulness and Audience Perception

Donald Trump's connection to truth requires an understanding that goes beyond standard fact-checking, as it involves exploring public credibility operations through his statements, his powerful political identity, and the audience's response to his messaging.

3.1 Truthfulness and Credibility

Trump's IQ is a major point of debate, with data showing a sharp split between traditional measures of truth and his personal, individualistic credibility. His personal logic versus fact-checked reality is a paradox well documented by traditional organizations like The Washington Post, which has documented hundreds of thousands of false or misleading statements from Trump. This juxtaposition has led researchers to rely on their own knowledge of his motives, as he says with total conviction what he wants to believe or what is convenient to state. This cuts across topics ranging from inflation figures to foreign policy claims, which are debunked hundreds of times, as he is a blatant liar to the

core. His firm belief in speaking can create a shift, as can be taken as a case study on political communication, where many politicians, particularly within Trump's political sphere, have used populism and shifted from fact-speaking, raising claims on verified data, to belief-speaking. This expression is an authentic, deeply held internal feeling as truth, even if it is completely disconnected from real-world evidence, whether it be from the scientific field or geopolitics and/or the US administration. Has decline declining general honesty ratings across the US are another major concern as it seems like he might not survive another two years in the White House according to long term tracking by the PO Research Center public perception of his honesty shifted over time as 42% of Americans he described him as an honest leader shortly after his 2024 election win that number dropped to 34% by April 2026 similarly a majority of Americans that has 57% according to the report consistently engaged that his campaign's claims are rarely or never based on facts as they have seen a lot of contradiction amongst his theory practice speech and demeanor and finally action seems like that he is a robot being operated by someone else perhaps Netanyahu?

4.2 Political Identity

We will be polite to a fault to evade Trump's use of deception as a personal habit and simply the core building block of his political identity as a populist outsider who has entered the US democratic system to be the saviour of not only America but the entire humanity as per his call as he is uh considered the authentic outsider by himself his supporters often refuse to stick to standard facts as proof as he's not a typical politician using casual unpolished language and blunt exaggerations he creates A persona an identity of authenticity as his followers see him as a successful businessman who refuses to sugarcoat things to please elites and deprive the middle class and the underprivileged heavily. The weapon of grievance, which is the victim-guilt playing of Donald Trump, has been explained as the use of emotional credibility over raw data, as he wildly and inaccurately claims that major institutions are fully corrupt. He presents himself as the most honest person of celestial or biblical value; he is not trying to pass a fact-check. He mirrors and validates the anger, distress, and economic worries his audience already feels toward the establishment. He's pushing it to the highest level; then comes the loyalty test of political identity, as accepting Trump's version of reality becomes a sign of loyalty. Rejecting official data from government agencies or mainstream media proves that those who support Trump's movement turn factual arguments into cultural, personal, communal battles that are devoid of authenticity.

4.3 Audience Responses

The general public in the United States of America has never seen such a partisan barrier, instituted by Trump's statement, uniformly. Even though this nation has surpassed the Great Depression, World

War II, the Vietnam War, the Iraq War, and the crisis in Afghanistan, and has been defeated on all fronts, it survived against all odds. Still, Trump is creating an entirely different perception of reality that is devoid of truth and is blatantly discussed as a felony or a policy of Trump's own character. In this regard, audience responses have been amazing and provide valuable data for researchers, and we have collected them in tabular form.

Audience Group	Core Perception of Trump, claims	Behavioral and Psychological Response
Core Supporters	Although the literal facts are false, they view them as deep symbolic truths.	The moral flexibility is enriched as voters actively justify Trump's "fact-flouting" as an effective weapon to repair a damaged political system.
Political Opponents	Blatant lies are used systems.	Deepening cynicism leads to intense appall, through a total refusal to view any of Trump's claims as legitimate.
Independent/Non-aligned pupils	Viewed with general skepticism and growing fatigue	Disengagement occurs due to the constant rebuttals, causing suffrage to emancipate from politics completely.
Foreigners/Non-white public	Aliens, not to be trusted, as Trump views Immigrations as a curse to the USA.	The true essence of America has been put to the test through this one person, who feels that he is the savior of the USA, but has created major rifts and has no place in the hearts of Spanish, Latinos, Afro-Americans, Desi, and Arab populations of America.

Table 1- Audience Responses

4. Discussion

The unique style of Donald Trump's communication has provoked deep debates among experts about human psychology, how information is disseminated, and the future of democratic channels.

