

Discourse and Democracy: Critical Analysis of the Language of Government (Routledge Critical Studies in Discourse)

By Michael Farrelly

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In this new study, Farrelly gives a critical examination of democracy as it is conceived and practiced in contemporary advanced liberal nations. The received wisdom on democracy is probelmatized through a close analysis of discourse in combination with critical theories of democracy and of the State. The central theme of the book is the paradox of pervasive reference to democracy as a legitimation of political action by liberal governments versus the converse weakening of actual democratic practice within the liberal world. Farrelly builds on the work of Fairclough and others to examine this paradox, developing a new critical concept of "democratism" as an ideology that undermines the possibility of a more genuine democracy through political actors who oversimplify the idea of democracy. The book includes critical analyses of key political texts taken from presidential and prime ministerial speeches from the US and UK that attach democracy to non-democratic practices.

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Editorial Review

Review

'...this book makes an important theoretical contribution to the fields of CDA and critical theories. Although discussions on democratic expressions can be widely found in previous CDA studies, this book presents a more systematic overview and a stronger theoretical orientation. For interested readers, Chapters Two and Six are highly recommended since both go beyond empirical observations and engage with the concept of democracy in synthesized and theoretical manners, shining a spotlight on topics that have so far received less attention and adding valuable elements to the existing literature.' - *Sibo Chen, Simon Fraser University,* The LINGUIST List

“In a context of democratic turmoil in Western states, this book offers a timely and thought-provoking contribution to debates about democracy. Through the concept of Democratism, Farrelly shows us how the very language of democracy acts as an impediment to democratic action.” - *Jane Mulderrig, School of English, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK*

About the Author
Michael Farrelly is Lecturer in English Language at the University of Hull, UK.

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