

## **Discursive construction of hegemonic power through political interviews: The case of Turkish presidential discourse**

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Interviews are often believed to be instruments that are empowering, balancing, and informing (Clayman & Heritage, 2002). Similarly, political interviews are often presented as media that challenge the existing power structures and empower the interviewer, and by extension the general public. Conflicting with these notions, political interviews in Turkey, especially in the last decade, turned into a channel of consolidation of power and propaganda. Earlier research discussed the causes and implications of this transition through the lens of the changing political landscape and the consolidation of the Turkish media in the last decades (Çarkoğlu & Yıldırım, 2023). Despite this, there is limited research on the language and discursive features of political interviews as they exist in this context. In order to bridge this gap, the present working study explores Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's interviews, with a focus on the interviews that involve 2 or more interviewers/journalists. A corpus consisting of 20 interviews from 2013 to 2023 is analyzed through frameworks of interactional sociolinguistics (Jaspers, 2012) and critical discourse analysis (Fairclough, 2012). The data-driven approach revealed two main aspects of the discourse as constructed in these interviews. Firstly, the interviewee's organization and strategic utilization of ideational discourse and factual/logical discourses (Kiernan, 2019) allowed for his transmissional and interpersonal dominance of the interview. Moreover, questions formulated by the interviewers and the overall organizational and semiotic structure of the broadcasting served to empower the interviewee and legitimize his authority. These themes are discussed in relation to the notions of interview society (Atkinson & Silverman, 1997), factual and ideational discourses, and critical discourse analysis.

**Key words:** *critical discourse analysis, interactional sociolinguistics, Turkish political interviews*

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