



## THE IMAGE OF POLITICAL DISCOURSE IN PERUVIAN UNIVERSITY RESEARCH A Look through Its Theses

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### KEYWORDS

*Political discourse  
Discursive subjectivity  
Political mediation  
Ideological manipulation  
University theses  
Social imaginaries  
Social complexity*

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### ABSTRACT

*The study employs a documentary review methodology to analyse the evolution of political discourse in postgraduate theses (master's and doctoral) defended in Peruvian universities. The review encompasses 24 theses. The study identifies trends and discursive representations related to the subjectivities, mediations, and manipulations of the involved actors. The results reveal a growing academic interest, concentrated in universities in the capital, and highlight the ideological complexity of the discourses, ranging from the defence of the economic model to the redefinition of the social contract. The investigative focus reveals the creation of imaginary realities to strengthen political figures and highlights the influence of the media on public perception.*

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## 1. Introduction

The construction of discourses in the political sphere represents a complex connection between facts and arguments, whereby both rationality and emotionality are conveyed. This has given rise to a range of criticisms, from mistrust to the search for an exclusively denotative language. Gutiérrez (2005) identifies two principal types of political discourse: the argumentative, which seeks to persuade through discursive action, and the non-argumentative, which seeks to justify the veracity of a statement. These discourses emerge in both institutional settings of power and in dissident discourses that originate outside of those contexts (Giménez, 1983). The decisions of a leader reflect intentions that amalgamate the explicit and the implicit (Pereiro, 2023; Verón, 1987), which are mediated by enunciative strategies that delineate the position of the sender and the receiver. Theoretical exploration reveals that these discourses not only have a constitutive role, but are also shaped and intertwined with political, social, legal and moral events (Valles, 2019). These elements, which are not always coordinated by a single subject, are traversed by various instances that can be further identified (Klemen, 2024; Meyenberg and Lugo, 2011).

In order to gain an understanding of political discourse, it is essential to consider it as an action situated within a specific socio-cultural context. The materialisation of forms of communication and representation of the world, whether real or imagined, occurs through linguistic, cognitive and socio-cultural actions. The role of language in shaping the world is complemented by its capacity to reflect processes of intersubjectivity within specific contexts (Pastene, 2019). In addition to its illustrative function, political discourse aims to prompt reflection and action, potentially transforming or reinforcing preexisting beliefs and attitudes. The objective is to comprehend the rationale behind decisions, confrontations and strategies, with a view to employing a grammar that is understood as a semiotic connotation. This correspondence between political 'logic' and strategic grammar is manifested in the textual organisation, which is designed to convey strategic meaning to the receiver (Fabbri and Marcarino, 2020). Political discourses are presented in different types of texts. Some employ logical reasoning with deductive and demonstrative operations, while others are based on shared socio-cultural values. There are also discourses whose persuasive effect is based on socio-cultural coexistence, rather than on explicit argumentation. These discourses appeal to exemplifying narratives, axiological statements, arguments of authority, rhetorical questions and irony (Gutiérrez, 2005).

The term "political discourse" is used to describe the verbal and visual expressions of individuals, including politicians and citizens, as well as the communications of institutions and organisations. It manifests itself in a number of different forms, including oral, written, and multimodal speeches, as well as participation in political events such as cabinet meetings, election campaigns, and social protests. This discourse is not merely concerned with persuasion and conviction; it is primarily concerned with imposing ideologically oriented meanings that impact on society and its institutions. This is achieved by interpreting history, relations, roles and identities from positions that are often linked to privilege, elite and institutionalised power (Navarro and Tromben, 2019). In practice, political discourse is manifested in concrete actions that have a direct impact on reality. The analysis of political discourse is driven by a critical interest in understanding the role of this phenomenon in the reproduction and resistance of hegemonic and power relations, particularly in contexts of crisis and instability. The findings of such analysis provide fundamental evidence for the unravelling of key aspects of political processes that might otherwise remain hidden or be denied (van Dijk, 1998).

The complexity of political discourse is evidenced in its explicit and implicit aspects, which reflect a duality between the social and collective desirability of a given position and the pragmatism inherent in the management of power. This dualism gives rise to a 'plausibility' that serves as a foundation for political action in the public sphere (Pastene, 2019). As Fair (2019) notes, discourse analysis reveals four distinct facets: descriptive, didactic, prescriptive and programmatic. At the macro level, macro-strategies are identified in the construction of political discourse, manifested in social functions such as construction, transformation, perpetuation and demonisation or dismantling (Garrido-Medina, 2024; Wodak, 2011). These strategies seek to either legitimise or delegitimise participants, processes and social events, thereby contributing to changes or the maintenance of the status quo (Benke & Wodak, 2003; De Cillia et al., 2015). Political discourse is situated within a discursive field that encompasses a range of typologies and discourse games, characterised by specific variants and strategies within the same discursive context. In order to analyse these discursive exchanges, it is necessary to consider temporal variability and to distinguish between the essential elements of the accessories in question, whether in written media,

orality or images. These elements are decisive in determining how the accessories are circulated and understood (Verón, 1987).

