

## CHAPTER 4

### Data Analysis

As movies are a form of mass media that could better arouse people's emotions in more immediate ways than other forms of media, considering the overall movie context will help the viewer to apprehend the fact that the languages used in the movie *Black Hawk Down* is not about sovereignty as traditionally conceived, but it is actually about the national interests that shape global affairs. In this movie, in particular, the film-maker seemingly creates an image of world heroes via the language the American soldiers use throughout the movie. In this chapter, the dialogues from *Black Hawk Down* movie's screenplay, which are relevant to the proposed political tools, will be analyzed respective to the order of the scenes. Chilton's strategies of language: coercion, legitimization and deligitimization, representation and misrepresentation, entailment, presupposition and presumption will be employed in the first part.

#### 4.1 Chilton's strategies of language

The movie starts with a scene showing dying Somali people on the streets which leads the viewer to see how much they have been suffering since Aidid became the leader of this country. The film-maker specifically runs this depressive scene long enough for the audience to feel empathy toward the Somalis' living situations. On the other hand, it is a technique used to persuade people into agreeing with America that sending soldiers and supporting Somalia is the right thing to do. In this civil war, not only has America been involved, but the United Nations (UN) has also given them their

help. As the UN's agency, the Red Cross Organization begins sending food to relieve the Somali citizens' hunger and misery. However, while they are struggling to receive portions of the food aid, Aidid's clan forces them away and claims that all the provisions belong to Aidid.



**Figure 4.1** A shot depicting the cruelty of Aidid's followers

**Somali militia:** *This food is the property of Mohamed Farrah Aidid. Go back to your homes!*

By claiming that the provisions of food belong to Aidid, the soldiers also claim it as their own and that announce that the food will then be distributed only among Aidid's regiment. They regard themselves as being fully authorized by their leader and feel that they are entitled to the food. They do not want the food to be shared by the hungry Somalis, as it would diminish the overall volume. They also regard themselves as being more powerful than other people and exercise their power over the common people. It is obvious how abusive they are over the citizens. They are supposed to serve the common people and do their best to enhance their sense of well-being. However,

they are exerting their power to deny the citizens their rights to receive the charity. Concerning the language used, this statement can be defined as a form of “coercion” because of their intention and their overpowering acts through language to control the others’ acts and to deny their rights to reach the Red Cross’ aid.

Meanwhile American soldiers are flying over the distribution center. They see the serious situation between the poor Somali people and Aidid’s army scrambling for food. The citizens are being treated badly by the armed militia. Eversmann tells the pilot Durant that he doesn’t think they are able to act.

**Eversmann:** *Oh shit, did you see that? Chief, we’ve got unarmed civilians getting shot down here at 9:00.*

**Durant:** *I got it Matt. I don’t think we can touch this.*

Prior to the zoning responsibility, the American soldiers choose not to take action in the area designated for UN responsibility. In their concern, if they get involved in some matters beyond their terms of reference, it would bring them into conflict with the UN. Thus, Durant neglects Eversmann’s alarming report of the scene and then voices his opinion, “*I don’t think we can touch this.*” Here “presupposition” is employed to hint to the viewer that they, American soldiers, do not have the authority to operate in this zone. And by saying that, he wants the American soldiers who witness the circumstance to stay away from the foreshadowing trouble with the UN.

In this operation, besides capturing Aidid, the American soldiers realise that Atto is one of the most important persons to Aidid, so they plan to corner him. They track him from the city and restrain him easily on the road heading out of town. After catching Atto, the businessman who sells weapons to Aidid, Garrison, the American general, unofficially interrogates him at the temporary office to find out where Aidid is.

**Atto:** *Do you think bringing me in would make him suddenly come to you?*

*Make him more agreeable? Hmm?*

**Garrison:** *Well you know where he sleeps. You pay for his bed, much less his militia. We're not leaving Somalia until we find him. And we will find him.*

**Atto:** *Don't make the mistake of thinking that just because I grew up without running water I am simple, General. I do know something about History. See all this, it is simply shaping tomorrow. A tomorrow without a lot of Arkansas white boy's ideas in it.*

**Garrison:** *Well, I wouldn't know about that, I'm from Texas.*

Atto does not think this plan will work. He does not believe that Aidid will sacrifice himself for anyone. Although Aidid's weapon trader is caught, it does not mean that he does not have a way to buy weapons from others. "Do you think bringing me in would make him suddenly come to you? Make him more agreeable? Hmm?" It is quite obvious to Atto that the American soldiers' plan is a mere "presumption" because they presume that if they have Atto, Aidid will come to Atto's defense as the loss of his supplier would weaken his power force. The Americans are also wrong to assume that Aidid's troops might weaken without the weaponry supplies from Atto and eventually turn to make a truce with them.

The American soldiers have been conducting the mission in Mogadishu for a while and they know Aidid's movements and the overall circumstances in the country. Therefore, the emphasis in Garrison's sentence "Well you know where he sleeps. You pay for his bed, much less his militia" is an "entailment" which entails that Atto knows exactly where Aidid shelters. If Atto is captured, he might reveal the hiding place and that would lead to Aidid's arrest.



**Figure 4.2 A shot displaying Atto reading an American newspaper**

However, Atto knows Somalia's situation better than the American soldiers do. He is uncertain as to why Garrison is so sure that they will find Aidid. He hints to Garrison that American soldiers know nothing about him, Aidid, the militia or the Somali people. Many circumstances in this scene show the audience that Atto is educated since he cleverly responds to Garrison in a verbal exchange and dares to challenge him in English *"Don't make the mistake of thinking that just because I grew up without running water I am simple, General."* In this scene "presupposition" is deployed to reveal what American soldiers in this movie think of Somali people. They presuppose that the citizens of a poor country where even clean water is scarce are indeed ignorant. However, some of them do have a good education and those who have knowledge are apparently well-known persons and magnates of the country. Atto's choice of words and his reading of the "USA Today" newspaper show that Atto is significantly proficient in English and that he knows a lot about the Americans. Then, the viewers may realize that he is not easy to put down, nor is Aidid. Furthermore, *"See*

*all this, it is simply shaping tomorrow. A tomorrow without a lot of Arkansas white boy's ideas in it*” is considered a “presupposition” as Atto avoids the actual term for America and uses “Arkansas” instead which most members of the audience will understand to whom he is referring. It could be said that every country has its own history and the country and people’s ways of life cannot be changed in a day or two. This country has been shaped by military dictatorships for a long time, thus there is no way American democracy will salve the regime.

**Garrison:** *Well, I wouldn't know about that, I'm from Texas.*

By saying this, Garrison intends to twist the meaning of Atto’s statement “*A tomorrow without a lot of Arkansas white boy's ideas in it.*” He definitely understands that Atto is speaking sarcastically about America’s attempts at trying to reform his country with democracy. Garrison, somehow, plays with the meaning of Atto’s use of the word Arkansas. Saying that he comes from Texas, not from Arkansas, and by this he is refusing to acknowledge Atto’s accusation regarding the interference by the Americans and whether it is true or not. Being from Texas, whether it is the actual truth or not, he denies such involvement and proclaims liberty to continue the acts he deems appropriate. Here Garrison is seen to employ the “misrepresentation” strategy to distract the viewer’s understanding from thinking that America intends to control this country.

The exchange does not go well and Garrison is quite upset with the uncompromising and unyielding answers from Atto. However, he is confident that his team is on the right track because he feels that catching Atto will more or less affect Aidid and it will gradually force Aidid to come to them. The following conversation takes place between Garrison and his subordinate.

