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An Eclectic Methodological Approach in Analyzing Foreign Policy: Turkey's Foreign Policy Roles and Events Dataset (TFPRED)

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Abstract

This article describes the steps in developing an eclectic coding scheme that utilizes the Role theory framework. Role theory proposes that foreign policy is conducted with an attempt to fulfill the role conceptions that decision-makers formulate. Studies utilizing this framework usually identify national role conceptions (NRCs) in the foreign policy speeches of decision-makers with various research techniques. Following the literature, this article first explains how to use content analysis in identifying the most frequently referred NRCs in Turkish Foreign Policy (TFP). Then, unlike the literature, it takes a step further and offers event data analysis to look at the performance of these NRCs as well. With such an approach, it develops the Turkish Foreign Policy Roles and Events Dataset (TFPRED). The TFPRED is a dataset that is the product of a combination of 'hand-coded content analysis' with 'computer-assisted event data analysis'. The article presents a detailed explanation of the steps in using content analysis and event data analysis to build the TFPRED. It also explains the development of the eclectic methodological approach and gives an assessment of the author's experiences in combining the two methods.

Keywords: Content analysis, computational social science, event data, foreign policy analysis, multi-methods research

1. Introduction

Role theory provides a productive framework to understand and explain foreign policy. The theory argues that foreign policies of states are directed by the role conceptions that are established by foreign policy-makers. Just like human beings in social life, states adopt certain roles and conduct their foreign relations accordingly. Hence, the initial step in analyzing foreign policy is to identify the national role conceptions (NRCs). Therefore, the majority of the studies that utilize the role theory framework focus on identifying the NRCs and their sources. A variety of methods can be used for such a purpose including interviews, public opinion polls, and content analysis. Some studies apply a combination of these different tools to increase the validity of their claims.

In my research I have developed an original approach through a combination of two research methods: content analysis and event data analysis. It is an eclectic approach combining the powerful sides of qualitative and quantitative approaches to research. In this

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article I give a step-by- step explanation of how I developed this approach and then show an empirical application: the Turkish Foreign Policy Roles and Events Dataset (TFPRED)¹. The TFPRED is a dataset including coded information on Turkey's foreign policy words (NRCs) and deeds (role performance).

After explaining the eclectic methodological approach I analyze Turkish foreign policy (TFP) in the Justice and Development Party (JDP) (*Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi* or *AK Parti*) era by utilizing the TFPRED. Applying role theory as a tool of analysis provided a comprehensive and structured framework to consider material as well as non-material variables that affect the foreign policy orientation(s) of the country. The theory is a useful tool to measure the impact of Turkey's foreign policy makers' vision on the actual foreign policy behavior of the country.

The temporal domain of this study starts from March 2003 and ends in August 2014. In this period JDP established three governments (the 59th, 60th and 61st). I compare the words and deeds of the three governments and build a generic methodological model that is applicable to other periods as well. With this methodological approach, I establish two main claims. First, there is a need to analyze both the discourse of the decision-makers' (TFP words) and the actual practices of the country (TFP deeds). TFP decision-makers have certain role conceptions that they expect their country to perform. However, all role conceptions are not performed in the country's foreign policy practices. Therefore I needed a two-phased data collection process: Data collection phase I – Content Analysis, and data collection phase II— Event Data. Second, Turkey's relationship with one region to another varies, and analysis of the JDP decision-makers' speeches indicated that some role conceptions have certain regional directions. Therefore, there was a need to categorize roles in terms of their regional direction. Building on this need, I proposed a new categorization for role conceptions: region-specific (Rg) roles and general/overarching (Ge) roles. Rg roles are divided into three sub-types. (1) R_{type1} roles are those that are directed to a single region. (2) R_{type2} roles are those that refer to multiple regions. (3) R_{type3} roles are those that refer to all regions. Finally, (4) Ge roles are those that have no specific regional direction.

The above-mentioned two claims are results of certain methodological choices. The following sections provide a structured explanation of how I made these choices. To this aim, I have divided this article into three main parts. First, I give a brief review of the literature on different applications of role theory framework and the use of event data in FPA. Second, I give a step-by-step application of these two methods, with examples of coded speeches, data sheets, news reports, and specific portions of the TFPRED dataset. Third, I give a brief summary of the empirical results of this methodological approach on TFP together with certain informative charts and graphics. In the conclusion, I make a critical assessment of the limitations of this methodological approach.

2. Role Theory Framework: Combining Content Analysis and Event Data

2.1. Role theory and the need to use event data

Holsti's study on national role conceptions (NRCs) is a seminal work that established the

¹ The TFPRED dataset is regularly updated. The author's current research (2018-2019) on the dataset at the Institute for Quantitative Social Science of Harvard University is supported by The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) - 2219 - International Postdoctoral Research Scholarship.

roots of role theory². The study provides a classification of states based on the NRCs of state leaders. Leaders, as Holsti argues, have cognitive perceptions about the roles that their state can play in the international arena. Their observations of the international environment are filtered through these perceptions, and their behavior is conducted accordingly. State foreign policies are conducted with an attempt to fulfill the role conceptions that the foreign-policy makers formulate. Based on a content analysis of leaders' speeches from 1965 to 1967, Holsti identifies seventeen foreign policy role conceptions of the leaders in the era.