Political discourse in Peru is a reflection of the power dynamics, social conflicts and ideological tensions that are present within society. The media exerts a considerable influence on the formation of collective thought, as evidenced by the presence of deeply entrenched ideologies in their editorial approaches. Nevertheless, articulating discontent or frustration in the presence of unfavourable circumstances is a challenging endeavour in numerous contexts, prompting a pursuit of alternative linguistic resources for more precise communication (Osorio, 2017). The prejudices embedded in these political discourses impede the formation of authentic relationships in Peruvian society. Vich (2010) posits that any successful political or economic initiative in this area must adopt a new cultural approach in order to thrive.

The media plays a pivotal role in the dissemination and shaping of contemporary political discourses, influencing opinions in accordance with specific interests. It is vital to conduct journalistic research in order to gain insight into the historical development of nations and regions. The archives of such publications serve as a valuable source of information, providing a window into the articulation of discourse in relation to political power (Garrido-Medina, 2024; Moran and Aguirre, 2008). Throughout history, societies have documented fundamental expressions and ideas in a variety of testimonies, thereby revealing their way of life, power structures and social conflicts.

In the context of cultural identities, such as those of Andean communities and the Afro-Peruvian movement, political discourses focus on the intricate relationship between the organisations and communities they represent. These discursive dynamic addresses cultural diversity, local particularities and associated phenomena, giving rise to new ethnic and cultural identities that gain relevance in local, national and transnational political agendas (Pérez, 2006; Turpo-Gebera and Gonzales-Miñán, 2019). Valdivia (2002) identifies three key challenges: the lack of clear objectives, financial constraints and the disconnection between political discourses and the daily reality of these communities. In order to reinforce the connection between the identity of these communities and their urban and rural contexts, it is essential to make continuous efforts to revalue and affirm the cultural identity proposed by these organisations in diverse local settings.

The existence of conflicting discourses surrounding land rights and natural resources, particularly within the context of mining, gives rise to confrontational political debates that challenge the very foundations of extractivist practices. These debates, in turn, prompt a re-evaluation of the relationship between society and the natural world. These debates are primarily driven by indigenous and peasant communities and have a trans-regional scope. They bear resemblance to similar situations in Latin America (Ulloa, 2014). The historical focus on leaders as the primary drivers of social movements has evolved towards an interpretation of the perceptions of young people with regard to their participation in politics. This seeks to give voice to groups that are linked to subaltern political organisations. Nevertheless, the current generation of leaders is constrained in its ability to construct an effective democratic model based on popular altruism and ethics (Huanca-Arohuanca, 2021). Concurrently, incendiary political rhetoric targeting immigration, particularly directed at Venezuelan migrants, disseminates bigoted messages at the local and national levels. This is achieved through the use of linguistic and rhetorical strategies designed to propagate prejudices and portray these individuals as threats with negative characteristics. This not only undermines ethical and moral standards but also the rights of vulnerable individuals (Bañón and Asencio, 2023; Gonzales, 2023; Yalta and Lovón, 2023).

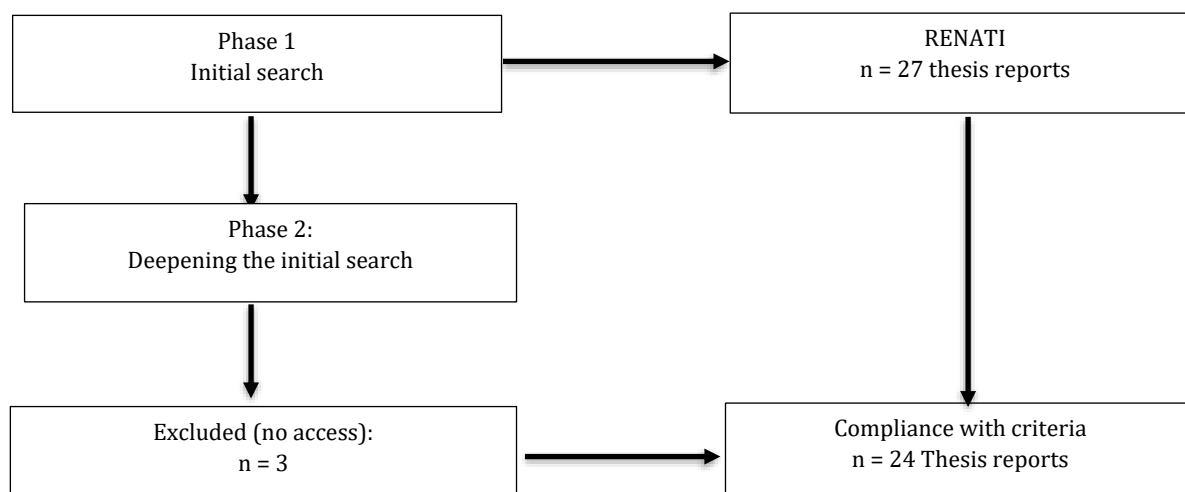
The principal objective of the analysis of the evolution of political discourse in Peru based on university thesis reports is to emphasise the significance of grasping the dynamics of these statements. From this analytical perspective, the objective is to examine the formation of meanings through the interaction of diverse political forms and expressions, supported by scientific arguments present in the theses. This approach aims to gain a detailed understanding of the specific representations of contemporary political discourse in the country. In order to achieve this, aspects such as the power of action of political actors, their moral imperatives, motivations, and the historical and contextual events that influence their expressions will be investigated. Moreover, the analysis seeks to examine the emotional and passionate dimensions of these discourses, as well as the social objectives that inform their formulation. It aims to establish connections between different contexts and to elucidate the distinctive features of political discourse in the university environment (Fabbri and Marcarino, 2020; Navarro and Brown, 2014; Prieto-Andrés et al., 2024).