**Garrison:** *Yeah, he's a good catch. It'll take some time, but Aidid will feel the loss.*

**Cribbs:** *I'm not sure time is something we got in great supply.*

**Garrison:** *This isn't Iraq, you know. Much more complicated than that.*

**Cribbs:** *Boss, most of Washington might disagree. I'm just saying, they've been calling for these dang situation reports every morning this week.*

**Garrison:** *Well, tell them the situation is fragile.*

This conversation may sound like a simple one, but upon a closer look, the hidden agenda surfaces especially on Garrison's part. Firstly, Garrison tells Cribbs that Atto is "a good catch" implying that Garrison believes Atto is an insider in this country who sponsors Aidid and his followers by supplying them with weapons. The audience can perceive Garrison's confidence from the following sentence "Aidid will feel the loss." Although Garrison seems assured of his intelligence, it is still just a prediction. Hence, this is a "presumption" due to the fact that he does not know the actual consequences of snatching Atto and cannot say whether or not Atto really is worth arresting and interrogating. In addition, when Garrison speaks of the situation, he chooses the word "fragile" which is a "misrepresentation" strategy to prevent the US government from receiving information about the yet-to-complete mission, also safeguarding himself from any complaint that he might be issued by his superiors because of the slow progress task. When the situation is labeled as such, it means that the unit in operation needs to be extremely cautious as the situation can change at any minute and that no certain information can be reported to the American authority at the moment. In this regard, Garrison is buying time to save himself from being reprimanded for a slow action.

At the recreation zone at night, Beales is watching his favorite movie in a separate part of the hangar. He laughs so hard that he begins to simultaneously twitch. He becomes epileptic and is sent back home, thus Sgt.Eversmann is assigned to take over his duty leading the soldiers into the target area at Bakara Market.

**Steele:** *Now it's a big responsibility, your men are going to look to you to make the right decisions. Their lives depend on it. All right?*

**Eversmann:** *Rangers lead the way, sir.*

**Steele:** *All the way. Good luck Sgt.*

Arresting Aidid and executing their top political advisors' commands are the top priorities for all Rangers and Delta men in the hopes of accomplishing their ultimate task within a short time. In addition, the Rangers' main obligation is to make the entire area secure for the ground forces and all of its occupants, which includes the American soldiers, along with the 'friendly' surrounding neighborhoods. From this line of thought, the hostiles' lives are also in their hands. The sentence "*it's a big responsibility*" is a "presumption", that is, the Rangers are assumed to be the most superior unit.

The next day, after attending the planning meeting to seize Aidid's senior cabinet during their meeting in town, Eversmann is sitting in the hangar worrying about being assigned to be the chalk leader in Beales' place who has suffered from epilepsy and sent back home. Smith, his close friend, comes to ask him about the mission.

**Smith:** *We going?*

**Eversmann:** *Why should I tell you that?*

**Smith:** *Because I'm me!*

**Eversmann:** *Yeah 3:00. Downtown. Bakara Market.*



**Smith:** *All right.*

**Eversmann:** *Listen Smith, I need you to back me up out there today, all right? Keep sharp.*

**Smith:** *Yes sir, Sgt Eversmann.*

**Eversmann:** *All right.*

**Smith:** *Ev, it's gonna be nothing man, nothing.*

Since it is Eversmann's first time as the leader, he seems to worry about taking on the big responsibility of such an important task and for the lives of many soldiers. He wants to be supported by someone he trusts and Smith is one of those people. Smith gives him confidence and assures him that he will help Eversmann out there and comforts him by telling him that everything is going to be fine. Smith's utterance implies that other soldiers are also willing to back up Eversmann when he gets into trouble. Again, the sentence Smith uses to encourage Eversmann "Ev, it's gonna be nothing man, nothing" is considered "presumption" owing to his own perception that he does not think the Somalis will be able to handle the American soldiers. Also, he can be relied on for great support during the mission and that the arresting task assigned to them will be accomplished.

Whilst the other soldiers prepare to go out for the mission, Grimes, an American soldier who has never been in a real fight, is given suggestions by his friends, which are mostly not serious. The suggestions they give are more likely to tease him and to satirize the fall behind Somalia.

**Waddell:** *I wouldn't worry about that. Generally speaking, Somalis can't shoot for shit.*

**Galentine:** *Don't worry about it. Just watch out for the sammys throwing the fucking rocks and you'll be fine. Might even be fun.*

Waddell's idea of superiority is well supported by the following sentence "Generally speaking, Somalis can't shoot for shit." It is obviously seen that his perception is framed by an old stereotype that people of third world countries are very poor and lack skill. Galentine also gives verbal support to his friend's idea that those people are far more inferior to them. His "presumption" of "Just watch out for the sammys throwing the rocks" is surely meant to make the audience misunderstand the way in which Somalis retaliate during armed conflicts. They may have drawn pictures of a small-underdeveloped country that is full of dirt and gaunt people in their minds. With such surroundings, armaments are definitely unaffordable, so they just use rocks as their main weapons. Besides, Galentine adds the comment "Might even be fun" as his last sentence revealing his cluelessness about their foes. His utterance is definitely a "presumption" as it is a misconception regarding the Somalis' fighting capacity. Their suggestions deliver a message to the viewer regarding the Americans' arrogance as they always presume that they are on top of the world. Moreover, "sammys," the euphemism technique of "misrepresentation" is used to refer to Somali citizens in order to avoid harsh feelings that would directly affect them. This word is not exactly a polite diminutive but subtly oppresses the other as being inferior.

Even though Grimes gets some advice, he keeps providing his necessary accoutrements. He fills his canteen with water and grabs his night vision goggles. His friends disagree to his taking along all this equipment because they believe they will only be out for thirty minutes.

**Nelson:** *You're not gonna need that dude. We're not out there long enough.*

**Twombly:** *You're not gonna need that either, we'll be back before dark. You might as well take dope and beer instead.*

These statements by the American soldiers implicate a sense of intimidation toward the Somali soldiers. The message is clear that they do not regard the opponents as equal in terms of military strength and tactics. They are certain of defeating their enemies even without using weapons. This corresponds to Chilton's concept about the global political perspective of positive self-presentation, in this case, the Americans, as those that are more powerful and who possess an upper hand while suggesting that the Somalis are weaker and are losers. "Dope and beer," the intoxicants meant for physical and emotional pleasure, are suggested so as to allude to the war as a mere form of entertainment for them. This is because they are certain that they will win. The American soldiers regard themselves as being far better than those Somali bandits. "Presumption" is employed here as they lay claim to an easy victory even before the fight starts.

In order to shorten the amount of time needed to locate Aidid, the American soldiers hire a local man, Abdi to find out where exactly Aidid's cabinet meeting takes place. They have previously engaged many locals, but none of them could accomplish their tasks.

**Harrell:** *Now he's saying the buildings a couple of blocks down, but if he's seen outside it, he'll be shot.*

**Garrison:** *I'll shoot him myself, a couple of blocks down. Tell him I want his skinny ass parked in front of the damn building. He's not getting paid until he does exactly that. Last one of these guys, shot himself in the head playing Russian roulette in a bar.*

But somehow, Garrison is getting mad that Abdi is becoming scared and may probably run away for his own safety and not lead them to the specific building. They are so close to capturing Aidid this time, so they could not let that happen. Speaking with anger *“I’ll shoot him myself”* and *“Tell him I want...”*, Garrison claims the right as the employer forcing Abdi to finish his work regardless of his safety. The way he gives his demand is “coercion” since he aims to use his authority over the inferior to achieve his goal. What he means is that as long as Abdi leads them to the exact building the meeting takes place as he is expected to do, he will be satisfied. He does not care whether Abdi will get into trouble or even get caught and killed. He even says he will kill Abdi himself if Abdi refuses to do as he is commanded to do to get the job done.

