

Citation information. *in esse: English Studies in Albania*. Volume 8, Issue 1, Page 34-46. ISSN 2078 – 7413.

Aggressiveness in the discourse of women politicians

Anila HIMA, *University of Vlora “Ismail Qemali”*

Email: anilahima@gmail.com

Abstract

The social, economic and political developments at the end of the twentieth century were accompanied by an increase in the successful integration of women in leading and political positions. However, politics is still considered “males’ domain” and women continue to be subject to the “double bind”. On the one hand, when they speak in a natural, feminine “ladylike” manner, they are not taken seriously and are denied access to power because of their incapability to withstand political pressure. On the other hand, when displaying typical masculine linguistic features, such as expertise, authority and rationality, they are accused of being aggressive or insensitive. Based on a large corpus of political speeches delivered in two different political contexts, namely, in the context of power and in the context of opposition, this paper aims to analyse the political discourse of women politicians in Albania and the USA, focusing particularly on verbal aggressiveness in political discourse. By means of a qualitative and comparative approach, this paper attempts to investigate political discourse in order to analyse the linguistic means, the purpose, and the context in which verbal aggressiveness appears as well as to provide explanations for eventual cultural differences.

Keywords: *political discourse, women politicians, double bind, linguistic aggressiveness, political context, cultural differences, English, Albanian*