## 2. Method

This research employs a qualitative methodology, as outlined by Angouri (2010) and Denzin and Lincoln (2012), which is complemented by a flexible documentary analysis design, as proposed by Mendizábal (2006). This study employs a corpus-based approach to analyse postgraduate thesis reports (at both master's and doctoral levels) from Peruvian universities, with the objective of identifying the significant elements of political discourse. The unit of analysis is constituted by the arguments presented in the theses, with a particular focus on the identification of representative ideas and phrases that form the essence of the political discourse represented in them.

To form the basis of the analysis, access was obtained to the National Repository of Research Works (RENATI), managed by the National Superintendence of University Education (SUNEDU), which stores digitised theses from the institutional repositories of Peruvian universities. In early November 2023, a comprehensive search was conducted using the search equation ("discursos políticos" + "posgrado"/"political speeches" + "post-graduate"), resulting in the retrieval of 27 postgraduate thesis reports.

**Figure 1.** Flow chart for determination of the study sample



Source: Own elaboration, 2024.

The reports were subjected to a hermeneutic analysis in order to ascertain their relevance and pertinence to the study. Consequently, 24 thesis reports were selected as the study sample (Figure 1). The remaining three reports were excluded from the study sample due to their embargoed status, which precluded full access to their content.

The analysis is structured in two stages. The initial stage is descriptive and qualitative in nature, with the objective of identifying the discourses and the institutional agents responsible for their configuration through discursive-semantic analysis. The objective is to ascertain which political discourses are deemed "decidable" and the rules that govern their articulation. This entails identifying the topics, discursive objects and "ideologemes" (basic units of an ideological system that convey ideas or values) present in these discourses. Furthermore, the analysis aims to examine the political actors who express these discourses and their influence in the social sphere. This will enable the establishment of what is politically acceptable (Aldreabi et al., 2023).

In the second stage, which is more analytical and interpretative in nature, we undertake a more detailed examination of the evidence presented in the thesis reports, employing discursive systems to substantiate the facts. This phase identifies the sources that support these discursive commitments and analyses the strategies that legitimise or delegitimise subjects and mediations. Furthermore, it acknowledges the meanings that inform the mediation of political discourses, facilitating their clarification and manipulation. In this process, the focus is on the macro-strategies of transformation that encompass the diverse ideological manifestations present in political discourses (Oteíza, 2017). Furthermore, it examines the ways in which political discourses can modify socio-cultural practices by altering their meanings and analyses the influence of such discourses on political acceptance and

ideological transformations. This comprehensive approach enables an understanding of discursive processes and their impact on socio-political dynamics.

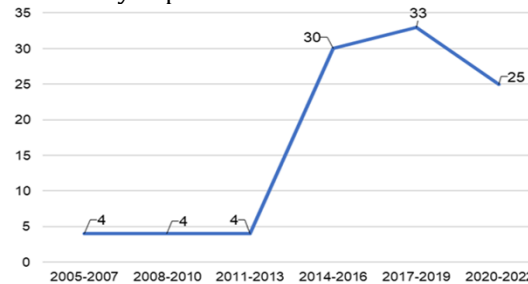
### 3. Results

The analysis of theses on political discourses in Peruvian universities offers a broader perspective on political-ideological approaches and contextualises their origin. These academic studies facilitate comprehension of political discourses by exposing them as expressions of ideas and arguments derived from rigorous research. Furthermore, they demonstrate how these discourses evolve and are analysed within institutional settings, thereby providing a comprehensive overview of their development and their influence on the political and social sphere.

#### 3.1. Evolution of Political Discourse in Peruvian University Theses

The results demonstrate a dynamic evolution in the study of political discourse in Peruvian universities, elucidating the moments and scenarios of production, as well as the disciplinary areas involved. The significance and advancement of political discourse within the context of university research are inextricably linked to the specific historical, social, and academic contexts in which they emerge. A review of the 24 postgraduate theses reveals that only three (12%) have reached the doctoral level, all of which were produced by researchers at the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos (UNMSM). In contrast, the remaining 88% correspond to master's theses. This pattern indicates a necessity for an expansion and intensification of doctoral research on political discourses in Peruvian universities.