After a long day fighting and so many American soldiers getting injured from the Somali guerilla ambush, Garrison, who has monitored this operation from the beginning starts brooding over the situation and his soldiers’ conditions. Finally, he decides to condescend and send his assistant to ask for some help from the alliance.

**Garrison:** *I need the 10<sup>th</sup> mountain now. Everything they’ve got. Pakistanis, Malays. I want their tanks and APCs.*

**Cribbs:** *They still don’t know we’ve gone in.*

**Garrison:** *Look, we have stirred up a hornet’s nest here. We’re fighting the entire city. I want every vehicle possible that’s got four wheels and armor. Get it. Get everything, once they’ve assembled, we’re gonna move our men out of the hostile area and back to the Pakistani stadium. The safe zone. Let’s go.*

Garrison has made a wrong move since he underestimates the Somali bandits and his strategy has proven not to be up to the task of handling the anticipated amount of Aidid’s armaments. In his mind, he is the leader who is responsible for thousands of

his subordinate's lives. Therefore, when his soldiers are in a tight corner, he decides to issue orders to squeeze the allied forces, such as the Pakistanis and Malays, to send assistance in the way of troops and armored personnel carriers. In this scene, Garrison clearly acts dominantly through language in order to force the others, the less powerful allies, to give him what he wants. He considers that America is the world's leader in democracy, so he claims leadership and takes charge in this effort to bring back peace to this country. His action is regarded as "coercion" as he demands cooperation from the others so that he can accomplish his ultimate goal, freeing the Somalis, by any means. Garrison still manipulates power as a General through his language to force those alliances to send him back up troops "Look, we have...Get it." His order is defined as "coercion" since he purposely exerts authority through his utterances.

Not so long after the first black hawk helicopter is down, another helicopter is also taken down. The Somali citizens are seen going through and stealing the American pilots' property at the crash site. They also raise a dead body up and crazily start a procession. Durant, one of the American pilots is alive and hiding in a wrecked building. However, he is finally found and about to be attacked by them. Then, Firimbi, the right-hand man of Aidid shows up.

**Firimbi:** *Mohammed Farah Aidid claims this prisoner alive.*

Firimbi mentions Aidid's name on purpose to stop the mad Somali people from leaping on Durant because Aidid is the big man who is feared by everyone in Mogadishu. In saying, "*Mohammed Farah Aidid claims this prisoner alive,*" Firimbi mentions the leader's name to claim authority and to take control of the situation. He, as Aidid's right-hand man, frequently exercises power over the Somalis in order to

dominate them and force them to do what he says. Therefore, his proclamation can be specified as “coercion.”

A long fight ensues and the American side seems to be further disadvantaged; Garrison recognizes that he needs assistance from the alliances. But America has started the mission without any permission from Pakistan as the U.S. faced difficulty in getting support for this mission. Therefore, Garrison sends his assistant soldier to ask for some help from the alliance.

**Cribbs:** *Pakistani General says since we didn't deign to inform him of the raid, it's gonna take some time to mobilize the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain and a hundred vehicles.*

**Garrison:** *Well you tell the General this. I understand but it is my duty to remind him that my men are surrounded by 1000s of armed Somali militia. It is imperative that we move them out of the hostile area and into the safe zone. I need his help now.*

There is a noticeable point when Garrison appears in a scene. In those scenes, the conversations are mostly about orders. He does not only exercise power over his squad, but also exerts a dominant influence over the others. “*Well you tell the General this*” is one of clear examples in which Garrison acts in an overpowering manner through his language to demand that the Pakistani General help America in retaliating against Aidid’s regiment. This statement is defined as “coercion.” He does not give the Pakistani General any other choice but to send him help. Besides, the utterance “*I need his help now,*” is also a form of “coercion” stating explicitly what Garrison needs for his soldiers’ safety. He is exerting his authority through his commands and actions as he assumes that the American soldiers represent the UN’s peace-keeping effort, so the

safety of the American soldiers is a key to the success of the peace keeping mission. Thus, in his view, the alliances are supposed to assist America.

Meanwhile, Durant, the American pilot of the second fallen black hawk helicopter is taken to Firimbi's shelter in his unconscious state. Firimbi orders his followers to awake Durant for a session of interrogation and negotiation.

**Firimbi:** *Durant, Michael Durant.*

**Durant:** *Yes.*

**Firimbi:** *You are the ranger who kills my people.*

**Durant:** *I'm not a ranger, I'm a pilot.*

(Firimbi offers him a cigar, but Durant refuses.)

**Firimbi:** *That's right, none of you Americans smoke anymore. You all live long dull, uninteresting lives.*

**Durant:** *What do you want with me?*

**Firimbi:** *You have taken hostages, we have you.*

**Durant:** *My government will never negotiate for me.*

**Firimbi:** *Then perhaps you and I can negotiate huh? Soldier to soldier.*

**Durant:** *I'm not in charge.*

**Firimbi:** *Course not. You have the power to kill, but not to negotiate, in Somalia killing is negotiation. Do you really think that if you get General Aidid, we will simply put down our weapons and adopt American democracy? That the killing will stop? We know this. That without victory, there can be no peace. There will always be killing, you see? This is how things are in our world.*

The sentence “*You all live long dull, uninteresting lives*” presupposes that if most Americans stop smoking and become healthier, they would live longer. There would not be any exciting things left for them to do. As a result, it might cause them to always play the big brother role and interfere with another country’s internal affairs. Therefore, this utterance is specified as a “presupposition.”

However, Firimbi may think that if his clan can catch any of the American soldiers alive, he could trade them for the Somali captives, but Durant rejects this notion with “*My government will never negotiate for me.*” The sentence is an “entailment” which entails that what Firimbi assumes is wrong. In stating that he is a pilot, Durant is saying that he is not important enough for the American army to trade him for the Somali captives. It may be implied that they will come up with another plan to beat all of Aidid’s bandits and get this soldier back. Therefore, Firimbi’s plan will be fruitless. After Firimbi knows that his plan to trade Durant for the Somali captives is not going to work, he then satirizes Durant, “*You have the power to kill...without victory, there can be no peace.*” His utterance is a form of “entailment” implying that each country is different and has its own way of practice. The Americans may think that capturing Aidid would end the trouble in Somalia and that peace and democracy under American leadership would be ensured. However, to a native like Firimbi, the matter is not up for negotiation. Violence and killing are the only means of keeping order and peace. For the country governed by a dictatorship like Somalia, violence is the main tool used to control people within the country. Therefore, America could not expect this country to stop killing and adopt democracy sooner, although they could capture Aidid and topple his government. Politically, Firimbi is trying to dissuade the Americans from interfering with his country’s affairs and leave the matter to his people because not only it is almost



impossible for them to capture Aidid, but it is also a fact that Aidid being captured will not lead to peace in the country. The Somalis will continue fighting amongst themselves until one party wins and that is when peace can be restored. It would be a total waste of time and effort for the Americans to go on meddling in this internal affair.

In the meantime, the situation in the warfare area is getting worse. Many American soldiers have been injured, yet the Humvees cannot get to them due to the ambush from the Somali side. The American soldiers are exhausted and dispirited. Eversmann feels so depressed to see his close friend, Smith, passing away right in front of his eyes. He blames all the bad events that have happened in Mogadishu for causing Smith's death. He also blames himself as a chalk leader because he could not save his soldier's life. Hoot, as a more experienced soldier tries to encourage him.

