

## **7<sup>th</sup> March 1971 Historical Speech: A comparative Examination of Rhetorical and Textual Qualities**

**Abu Hena Morshed Zaman**

*Secretary to Bangladesh Government, Implementation Monitoring & Evaluation Division.*

**Parvejur Rahman**

*Additional Deputy Commissioner, DC Office Mymensingh, (Senior Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Public Administration.)*

---

**Abstract:** Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman—the father of the nation, the architect of independent Bangladesh, the first president of Bangladesh, and later the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, one of the most renowned political leaders of the world who led the people of Bangladesh to independence and whose philosophy of peaceful resistance and just struggle against tyranny and oppression captured the hearts and minds of millions during the turbulent years of the liberation struggle of Bangladesh—is perhaps best remembered for his eloquent speech: “The struggle this time is for our emancipation. **The struggle this time is for independence,**” known as the 7<sup>th</sup> March 1971 historical speech, in which he expressed his deep desire for freedom and emancipation for his people. The frequent talks and studies on political, democratic, civic, and leaderly values of this great speech often overshadow its rhetorical and textual excellences. This paper is an endeavor to shed light on its Rhetoric excellences like ethos, pathos, logos, contrast, comparison, parallelism, antithesis, themes, irony, alliteration, anaphora, Textual qualities such as pronoun, the mood of the sentence, modality, tense and classical oratorical qualities and to unearth their justification which added values to this short but historic speech.

**Objective:** This study of the 7<sup>th</sup> March 1971 historical speech focuses on four key objectives: (1) to analyze its rhetorical qualities; (2) to illustrate some of its functional linguistic elements; (3) to justify its literary values as to be studied in academia and other fields of literature; (4) to examine its classic essay like qualities as to be used in the modern argumentative paper.

---

Date of Submission: 01-02-2022

Date of Acceptance: 13-02-2022

---

### **I. INTRODUCTION:**

Rhetoric and literary techniques are very powerful tools by which an author very often designs his motifs, plot, and characters in order to deliver his messages clearly and effectively. The proper adoption of them along with strong language brings applause and receives an acknowledgment from readers as well as critics. When these artistic literary styles are at the hands of a skillful orator, his speech reaches the pick of fame and appeal. Bangabandhu delivered this speech on 7 March 1971 at the then Ramna Race Course in Dhaka to a gathering of over 10 lac people. The speech was extempore and there was no written script. However, the speech survived in the audio as well as in AV versions. The purpose of his speech was to mention four conditions. These are (a) the immediate lifting of martial law; (b) the immediate withdrawal of all military personnel to their barracks; (c) a proper inquiry into the loss of life during the conflict; and (d) immediate transfer of power to elected representatives of the people. Joining the National Assembly on 25 March was another point. On top of there was the issue of declaring a program of non-cooperation unless their demands were met. He said: “Today stand before you today with a heart overflowing with grief. You are fully aware of the events that are going on and understand their import. We have been trying to do our best to cope with the situation. And yet, unfortunately, the streets of Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, and Rangpur are awash with the blood of our brothers. The people of Bengal now want to be free, the people of Bengal now want to live, and the people of Bengal now want their rights.” (Line 1-6, The Unforgettable History). If analyzed, we find that there are three basic rhetorical devices behind it which are ethos, logos, and pathos. Apart from these classical rhetorical qualities, the luminous presence of other literary techniques immediately establishes the speech as one of the ever best remembered eloquent speeches, which has ultimately received recognition from UNESCO as part of the world’s documentary heritage.

**Background:** The creation of Pakistan took place in 1947 through the partition of India. Pakistan consisted of a Muslim homeland including most Muslims majority provinces of British India. The provinces were in two geographically and culturally segregated areas such as east of India and west of India. Hence the western areas were used to call West Pakistan and the east was East Pakistan. It is mentionable that from the inception of Pakistan, West Pakistani leaders started exploiting the East economically and caused immense grievances to East Pakistan people. It is to be noted that whenever East Pakistani like Khawaja Nazimuddin, Muhammad Ali Bogra, and Huseyn Saheed Surwardy got elected as Prime Minister, these were bitter pills for West Pakistani leaders to swallow and they were swiftly and systematically ousted by the predominantly West Pakistani establishment. The successive military rules of Ayub Khan (27 October 1956- 25 March 1969) and Yahya Khan (25 March 1969-20 December 1971) added more salts to the injury of East Pakistan. In 1966 Sheikh Mujibur Rahman put the six-point demand on the table for provincial autonomy for East Pakistan but the Pakistan government rejected it and charged Sheikh Mujib with treason and arrested him in the name of Agartala conspiracy. It was heavy to cross to East Pakistan people thus they came to the streets protesting Sheikh Mujib arrest. In the face of mass protests, the East Pakistan government gave in and released Sheikh Mujib in 1969. In the national election of 1970 Awami League, the longest political party of East Pakistan won a landslide victory. After this won it became a constitutional right for Awami League to form the government but Bhutto, the leader of the Pakistan People's Party, did not allow Sheikh Mujib to become Prime Minister. Later after a series of negotiations, president Yahya Khan promised Sheikh Mujib that he would be Prime Minister and the National Assembly would convene on 3 March 1971. It was suddenly postponed until 25 March due to the disagreement of Bhutto. Hearing it East Pakistan people turned out to be violent. Hence, Awami League staged a large public gathering at the Race Course field on 7 March to respond to it