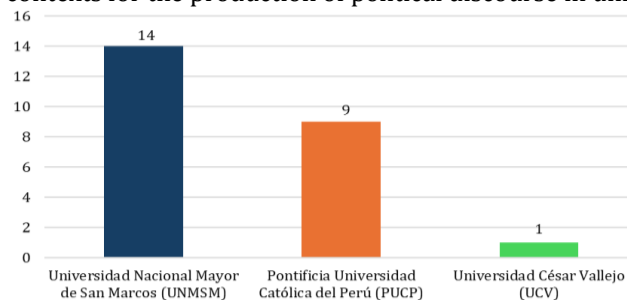
**Figure 2.** Scientific productivity of political discourse in Peruvian university theses (%)



Source: Own elaboration, 2024.

The results illustrate a discernible advancement in the scientific productivity of political discourse in Peruvian university theses over time (Figure 2). During the three-year periods 2005-2007, 2008-2010 and 2011-2013, production remained relatively constant but low, with only 4% of the total in each period, indicating a limited focus. From 2014 onwards, a marked increase is evident, reaching 30% in the period 2014-2016. This may be attributed to the introduction of more robust university policies and an increased level of academic interest. This upward trajectory persists in the 2017-2019 period, reaching 33%, which reflects a consolidation of institutional support and infrastructure improvements. Although there is a slight decrease to 25% in the period 2020-2022, production remains high, indicating that there is continued interest despite the challenges presented by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic.

**Figure 3.** Academic contexts for the production of political discourse in university theses (%)



Source: Own elaboration, 2024.

Figure 3 illustrates the manner in which political discourses in university theses are shaped by the historical, social and academic contexts of each institution. UNMSM is distinguished by the notable prevalence of its thesis reports, amounting to 14 (58%), which evinces a pronounced emphasis on political discourse analysis and a long-standing tradition in this domain. The Pontifical Catholic University of Peru (PUCP) follows with nine reports, representing 38% of the total, which demonstrates a notable presence in political research. In contrast, the University Cesar Valle (UCV) has only one thesis, representing 4% of the total, which may be attributed to differing academic priorities or resource constraints. The results demonstrate the differences between Peruvian universities in terms of their focus and the nature of their academic output on political discourse. The geographical location of the institutions also has an impact, with those situated in the capital demonstrating higher levels of scientific productivity. This reflects the tendency for the center to exert greater influence over the periphery in the transmission of political knowledge.

**Figure 4.** Disciplinary fields of approach to political discourse as an object of study (%)



Source: Own elaboration, 2024.

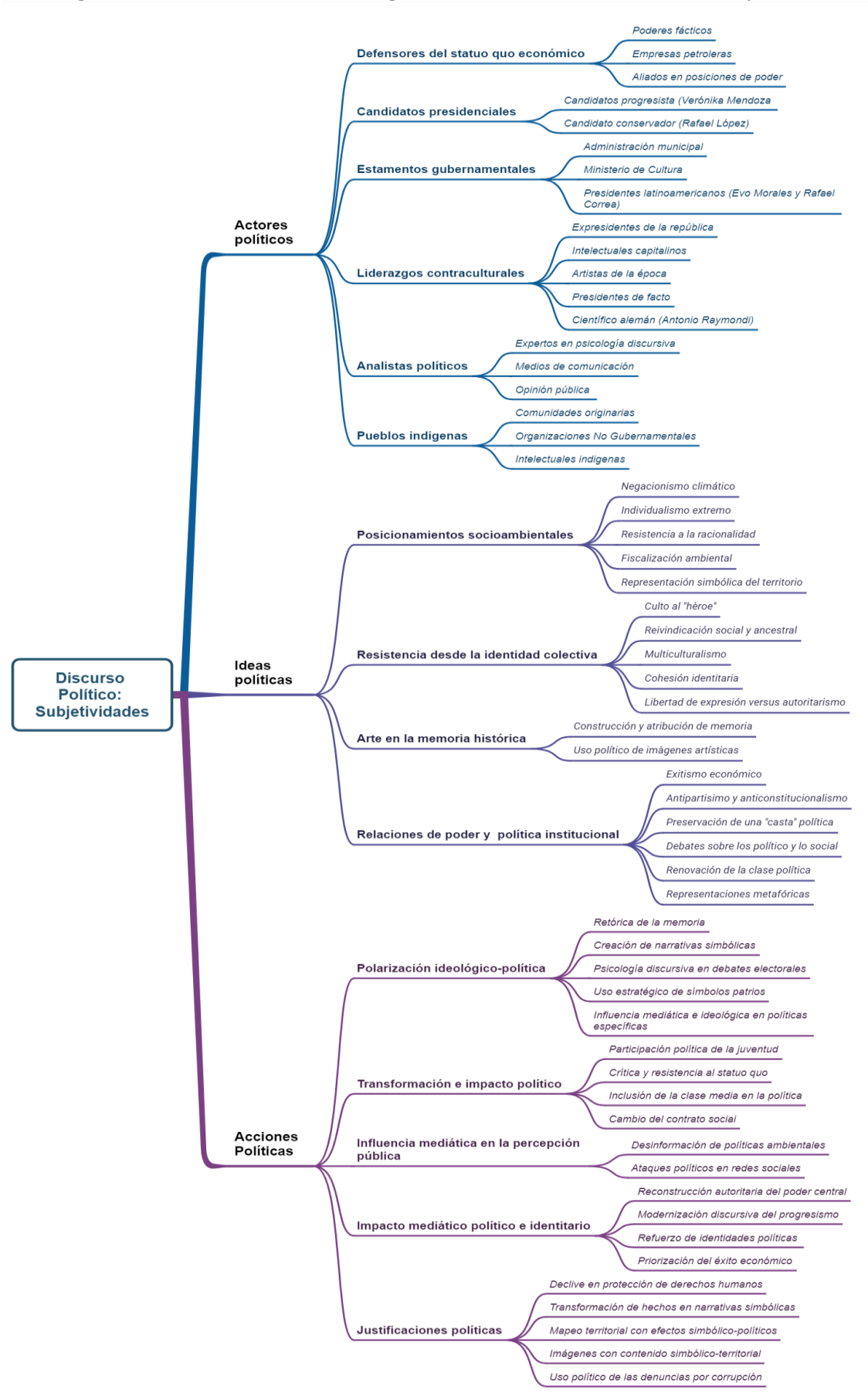
As illustrated in Figure 4, there is a discernible concentration in specific disciplinary fields that address political discourse as an object of study. The disciplines of Literature and Linguistics collectively account for 38% of the total, which serves to illustrate their capacity to analyse the nuances and structures of political language. Political sociology follows with 21%, indicating its engagement with the examination of social contexts and political power dynamics. A further 8% each are allocated to Communications and Art History/Art History, which demonstrate an interest in the transmission and representation of political discourse through artistic media and forms. Disciplines such as Cultural Studies, Philosophy, History, Political Science, Social Sciences and Public Management contribute specialised but less predominant perspectives, enriching the analysis of political discourse from different angles. These include cultural context, philosophical foundations, historical background, political structures and social and governance implications. While there is a discernible inclination towards Literature and Linguistics and Political Sociology, the diversity of approaches and methodologies within these disciplines serves to illustrate the complexity and scope of the study of political discourse within the academic realm.