**Hoot:** *See you're thinking. Don't. 'Cause Sgt, you can't control who gets hit or who doesn't, who falls out of the chopper or why. It ain't up to you. It's just war.*

**Eversmann:** *Yeah well, Smith's still dead. If Blackburn hadn't fallen out of the chopper none of this would've happened.*

**Hoot:** *Look, should have or would have. It doesn't matter, you'll get plenty of time to think about that later, believe me. Sgt, you got your men this far. You did it right today. You need to start thinking about getting these men out of here. Well, shall we?*

Hoot, as a senior soldier who has more experience in the field of battle, suggests that Eversmann should not think about what is beyond his control. *"It ain't up to you. It's just war"* is a form of "entailment" giving a clue to Eversmann and the viewer that any unexpected things could happen at any time since they are at war. For example, the American soldiers assume that the mission would be finished in 30

minutes, but they have to fight with Aidid's clan overnight. It is even worse because they have not got the upper hand and end up losing a lot of their soldiers. Thus, with these unpredictable and uncontrollable conditions, it is not Eversmann's fault that Blackburn fell out of the helicopter and Smith died.

While the wounded soldiers are evacuated to the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain's Humvees, Grimes who has a bullet wound in his foot and is unable to walk back to the base, hops on the Humvee waiting to be taken out of the hot zone. Since he is in the heart of the battle, there are many bullets being fired right at the vehicle.

**Grimes:** *Come on! These things are bullet magnets. Come on, let's go.*

**10<sup>th</sup> Mountain soldier:** *We go when I'm ordered to soldier.*

The 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain soldier refuses to yield to Grimes' order "*We go when I'm ordered to soldier.*" His expression is a form of "entailment" connoting that even the Americans believe that they are in command, they cannot force the others to do what they want all the time. The driver insists on his unit's dignity saying that he will obey only his commander.

The battle is prolonged, the overconfident Garrison has experienced the loss of his soldiers' lives and yet many others are stuck in downtown Mogadishu. He is remorseful for what has happened. When Danny goes back to pick up the wounded with the help of the UN guards and the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain's reinforcement team, Garrison tells him to get everyone back.

**Garrison:** *Danny, no one gets left behind. You understand me son?*

As the commander, when his strategic plan does not work and results in many of his subordinates becoming injured, Garrison tries to resolve the situation. He pushes the UN and Pakistan authorities to send him immediate assistance to help his soldiers

get out of the city. Additionally, he insists firmly “*Danny, no one gets left behind.*” This form of “entailment” emphasizes Garrison’s intention of having Danny bring back all the American soldiers, both those that are dead and those are alive, and bring them back to the base. He feels that it is his responsibility to recover them, dead or alive. He has failed once and he wants to do his best by not leaving any of them in the enemy’s hands. In the first half of the movie, Garrison acts like an arrogant American commander. But after the succession of terribly unimaginable events, his personality has changed. In Figure 4.3, he walks around slowly to see if he can do something to relieve the medics’ burden. It is quite a surprising act for a general like him to pick up a cloth and kneel down to wipe up the blood of one of his soldiers from the floor.



**Figure 4.3** A shot depicting Garrison cleaning the blood from the floor.

The American soldiers who are able to get to the Pakistani base safely are full of joy. They are laughing, relaxing and refreshing themselves with water. As the others are glad to be back alive, Hoot focuses on getting the gear ready for the return mission back in to the city to help rescue the rest of the American soldiers.

**Eversmann:** *You going back in?*

**Hoot:** *There's still men out there. Goddam. When I go home people ask me, they say "Hey Hoot, why do you do it man? Why? You some kind of war junkie?" I won't say a goddam word. Why? They won't understand. They won't understand why we do it. They won't understand, it's about the men next to you. And that's it. That's all it is.*

Eversmann ponders Hoot's decision. He is supposed to take a rest and let the fresh soldiers continue the mission. Hoot's response to Eversmann "*There's still men out there*" is a form of "presupposition." It is a clue for the audience to think further about the rest of the events to follow. First of all, they would think that Hoot will go back to downtown Mogadishu to help rescue the American soldiers from Aidid's clan. Secondly, his sentence presupposes that many wounded and killed soldiers in this action are still waiting for assistance while being pinned down in the enemy's area. None of them should be left behind. All Hoot is concerned with is completing his mission and bringing all the soldiers back to their homeland. With his strong military spirit, the obligation is his priority. Many times people are curious to know what is in a soldier's minds and they often speak ironically to them "*You some kind of war junkie?*" The euphemism is used to avoid harsh feelings and responses from Hoot. However, the viewers would realize that the speakers sarcastically make comments to all the American soldiers, as it is made clear that they normally meddle either in other countries' internal affairs or in international conflicts. This technique people use to make sarcastic comments regarding their soldiers is defined as "misrepresentation."

In the last scene of this movie, Eversmann is sitting in the hangar talking aloud about the circumstances that have just occurred to his close friend, Smith, who did not have a chance to see the end of the mission since he passed away. The movie portrays

this scene after the American soldiers cease fighting in downtown Mogadishu as can be seen in Figure 4.4 when Eversmann is heard to say, “*Everything’s changed.*”



**Figure 4.4 A shot displaying Somali children playing on the wreckage of a helicopter.**

What Eversmann states here is classified as “entailment” which hints that after the American soldiers have intruded in Somalia’s internal affairs, nothing is as it used to be. It is evident that the changes he is referring to are not profitable to the Somalis, and not even to the Americans themselves. First of all, the Somali’s way of life has changed since Aidid and his clan have now been taken down. Secondly, the lives of the American soldiers who became injured or infirmed have definitely been shattered, mentally and/or physically. Furthermore, there will be changes to their families since their sons, fathers or brothers may have also been killed in the action. Lastly, even Eversmann’s sense of glorification of American military power and even America as a mighty and powerful state itself has been shaken. The great loss, calamities and pain incurred by both parties have all affected his ideology. Besides, the crashed helicopter

in Figure 8 can be seen as a symbol of what American forces have left for the Somalis. The notion presented in the beginning of the movie and even how the American troops perceived their mission throughout the invasion that they are meant to rescue the oppressed Somalis has now turned out to be wrong. The Americans are not proud of themselves in completing the mission, nor are the Somalis in their win over their tyrant leader and in their capability to adopt democracy under a new democratic regime. Somehow, these people are not ready for this change since they have only known tyrannical rule for most of their lives. Somali people are now like children who do not know what to do with their ravaged country that is represented in this image by a wrecked helicopter. The suggested meaning is made even more vivid with the children, the innocent and victims of the crash, seen playing around the wreckage. At this time, no better future is looming in sight. And as for the Americans, the price they will pay for this intrusion, its noble intention in disguise, is beyond measure.

#### **4.2 Van Dijk's language characteristics**

In this civil war, the United Nations (UN) has also given assistance to the depressed Somalis. As the UN's agency, the Red Cross Organization has sent food supplies to relieve the Somali citizens' hunger and misery. Figure 4.1 on page 23 shows the poor people struggling to get portions of the food aid, while Aidid's followers force them away and claim that all the provisions belong only to Aidid. The dialogues in the following scenes are seen to correspond to Vaan Dijk's language characteristics.

**Somali militia:** *This food is the property of Mohamed Farrah Aidid. Go back to your homes!*

This statement is also a “speech act” as the speaker intends to have his command followed, which will then result in the dispersion of the throngs and the food would then be reserved only for them.