#### **Concept of three basic rhetorical devices:**

Over 2000 years back, Greek philosopher, Aristotle argued that there are three basic ways to persuade an audience: Ethos, Logos, and Pathos. Ethos means credibility i.e. the person delivering the message has to be credible and trustworthy. To connect with the speaker a listener asks himself: Is the speaker believable? Does he/she have my best interest in his/her mind (or just his/her own)? Whereas logos means logic. People are likely to be persuaded by this strategy if they believe that the message is logical and well-presented and that it makes sense and has facts and evidence. To be influenced by this device, a listener asks himself/herself: Is this a logical argument? Does the speaker have evidence? Is the speaker telling the truth? The most effective of the three rhetorical devices is pathos which means the audience's emotion. For pathos to be effective, the message delivered by the speaker must touch the audience's emotion. A listener will react to this kind of argument because he or she will think: This makes me sad or upset. This makes me angry. This frightens me. I need to take action. If this is how a listener reacts, he will be persuaded by pathos. In fact, these three strategies are often combined.

#### **Exploring Rhetorical Elements in 7<sup>th</sup> march speech:**

Undoubtedly, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was the most credible and trustworthy person among his people, therefore, when he addressed his people 'My brothers' they believed him as their true brother who could even sacrifice his life for them. Making an allusion to the 1970 election and its aftermath in the opening words he made the ethos successfully and brought the audience into his confidence.

"Today stand before you today with a heart overflowing with grief. You are fully aware of the events that are going on and understand their import" (Line 1-2, The Unforgettable History)

Having firmly established his credibility, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman embarks on creating a close and harmonious relationship with his audience by entreating them to join in his endeavor. He does it successfully by making his argument extremely logical to the crowd.

"We were to sit in the National Assembly, draft a constitution for ourselves there, and build our country; will sit, we will make the constitution there and we will build this country" (Line 8, The Unforgettable History)

Bangabandhu's primary means of persuasion is pathos, as he relies heavily on his eloquent language towards engaging the emotions of his audience. Perhaps he realizes that neither an appeal to logic nor ethics has convinced people that freedom is an inherent right for all but a direct and unabashed emotional appeal will touch their hearts and compel them to take action. By the rest of the speeches, Sheikh Mujib left no stone unturned to excite the audience's extremely and to bring them to his side, and eventually, he did it effectively.

**“But sadly, today we have to say sadly, the tragic history of twenty-three years is the history of oppression of Bengal, the history of the blood of the people of Bengal. Twenty-three years of history is the history of the cries of dying men and women; the history of Bengal is the history of the highways with the blood of the people of this country”**



**Images of Ethos, Logos, and Pathos of Historical 7<sup>th</sup> March Speech**

Combined with three basic rhetorical devices 7<sup>th</sup> march speech ultimately generates an unending desire for freedom in the people and galvanizes agony and distrust against the oppression of brutal Pakistani rule. Thus they fought hard against Pakistan, a military superpower, and the outcome of this bloody struggle is the independence of Bangladesh

### **Parallelism**

Parallelism is a grammatically identical sentence or paragraph where words, phrases or clauses are repeated over and over again. A parallel structure often includes other literary qualities, such as repetition, anaphora, irony, antithesis, anecdote, allusion, and other literary qualities. When an agreement is in grammatical structure, Sentences becomes easier and more pleasant to read, particularly when it comes to lists. For example:

Faulty parallelism: “The finale was illogical, rushed, and it disappointed.” (Two adjectives and a verb.)

Successful parallelism: “The finale was illogical, rushed, and disappointing.” (Three adjectives.) (Master Class Staff)

### **Parallelism as a Literary Device**

In literature, parallelism appears as a figure of speech that often crosses the grammatical structure of a sentence. It might be in the form of alliteration, assonance, antithesis, anaphora, anecdote, allusion etc.

