

Report on

Education in Feminist Discourse: A Genre Analysis of Remarks by President Faust in the W50 Summit, Harvard Business School, Boston, Mass April 4, 2013

by

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I think that the author has made a very good choice since I am a professor of feminist theory in the English Department at the University of Jordan.

At the very outset, I have to say that I have enjoyed reading the essay from beginning to end. You read the essay in one sitting, and you feel captivated by its richness and by its pertinent argument. The first part of the essay paves the way for what is going to follow and a huge chunk of the essay is devoted to a meticulous and expansive revision of related literature, which is, admittedly, wide in approach and in perspective. The authors have engrossed themselves in the field of their research and they have read extensively on it. They have also engaged in a conversation with what has been done pinpointing the most recent theories in connection with discourse analysis and its positioning within feminist education. It is not easy to amalgamate all of these sources and to analyze their content critically and independently. This section will be great for researchers who show interest in the field of discourse analysis and in education germane to feminist discourses as they are manifested in speeches.

The second part of the essay is an in-depth analysis of the speech of President Faust. The authors have deconstructed the speech and concentrated on major elements and on their cargo of significations. I am inspired to listen to the speech on You Tube. I am also inspired to let my students in my feminist theory courses listen to this speech and let me know what they think of it from a feminist lens. I see myself referencing this essay to my students.

The essay needs to be proofread for some typo mistakes, which appear here and there. This is a small task and I believe that the authors should clean the essay up to ensure that it is free of unnecessary mistakes.

Having said that, I have two suggestions to make with regard to the essay, and I would encourage the authors to dwell on them carefully and to see if they can work them and rework part of the essay.

1. It would be enriching if the authors could make some passing references to other speeches (one or two) made by other women presidents in the year 2013. When the analyzed speech is juxtaposed along other speeches and not discussed in isolation, it will gain more momentum and more significance. The authors can simply touch on other speeches and make some comparisons whose objective is to fortify their argument and to highlight its novelty and originality. Speeches constitute a strong discourse, which has the power to change mindsets and to enact social and cultural changes.

2. It would be interesting if the authors could explore briefly and succinctly their perspectives on speeches made by male presidents. Does gender play an important role in the way a certain speech is made or constructed? Do themes differ? What about the politics of the speeches? I think that they have read other speeches made by male presidents, so I hope they will tap into this pool of speeches and perhaps show similarities, differences, and nuanced meanings. It does not have to be much. One or two paragraphs will do.

I wish the authors all the best with all of your future endeavors.