At the beginning, Durant tries not to interfere in the UN’s jurisdiction. However, before returning to the base, he calls the base asking for permission to help them.

**Durant:** *Command Super 6-4, we got militia shooting unarmed civilians down at the food distribution center. Request permission to engage.*

**Man over radio:** *UN's jurisdiction, 6-4. We cannot intervene, return to base. Over.*

In the conversation, the “syntax” “we” is employed to refer to the American side, the whole operation unit. In so saying, the speaker is regarding himself as we, the American soldiers, to exclude the Somali soldiers as “others” and to claim the right to exert power over the conflict between the Somali citizens and the soldiers. In addition, the very pronoun also draws in the audience manipulating them into thinking that they are on the American side and to distinguish themselves from Aidid. The film-maker subtly persuades the audience to identify themselves with the American soldiers, to side with them and to wish for them to complete their mission successfully. The American’s victory would surely be their own and the defeat of Aidid would be their success. Thus, the word “we”, the “syntax” of a one-sided specific pronoun, is employed by the speaker to exclude themselves, the American soldiers, as well as the audience from the others, the Somali soldiers.

Atto, Aidid's weapons supplier, is captured by the American soldiers and is being interrogated by Garrison, the American general, at the temporary office to find out where Aidid is.

**Atto:** *Do you think bringing me in would make him suddenly come to you? Make him more agreeable? Hmm?*

**Garrison:** *Well you know where he sleeps. You pay for his bed, much less his militia. We're not leaving Somalia until we find him. And we will find him.*

**Atto:** *Don't make the mistake of thinking that just because I grew up without running water I am simple, General. I do know something about History. See all this, it is simply shaping tomorrow. A tomorrow without a lot of Arkansas white boy's ideas in it.*

**Garrison:** *Well, I wouldn't know about that, I'm from Texas.*

**Atto:** *Mr. Garrison, I think you shouldn't have come here. This is civil war; this is our war, not yours.*

**Garrison:** *300,000 dead, and counting. That's not war Mr. Atto, that's genocide. Now you enjoy that tea, you hear.*

In the conversation, the repetition and irrelevancy techniques of "rhetoric" are used. "We're not leaving Somalia until we find him, and we will find him." Here, the repetition is employed to emphasize the American's determination in arresting Aidid. It is also used to convince Atto that Aidid will be arrested sooner or later so he had better give up trying to save him. Besides, the word Texas in this context is considered a form of irrelevancy, which is used here to distract the audience's attention from the central focal point that either Arkansas or Texas or American states. In this context, Garrison, Atto or even some viewers perceive that America is trying to reform Somalia into a



democratic country and the word Texas is also used to make fun of Atto's supposition. Moreover, the repetition of the word "tomorrow" in "*See all this, it is simply shaping tomorrow. A tomorrow without...*" is employed to emphasize Atto's certainty that the Americans would not accomplish their mission and Somali's future will surely be free from American influence.

Furthermore, at the end of the conversation between Atto and Garrison, the audience will feel that Atto is displeased with the American soldiers meddling in his country's affairs. "*Mr. Garrison, I think you shouldn't have come here. This is civil war; this is our war, not yours.*" In his opinion, their intervention only worsens the situation in Somalia. He believes that his country's problems should be solved by the Somalis themselves and not by other people, especially the Americans. Thus, he uses the syntax "our war, not yours" to exclude the American soldiers. For the Somali people, American soldiers are the others, the outsiders who have no right to intervene in the affairs of another country.

Besides, from the statement "*300,000 dead, and counting,*" Garrison sees that it is not about the civil war anymore as so many people have died in Somalia under Aidid's tyranny. Somali people could not help themselves because they have no weapons and they have been oppressed for such a long period of time. Therefore, exerting American force is a peace-keeping measure meant to relieve the poor citizens from their tyrannical dictator, and to reduce and put an end to the number of casualties. Then the word "*genocide*" in "*That's not war Mr. Atto, that's genocide*" is a "lexicon" which Garrison uses to negatively describe the political upheaval in Somalia in order to magnify the conflicts between the ruler and the ruled and to make it sound so bad that it

would only be appropriate for the American soldiers to claim their rights of intrusion to help save the victimized civilians.

The interrogation proves fruitless and Garrison becomes frustrated with the uncompromising and unyielding answers from Atto. However, he still feels confident that his team is on the right track as he believes that catching Atto will affect Aidid and Aidid will be gradually forced to come to them. The following conversation takes place between Garrison and his subordinate, Cribbs.

**Garrison:** *Yeah, he's a good catch. It'll take some time, but Aidid will feel the loss.*

**Cribbs:** *I'm not sure time is something we got in great supply.*

**Garrison:** *This isn't Iraq, you know. Much more complicated than that.*

**Cribbs:** *Boss, most of Washington might disagree. I'm just saying, they've been calling for these dang situation reports every morning this week.*

**Garrison:** *Well tell them the situation is fragile.*

Garrison assures himself of the benefit of arresting Atto saying that Atto is “a good catch”, employing a “lexicon” to connote such an advantage. The fact that, as an arms supplier, Atto must mean a great deal to Aidid’s armament strength. Therefore, in Garrison’s thinking, Aidid should come to his rescue and that would give the Americans a chance to capture the Somalia warlord. Moreover, his utterance “*It'll take some time*” serves to reassure himself and to also warn himself to be patient. Therefore, while waiting for the results that might take time, Garrison then stalls by convincing Cribbs that this operation is harder and more complex than what happened with Iraq. In people’s perceptions when talking about Iraq, the country is usually regarded as the undeveloped, cruel, chaotic and unstable regime. “*Iraq*” uttered here as a euphemism, employs the technique of “rhetoric” to imply in the big picture how awful the situation

in Somalia is, and that is far worse than what happened in Iraq. Iraq is regarded as one of the countries in the axis of evil, along with Iran and North Korea, which are known to be common enemies of America. Garrison's intended use of the word Iraq is to emphasize the worse scenario in Somali. It took a long time for the Americans to re-establish rules, order, and restore peace and political stability in Iraq. However, this is not the case with Somalia, therefore, they will have to go more slowly with the utmost sense of caution to help the people of Somalia.

In the evening, the hangar is swarmed by the American soldiers lining up to grab their dinner. Captain Steele sees Hoot bringing an unlocked rifle into the cafeteria, so he warns Hoot that carrying the weapon around is improper because safety measures should be top priority at all times on the base. However, Hoot stubbornly argues that carrying gun is for his safety. Therefore, Captain Steele reprimands him for his irresponsibility as a soldier.

**Steele:** *You Delta boys are a bunch of undisciplined cowboys. Let me tell you something Sgt. when we get on the 5-yard line. You're gonna need my rangers, so y'all better learn to be team players. We're done here.*

This conversation exudes annoyance, warning and a sense of superiority between the American soldiers of different units, particularly when Captain Steele utters the terms "Delta" and "Rangers." Even though they are there to carry out the same mission, they subtly intimidate each other. "You" and "we" are "syntax" which are specifically used to denote the American soldiers in a hierarchical structure. The "we" and "my rangers", suggest the speaker's unit as being in a higher rank of authority and competence than the "You, Delta boys", the others. Captain Steele asserts his superiority in commanding his rangers unit, which the Delta soldiers need to rely on for

support in the dangerous war zone, the 5-yard line, referring to the area that is in closest proximity with the enemy.

After finishing dinner, some American soldiers are discussing the Somali people.