4.1 Psychological Dimensions

To understand the psychological dimensions, we need to ask why Donald Trump uses deception when millions of people believe him. Trump, speaks with absolute confidence using simple black

and white language for voters are the general suffrage who are not too much educated specially his White-supremist are people who are a bunch of gangsters and nothing else thus such voters feel overwhelmed by a complex world as is extreme certainty is comforting even the facts he uses are incorrect as they are based on racism white supremacy and to be honest Moran is it. The cognizance of his dissonance is the uncomfortable feeling people get when they hold to conflicting beliefs at the same time the suffrage which voted for Trump, in the 2024 elections are faced with official facts that prove him wrong thus creating cognitive dissonance this uncomfortable feeling cannot be fixed as it is often psychologically easier for them to believe that the fact checkers are lying because a narrative has been developed against them rather than admitting their chosen leader their populist savior US made a mistake. The third significant dimension is the identity protection as many people who are Trump, supporters it's just not a matter of political choice it is a core part of their identity as psychological research proves that when a person's core identity is tied to a leader because of his religion his race his language his common beliefs his common intentions then the brain processes insults or corrections against that leaders as a personal attack this is not only in the United states we have similar examples of such imprudent behavior even in Asia where we find Narendra Modi and in Israel Benjamin Netanyahu and in Europe and France Emmanuel macron their supporters possess the same characteristics traits which makes them highly defensive and likely to reject any opposing evidence against their leader.

5.2 Communication Effects

Communication effects play a key role, as Trump has completely altered how political information travels through society, creating a rift from traditional media formats to his own metrics of dominion. He flirts with the zone rather than hiding a mistake or a lie. Trump's strategy is to release a massive wave of new statements, tweets, and attacks. Communication experts call this flooding the zone with stuff. It overwhelms journalists and the public, making it impossible to focus on any single scandal for long. The erosion of shared reality is another key communication effect. In the past, other politicians disagreed on policies but usually agreed on basic facts like official economic data or election results. Trump's continuous attack on the intelligence agencies and the press has broken this down, as today's society is split into different information silos where people cannot even agree on basic reality. And last but not least, the communication effect is the death of shame by this blatant leader of the US because, before he entered politics, if a politician was caught in a major lie, as discussed with Bill Clinton or president OK Reagan in the Iran-Contra affair and President Nixon in the Watergate issue, it would result in public shame and would damage his career. He would resign, or at least apologize to the general public, for the lie, which was provoked under his administration.

Still, in Trump's case, it has been proven otherwise: he refuses to apologize or show any shame, which allows a leader to normalize false statements and maintain political power.

5.3 Democratic Implications

The democratic implications are enormous not only in the United States but worldwide, as democracy primarily relies on a well-informed public that is not oblivious to its own fact-checkers and holds leaders accountable. Trump's brand of deception creates major challenges for democratic systems, as it weakens institutional trust when a leader constantly tells the public that the courts, scientists, election officials, journalists, and the media are corrupt and lying. People stop trusting the vital pillars that keep our democracy stable; without these trusted sources and institutions, the whole system begins to crumble, creating a fracture. The rise of tribalism is another democratic implication, where Trump's communication relies heavily on the populist theme of a US-versus-them narrative. Falsehood, deception, and lies are often used to paint political opponents not just as people with different ideas but as existential threats to the country, creating enormous animosity; thus, intense tribalism makes political compromise and peaceful governance incredibly difficult. The playbook for future leaders is also an important factor, as perhaps the biggest impact Trump has created is a successful blueprint that other proliferations around the world have adopted, like Narendra Modi, Benjamin Netanyahu, and Emmanuel Macron. Now even Muslim leaders like Recep Tayyip Erdogan and even Trump's rivals, the Iranian regime, are definitely discarding traditional standards of conduct, which can be an effective way to win elections or hold on to power, suggesting that the paradigm shift towards post-truth politics will likely outlast Trump's individual political career, which is on the brink of a disaster anyway.

5. Conclusion

Several conclusions can be drawn. Still, it is a matter of key concern that such an individual, with a mindset appropriate for someone with less than a high school education, should not have become president of the largest democracy in the world. Nonetheless, our findings are nonpartisan, and we are now mentioning them one by one to allude to a better future rather than the existing malice created by the falsehoods of Donald J. Trump and his followers, who are deprived of the truth.

5.1 Key Findings

This current study regarding Donald Trump's communication reveals that his employment of deception is a core part of his political strategy, not just a personal habit developed through oblivion; his strategic personality requires deception, which is driven by traits like extreme narcissism and a

goal-oriented view of the truth that allows him to use misinformation, thus protecting his egoistic demeanor and maintaining political power. His constant coercion of identity over facts has shifted his supporters' focus from fact-speaking to belief-speaking, as his base agrees with his claims and treats them as a sign of tribal loyalty rather than a judgment of factual accuracy. The institutional erosion from repeated debunked claims, such as labeling critics as fake news, has weakened public trust and democratic systems, creating a society that is deeply partisan across communal, sectarian, and greed-driven religious realms rather than a unified United States identity.