### **3.1. Political Landscape: Subjectivities of Actors, Ideas and Actions in Political Discourse**

A detailed examination of university theses focusing on political discourse analysis offers valuable insights into the intricate and evolving nature of this field. These theses not only provide a comprehensive account of the arguments and ideologies present in political discourses, but also identify and reveal significant trends by addressing the actors involved, the prevailing ideas and political actions in various contexts. These discourses, which are clearly marked by their ideologies, not only shape policies and approaches, but also have a profound impact on public perception and the formation of political subjectivity. This significantly influences political decision-making and the shaping of public opinion.



Figure 5. Actors, ideas and actions in political discourses of Peruvian university theses



Source: Own elaboration, 2024.

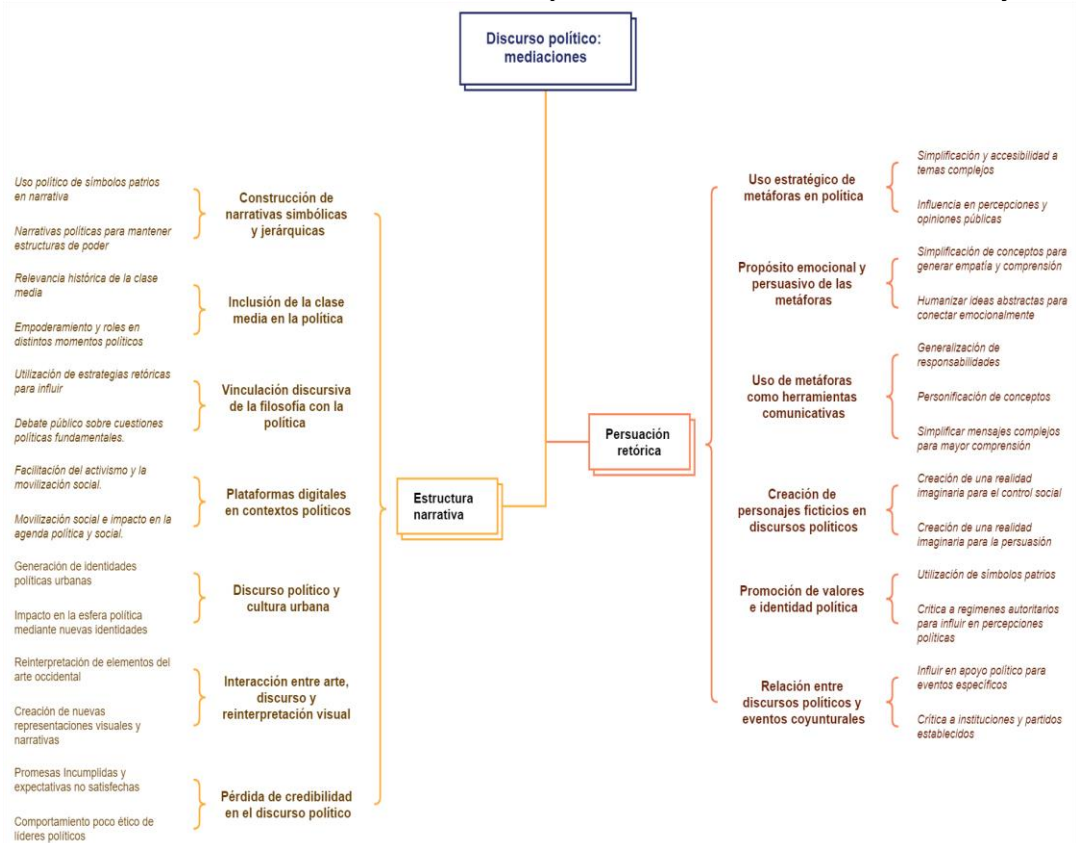
Figure 5 illustrates the extensive diversity of political actors, which reflects the intricate and multifaceted nature of Peru's political, social, and cultural milieu. From those who defend the economic status quo to political leaders, intellectuals, the media, interest groups and representatives of indigenous communities, each plays a critical role in shaping public opinion, government policies and the country's social dynamics. The actors and their different political perspectives reflect complex debates in Peru, from the struggle for social change and the inclusion of new political actors to the promotion of diverse collective identities and concern for the environment. These challenges and complexities reflect the country's ongoing pursuit of transformative change.