**Beales:** *Listen to this, if one skinny kills another skinny, his clan owes the dead guy's clan a hundred camels. A hundred camels.*

**Waddell:** *Camels, I wouldn't pay one camel.*

**Galentine:** *Must be a lot of camel debt.*

The term “*skinny*” is a negative “lexicon” depicting starving and unhealthy human being, in this case, a Somali. Calling Somali people “*skinny*” reflects the American soldiers’ negative attitude toward the citizens of poor countries as seen in their unfit physical being which may result from an inadequate level of nutrition and the inability to gain access to effective medicinal treatments. Besides, “*skinny*” is a discriminative word marginalizing and pushing Somalis away from the American others who are presumably well-fed, fit and healthy. Therefore, “*skinny*” could be categorized as “syntax” as it is a one-sided specific pronoun as well. Moreover, Beales’s repetition of a hundred camels not only shows his amazement but also his mockery of how the Somalis pay their debt. The American sense of superiority is also made obvious by the statement made by Waddell, “*Camels, I wouldn't pay one camel.*” Here he definitely dismisses camels, the important beast of burden to the Somalis and probably the national symbol, as something that is valueless. To the American soldiers, the means of debt payment is money or something of great value like gold or other precious substances. A sense of discrimination is vividly portrayed. At the same time his remark also deprives the Somalis of human value. They are described as sub-human animals,

living in a city that has not yet seen civilization and that their lives are not even worth a camel. Again, Galentine's remark at the end of the conversation, "*Must be a lot of camel debt,*" adds a great deal of sarcasm from the American perspective toward the lesser Somalis.

At the recreation zone at night, Beales is watching his favorite movie in a separate part of the hangar. He laughs so hard that he begins to simultaneously twitch. He becomes epileptic and is sent back home, thus Sgt. Eversmann is assigned to take over his duty leading the soldiers into the target area at Bakara Market.

**Steele:** *Now it's a big responsibility, your men are going to look to you to make the right decisions. Their lives depend on it. All right?*

**Eversmann:** *Rangers lead the way, sir.*

**Steele:** *All the way. Good luck Sgt.*

Again, to signify and emphasize the importance of being a Ranger, the "syntax" of a one-sided specific pronoun is employed in Steele's utterance. "*Your men*" is a phrase deliberately used to prop up his unit to another level and is meant to suppress the members of the other team, the Deltas, as they are not one of his soldiers. Eversmann is now the team leader of his unit with his subordinates under his command. Even though the movie aims to promote America's mighty armed forces in an international war scenario, still the boasting and conflict that are on display among the different units of the American soldiers are evident throughout the movie. Furthermore, "*Rangers lead the way, sir*" and "*All the way*" are considered "speech acts and interaction" since the two speakers react and express their feelings on a topic upon which they share background knowledge. Besides, the repetition technique of "rhetoric" in the use of the phrases "*lead the way*" and "*all the way*" is also employed to

emphasize the leading image of the Rangers unit, as well as their pride and confidence in their status.

The next day after the strategic planning meeting, Matthews and Harell notice McKnight's level of distress on his face. They, therefore, tease him for being so worried.

**Matthews:** *What's the matter Danny? Something you don't like?*

**McKnight:** *No specter gunships, daylight instead of night. Late afternoon they're all fucked up on Khat. Only part of the city Aidid can mount a serious counter attack on short notice. What's not to like?*

**Harell:** *Life is imperfect!*

**McKnight:** *For you two, circling 500 feet in the air is imperfect. Down in the street, it's unforgiving.*

This conversation presents a contradiction between the two teams of soldiers; one has to drive the Humvee to the building in which the Somali cabinet's meeting is being held in broad daylight while the other's responsibility is to fly above offering guidance, support and an overview. Even though McKnight is a skilled soldier who is used to serious combat situations, he feels somehow nervous about his commander's orders, as to whether they reflect the right decision and could unnecessarily cause more loss of soldiers' lives. When Matthews asks him what's the matter, McKnight then shoots back with a bitter tone about the plan that the ground forces have to deal with. Harrell teases him more by saying "*Life is imperfect!*" This sentence is defined as a form of "speech act." In saying this, Harrell may intend to lessen McKnight's concern and despair with his own sense of humor, but unfortunately, it is done in the wrong context. Harrell's joke may even sound vicious by reminding McKnight that perfection is not what life, especially his, has to offer. However, being on a flying team, he knows

very well that he is better off as his chances of being attacked are less than that of the ground forces. McKnight is not pleased with his utterance because flying above the city is not as risky as being on the ground. Therefore, “*For you two*” in the sentence which follows, is a form of “syntax” depicting Matthews and Harrell who are not in command of the ground battle as they are outsiders from the Delta soldiers and the Rangers.

For Eversmann, after receiving his orders to seize Aidid’s senior cabinet during their meeting in town, he is worried about being assigned to be the chalk leader in Beales’ place who has suffered from epilepsy and has been sent back home. His close friend, Smith, is playing basketball nearby. So, he comes to ask him about the mission.

**Smith:** *We going?*

**Eversmann:** *Why should I tell you that?*

**Smith:** *Because I’m me!*

**Eversmann:** *Yeah 3:00. Downtown. Bakara Market.*

**Smith:** *All right.*

**Eversmann:** *Listen Smith, I need you to back me up out there today, all right? Keep sharp.*

**Smith:** *Yes sir, Sgt Eversmann.*

**Eversmann:** *All right.*

**Smith:** *Ev, it's gonna be nothing man, nothing.*

Eversmann’s utterance “*Listen Smith, I need you to...*” is a form of “speech act” since he is commanding Smith’s attention and actions to assist him in executing the worrisome mission. Here, the conversation between Eversmann and Smith consists of “speech acts” and “interaction” as Smith willingly complies with his request.

Whilst the other soldiers prepare to go out for the mission, Grimes, the American soldier who has never been in a real fight, is being given suggestions by his friends, which are mostly not serious. The suggestions they give are more likely to tease him and to satirize the situation in Somalia.

**Waddell:** *I wouldn't worry about that. Generally speaking, Somalis can't shoot for shit.*

**Galentine:** *Don't worry about it. Just watch out for the 'sammys' throwing the fucking rocks and you'll be fine. Might even be fun.*

In the conversation, both Waddell and Galentine speak the same way “*I wouldn't worry about that*” and “*Don't worry about it.*” Their utterances are a form of “rhetoric” convincing Grimes and the audience to believe that their mission in Somalia is easy to handle since they are American soldiers whose country is way more developed and their country possesses various forms of highly technological innovations.

Even though Grimes gets some advice, he keeps providing his necessary accoutrements. He fills his canteen with water and grabs his night vision goggles. His friends disagree with his intention to take along all this equipment because they will only be out for thirty minutes.

**Nelson:** *You're not gonna need that dude. We're not out there long enough.*

**Twombly:** *You're not gonna need that either, we'll be back before dark. You might as well take dope and beer instead.*

Once more, “*You're not gonna need that dude*” and “*You're not gonna need that either*” are clearly statements using “repetition” which is one technique of “rhetoric” employed to emphasize how nonchalant they are toward their enemies. They



presume by their own understanding that Aidid's clan would be easy to conquer even if they were not fully armed.

In order to shorten the amount of time needed to locate Aidid, the American soldiers hire a local man, Abdi to find out where exactly Aidid's cabinet meeting takes place. They have previously engaged many locals, but none of them could accomplish their jobs.