6.2 Limitations

Limitations of this research topic are worse, as political analysts, scientists, and researchers face several amusing boundaries when studying Trump's deception. Primarily, silos and survey biases make it difficult to collect and process accurate data on audience perception, especially when information is anecdotal and people have become highly polarized. Opponents and supporters often answer survey questions to defend their political team rather than sharing their true beliefs. Then comes the case of habit versus intent, as it is scientifically impossible to prove whether Trump always lies intentionally to deceive or genuinely believes his own fabrications because of his unique personality traits. The rapid change in the media has occurred because social media platforms constantly change their algorithms and rules; tracking the exact spread and impact of a statement in real time is a constant challenge.

6.3 Future Research

To conduct further research, future researchers should map political landscapes by involving scholars who focus on several key areas to understand the long-term effects of this communication style. Primarily, future studies must understand the copycat effect by tracking how next-generation politicians may use Trump's blueprint of never apologizing and always claiming victory to see whether this has permanently changed global politics. The artificial intelligence and deepfakes can undermine researchers who need to examine how the executive tools are realistic as fake videos altered content and doctored facts could change a populist leader's ability to create alternative realities and develop narratives like in the case of Trump, which suits his own interests and not the national interest at last the rebuilding trust heavily focuses on the need to find psychological and educational mechanisms that can breakthrough information silos and help highly polarized audiences agree on basic real-world facts again which is not the case here in the United states anymore. In this case, we also need to analyze that Donald J. Trump has come so far because the public is following him and is not educated at all. Every time, his supporters, who are in the vast majority in the US, are

plumbers, electricians, or simple gangsters who are basically blue-collar workers. They think that they are the sons of the soil because they are white in color. Their religion has to be Christianity; somewhat, Trump has taken guidelines from the Triple K, or the Ku Klux Klan, who definitely were a curse to America and destroyed the fabric of the US back in the 40s, 50s, and the 1960s, as they were anti-Black and anti-African American in the US. claiming that immigration was a curse to the US. In contrast, definitely the way the US progressed is through the might of the immigrants who came in as researchers doctors scientists and gave the United States of America the privilege it holds around the globe and to reverse the situation someone needs to come up and go back to the reality as Donald Trump, is a complete antithesis of the constitution of the United States of America com American value and traditions and is definitely going to be the reason of the breakage of the USA communism was the core reason for the breakage of the USSR.

The data analyzed in the study show political discourse exhibiting highly structured factual contradictions as recurring linguistic patterns systematically integrated into broader narratives of collective grievance and ingroup defense by Donald J. Trump. The textual evidence reveals A consistent rhetorical strategy rather than functioning as isolated misstatements; the strategy prioritizes identifying congruent narratives over verifiable factual alignment. These findings offer significant implications for contemporary theories of deception and political communication. Primarily, the theories of deception which our data suggests A paradigm shift from traditional models of deception relying on understand concealment. In contrast, the data support an emergent framework of overt narrative alignment, using statements that rely on their capacity to signal group loyalty rather than their empirical veracity. The political communication illustrated is highly polarized and is heavily mediated through communicative efficacy and a combination of psychological defense mechanisms. Political rhetoric has successfully bypassed traditional fact-checking mechanisms by framing empirical corrections as existential threats to collective identity. The methodological limitations and scope are aligned with strict empirical standards as circumvents to these conclusions must be acknowledged.

Primarily, the study relies strictly on textual and discourse analysis of public records; no direct psychological or clinical inferences can be made regarding the internal motivations, personal intent, and cognitive states of the incumbent president, Donald J. Trump, as an individual. Second, the reflected data specify discursive strategies within a defined sociopolitical context; therefore, these findings cannot be generalized to characterize the

psychological profiles, cognitive styles, and motivations of the president's broader support base. Future research is definitely required to determine the extent to which the specific linguistic patterns appear across different populist movements globally and how varied audiences cognitively process these rhetorical strategies in this regard we also strongly suggest that medical examination of not only the incumbent president but in a few of his followers can bring about a lot of hope in analyzing psychological behaviors and improvement of political discourse.

Ethical Considerations

Not applicable. This study did not require ethical approval because it does not include human or animal subjects and does not involve any personal or sensitive data.

List of Abbreviations:

(USA): The United States of America; (GOP): Grand Old Party.