The current political discourse in Peru is characterised by a notable polarisation along ideological lines. The considerable deployment of symbols and narratives to justify actions and shape identities provides clear evidence of the considerable complexity of the political strategies at play. In this intricate political milieu, the role of the media, the strategies employed to consolidate power, and the manipulation of language are of paramount importance. There are indications that efforts are being made to reinterpret historical events and denounce corruption with a view to influencing political perception and action in the country. The diversity of political actors reflects the intricate political and social landscape, encompassing a range of ideological positions and actions, from social change to environmental concerns. These stances give rise to political actions that are characterised by a pronounced ideological confrontation, with the deployment of symbols and narratives serving to influence perceptions of power. The media plays a pivotal role in employing metaphorical language and reinterpreting historical events to address corruption and influence national political dynamics.

3.2 Mediations in Political Discourse: Persuasive and Narrative Strategies

Discursive mediations utilise persuasion and structuration in political discourse. Rhetorical persuasion employs linguistic and metaphorical devices to influence emotions and beliefs, while narrative structure facilitates comprehension by organising key elements. This relationship affects the formation of opinions, ideologies and political decisions, demonstrating how political actors shape messages to influence public perception of political and social issues.

Figure 6. Narrative and rhetorical mediations in the political discourse of Peruvian university theses



Source: Own elaboration, 2024.