**Harrell:** *Now he's saying the buildings a couple of blocks down, but if he's seen outside it, he'll be shot.*

**Garrison:** *I'll shoot him myself, a couple of blocks down. Tell him I want his skinny ass parked in front of the damn building. He's not getting paid until he does exactly that. Last one of these guys, shot himself in the head playing Russian roulette in a bar.*

Since it is not easy to get a reliable native intelligence contractor (IC), the American soldiers then put high hopes on Abdi. While they are watching the live screen and waiting for the signal from him, Garrison suddenly brings about a previous incidence involving a former IC who could not get the job done.



**Figure 4.5 A shot portraying Harrell's moment of laughter.**

In Figure 4.5, Harrell is laughing in response to Garrison regarding this matter. His laughing shows how he mocks the Somali man and probably the rest suggesting that the Somalis' lives are worthless as they can get themselves stupidly killed like in a game of Russian roulette when they get drunk in a bar. They assume that they are militarily superior, so they underestimate and dehumanize the Somalis. "These guys" in Garrison's utterance is specified as a form of "syntax" excluding the Somali IC from the American side. Because they are the others to the Americans, the Somalis are then indirectly marginalized, discriminated against and exploited during this political interaction.

Back in the downtown area, while fighting hard with Aidid's guerillas, the American side finally slips up. One of their Black Hawk helicopters is hit by an RPG and crashes within the city. Eversmann's team is the closest chalk to the crash site. Then he is entrusted with the task of checking for survivors and to secure the area. He splits his men up into two teams and reorders his men for the urgent situation.

**Eversmann:** *Hey, there's a Black Hawk down. Twombly, Nelson, you're gonna stay here. You're gonna hold this corner and then exfil with the Humvees. Galentine, Schmid, you're coming with me. All right. Let's go.*

**Nelson:** *How come I gotta stay back here?*

**Eversmann:** *Because you're dependable. All right. Let's go.*

**Nelson:** *I hate being dependable, man.*

Nelson, in the first place, wants to tag along with the team to rescue the pilots at the crash site, but Eversmann asks him to remain at his position at the corner

watching over the other American soldiers. He chooses an effective word to inspire Nelson by stating that he is “dependable.” This word is considered “rhetoric” employed by Eversmann to make Nelson feel that he is trusted and reliable. Being such an important individual, Nelson is made to feel quite proud by his leader’s compliment and he promptly becomes enthusiastic to complete the mission. Furthermore, after hearing the word “dependable,” Nelson with deep elation, tells his friend that he hates being dependable. Here, again, the “repetition” technique of “rhetoric” is used to emphasize his pride. Besides, the statement “*I hate being dependable,*” uttered by Nelson is defined as a form of “irrelevancy”, one technique of “rhetoric” since it twists the real meaning of his purpose. He does not hate it, but aims to validate his dignity as a skillful and trusted soldier.

During the unpredictable chaotic fighting in downtown Mogadishu, many American soldiers lost their lives. They underestimate their enemies and thought that they would finish this operation within 30 minutes without any losses on their side, but the fighting has been extended overnight. Therefore, they have to return to the base and regroup with fresh soldiers to return to fight again. Thomas, who has seen many deaths and injured soldiers, is afraid and does not want to risk his life in this battle.

**Thomas:** *I can't go back out there.*

**Struecker:** *Thomas everyone feels the same way you do, all right? It's what you do right now that makes a difference. It's your call. Hoo-ah?*

Thomas is among the first dispatch that goes out and gets stuck in the building for many hours. Witnessing the death of his friends and how some of them were dying from serious injuries has made him nervous. After he has a chance to get back to the hangar to deliver the wounded, he is quite panicky and does not want to go back to the

scene of the conflict. Struecker realizes that at that moment the American soldiers are at a disadvantage because they have already lost many men. Then, he tries to encourage Thomas with notions of being a hero “*It's what you do right now that makes a difference.*” Again, “rhetoric” strategy is employed to soothe Thomas and make him feel that no one wants to be in this cruel battle. However, as a soldier, it is his responsibility, his call, to carry out his duty. Moreover, he is the one who could better these serious circumstances and help free the Somali people from being oppressed by Aidid and his militia. The “rhetoric” strategy is employed by Struecker to create a sense of being a hero in Thomas to make him feel self-important and prepare him mentally to sacrifice himself for the safety and well-being of the oppressed Somalis.

After a long day of fighting and with so many American soldiers getting injured from the Somali guerilla ambush, Garrison, who has monitored this operation from the beginning, starts brooding over the situation and his soldiers’ conditions. Finally, he decides to condescend and send his assistant to ask for some help from the alliance.

**Garrison:** *I need the 10<sup>th</sup> mountain now. Everything they've got. Pakistanis, Malays. I want their tanks and APCs.*

**Cribbs:** *They still don't know we've gone in.*

**Garrison:** *Look, we have stirred up a hornet's nest here. We're fighting the entire city. I want every vehicle possible that's got four wheels and armor.*

*Get it. Get everything, once they've assembled, we're gonna move our men out of the hostile area and back to the Pakistani stadium. The safe zone. Let's go.*

In addition, both Cribbs and Garrison employ “syntax” and the pronoun “we” to refer to the American soldiers and “they” to indicate the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain, Pakistanis

and Malays. Thus, the audience could sense via these terms of segregation that they are not on the same team.

Another strategy being used by Garrison is that of “metaphor”, which is a form of “rhetoric” in the utterance “*we have stirred up a hornet’s nest here.*” What he means is that the America soldiers in their self-presumed responsibility to free the oppressed Somalis and to restore peace to Somalia, have already caused a lot of trouble, both to themselves and to the Somalian citizens. Their enemy is not only Aidid and his armed forces but the entire Somalian country. They also have gotten other countries involved in demanding the support troops from Pakistan and Malaysia. Therefore, there is no way to stop the mission. The only thing they can do at this point is to go on fighting with any possible support they can get, and at any expense.

A long battle ensues and the American side seems to have more disadvantages, Garrison recognizes that he needs assistance from the alliances. But America has started the mission without any permission from Pakistan, as the U.S. has faced difficulty in getting support for this mission. Therefore, Garrison sends his assistant soldier to ask for help from the allies.

**Cribbs:** *Pakistani General, says since we didn’t deign to inform him of the raid, it’s gonna take some time to mobilize the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain and a hundred vehicles.*

**Garrison:** *Well you tell the General this. I understand but it is my duty to remind him that my men are surrounded by 1000s of armed Somali militia. It is imperative that we move them out of the hostile area and into the safe zone. I need his help now.*

In using the pronoun “*him*” and the possessive pronoun and noun “*my men*” Garrison sends a clear message through the use of “syntax” of one-sided specific pronouns. The word “*my men*” emphasizes Garrison’s fellowship and marginalizes “*him*,” the Pakistani General to the opposite side, the others. What he is indicating is that the Pakistani General is not one of them and that, as an aid, he cannot refuse but must send the armed forces on demand. Furthermore, “*I need his help now*” is also a form of “speech act” owing to Garrison’s intention to order the Pakistani General to support the American soldiers immediately and without hesitation.

In the following scene, Durant, the American pilot of the second fallen black hawk helicopter is awakened from being unconscious for a session of interrogation and negotiation by Firimbi.

**Firimbi:** *Durant, Michael Durant.*

**Durant:** *Yes.*

**Firimbi:** *You are the ranger who kills my people.*

**Durant:** *I’m not a ranger, I’m a pilot.*

(Firimbi offers him a cigar, but Durant refuses.)