Acknowledgment:

The authors further acknowledge the **Editorial Office of the Al-Biruni Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences** ** and ** to **Noor Al-Ilm for Publishing and Distribution** * for providing editorial and publication support and for granting a **full waiver of the article processing charges (APCs)***, thereby enabling the present work to be published without publication fees to the authors.

The authors gratefully acknowledge all individuals and institutions whose assistance, cooperation, and support contributed to the successful completion of this study.

Author Contribution:

All authors contributed equally to the main contributor to this paper. All authors read and approved the final paper.

Declaration of generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process

The authors hereby declare that no generative artificial intelligence or AI-assisted technologies were used at any stage during the preparation of this manuscript, including language editing, proofreading, or content development. The authors take full responsibility for the originality and integrity of the work presented in this publication.

Funding:

The authors received no external financial funding for the conduct of this study. However, the authors were granted a full waiver of the article processing charges (APCs) by the Editorial Office of the *Al-Biruni Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences* and Noor Al-Ilm for Publishing and Distribution. Accordingly, no publication fees were incurred by the authors.

Conflicts of Interest:

“The authors declare no conflict of interest.”

References

- [1] Kassop, Nancy, Changing Norms in the Trump Department of Justice (August 23, 2026). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=7342418> or <https://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.7342418>
- [2] McCarthy, W. J. (2026) The Eisenhower national security advisory system: a ‘retro’ approach for 21st-century administrations? PhD thesis, University of Reading. doi: <https://doi.org/10.48683/1926.00131154>
- [3] Giroud, A., Puck, J. & Puhr, H. World Investment Report 2025: international investment in the digital economy. *J Int Bus Policy* 9, 146–152 (2026). <https://doi.org/10.1057/s42214-025-00234-6>
- [4] Hawkins B (2026) Donald Trump's Name, Image, and Likeness executive order: a neo-Jacksonianism tradition. *Front. Sports Act. Living* 8:1802546. doi: <https://doi.org/10.3389/fspor.2026.1802546>
- [5] Parmar, I. (2026). Liberal crisis machine: The Hewlett Foundation in the era of polycrisis philanthropy. *Economy and Society*, 1–25. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03085147.2026.2650057>
- [6] Rajaei, A., Abraham, D., Safavi, P., & Taylor, C. (2026). From Apprentice to Presidency: A Narrative Hermeneutic Analysis of Donald Trump’s Journey Through The Apprentice. *International Journal of Systemic Therapy*, 37(1), 95–115. <https://doi.org/10.1080/2692398X.2025.2477329>
- [7] Ercan, E. E. (2026). Clickbait Culture in Internet Journalism: The Digital Way of “Selling News”. *Selçuk İletişim*, 19(1), 114-138. <https://doi.org/10.18094/josc.1697014>
- [8] Patman, R.G. (2026). The Liberal International Order and its Populist Radical Right Adversaries in Russia, UK, and USA. In: Stengel, F.A., MacDonald, D.B., Nabers, D. (eds) *Populism and World Politics*. Global Political Sociology. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-032-04075-6_12