### **The Purpose of Parallelism**

Parallelism is popular among orators that usually simplify the structure of sentences. Thus the speaker can hold an audience’s attention for longer and present their message in comprehensive terms. Parallelism is also useful when a writer wants to emphasize the relationship between two or more ideas.

### **Examples of Parallelism in Famous Speeches**

It is to mention that some of the most famous speeches in history include examples of parallelism. Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech is such kind of speech where parallelism gets used frequently.

“I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: “We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal.” I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood. I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character”

The same type of parallelism features in Winston Churchill's stirring World War II-era address, "We Shall Fight on the Beaches":

**"We shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, and we shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be. We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender"**

John F. Kennedy's inaugural presidential address also features a good example of parallelism. Kennedy doesn't repeat words: it's purely the symmetry in the grammatical structure and ideas that make this a successful parallelism.

**"Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty".**

### Examples of Parallelism in Literature

Literature and poetry are full of parallelism examples. A good starting point is William Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, where Mark Anthony gives this famous speech at Caesar's funeral:

**"Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears;  
I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him.  
The evil that men do lives after them;  
The good is oft interred with their bones"**

Shakespeare uses multiple types of parallelism—first, the parallel construction in the list of nouns with which Mark Anthony addresses the crowd. Then, he twice employs antithesis: "to bury" and "to praise", followed by a comment on both "evil" and "good" legacies.

Another famous parallelism example is from the opening to Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities*:

**It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, and it was the winter of despair.**

Dickens combines anaphora with antithesis, starting successive clauses with "it was the" and going on to use contrasting descriptions.

### Alliteration

In literature, **alliteration** is the obvious repetition of identical initial consonant sounds in successive or closely associated syllables within a group of words, even those spelled differently. As a method of linking words for effect.. A familiar example is "*Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers*". Some literary experts use as alliteration the repetition of vowel sounds or repetition at the end of words. Alliteration narrowly refers to the repetition of a letter in any syllables that, according to the poem's meter, are stressed, as in James Thomson's verse "*Come...dragging the lazy languid line along*". Consonance is a broader literary device identified by the repetition of consonant sounds at any point in a word (for example, *coming home, hot foot*).

### Anaphora

In rhetoric, an anaphora is a rhetorical device that consists of repeating a sequence of words at the beginnings of neighboring clauses, thereby lending them emphasis. The use of anaphora as a rhetorical device adds rhythm to a word as well as makes it more pleasurable to read and easier to remember. Anaphora is repetition at the beginning of a sentence to create emphasis. Anaphora serves the purpose of delivering an artistic effect to a

passage. It is also used to appeal to the emotions of the audience in order to persuade, inspire, motivate and encourage them.<sup>1</sup> In Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous "I Have a Dream" speech, he uses anaphora by repeating "I have a dream" eight times throughout the speech. My brothers, the people of Bengal, the history of Bengal. "Historical 7<sup>th</sup> march speech"

### **Antithesis**

Antithesis a figure of speech in which opposites or strongly contrasting ideas are occurred in sharp juxtaposition and sustained tension. In an antithesis opposing clauses, phrases, or sentences are roughly equal in length and balanced in contiguous grammatical structures.

**The world will little note nor long remember  
what we say here, but it can never forget what  
they did here.  
(Abraham Lincoln, "Gettysburg Address")**

### **Irony**

**Irony**, a linguistic and literary device, in spoken or written form, that shows the difference between appearance and reality. It differs literal meaning of words from their actual meaning. "

### **Contrast/Comparison**

Compare and contrast is a rhetorical device that displays the similarities and differences of two or more things: ideas, concepts, items, places, etc. This rhetorical style is often found in essays. It discusses the similarities and differences of at least two different things. We might structure the compare and contrast essay using either the **alternating method** (stating one aspect of one thing and immediately discussing the same aspect of the other item and how they are similar or different) or the **block method** (discussing all of the aspects of one thing and then discussing all of the aspects of another).

### **Anecdote**

An anecdote is a short story or account regarding a person or event that is usually amusing, informative, entertaining, or biographical in nature. Anecdotes generally relate to the subject matter where people are discussing to forward a point or simply share a relevant story. They can be used in everyday life or in literature.

### **Allusion**

An allusion is a reference. As a literary technique, allusion allows a writer to compress a great deal of meaning and significance into a word or phrase. However, allusions are only effective to the extent that they are recognized and understood by the reader. If an allusion is obscure or misunderstood, it can lack effectiveness by confusing the reader.

Martin Luther King has used several allusions in his speech, "I Have a Dream," one of the best is "Five scores ago..." This allusion has been used to echo Abraham Lincoln. He used this phrase during his address at Gettysburg saying, "Four scores..." When Martin Luther King uses this phrase, the reference to that allusion is unmistakable. Therefore, his argument is also unmistakable in that it connects to the same issues that Lincoln raised and resolved several decades back.