**Firimbi:** *That’s right, none of you Americans smoke anymore. You all live long dull, uninteresting lives.*

**Durant:** *What do you want with me?*

**Firimbi:** *You have taken hostages, we have you.*

**Durant:** *My government will never negotiate for me.*

**Firimbi:** *Then perhaps you and I can negotiate huh? Soldier to soldier.*

**Durant:** *I’m not in charge.*

**Firimbi:** *Course not. You have the power to kill, but not to negotiate, in Somalia killing is negotiation. Do you really think that if you get General Aidid, we will simply put down our weapons and adopt American democracy? That the killing will stop? We know this. That without victory, there can be no peace. There will always be killing, you see? This is how things are in our world.*

In Firimbi's perception, every American soldier has been involved in causing his comrades' fatalities. He accuses Durant of being an invader in his country. Durant knows how to dodge the issue by replying "I'm not a ranger, I'm a pilot." He is indeed not a ranger, yet he is in the army of the 160<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Night Stalkers) who has been given advanced fighting skill training. Durant knows from the start that the reason Firimbi keeps him alive is to use him as a type of bait in negotiations with the American government. Therefore, his statement is considered a form of "irrelevancy", one technique of "rhetoric" to distract Firimbi from the thought that he is involved with causing any of these casualties and losses on the Somalian side.

ลิขสิทธิ์มหาวิทยาลัยเชียงใหม่  
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**Figure 4.6 A shot displaying Durant shooting back at the Somali bandits.**

Besides, stating that he is a pilot not only excludes himself from the American killers but also plays down his part in this battle by denying full responsibility and hoping to save himself from being tortured or killed. At the time that they are having this conversation, Firimbi offers a cigar to Durant, but he does not accept it. Consequently, Firimbi takes advantage of this condition to mock a developed country like America and its citizens *“That’s right, none of you Americans smoke anymore. You all live long dull, uninteresting lives.”* The utterance, *“you Americans”* is defined as “syntax” and Firimbi emphasizes the word *“Americans”* on purpose in order to state that they are different and not on the same side. Furthermore, he tries to probe Durant about the Somali captives who have just been captured. In the previous conversations, the dialogues between the American soldiers and the Somalis mainly consisted of “syntax”, of one-sided specific pronouns. *“You”* and *“we”* are generally employed to describe the circumstances of segregation and confrontation. The pronoun *“we”* normally indicates people of the same side or those that are partisan, while *“you”* is used to connote the opponent.



The situation in the area of warfare is getting worse for the Americans as many soldiers have been injured and killed. The Somalis have fought back relentlessly, thus preventing the Humvees from advancing into the battle ground to rescue the American soldiers. The American soldiers are worn out and disheartened. In the following conversation, Hoot, as a more experienced soldier is trying to comfort Eversmann who feels so depressed to see his close friend, Smith, pass away right in front of his eyes.

**Hoot:** *See you're thinking. Don't. 'Cause Sgt, you can't control who gets hit or who doesn't, who falls out of the chopper or why. It ain't up to you. It's just war.*

**Eversmann:** *Yeah well, Smith's still dead. If Blackburn hadn't fallen out of the chopper none of this would've happened.*

**Hoot:** *Look, should have or would have. It doesn't matter, you'll get plenty of time to think about that later, believe me. Sgt, you got your men this far. You did it right today. You need to start thinking about getting these men out of here. Well, shall we?*

In the sentence “Sgt, you got your men this far. You did it right today,” the “rhetoric” strategy is used to encourage Eversmann into thinking that he has been doing great even though this was his first time as the chalk leader. Hoot also tries to urge him on and get him to follow through with his obligations as his men still need their leader to guide and take them back to their base and to finally return home after the mission is over. The conversation between Hoot and Eversmann proves fruitful in the sense that it instills a sense of leadership and heroism in Eversmann. He is encouraged and realizes that he is the one who can save his soldiers.



**Figure 4.7** A shot showing Eversmann running through the shower of bullets to get the IR strobe.

In Figure 4.7, Eversmann is seen bravely running amid a shower of bullets to get the IR strobe, which he threw out before, because the air squadron could not see the target. He feels that he has to resolve the predicament and to be responsible for his men's lives. The running moment is presented in slow motion to captivate the viewer's feelings and emotions in encouraging them to identify with Eversmann's bravery and sense of responsibility. Soon after this, the UN and the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain's convoys arrive at the fighting center. While they are loading the wounded people into the rescue vehicles, Cribbs is telling some American soldiers about how to get out of the danger zone. The fully armed 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain convoy prepares itself to be on the front line as there are many injured American soldiers there.

**Cribbs:** *10<sup>th</sup> Mountain provides security for armor. Walks you out of the hot zone.*

**Steele:** *10<sup>th</sup> Mountain? No, sir, with respect, my rangers can provide rear security. We'll walk you out of the hot zone and jump on the last few vehicles.*

It could be seen that the American soldiers deny the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain's assistance all at once. They are proud of their army unit, so they do not want help from

unprofessional troops in the war-time conflict. “*My rangers....*” is considered a form of “syntax” which specifically points to one group, the rangers’ unit. Steele emphasizes that his team is the Rangers, not “Delta” and his unit will certainly lead the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain troops to safety, and not vice versa, “*We’ll walk you out of the hot zone...*” His utterance reflects his arrogance and a total trust in his men’s ability that they would be able to do their job even though many of them are injured.

During the evacuation of the wounded soldiers to the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain’s Humvees, Grimes who was made unable to walk back to the base by a bullet wound to his foot, hops on to a Humvee waiting to be taken out of the hot zone. Since he is in the heart of the battle, the vehicle is being bombarded by a torrent of bullets.

**Grimes:** *Come on! These things are bullet magnets. Come on, let’s go.*

**10<sup>th</sup> Mountain soldier:** *We go when I’m ordered to soldier.*

Grimes needs to get out of that area as soon as possible since the Humvee is already loaded with the injured. He sees no need to linger at the site, so he employs various forms of “speech acts” such as “*Come on!*” and “*let’s go*” to urge the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain soldier to immediately drive the Humvee away from that area. However, Grimes’ tone of voice may sound like an order and it agitates the Humvee driver.

The battle rages on, and Garrison has realized a great loss on his side as many American soldiers have been wounded and killed and yet many others remain trapped in downtown Mogadishu. He is remorseful for what has happened. When Danny goes back to pick up the wounded with the help of the UN guards and the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain’s reinforcement team, Garrison tells him to get everyone back.

**Garrison:** *Danny, no one gets left behind. You understand me son?*

Here, the sentence “*Danny, no one gets left behind*” is also defined as a “speech act” owing to the notion of order that Garrison passes on to Danny in the way of an order to bring his men home.

The American soldiers who are able to get to the Pakistani base safely are overwhelmed with joy. Hoot, on the other hand, remains plaintive focusing on getting himself ready to go back into the city to rescue the rest. Eversmann wonders what Hoot is about to do.

**Eversmann:** *You going back in?*

**Hoot:** *There's still men out there. Goddam. When I go home people ask me, they say “Hey Hoot, why do you do it man? Why? You some kind of war junkie?” I won't say a goddam word. Why? They won't understand. They won't understand why we do it. They won't understand, it's about the men next to you. And that's it. That's all it is.*

Even though Hoot could be mocked as being a war junkie once he goes home, he doesn't care what people will say about him. To him, it is useless to explain to people who do not understand a sense of comradeship in war. Thus, “*They*” in “*They won't understand*” is a form of “syntax” referring to people who are not soldiers. They would not be able to relate to the undertaking with which Hoot must cope. They are then marginalized as being outsiders; however, on the contrary, “*the men*” in “*it's about the men next to you*” is interpreted as referring to the American soldiers who fight alongside him in this battle. This word is a form of “syntax” as well, since it conversely divides the American military and the American citizens.