Since role conceptions are argued to determine state foreign policy activities, identifying such role conceptions in leaders' speeches is proposed as a way to predict future foreign policy behavior of states. On this framework, Walker³ adds that role conceptions are not just self-attributions of leaders but they are also based on the interaction of those leaders with the international environment. Roles are not just determined by leaders themselves but they are also affected by the events that happen in the international relations of those specific states. Reviewing role theoretical studies, Thies⁴ similarly argues that although role conceptions can be analyzed through leaders' speeches, they could also be extracted through a study of states' foreign policy actions. Accordingly, I argue that a list of foreign policy role conceptions can be determined both with reference to the 'discourse' (leaders' speeches) and the 'practice' (foreign policy actions) of states.

The existence of various role conceptions means that countries do not generally play single roles but in some cases they play multiple ones. In the same line of argumentation Holsti⁵ also argues that multiple roles could be determined and played by states. Hence, the existence of multiple roles might lead to role conflict in some cases. For instance, Barnett⁶ in his analysis of the Arab state-system finds out that there is a conflict between roles emphasizing state-sovereignty and the ones emphasizing pan-Arabism. Similarly, Tewes⁷ identifies a role conflict between Germany's stances on the issue of the EU enlargement and integration. Role conflict in such cases might either lead to a choice between conflicting roles or to a re-interpretation of specific role conceptions.⁸

Indeed, role theory has been fruitfully utilized as a practical tool in FPA as a rich literature has been produced since Holsti⁹. Granatstein¹⁰ focused on Canadian role conception that motivates the country for initiating peacekeeping activities. Hedetoft provides a role theoretical analysis of the UK, Denmark and Germany. He emphasizes the relationship between the self-images of these states, their war mentalities, and their foreign policy behavior.¹¹ Breuning¹²

² Kalevi J. Holsti, "National Role Conceptions in the Study of Foreign Policy," *International Studies Quarterly* 14 (1970): 233–309.

³ Stephan G. Walker, "Role theory and Origins of Foreign Policy," in *New Directions in the Study of Foreign Policy*, eds. Charles F. Hermann, Charles Kegley, James Rosenau (London: Harper Collins, 1987), 269–84.

⁴ Cameron Thies, "Role Theory and Foreign Policy" (International Studies Association Compendium Project, Foreign Policy Analysis Section, May 2009), <http://myweb.uiowa.edu/bhlai/workshop/role.pdf>.

⁵ Holsti, "National Role Conceptions," 276.

⁶ Michael N. Barnett, "Institutions, Roles and Disorder the Case of Arab State System," *International Studies Quarterly* 37 (1993): 271–96.

⁷ Henning Tewes, "Between Deepening and Widening: Role Conflict in Germany's Enlargement Policy," *West European Politics* 21 (1998): 117–33.

⁸ Barnett, "Institutions, Roles and Disorder," 288.

⁹ Holsti, "National Role Conceptions," 233–309.

¹⁰ Jack L. Granatstein, "Peacekeeping: Did Canada Make a Difference? And What Difference Did Peacekeeping Make to Canada?," in *Making a Difference? Canada's Foreign Policy in a Changing World Order*, ed. John English and Norman Hillmer (Toronto, Lester Publications, 1992), 222–34.

¹¹ Ulf Hedetoft, "National Identity and Mentalities of War in Three EC Countries," *Journal of Peace Research* 30 (1993): 291.

¹² Marijke Breuning, "Words and Deeds: Foreign Assistance Rhetoric and Policy Behavior in the Netherlands, Belgium and the United Kingdom," *International Studies Quarterly* 39 (1995): 235–54.

studies the discourse and practice of UK, Germany and Netherlands with regard to the issue of foreign aid. Chafetz et al.¹³ analyze Belarus and Ukraine's foreign policy with role theory. Baehr¹⁴ focuses on Netherlands' role conceptions. He argues that the country has assumed to be at the center of international law and its foreign policy is conducted accordingly. The literature is rich of such country studies.¹⁵ It has also been applied to the Turkish case in a number of studies.¹⁶

Most of the studies that apply role theory have generally focused on identifying NRCs. Indeed, only a very limited number of the studies focus on how those role conceptions turn into foreign policy practice. Then, the argument is well-presented in the following lines¹⁷:

Most of the studies that apply role theory (...) have applied systematic methods (mostly content analysis) to analyze different leaders' foreign policy speeches.(...) these studies do not systematically observe how much these role conceptions affect states' foreign policy practices. Focusing on the sources of role conceptions and explaining them in detail only provides a partial application of role theory and does not fulfill the theory's promise. (...) While developing a well-structured focus on the independent variable (role conceptions) of the theory, the existing literature has neglected a systematic focus on the dependent variable (foreign policy practices).