### **Analogy**

Analogy and allusions are entirely opposite from each other. An analogy is a comparison between two things, objects, persons, or situations. It is based on some aspects of resemblances in both objects and things. On the other hand, an allusion is just a reference to something, or some person, or some situation. This does hint

that they might have some resemblance. In fact, they seem to be the same thing; just an allusion points to the real thing to which the reference has been made.

### Metaphor

A **metaphor** is a figure of speech that defines an object or action in a way that isn't literally true simultaneously helps explain an idea or attempt a comparison. A **metaphor** refers to a statement that shows one thing *is* another thing. It identifies those two things not only because they actually are the same, but also for the sake of comparison or symbolism

### Analyzing Parallel techniques in Historical 7<sup>th</sup> March

Bangabandhu gives his speech in a parallel structure. His parallelism includes other literary devices like allusion, repetition, anaphora, antithesis, analogy, powerful images, and comparison/contrast.

In the beginning, Sheikh Mujib alluded (allusion, a literary device) to the elections of 1970. He also directly hinted at Historical references of the Language Movement of 1952, the Martial law of Ayub Khan, The Six point movement of 1966 to show Aristotelian concept logos (logic) in the speech. Verbal irony mixed with sarcasm is evident in the line "Mr. Yahya, you are the president of Pakistan. Come and observe how the poor people of my country are being mowed down with bullets. "An instance of situational irony is seen in the expression **"we constitute the majority in Pakistan, but whenever we Bengalis have tried to assume power they have used force on us"**

Bangabandhu uses a logical repetition to point to the need for immediate action, saying in essence, "The people of Bengal now want to be free, the people of Bengal now want to live, and the people of Bengal now want their rights." Another emotional repetition has been found, (twenty-three tragic years; Bengal's history of those years is full of stories of torture inflicted on our people, of bloodshed by them repeatedly. Twenty-three years of a history of men and women in agony, the history of Bengal is the history of a people who have repeatedly made their highways crimson with their blood). Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman once again uses parallelism with a variety of rhetorical schemes, (if **another bullet is fired if my people are shot dead again...); if we have to transmit news abroad you will see to that. Antithesis (We'll starve to death, but we'll go down striving for our rights. Or, those who brought arms with our money to defend us from external enemies are now using those arms on the poor, - the wretched, -the downtrodden people of the land); metaphors (highways crimson with their blood, wadding over the blood)** add more literary values to this speech.

Anaphora, another rhetoric, gets used in the 7<sup>th</sup> march speech. Bangabandhu uses Anaphora aiming at an artistic effect to his argument and creating the immediate appeal to the emotions of the audiences. Here he repeatedly used the phrases "My brothers, the people of Bengal, the history of Bengal" with a view to making them prepared for the war of independence.

An analogy is seen when he addressed the armed forces of Pakistan as my brother and instructed them to stay in the barracks in the same way he instructed the Bengali people to do things for liberation. Remarkable quotations like **"The struggle this time is a struggle for a freedom-the struggle this time is a struggle for emancipation"**, "Since we have already had to shed blood, we'll have to shed a lot more of it" have proverbial qualities.

Powerful images are seen in streets of Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna....awash with the blood, and highways crimson with their blood. Blood symbol is a very powerful motif which symbolizes oppression of extreme level. The metaphor of a tightly knit family is found when the great leader declared "In our Bengal Hindus and Muslims, Bengalis and non-Bengalis are all brothers"

To advance his theme, Bangabandhu relies primarily on rhetoric questions, comparison/contrast, circumstance, and testimony. To do this he often uses anecdotes. For example, Bangabandhu begins his second paragraph with a rhetorical question, "What have we done that was wrong?" Immediately after this rhetoric question, he uses an anecdote to make a comparison/contrast and illustrate the circumstances and so on. For example, he compares the situations before and after the election and contrast (e.g. **I said to him, "You must hold the session of the National Assembly on 15 January." But he did not listen to me. He listened to Mr. Bhutto instead) the views of the people of Bengal with that of the military rulers of the then Pakistan.**

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman falls back heavily on the authority of laws and precedents. For example, to emphasize the democratic rights which the Bengalis have been systematically excluded, he makes a number of references to the historical and political events. As further testimony that the Bengali are being denied their rights as equal citizens, he cites incidents of police brutality and points to discriminatory practices in the electoral process.

Bangabandhu seems to be committed all the arguments of speech in his memory before the deliberation. When he delivered all arguments he never used any written script. He had continuous direct eyes contact with his audiences that added further values to make the audiences spellbound. In the beginning, his tone was melancholic but passionate. As the arguments proceeded it turned out to be a thunderbolt.