- [9] Kellner, Douglas (2026) "Donald Trump, Media Spectacle, and Authoritarian Populism," *Fast Capitalism*: Vol. 14: Iss. 1, Article 17. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.32855/1930-014X.1321>
- [10] Goidel, S., Goidel, K. (2026). Corporate America and the GOP: How the Republican Party Fell Out of Love with Big Business. In: *The Trump Realignment*. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-032-15054-7_6
- [11] Lynch, D.P., Pflitsch, M. & Stich, M. Earnings management around the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. *Rev Account Stud* 31, 981–1018 (2026). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11142-026-09946-3>
- [12] Lester, S. (2026). Revising the WTO Contract: Is the Trump Administration's Vision Workable? *Laws*, 15(4), 91. <https://doi.org/10.3390/laws15040091>
- [13] Kaboli P, Blaine A, Mares J, Fortney J, Ono S, O'Shea AMJ. (2026). Health care access from the rural perspective: A narrative review. *J Rural Health*. 42:e70119. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jrh.70119>
- [14] Fichtner, J Royce, and Strader, Troy J. (2026) "Criminalizing Deepfakes: A Comprehensive Review of US Legislative Responses to Synthetic Media Abuse," *Journal of the Midwest Association for Information Systems (JMWAIIS)*: Vol. 2026: Iss. 1, Article 3. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17705/3jmwai.000098>
- [15] Bistline, J.E.T., Brown, M., Cui, R. et al. Impacts of the Inflation Reduction Act and One Big Beautiful Bill Act on the US energy system. *Nat. Rev. Clean Technol.* 2, 402–413 (2026). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s44359-026-00168-z>
- [16] Odama, J. O., Imam, M., & Okpo, F. C. (2026). The Implications of the USA/Israeli War with Iran on Global Peace. *Bulletin of Islamic Research*, 4(3), 273-294.
- [17] Aaron Tshidzumba, N., & Nthate, P. (2026). DONALD TRUMP-TWITTER DIPLOMATIC DISRUPTIONS AND IMPACT ON THE POST-WORLD WAR II INTERNATIONAL ORDER. *African and Global Issues Quarterly*, 7(1), 222-238. <https://doi.org/10.69778/2710-0073/2026/7.1/a13>
- [18] Ananda, R., Al Farsi, A. R., & Zulida, E. (2026). Constructing Neo-Imperialism: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Donald Trump's Statements on Venezuela. *English Education Journal*, 17(2), 97–113. <https://doi.org/10.24815/eej.v17i2.1542>
- [19] Asif, M., & Shoukat, B. (2026). Ideological Representation of Islamophobia: A Comparative Critical Discourse Analysis of Imran Khan and Donald Trump's Speeches. *Pakistan Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 14(1), 118–123. <https://doi.org/10.52131/pjhss.2026.v14i1.3102>
- [20] Contu, F., Di Cicco, G., Sciara, S., Kruglanski, A. W., Bonomelli, F., & Pantaleo, G. (2026). The rhetoric of honor loss: A linguistic analysis of populist communication in Europe and the United States—Psychology of Violence. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1037/vio0000706>
- [21] Fallica, Salvatore J. (2026) "The Trump Administration's Assault on Higher Education," *Proceedings of the New York State Communication Association*: Vol. 2025, Article 15. Available at: <https://docs.rwu.edu/nyscaproceedings/vol2025/iss1/15>
- [22] Rayun, S. N., Salam, M. A., Leong, V. S., Islam, W., Sahabuddin, M., Ahmed, M., ... & Das, C. (2026). Deepfakes and Digital Sovereignty: Governance Challenges of Synthetic Media in the AI-Driven Data Economy. In *Digital Sovereignty in the Global Data Economy: Rights, Regulation, and Resistance* (pp. 225-264). IGI Global Scientific Publishing.
- [23] Kucinskis, J. L., & Silveira, M. C. (2026). Acts of moral courage among civil servants under democratic backsliding: A comparison of the Trump and Bolsonaro administrations. *International Review of Administrative Sciences*, 0(0).
- [24] Chemerika, K. (2026). The Other Dark Triad: Passionate Attachment, Populism, and Hegemonic Crisis in QAnon Belief. *Crossings*, (8), 113-124. DOI NA

- [25] Monaghan, C., Bizumic, B., & Phillis, N. (2026). Two-Dimensional Machiavellianism: Shortening the Scale and Expanding the Nomological Network to Political Psychology. *Journal of Personality Assessment*, 108(4), 502–517. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00223891.2025.2609696>
- [26] Youvan, D. C. (2026). Weaponizing Reality: The Roy Cohn Playbook in Donald Trump's Second Term and the Erosion of the American Presidency DOI: <https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.21538.18882>
- [27] Pfruender, L., Meijer, E., Volmer, M., Loewy, L., & Verschuere, B. Detecting political misinformation: A boosting intervention tested on Donald Trump's statements. https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/hg2ka_v2
- [28] Wooff, D. (2026). How Apprenticeship Quality Is Framed on Social Media: Insights from Degree and Non-Degree Programs. *The Journal of Social Media for Learning*, 6(1). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.24377/LJMU.jsml.article3588>
- [29] Marlina Marlina, & Lusi Susilawati. (2026). Implikatur Sindiran pada Debat Presiden Antara Joe Biden dan Donald Trump di Siaran CNN 2024. *Sosial Simbiosis : Jurnal Integrasi Ilmu Sosial Dan Politik*, 3(2), 48–58. <https://doi.org/10.62383/sosial.v3i2.3074>
- [30] Warf, B. (2026). Fake News and Post-Truth Geographies. In: Lukinbeal, C., Brunn, S.D. (eds) *Geography's Media Turn*. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-032-10170-9_6
- [31] Tsang, S. J. (2026). Misinformation, disinformation, and fake news? Proposing a typology framework of false information. *Journalism*, 27(3), 719-739.
- [32] Ranald, P. (2026). Trump's trade policies: Brutal coherence behind the chaos. *The Journal of Australian Political Economy*, (96), 5–29. <https://search.informit.org/doi/10.3316/informit.T2026032500002002028359894>
- [33] Marsh, M. (2026). The unlaughter of Donald J. Trump: A case study. *HUMOR*, (0).