To put it boldly, the theory assumes that states' foreign policy behavior is determined by the NRCs. These role conceptions are identified in the speeches of the decision-makers, through conducting interviews, analyzing official documents, or through the use of public opinion polls.¹⁸ The literature is rich in this sense. In other words, the methods used to identify role conceptions and their sources are abundant. Then, an important question follows: "To what extent do these role conceptions turn into foreign policy practice?" The answer necessitates a tool to measure the parallelism between the conceptions and actual practices:

Together with an analysis of role conceptions, there is a need for a clearly explained, consistent, logical and systematic focus on the foreign policy practices of states. This focus bears a potential to bring significant contributions to the explanatory power of role theory and fill-in a significant gap in the literature.¹⁹

I accept that the analysis of state behavior starts with the impact of decision-makers' visions, and identifying such visions is a great contribution by itself. Yet, in order to have a complete analysis of foreign policy, one needs to focus on what states actually do as well; that

¹³ Glenn Chafetz et al., "Role theory and Foreign Policy: Belarusian and Ukrainian Compliance with the Nuclear Nonproliferation Regime," *Political Psychology* 17 (1996): 727–57.

¹⁴ Peter R. Baehr, "Trials and Errors: The Netherlands and Human Rights", in *Human Rights and Comparative Foreign Policy*, ed. David P. Forsythe (Tokyo, New York, Paris: United Nations University Press, 2000), 49–86.

¹⁵ See also: Daniel Bar-Tal and Dikla Antebi, "Beliefs about Negative Intentions of the World: A Study of Israeli Siege Mentality," *Political Psychology* 13 (1992): 633–45; Matthew S. Hirshberg, "The Self-Perpetuating National Self-Image: Cognitive Biases in Perceptions of International Interventions," *Political Psychology* 14 (1993): 77–98. ; Glenn Chafetz et al., "Role theory and Foreign Policy: Belarusian and Ukrainian Compliance with the Nuclear Nonproliferation Regime," *Political Psychology* 17 (1996): 727–57; Guavav Ghose and Patrick James, "Third-Party Intervention in Ethno-Religious Conflict: Role theory, Pakistan and War in Kashmir, 1965," *Terrorism and Political Violence* 17 (2005): 427–45. ; Amy L. Catalinac, "Identity Theory and Foreign Policy: Explaining Japan's Responses to the 1991 Gulf War and the 2003 U.S. War in Iraq," *Politics & Policy* 35 (2007): 58–100; Rikard Bengtsson and Ole Elgström, "Conflicting Role Conceptions? The European Union in Global Politics," *Foreign Policy Analysis* 8 (2012): 93–108.

¹⁶ For instance see İsmail Erkam Sula, "Regional Directions of National Role Conceptions: Turkey's Foreign Policy in its Neighborhood" (PhD Diss., Bilkent University, Ankara, 2017); Özgür Özdamar, B. Toygar Halistoprak, and İsmail Erkam Sula, "From Good Neighbor to Model: Turkey's Changing Roles in the Middle East in the Aftermath of the Arab Spring," *Uluslararası İlişkiler* 11 (2014): 93–113.

¹⁷ Sula, "Regional Directions of National Role Conceptions," 323.

¹⁸ The most frequently used method in observing role conceptions is content analysis. That is why I decided to use it in my own research.

¹⁹ Sula, "Regional Directions of National Role Conceptions," 323–24.

is, states' actual practices. While NRCs can reveal reflections of policy-makers' visions, we also need data on the actual practices and a tool to observe any parallelism between the two. I offer event data as a useful method to fill-in this gap in Role theory.

Although they do not use the role theory framework, a similar motivation has possibly been one of the major incentives for scholars who develop large-scale events data sets. To get a grasp of what states actually do or how states actually behave in their foreign relations. Event data supports scholars in identifying certain patterns of foreign policy through providing empirically grounded observations of the actual foreign policy behavior of states. "Event data are generated by examining thousands of newspaper reports on the day-to-day interactions of nation-states and assigning each reported interaction a numerical score or a categorical code".²⁰ McClelland's²¹ World Event Interaction Survey (WEIS) and Azar's²² Conflict and Peace Data Bank (COPDAB) initiated the first two events data-sets. In both datasets the interactions between states in world politics are coded according to a specific coding scheme.

Being among the first event datasets, WEIS codes public events reported daily in the press. It identifies the flow of action and response between countries. The assumption is that "nations act consistently enough so that their past behavior is a source for the prediction of their present and future actions."²³ Through analyzing the past actions of states, the WEIS dataset attempts to reveal patterns of interactions between countries. McClelland analyzes if these patterns are observable in international relations. An 'Event' is taken as the unit of analysis and it is described as "Each event/ interaction is a daily report of an international event." Using the *New York Times* as its data source, the dataset codes five variables are coded: time, actor, target, arena, and event classification, and 22 event categories, which are themselves divided into multiple sub-categories, resulting in 63 categories in total. Each observed event is coded according to an issue area such as the Arab-Israeli Conflict, the 1967 war, the Cyprus issue, and the Vietnam conflict (along with 23 other issue areas). All countries in the world and some non-governmental actors are included in the dataset.²⁴

COPDAB (Conflict and Peace Databank)²⁵ is a computer-assisted dataset covering the international and domestic events that happened between 135 countries from 1948 to 1978. In COPDAB, event statements are collected from public sources and transformed into 'descriptive events' (who said or did what to whom and when). Nation-states are taken as actors that act towards their domestic and world targets. Each event is aggregated by time periods, and the changes in the relations of states are interpreted statistically. Event statements are transformed into 'descriptive events', each one containing information on the date, actor, target, source (where/the public source that the event statement is gathered), issue type (military, economic, etc.), scale (Azar's scale on relative degree of 'Conflictiveness' and 'cooperativeness' of the event), and the issue area. Similar to WEIS, COPDAB also categorizes events. Each country, public source, event type and the scale of each event has

²⁰ Phillip A. Schrodt, "Event Data in FPA," in *FPA: Continuity and Change in Its Second Generation*, ed. Laura Neack et al., (NJ: Prentice Hall, 1995), 146.