### The Textual Analysis of 7<sup>th</sup> March Speech:

#### Pronoun

Sheikh Mujib's pronouns add much textual qualities to his speech. In this speech going beyond the mere substitutions of nouns, Mujib's pronouns create self-importance, liabilities, inclusiveness, solidarity, and unity of purpose between him and his audiences. In 7th March speech there are total 88 personal pronouns are found (I-20, We-20, Our-14, my/Mine- 14, Me-2, You-8, Yours-3, He-2, They-2). For examples: আমরা আমাদের জীবন দিয়ে চেষ্টা করেছি (we tried with our lives), আমি প্রেসিডেন্ট ইয়াহিয়া খান সাহেবের সঙ্গে দেখা করেছি ( I met president Yahya Khan), আমাদের ন্যাশনাল এসেম্বলি বসবে, আমরা সেখানে শাসনতন্ত্র তৈরী করব, এ দেশকে আমরা গড়ে তুলবো ( our national assembly will sit, we will make the constitution there, and we will build this country).

**Table 2.** The occurrence of pronouns in the original speech (in Bangla)

Pronouns	The frequency of appearance	The frequency of percentage
আমি(I)	20	23
আমরা(We)	20	23
আমাদের(Our)	14	16
আমার(My/mine)	17	19
আমাকে(Me)	2	2
আপনি/আপনারা(Y ou)	8	9
তোমার/তোমাদের (Yours)	3	4
তিনি(He)	2	2
তারা(They)	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>100</b>

#### Mood block

The mood of Sheikh Mujib sentences sets a framework by expressing the adopted and embedded attitudes, opinions about the information attached in the speech. Here the subject stands for the noun group and the finite converts the sentences in terms of declarative, interrogative, and imperative. Declarative mood expresses factual and conclusive meaning, the imperative mood expresses the authority and command in relation to the circumstances and the participants involved in the speech. On the other hand, the interrogative mood reflects the interpersonal relations of the audiences by using respect to their status and social roles. Sheikh Mujib in his speech uses 75 declarative sentences indicating the strength and factual ground of his speech which in return creates effective and time-bound appeal to the audiences. এবারের সংগ্রাম আমাদের মুক্তির সংগ্রাম, এবারের সংগ্রাম স্বাধীনতার সংগ্রাম (the struggle this time is the struggle for our emancipation, the struggle this time is the struggle for our

**independence**) is one best examples of Sheikh Mujib's declarative mood. Either with command or request, there are 13 Imperative clauses have been used in this historical speech. In order to indicate power hierarchy, Sheikh Mujib uses imperative mood. he is requesting the west Pakistan government to stop the brutality against the Bengali people listen to some demands "কিন্তুআরআমারবুকেরউপরগুলিচলারচেষ্টাকরোনা (but do not ever try to pour bullets into my heart again), " আমিঅনুরোধকরছি, আপনারআমাদেরভাই, আপনারাএদেশকেএকেবারেজাহান্নামেমধ্বংসকরেদিয়েননা, আমিঅনুরোধকরছি, আমারএইদেশেমিলিটারিশাসনচালাবারচেষ্টাকরবেননা (I am requesting you, you are my brothers.do not make this country a hell and destroy it. that is why I am requesting you; do not try and run military rule in my country)," প্রত্যেকঘরেদুর্গগড়েতোলাতোমাদেরযাকিছুআছেতাইনিয়ন্ত্রণমোকাবেলাকরতেহবে (build a fortress in each and every home. Face with whatever you have) " রাস্তাঘাটযাযাআছেআমিযদিহুকুমদেবারনাওপারি, তোমরাবন্ধকরেদেবে ( in case I can't give you any further order,I tell you; close all roads and highway indefinitely).There are 6 interrogative clauses in this speech that reinforce the dialogues and validate the force of the other two modes.

কিঅন্যায়করেছিলামআমরা? (What wrong did we commit?) " কিপেলামআমরা, কারসম্মেলনসবো? যারাআমারমানুষেরবুকেররক্তনিয়ন্ত্রে, তাদেরসম্মেলনসব?, আপনাদেরকিআমারউপরবিশ্বাসআছে? "(what did we get?, who do we sit? Shall we sit with those who spilled the blood of my people? Do you have faith in me?

### Modality

Sheikh Mujib uses rational modal verbs with a view to articulating his gesture towards what is needed for his countrymen to do that time. With his modal verbs, He constitutes his future plan thus the expressions of the following must, has, has to be, will, and can represent his leadership, just demands to West Pakistan, and the ability of judgment of his listeners to obey the commands.