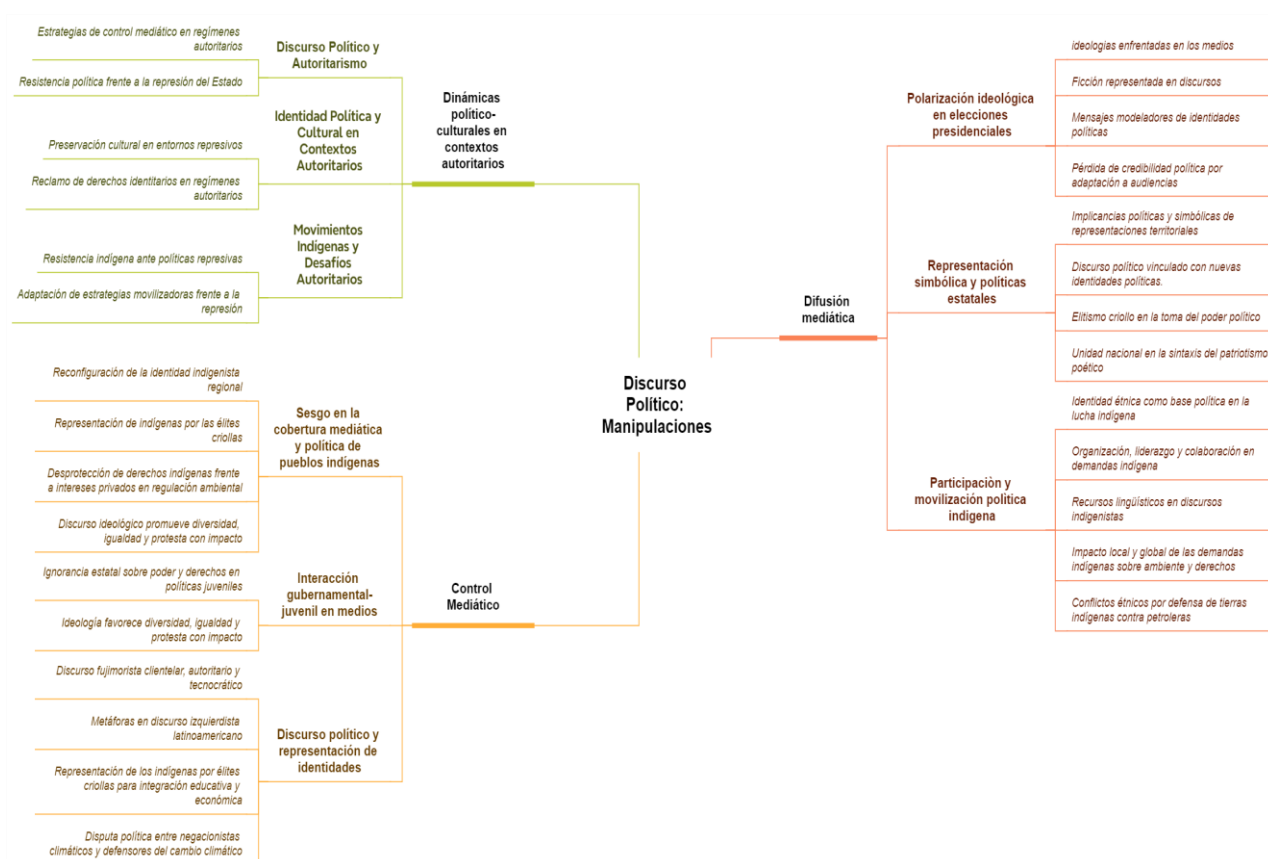


In the context of political discourse, a variety of persuasive and narrative strategies are employed with the intention of influencing the audience and shaping public perception. Figure 6 represents, on the one hand, the rhetorical persuasion evident through the use of metaphors. These simplify complex issues and shape public perception by establishing emotional connections and generating empathy by humanising abstract concepts. Moreover, the creation of fictional characters and the utilisation of patriotic symbols, in conjunction with the condemnation of authoritarian regimes, serve to influence national identity and adherence to specific political ideologies. Conversely, the narrative structure of political discourse extends beyond the mere act of communication, employing emergent situations or conjunctural manifestations to substantiate narratives that simplify and persuade in the public sphere, thereby influencing the interpretation of political ideas. The relationship between philosophical discourse and political action is elucidated through the use of symbolic narratives, which are then reinforced through the application of rhetorical strategies.

However, the adaptation of discourse to diverse audiences raises questions about the democratic quality and transparency of political communication, and thus its credibility. The strategic deployment of narrative structures is designed to simplify complex issues and engender empathy by endowing abstract ideas with human qualities. Furthermore, the interaction of discourse with digital platforms and the visual reinterpretation of Western art serve to extend its reach. Nevertheless, the selective tailoring of discourse to specific audiences can potentially undermine its credibility and transparency, thereby posing challenges to democratic integrity.

### ***3.5. Media Manipulation of Political Discourse in Peruvian University Theses***

The analysis of discursive practices in university theses on political discourse examines the ways in which individuals and intermediaries influence the dissemination and manipulation of political information. A variety of strategies are employed with the intention of influencing perceptions. It is therefore necessary to examine the morality of these practices and to gain an understanding of their social and ethical implications, as well as to consider the responsibility of those who utilise them in the public sphere.

**Figure 7.** Media manipulation of political discourse in Peruvian university theses

Source: Own elaboration, 2024.

Figure 7 illustrates the significant impact of media dissemination, as reflected in the political discourses of Peruvian university theses, across diverse social and political domains. In one aspect, it influences public perception and reinforces national identity, manifesting itself in political discourses on social networks and in cultural expressions, such as the indigenist discourse, which confronts exclusion and defends the rights of communities in the face of private economic interests. Notwithstanding the obstacles, the efficacious formulation of demands and the construction of ethnic identity serve to reinforce indigenous mobilisation, thereby exerting an impact at the national and international levels. Conversely, instances of media manipulation encompass a spectrum of practices, from the distortion of images and proposals in media coverage to its influence on the construction of political identities, as evidenced by the propagation of fictitious and authoritarian discourses, exemplified by figures such as Alberto Fujimori. This manipulation manifests as negligent state policies and misrepresentations of marginalised groups, influencing public perception and giving rise to disputes on pivotal issues such as climate change. The ethical and moral principles that underpin political activity are multifaceted, encompassing a range of interconnected elements that shape the formation of political identities, the dynamics between elites and the general public, and the relationship between science, power and ethics. These principles are elucidated through historical and artistic analysis, which reveals their function in interpreting the past and their impact on the public sphere. This, in turn, demonstrates the complex interweaving of ethics and politics within the context of the country.

#### 4. Discussion

This study provides a comprehensive exploration of the evolution of contemporary political discourse in Peru. It employs a methodology that utilizes university thesis reports to illustrate the development of meanings in political utterances through the interplay of diverse forms and expressions. These findings are grounded in scientific arguments present in the theses. The research illuminates the core elements of political actors' capacity to act, their moral obligations and motivations, as well as the historical and

contextual events that shape their expressions and decisions. This analysis reveals the emotional and passionate dimensions of such discourses and reflects the social objectives that shape their formulation. It establishes connections between diverse contexts and reveals the particularities of political discourse in both the university environment and contemporary Peruvian society.