²¹ Charles McClelland, "World Event/Interaction Survey (WEIS) Project, 1966-1978," (ICPSR 05211, 1978).

²² Edward E. Azar, "Conflict and Peace Data Bank (COPDAB), 1948-1978" (College Park, MD: University of Maryland, Center for International Development and Conflict Management, 1993).

²³ McClelland, "World Event/Interaction Survey," 1.

²⁴ McClelland, "World Event/Interaction Survey," Appendix A.

²⁵ Azar's COPDAB was later incorporated in Global Event-Data System (GEDS) Project produced under the coordination of John L. Davies at the Center for International Development and Conflict Management (CIDCM)

a specific code explained in the codebook. So an event statement like: “May 23, 1968 -- Egypt loans Syria \$750,000 for Economic Development” will be coded as the following: “680520365165202LOAN 2004\$750,000 ECONOMIC AID FOR DEVELOPMENT”.

WEIS and COPDAB are of significant importance since most subsequent event datasets have utilized the coding scheme developed by these early examples. For instance, CASCON (Computer-Aided System to Handle Information on Local Conflicts)²⁶ analyzes crisis events under a case/phase categorization. CREON, which was formed in 1969,²⁷ recorded events, defined as “any action resulting from a decision by political authorities of a state that has the power to commit the resources of the national government.”²⁸

The SHERFACS²⁹ dataset builds data on international conflicts based on a crisis/phase scale. In SHERFACS, each event is coded under the six-phases of crisis. KEDS (Kansas Event Data System) utilizes the WEIS categorization and provides a machine-coding system for generating event data.³⁰ The KEDS System also collaborated with PANDA (Protocol for the Assessment of Nonviolent Direct Action) developed by Bond et al. at Harvard.³¹ New verb categories have been developed in collaboration with the variety of event datasets utilizing the KEDS system. These categories have been built into two major event data systems - IDEA (Integrated Data for Events Analysis) and CAMEO (Conflict and Mediation Event Observations). CAMEO is based on the previous coding systems developed through the KEDS system. Another version of the most recent event data-coding scheme is IDEA developed by Bond et al.³² Last but not the least, TFAED (the Turkish Foreign Affairs Event Dataset³³) initiated a study on TFP between 1990 -2013.

Event data is based upon recognizing patterns of state behavior. Through a step-by-step process, researchers collect stories, code data, and find generalizable patterns through quantitative analysis in order to obtain predictive capacity on possible future behavior. Previously, datasets like WEIS and COPDAB relied on human analysts, basically collecting news reports and hand-coding each event in the dataset. However, later versions of event data such as KEDS and CAMEO utilize a software program called “Text Analysis by Augmenting Replacement Instructions (TABARI)” which is developed specifically for the purpose of event data generation. Recently, Schrodtt and Yonamine, and Tüzüner and Biltekin gave a step-by-step explanation of developing event datasets.³⁴ Those steps are benefited from in the developing of the TFP Roles and Events Dataset (TFPRED) for the purposes of this study.³⁵

²⁶ Lincoln P. Bloomfield and Robert R. Beattie, *CASCON Project: Local Conflict Data, 1945–1969*. ICPSR05301–v1 (Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, 1999).

²⁷ Charles Hermann, Margaret Hermann, Maurice East, Barbara Salmore, Stephen Salmore, and Linda Brady, *Comparative Research on the Events of Nations (CREON) Project: Foreign Policy Events, 1959–1968*. ICPSR05205–v1. (Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium, 1977).

²⁸ Hermann et al. *Comparative Research on the Events of Nations*, i.

²⁹ Frank L. Sherman, “SHERFACS: A Cross-Paradigm, Hierarchical and Contextually Sensitive Conflict Management Data Set,” *International Interactions* 20 (1993): 79–100.

³⁰ Phillip A. Schrodtt, *CAMEO Conflict and Mediation Event Observations Event and Actor Codebook*. (Parus Analytics, 2012; first in 1998).

³¹ Doug Bond, Joe Bond, Churl Oh and J. Jenkins, & Charles Lewis Taylor, “Integrated Data for Events Analysis (IDEA): An Event Typology for Automated Events Data Development,” *Journal of Peace Research* 40 (2003): 733–45. Cited in Schrodtt, *CAMEO Conflict and Mediation event Observations*.

³² Bond et al., “Integrated Data for Events Analysis (IDEA)”.

³³ Musa Tüzüner and Gonca Biltekin, “A Pilot Study of Quantifying Turkey’s Foreign Affairs: Data Generation, Challenges and Preliminary Analysis,” *All Azimuth* 2, no. 2 (2013): 47–70.

³⁴ Phillip A. Schrodtt and Jay Yonamine, “A Guide to Event Data: Past, Present, and Future” *All Azimuth* 2, no. 2 (2013): 5–22; Tüzüner and Biltekin, “A Pilot Study of Quantifying”.

³⁵ Sula, “Regional Directions of National Role Conceptions”.