সামরিকআইন, মার্শাললইউইথড্রকরতেহবোসমস্তসামরিকবাহিনীরলোকদেরব্যারাকেফেরতনিতেহবেযেভাবেহত্যা করা হয়েছে তার তদন্তকরতেহবে আরজনগণেরপ্রতিনিধিকাকেক্ষমতাহস্তান্তরকরতেহবে ( martial law must be withdrawn; all army personnel must go back to the barracks; there has to be an inquiry into the way the killings were carried out, and the power has to be handed over to the people's representatives).

সরকারিকর্মচারীদেরবলি, আমিযাবলিতামানতেহবে যেপর্যন্তআমারএইদেশেরমুক্তিহবে, খাজনাট্যাক্সবন্ধকরেদেয়াহলো - কেউদিবেননা (My instruction to government officials is that you must obey what I say. From now on, the tax will not be paid till such time as the freedom of our country is achieved; no one will pay anything).

রক্তযখনদিয়েছি, রক্তআরোদেব, এদেশেরমানুষকেমুক্তকরেছাড়াবোনশাআল্লাহ ( Since we have given blood, we will give more. By the grace of Allah, we will surely liberate the people of this country).

যদিআমরাশান্তিপূর্ণভাবেআমাদেরফয়সালাকরতেপারি, তাহলেঅন্ততপক্ষেভাইভাইহিসেবেবাসকরারসম্ভাবনাআছে ( If we can solve things in a peaceful manner, we can at least live as brothers).

### Tense

There are in total 94 sentences where k 41% is past, 31% present and the lowest is future 28%. His past tenses are mainly used to alludeto the past socio-political, economic, and cultural suffering of Bangladesh. Present and Future tenses hereopena window to validate his present stance and future plan of actions in relation to the independence of Bangladesh.

**Table 3.** Tense of sentences in the original speech (in Bangla)

Total number of sentences	Present tense	Past tense	Future tense
94	29 (31%)	39 (41%)	26 (28%)

Partly taken from Shakila Nur, *The Struggle this Time is the Struggle for Our Independence: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Historic 7th March Speech*



### **The Concept of Classical Oration:**

This concept was used by Greek and Roman rhetoricians around two thousand years ago. They developed this structure with a view to either cross-examining any case in courts or making a speech to the Senate. Cicero, the great senator of ancient Roman is considered to be the pioneer of this framework. This classical oration has six parts - (a) Exordium/ Introduction whose function is to gain the attention or goodwill of the audiences during the introduction of a subject or problem. (b) Narratio/ Narration brings the fact of the issue and explains the background. (c) Partitio means dividing subjects that explain what the demand is, what the key factors are, and how the subject will be treated. (d) Confirmatio offers support against the demand. (e) Refutatio acknowledges and denies opposing claims (f) Conclusio highlights the claim and leads the audiences to action. It is important to mention that still, this method of classical persuasion is relevant since it is being used in modern classrooms as a cornerstone for argumentative papers. A Modest Proposal by Jonathan Swift is a fine example of modern classical oration in the form of a written Essays where poverty and hunger have been discussed seriously

### **Elements of the Classical Oration in 7<sup>th</sup> March Historical speech:**

Bangabandhu's 7 March speech closely parallels the pattern of classical oration. The first paragraph comprises the *exordium* (introduction). Here Bangabandhu gains the attention of his audience by pointing to the sufferings of the people of Bengal.

In his narration (narrative) — he reemphasizes the urgent need for immediate action: **“The people of Bengal now want to be free, the people of Bengal now want to live, and the people of Bengal now want their rights.”** And, **“The struggle this time is a struggle for freedom— the struggle this time is a struggle for emancipation.”**

Bangabandhu states his proposition (theme): “Remember: since we have already had to shed blood, we'll have to shed a lot more of it; by the Grace of God, however, we'll be able to liberate the people of this land.”

He divides his partition (argument) into four major components— (1) Historical recounts to date, (2) Unfulfilled promises, (3) The need for immediate action, and (4) An appeal for national struggle.

In his confirmation (summary), Bangabandhu presents a single point argument to support his plea for struggle: “We'll starve to death, but we'll go down striving for our rights”

As there is no digression (commentary), the confutation leads directly to the peroration (conclusion). Here Bangabandhu summarises his key points and presents his climatic conclusion:

**“The struggle this time is for our emancipation. The struggle this time is for independence.”**

### **The Rhetoric qualities of the Speech “I HAVE A DREAM”:**

Dr. Martin Luther King, a great American Baptist Minister, knitted classical rhetorical appeals into almost every portion of his epoch-making “Dream” speech. Being a Baptist minister, his ethos was a petition of faith, both religious and secular. He made elegiac appeals to his audience's nationalist wisdom of elation in America in a fashion that also reminded them of what their nation stood for and the principles it strove for. He was aware of when to sacrifice this balance and let one convincing appeal be in command of an argument. He was a remarkable orator, and his words made the world upside down.