There is a growing interest in academic research on political discourses in universities in the Peruvian capital, including both public institutions such as the UNMSM and private ones such as the PUCP. This field of study not only analyses political discourses in and of themselves, but also identifies strategies to manipulate and transform these discourses in order to influence the legitimisation or discrediting of actors and social processes. The preference for disciplines such as linguistics and politics indicates a dichotomy between the social and collective desirability of political knowledge and its pragmatic value. The concentration of academic knowledge in Lima's universities indicates the persistence of a deep-seated social division that perpetuates political discourses. These discourses operate within a complex discursive field, employing a multitude of contextual strategies that shape their interpretation (Verón, 1987).

A review of Peruvian university theses on political discourse reveals a focus on discursive strategies of construction, transformation, perpetuation and dismantling. This reflects a constant search for change and transformation in society (Wodak, 2011). The aforementioned theses demonstrate how pronounced ideological divergence is reflected in the utilisation of symbols and narratives that justify actions and shape identities that are deeply embedded in the country's historical and cultural heritage. These strategies are employed with the objective of either validating or discrediting actors, processes and social events, with the consequence of influencing both change and the preservation of the status quo. It demonstrates the multiplicity of discursive strategies deployed in diverse contexts, with each actor assuming a pivotal role in shaping public opinion, influencing government policies and regulating social dynamics (De Cillia et al., 2015). This reveals a vast array of political actors in Peru, reflecting intricate debates ranging from the pursuit of social transformation to the promotion of diverse collective identities and environmental concerns. In this intricate political milieu, the influence of the media, strategies of power consolidation, and the manipulation of language assume pivotal roles (Gutiérrez, 2005; Van Dijk, 1998). Furthermore, there is an endeavour to reinterpret historical events and denounce corruption with a view to influencing political perception and action in the country.

The analysis of university theses reveals the significance of social, territorial and natural resource conflicts in political discourse, particularly those driven by indigenous and peasant communities. These confrontations, which are trans-regional in scope, offer insight into the interplay between corporate and common dynamics and these communities. Historically, the focus has been on the leader as a catalyst of social movements. However, the Lima elite projected a modern discourse that, paradoxically, sustained traditional economic practices. The present study aims to gain insight into the political perceptions of young people, particularly those belonging to subaltern groups, who are confronted with ethical and moral dilemmas when attempting to develop an effective democratic model (Huanca-Arohuanca, 2021). Conversely, we observe the manifestation of political discourses that employ linguistic and rhetorical strategies to disseminate prejudices and highlight not only the ethics and morals of the subjects, but also the rights of vulnerable individuals.

The theses analysed provide a comprehensive examination of the multifaceted aspects of political discourse, particularly focusing on the dynamic evolution of political discourse in Peru. This analytical perspective enables the scientific substantiation of specific representations of contemporary political discourse, thereby enhancing our comprehension of the country's political intricacies. The investigation examines the capabilities of political actors, the ethical obligations that guide their actions, the factors that influence their decisions, and the implications of their actions on the political landscape (Fabbri & Marcarino, 2020). Moreover, these theses reflect social objectives, establishing connections between disparate contexts and elucidating the idiosyncrasies of political discourse within the university milieu. Political communication employs a range of persuasive and narrative strategies, including the strategic use of metaphors to simplify and persuade on complex issues. Additionally, fictional characters and critiques of authoritarian regimes are employed to influence national identity and public perceptions. However, this adaptation of discourse to different audiences presents challenges to transparency and credibility in political communication, thereby raising questions about the democratic integrity of the process.

The role of the media in shaping political discourses in Peruvian university theses is evident in the formation of identities, particularly through the indigenist discourse that challenges exclusion and advocates for the rights of communities, thereby strengthening their mobilisation (Valles, 2019). Nevertheless, instances of media manipulation have been identified, whereby proposals are distorted and fictitious, authoritarian discourses created. These have an impact on negligent state policies and the representation of marginalised groups, which is often distorted. This situation gives rise to controversy on matters of great importance, such as climate change. The ethical and moral principles that underpin political discourse are complex and multifaceted, encompassing economic and cultural considerations that inform political identities and the dynamics between elites and popular classes, as well as influencing historical understanding and public life. As Gutiérrez (2005) notes, political discourses can be classified as either argumentative or non-argumentative, emerging in a range of contexts and shaped by a multitude of political, social, and moral events. An understanding of political discourse necessitates consideration of its manifestation within specific socio-cultural contexts. Forms of communication and representation of the world are conveyed through language, impacting on intersubjectivity and seeking to influence opinion and action through grammatical strategies that convey strategic meanings to the receiver (Meyenberg and Lugo, 2011).

In essence, university theses on political discourses reflect the inherent complexity, diversity and socio-cultural context in which these discourses manifest themselves. They provide a comprehensive account of the discursive strategies deployed, the significance of the actors involved and the role of the media in shaping identities, thereby illustrating the crucial importance of this research in comprehending and addressing the political challenges currently facing Peru.

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