2.2. Combining content analysis and event data to analyze TFP: A step-by-step explanation

The utility of role theory is that it provides a structured framework for foreign policy analysis. Indeed, in most studies NRCs are presented as the end products of foreign policy analysis. However, as noted above, I argue that NRCs should not be seen as the end-product but rather the starting point of foreign policy analysis. Once understood in that way, I believe role conceptions are a good way of summarizing and explaining the decision-makers' vision in a compact conceptual manner. While defining each role conception that is identified, the researcher also summarizes the decision-makers' foreign policy vision in a very compact manner.³⁶ In this section I will provide a detailed explanation on how to build a methodological tool to analyze both. In TFPRED, I coded 87 foreign policy speeches (approximately 238,000 words) of Turkish decision makers and approximately 36,000 news reports.³⁷ The following section provides a step-by-step explanation of the research procedures that I applied in TFPRED to combine content analysis and event data.³⁸

2.2.1. Hand-coded content analysis coding scheme

RT Step 1 - Deciding on the method: The first step requires the researcher to decide on the proper method to identify NRCs. For various reasons including resource availability, time-management, and financial constraints, I decided to use content analysis of the foreign policy speeches of JDP decision-makers. I looked at the literature and the speeches of the leaders, found 22 role conceptions and coded data according to the coding scheme explained in the next steps below.³⁹

Table 1 - TFPRED Role Conceptions

Code	Role	Code	Role
R1	Global System Collaborator	R12	Regional Subsystem collaborator
R2	Defender of Peace & Stability	R13	Western Country
R3	Trading State	R14	Eastern Country
R4	Protector of the Oppressed	R15	Bridge across Continents (Geo.)
R5	Central/Pivotal Country	R16	Faithful Ally
R6	Mediator	R17	Model Country
R7	Peace-maker/Prob. Solver	R18	Developer
R8	Independent	R19	Energy Transporting Country
R9	Active Independent	R20	Good Neighbor
R10	Rising Power	R21	Regional Leader
R11	Bridge across Civilizations	R22	Regional Power

RT Step 2 – Preparing the content analysis coding scheme: Content analysis is generally done with a purpose, which is framed with a clear research question. The data in this study were collected with a purpose to answer the following: “What are the most frequently

³⁶ Yet foreign policy is not just the vision, the relationship between the vision and actual behavior is not direct and automatic. If you cannot measure the relationship between the vision and practice you cannot explain or analyze the foreign policy of a state. Role theory gives a compact and structured framework to fully analyze foreign policy. However without measuring the parallelism it is of limited use for analyzing foreign policy.

³⁷ Sula, “Regional Directions of National Role Conceptions”.

³⁸ The best way in learning a research method is applying it. It is a trial and error process during my PhD dissertation research. Certain decisions are made in developing the coding scheme. The decisions I made in developing the TFPRED are presented in the step-by-step explanation below.

³⁹ At this stage the experience that I developed in the TUBITAK project was quite helpful: Özgür Özdamar, Burak Toygar Halistoprak, ve İsmail Erkam Sula, *Türkiye'nin dış politika rolleri: Ampirik bir yaklaşım* (TÜBİTAK SOBAG Proje 112K163, 2014).

referred to foreign policy role conceptions in the selected speeches?” Relying on my role theory research framework, I divided this question into a list of five sub-questions: 1) How many different role conceptions are uttered and how do they differ from one government period to another?; 2) Do Leaders’ role preferences differ from one another or is there a consistency between them?; 3) Which roles are most/least preferred by each leader?; 4) Do role conceptions have regional-orientation or general-orientation?; and 5) Which regions/countries are the role conceptions directed at?

The coding scheme can only be prepared after determining the research question(s).⁴⁰ The coding scheme should (at least) explain the a) sampling method (selection of the raw material), b) coded information (What to code?), and c) the measurement strategy (How to code it?). Once the scheme is determined then one can generate content analysis data by choosing a sample of speeches. In TFPRED the sampling method refers to the rules that I applied in selecting the leaders’ speeches. For scientific reasons, one needs to have a clear, replicable and certain strategy in selecting the sample to be analyzed. The study (TFPRED) used a systematic sampling method⁴¹. That is to say, before including a speech in the sample, I confirmed that the speech was related to the subject matter of the study. So, a speech was only selected if its main topic was TFP. I also applied additional rules: a) the speech should be longer than 1000 words, b) the speech should be on general TFP not region or issue-specific, and c) the speech should include at least three role references. Next, I used purposive sample selection. The purposive sampling included speeches of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Prime Ministers. After selecting 87 speeches with this strategy I started coding each speech separately.

Here an important step is to determine which information to code. Especially hand-coding is a time-consuming and difficult task. In order to save time for future studies an important tip that should be noted here is that one should “code as much as much information as possible”. Data collection should first and foremost focus on collecting information relevant to the research questions at hand, but one should also keep in mind that some side questions might also be answered as one starts content analysis. In TFPRED, all speeches are coded separately in an MS Excel Worksheet, and each word, paragraph and context that refer to specific foreign policy role conceptions are coded separately. The next step is to decide on the measurement strategy.