King starting with allusion to the Gettysburg address (the Declaration of independence) sets the invention of his speech. “Five score years ago” this reference emphasizes the emancipation of millions of black Americans.

Then he immediately shows a contrast between past and present. Doing this, King displays current disappointments and stark realism and rejects the declaration of past dignity and idealism.

“One hundred years later, the Negro still is not free”

To forward his themes as the emancipation of black Americans, peaceful protest, and hope for the future, Martin uses anaphora while repeating phrases like “one hundred years later” “we can never be satisfied” “with this faith” “let freedom ring” “free at last” and so on.

The powerful metaphors of this speech help the speaker to arrange his argument effectively. “The flames of withering injustice” “chain of discrimination” “Negro is still not free” “on a lonely island of poverty” “the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice” are a few examples of metaphor that paints the graphic pictures of suffering as well as a hope for the future.

The speaker arranged his argument by describing his dreams of freedom and equality arising from a land of slavery and hatred, this kind of arrangement excited the listeners most-

“I have a dream that one day out in the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood”.

Imparting the elements of both schemes and tropes such as parallelism, alliteration, anaphora, antithesis, metaphors, anecdotes, and many other literary terms he drew the style of his argument. The music of his language is indeed mythical and we hear this music in form of following alliterations.

“Rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation...”  
“This sweltering summer...”  
“The marvelous new militancy.”

Moreover, King delivers his message using parallel phrases that produce engaging and memorable rhythm in this speech. For example: “we will be able to work together. To pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together”

“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character” “This antithesis combinations with resonances compares the reality of the present with an aspirational hope for a better future.

He uses to make his point about the lack of civil rights is a banking metaphor. He suggests that the thousands of marchers have come to Washington to *cash a check* while he claims that the government has given the people of color a check with *insufficient funds*, or a *promissory note* that no one has paid. *Promissory note, bad check, insufficient funds*. Dr. King uses metaphors of drinking in several instances to correlate drinking a liquid to drinking attitudes or opinions. Dr. King suggests:

**“Let us not seek to satisfy our *thirst* for freedom by drinking from the *cup of bitterness and hatred.*”**

Martin establishes memoria in his speech by remembering the argument of discourse in order to memorize speeches and influence structure. King in his entire speech maintains a passionate tone, gesture, pronunciation, and pace while delivering his persuasive arguments. At the very outset, these were cautionary, earnest, and reverent to set the audiences up for the messages. Then these gradually became more hopeful, optimistic, and uplifting in order to inspire his audiences to listen to his message that is talking steps against racial segregation and discrimination in a peaceful manner.

### **Three basic rhetorical devices in Shakespeare’s historic speech**

***Julia’s Caesar*** by William Shakespeare is a great historical tragedy. This play reaches its climax during the funeral scene, which was bolstered due to Shakespeare’s crafty and classic speeches. In this act, the author delivers his speeches by two major characters named Brutus and Mark Antony respectively during the funeral ceremony of Julia’s Caesar, the great historic Roman leader and the protagonist of this play. Shakespeare’s these speeches more importantly the speech of Mark Antony is widely considered to be a guideline for orators who aspire to be great leader-cum- classical orators. This speech would definitely set the boundaries of public speaking for centuries to come.

By these speeches, readers/audiences come to know that Brutus, the antagonist brutally killed Julius Caesar, the most popular and just ruler of the Roman Emperor to materialize his political ambition. To make his heinous crime justified to his countrymen Brutus delivered an eloquent speech on Caesar’s funeral ceremony and almost persuaded the audiences to be credible to him.

“Romans, countrymen, and lovers, hear me for my cause”

Next, to be confirmed whether his speech is trustworthy and credible Brutus defends his action of the assassin by explaining that they killed Caesar for the sake of Rome. This logic seems to calm down the emotions of the citizen who are outraged by Caesar’s death.

Although Brutus’ eloquent pathos created an immediate nexus with audiences but it was very short-lived because of the pathos, the most powerful device among the three, of Mark Antony’s speech. Here Antony incites people using parallelism.

“Friends, Roman, Countrymen, lend me your ears;  
I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him.”

Here parallelism is in the list of nouns that invites citizen to be loyal listeners as friends and patriotic citizen. In the next line parallelism with verbal forms begets an antithesis by contrasting purpose between to bury and not to praise. Using parallel structures that incorporate repetition in order to develop order and sense of the rhythm of his speeches that ultimately makes the audiences spellbound. A few examples are given below:

As Caesar loved me, I weep for him, As I was fortunate, I rejoice at it. As he was valiant, I honor him.  
As he was ambitious, I slew him (26-28).

“The will, the will, we will hear Caesar’s will”

Antithesis is also found in Brutus speech which contrasts two ideals, to contrast his love for Rome and his love for Caesar. Not that I loved/ Caesar less, but that I loved Rome more”.

The verbal irony gets its way in Antony’s speech when he refers to Brutus and other murderers as “honorable men”. In reality, we know that Mark neither thinks Brutus nor others as honorable men. This type of language has been used for insulting Brutus and this verbal irony is a perfect example of overstatement or sarcasm.

Antony’s speech is full of verbal irony, personal anecdotes, counterarguments, and many other rhetorical devices. An instance of personal anecdotes set by Antony would be, “I thrice presented him a kingly crown, which he did thrice refuse: was this ambition?” It is a personal experience with Caesar that Antony operates to prove once again, that Caesar was not ambitious and did not deserve death. He also makes use of counterarguments in his speech/argument, Antony affirms, “The noble Brutus hath told you Caesar was ambitious: If it were so, it was a grievous fault, and Caesar hath grievously answered it.”

#### **The Findings of my research paper:**

1. It is a perfect example of three classical rhetoric as are found in Aristotle
2. It covers all elements that are to be found in The Five Canons of Rhetoric
3. It includes the devices of classical oration that can be further used in the modern classroom to present argumentative papers
4. It deserves to be studied in academia and other fields as a remarkable piece of literature
5. This speech would surely be a guideline for persons who aspire to be great orators, leaders, and social reformers.

#### **II. CONCLUSION:**

In conclusion, the literary excellences of the historic March 7th speech are in no way less important than that of a political one. If this pragmatic and stimulus discourse is read as a part of literature and academia, it will add another new impressive and inspiring feather

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

None has been more important to us in the pursuit of this project than the members of our family. We would like to thank our parents, whose love and guidance are with us in whatever we pursue. They are the ultimate role models. Most importantly, we wish to thank our loving and supportive wives, and our wonderful children who provide unending inspiration.

**REFERENCES:**

- [1]. Holman, Hugh C.A. *Handbook to Literature*. 4<sup>th</sup> Ed., Indianapolis, Indiana: The Bobbs-Merrill Co., Inc., 1980
- [2]. Woodson, Linda. *A Handbook of Modern Rhetorical Terms*. Urbana, IL: National Council of Teachers of English, 1979.
- [3]. Fahnestock, Jeanne, and Marie Secor. *A Rhetoric of Argument*. New York: Random House, Inc., 1982
- [4]. McDonald, Daniel. *The Language of Argument*. (Third Edition) New York: Harper & Row, Inc., 1980
- [5]. Rahman, Sheikh Mujibur (2019). *Poet of Politics*. Comp., G. Mawla. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial Trust.
- [6]. *Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh* [Bangladesh], 4 November 1972, available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b5684.html> [accessed 2 March 2021]
- [7]. Cruthers, A. (2019). *Business Writing For Everyone*. Vancouver: Kwantlen Polytechnic University.
- [8]. Mawal, G. (Compiled) (2013). *Poet of Politics: An Inseparable History of Bangladesh* (Volume-1). Dhaka: Green Publishers.
- [9]. Woodson, L. (1979). *A Handbook of Modern Rhetorical Terms*. Urbana, IL: National Council of Teachers of English.
- [10]. English for Today, Classes-X1-X11 and Alim. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed, 2015. Dhaka, National Curriculum and Textbook Board, 2018, p.6.
- 
- [11]. Historical 7<sup>th</sup> march speech, <https://WWW.banglapedia.org>
- [12]. The Five Canons of rhetoric, <https://WWW.wikipedia.org>
- [13]. The Classical Essay: Based on Ancient Ornamental Structure, <https://WWW.occe.edu>
- [14]. Nur, Shakila. *The Struggle this Time is the Struggle for Our Independence: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Historic 7<sup>th</sup> March Speech*, *Advance in Language and Literary Studies*, vol.10, no. 2, 2019
- [15] Rhetoric: Elocution (Part 2): Ornament/Word Wabbit-
- [16]. Historical 7<sup>th</sup> march speech, <https://WWW.banglapedia.org>
- [17]. The Five Canons of rhetoric, <https://WWW.wikipedia.org>
- [18]. [Julius Caesar: Study Guide | SparkNotes](https://www.sparknotes.com)  
<https://www.sparknotes.com>
- [19]. Analysis of Martin Luther King's I Have a Dream Speech  
<https://www.presentationmagazine.com>