In TFPRED, the role conceptions were coded with a specific system of enumeration. For the purposes of TFPRED I needed to measure three main subcategories: 1) frequency, 2) space, and 3) regional orientation. *Frequency* simply counts whether a foreign policy role occurs and how often it is referred to. I observed the percentage shares of each role as well. *Space* discovers how long the role is stated. For instance, in how many different contexts and paragraphs is the role elaborated? How many sentences or words refer to the role? *Orientation* is coded in order to detect the regional direction of the role references. Is the role directed towards a specific region (Rg) or does it have general orientation (Ge)

⁴⁰ Here, I have to mention an important point that I observe in some graduate students who are in the process of developing their research. I have seen some colleagues who decide on the methods that they are going to use before exactly determining their theoretical arguments or research questions. A research should not start with the method but instead it should start with a question/problematic. I strongly recommend the reader to keep in mind that the variety of research methods are there to show their utility in the process of conducting a research, based on a pre-determined research question and a theoretical framework. Regardless of their variety, methods are ‘strict’ whereas theoretical arguments are ‘flexible.’ If the method to be used is determined beforehand, the strictness of methods will limit the innovative capacity of the researcher.

⁴¹ Sula, “Regional Directions of National Role Conceptions”.

without any regional direction?

RT Step 3: Coding Data on TFP Role Conceptions: Once the coding scheme is determined the next step is to prepare code sheets. The coding sheet should include space for all necessary information. Each speech will be coded to a separate code sheet. In TFPRED I had 22 roles. According to the coding scheme described above, a sample code-sheet will look something like the following:

Table 2-A Sample Coding Sheet																		
Speech Code : Coded By:					Coding Date:													
Leader : Speech # : Speech Date : Speech Source :					Speech Title : Speech Size (App.# of words): Speech Subject : Audience :													
TFP ROLES		Freq. # of references	Space # of Contexts	Space # of paragraphs	Orientation (Regional or General)				Region/Country									
Code	Role				Rg	Rg#	Ge	Ge#	#	C	#	C	#	C	#	C	#	C
R1	GSC																	
R2	DoP																	
R3	TS																	
R4	Prot																	
R5	CC																	
R6	Med																	
R7	PM																	
R8	Indp																	
R9	AI																	
R10	Rise																	
R11	Brid																	
R12	RSC																	
R13	West																	
R14	East																	
R15	Brid																	
R16	FA																	
R17	Model																	
R18	Dev.																	
R19	ETC																	
R20	GN																	
R21	RL																	
R22	RP																	
Add?																		
New lines might be added depending on the number of roles. In TFPRED I have 22 roles																		

The code sheet above has space for all information that I need. In TFPRED, a sample coded sheet looks like the following.

Table 3- A Sample Coding Sheet TFPRED

Speech Code : **AG 15**
 Coded By : **Erkan**

Coding Date: **16.10.2015**

FINAL CODING HERE – SAME AS TFPRED EXCELL DATASET																	
TFP ROLES		Y/N (1/0)	F#	S-C	S-P	OR				R/C							
#	ROLE					RG (1/0)	RG#	GE (1/0)	GE#	RG1		RG2		RG3		RG4	
										#	C	#	C	#	C	#	C
R1	Global System Collaborator	1	1	1	1	0	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
R2	Defender of peace and Stability	1	6	5	6	1	2	1	4	-	-	-	-	2	2188	-	-
R3	Trading State	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
R4	Protector of the Oppressed	1	2	2	2	1	2	0	-	-	-	-	-	2	1000	-	-
R5	Central/Pivotal Country	1	2	2	2	0	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
R6	Mediator	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
R7	Peace-maker/Problem-solver	1	2	2	2	1	5	1	2	-	-	1	1000	4	1000	-	-
R8	Independent	1	2	2	2	0	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
R9	Active Independent	1	5	5	5	1	2	1	3	1	1000	-	-	1	1000	-	-
R10	Rising Power	1	1	1	1	0	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
R11	Bridge across Civilizations (Ide)	1	1	1	1	0	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
R12	Regional Subsystem Collaborator	1	3	3	3	1	2	1	1	-	-	1	1000	1	1000	-	-
R13	Western Country	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1000
R14	Eastern Country (Muslim Country)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	-	-	-	-	-	1	1000	-	-
R15	Bridge across Continents (Geo)	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
R16	Faithful Ally	1	2	1	2	1	2	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2000
R17	Model Country	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
R18	Developer	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	-	-	-	-	-	1	1000	-	-
R19	Energy Transporting Country	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
R20	Good Neighbor	1	3	2	3	1	3	0	-	-	-	1	1000	2	2000	-	-
R21	Regional Leader	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
R22	Regional Power	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The codes in each column of the coding sheet refer to the following

Y/N : if the role is observed at least once in the speech, then I code “1”, if not “0”

F : How many times did I observe the role in the speech?

S-c : S(Space) –C(Context) in how many different contexts is the role referred to?

S-p : S(Space) –P(Paragraph) in how many paragraphs is the role referred to?

OR : The orientation (Rg or Ge) of the role

Rg (1/0): If any of the references to the role is directed at a region I code 1 if not 0

RG# : How many times is the role directed at a region?

Ge (1/0): If any of the references does not have a regional direction I code 1 If not 0

GE# : How many times is the role uttered with no Rg direction?

R/C : R (Region) – C (Country)

Rg1 : The Balkans and Eastern Europe

Rg2 : The Caucasus, Central Asia, South Asia

Rg3 : MENA and Eastern Mediterranean

Rg4 : Sub-Saharan Africa

Rg5 : Euro-Atlantic

: Number of references

C : Which country did the role refer to? If no C is found then code NA.

Each speech has to be coded in a separate code-sheet. Then the data is aggregated in an MS Excel Workbook.⁴² The following table is taken directly from the dataset and shows how the aggregated version of the TFPRED content analysis data looks like.

⁴² A total number of 87 speeches are coded in TFPRED. All codesheets and coded speeches are archived. If you are interested in seeing the codesheets you may reach the author from ismailerkam@gmail.com.

Table 4- TFPRED: Observed Role References in Total 2003-2014

	ROLE	Y/N	F#	[S-c]	[S-p]	Rg (1/0)	Rg#	Ge (1/0)	Ge#	Rg1#	Rg2#	Rg3#	Rg4#	Rg5#
R1	Global System Collaborator	58	169	148	167	0	0	58	169	0	0	0	0	0
R2	Defender of peace & Stability	75	378	316	353	61	242	60	136	29	45	156	8	4
R3	Trading State	49	146	118	128	30	84	33	62	4	30	22	17	7
R4	Protector of the Oppressed	42	159	115	139	41	126	12	33	5	7	106	7	0
R5	Central/Pivotal Country	45	114	100	113	1	1	45	113	0	0	1	0	0
R6	Mediator	28	55	49	51	26	48	7	7	0	16	30	2	0
R7	Peace-maker/Problem-solver	55	148	132	137	50	114	17	34	12	19	80	3	1
R8	Independent	24	44	42	44	3	3	22	41	0	0	3	0	0
R9	Active Independent	71	241	215	235	30	49	66	192	3	4	23	18	1
R10	Rising Power	30	55	49	54	0	0	30	55	0	0	0	0	0
R11	Bridge across Civilizations	36	54	50	54	0	0	37	54	0	0	0	0	0
R12	Regional Subs.collaborator	68	249	199	215	60	197	32	52	23	71	87	7	4
R13	Western Country	55	123	97	121	55	123	0	0	0	0	0	0	123
R14	Eastern Country	12	15	14	14	12	15	0	0	0	0	15	0	0
R15	Bridge across Continents	4	8	5	5	3	7	2	1	2	3	2	0	0
R16	Faithful Ally	36	82	62	80	35	81	1	1	0	0	0	0	81
R17	Model Country	11	14	14	14	10	13	1	1	0	0	12	0	0
R18	Developer	51	165	102	124	47	137	17	28	21	41	41	28	0
R19	Energy Transporting Country	27	42	35	42	9	13	26	29	2	9	1	0	3
R20	Good Neighbor	58	146	113	125	41	107	29	39	24	32	51	0	0
R21	Regional Leader	15	26	21	21	13	21	7	5	4	2	16	0	0
R22	Regional Power	42	97	64	65	39	93	10	4	19	27	40	8	3
	TOTAL	892	2530	2060	2301	566	1474	512	1056	148	306	686	98	227

RT Step 4- Interpreting data: Once the data is collected in the desired manner then one can start interpreting it. TFPRED separates and aggregates leader-by-leader and government-by government data from 2003 to 2013. I utilized MS Excel charts and graphs to compare and interpret the findings. Some examples are provided in the sections below. But before starting interpretation let us look at the necessary steps for the second data collection method: Event data.

2.2.2. Event data coding scheme

Event data coding techniques are abundant. However, the utility and accessibility of each technique is determined by the capabilities of the researcher. First, the software programs are not particularly user-friendly. Each coding software program works in the basic Terminal (MacOS) or Command Prompt (Microsoft) environment. Understanding and utilizing these coding programs takes time and requires basic knowledge of Linux/Unix/MsDos commands. In some instances, one might need to modify the software program codes in order to make proper use of them. So, a researcher needs to learn (at least) basic programming language in order to generate machine-coded event data. It is easy to reach these software programs from the websites of the above-mentioned datasets. However, the news sources where the raw (original/not coded) material is downloaded are not always found free of charge. So, the coding scheme greatly depends on at least two conditions: first, the financial resources of the researcher and second, access to basic computer programming capabilities.

ED Step 1: Deciding on the Relevant Software and Finding the Machine-Readable Source Text: There are a couple of ways of finding the source but the options are limited according to the institutional and financial capabilities of the researcher. Once the sources are found, then comes the limitation of the version of the software program that the analyst will be using in the coding process. For instance, the most recently developed program by event data analysts, PETRARCH (Python Engine for Text Resolution and Related Coding Hierarchy), reads events from .XML files. However, I have not been able to find a free newswire source that

provides downloadable .XML files. Since Bilkent University provides access to LexisNexis Academics, a web source that provides downloadable files with the .HTML .TXT and .PDF file formats. I decided, following a similar method utilized by Tüzüner and Biltekin,⁴³ to utilize the latest version of the previous event data software TABARI (Textual Analysis by Augmented Replacement Instructions – Version 0.8.4b2), which is able to read .TXT files.

Once the original raw source files are acquired, then the researcher needs to use (at least) three sets of software programs to generate and interpret event data. First, filtering software is needed to convert the original TXT file into a TABARI-readable .TXT file. This software filters the unnecessary details in the newswire document, keeps the date and the ‘lead’ sentences of each news story and sorts them according to the release date. Then, the filtered files are processed through the TABARI software, which generates event data in the “Who, did What, to Whom, When” structure. Remember here that the resulting output. TXT file of the TABARI software will have hundreds of thousands of lines of events in the “Who (Target), did what (event), to whom (target), and when (date)” format, which makes thousands of pages in a single TXT file waiting to be analyzed and interpreted. This analysis and interpretation is done through utilizing the basic aggregation functions of some statistics software programs. There are a couple of ways of making these interpretations. In TFPRED, I utilized a combination of Rstudio to make data aggregations and MS Excel to generate informative figures and graphics.

ED Step 2: Keywords and Searching the LexisNexis Database: For the purposes of my study, I decided to utilize the free event data generating software programs of the Computational Event Data System (CEDS), TABARI (Textual Analysis by Augmented Replacement Instructions), provided by Parus Analytical Systems.⁴⁴ The programs work with two major online databases: LexisNexis (for AFP Newswire) and Factiva (for Reuters) as news sources. I decided to utilize the LexisNexis database.⁴⁵ Downloading the online sources requires the researcher to decide on the exact keywords, and source type. At this step I used a modified version of the method utilized by Tüzüner and Biltekin⁴⁶. Tüzüner and Biltekin’s TFEAD Dataset searched for all types of events between a larger range of actors than the study that I was planning to conduct in this study. For the purposes of my study, I was specifically looking for the events conducted one-way by Turkish government actors, towards international actors. So, the keywords needed to be determined accordingly. The keywords that I used for my search were “LEAD (Turkey OR Turkish OR Turk OR ANKARA).”

After deciding on the keywords, I entered them into the advanced search option and tried to search for the whole temporal domain of the study, between November 18th, 2002 and August 29th 2014. I soon realized that for some unknown reason the LexisNexis database only shows the first 1000 of news reports if the search results are expected to come up with more than 3000 reports, so I had to divide each year into six months in order to make sure that the results came up with fewer than 3000 results. Then, another surprising result of the great wisdom of the LexisNexis Database engineers was that a researcher could only download 500 news reports in a single TXT file, therefore requiring multiple .TXT files. After finishing my

⁴³ Tüzüner and Biltekin, “A Pilot Study of Quantifying,” 52.

⁴⁴ Parus Analytical Systems, <http://eventdata.parusanalytics.com/index.html>.

⁴⁵ LexisNexis database, <https://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/lnacademic/>.

⁴⁶ Tüzüner and Biltekin, “A Pilot Study of Quantifying,” 52.

LexisNexis journey, conducting approximately 23 separate “search-find” and 73 “download .TXT file” sessions, I downloaded 73 separate .TXT files each containing 500 news reports and saved them as raw material on my desktop. The search ended up with approximately 36,000 news reports from November 2002 to August 2014, making hundreds of thousands of pages saved in 73 separate TXT files. These files were formatted, divided into paragraphs, and made ready for TABARI by the filtering programs explained in the next section.

ED Step 3: Filtering and Reformatting Raw Material: The separate .TXT files downloaded from the LexisNexis website need to be merged, filtered, and sequentially sorted in order to create a single input file for TABARI. This was done with the use of three programs downloadable from the Parus Analytics website.⁴⁷ First, the “NewNexisFormat.pl” program runs through the news stories and re-writes their lead sentences into separate .TXT files. Then, the “nexisreverse.pl” program merges those separate files into a single TABARI readable .TXT file. Third, the “seqsort.pl” program does a date sort on the records if they are out of order.⁴⁸ After the use of these three programs, the NEWS reports that are downloaded from LexisNexis turn into a single TABARI readable text file containing the lead sentences of each report. The filtering process is very important to generate event data, otherwise, TABARI will not be able to read the news. The newly created and filtered single .TXT file becomes the input file for TABARI. The input file that I created for the TFPRED dataset, named “TFPRED160523.text,” contained approximately 150,000 lines of news reports (only lead sentences) from November, 2002 to August, 2014.

ED Step 4: Utilizing the TABARI Software and Coded events: For multiple reasons explained above I used the TABARI (Textual Analysis by Augmented Replacement Instructions – Version 0.8.4b2) program to code events.⁴⁹ The TABARI program folder can be downloaded from the Parus Analytics website. The folder contains most of the files that are necessary to run TABARI (the program file, options file, project file, and the actors and verbs dictionaries).

The TFPRED files were developed upon modifications of the GDELT dictionaries and options files provided by the Computational Event Data System Project. The GDELT dictionaries were also downloaded from the Parus Analytics website. In order to modify the dictionaries, first, a dry-run was made with the “Globalnet.131001” actors and verbs dictionaries. Then, events that are related to Turkey were analyzed and modifications made accordingly. In the dry-run, the filtered “TFPRED160523.text” file ended up with 14,204 events. Then the ministers of each government from 2002 to 2014, some city names from Turkey, and the Turkish version of the ministers’ and cites’ names (e.g. *Gül, Erdoğan, Bağış, İstanbul, İzmir etc.*) were added to the dictionaries. After modifications, a second run was made, ending up with 22,687 events. After further dictionary modifications another run was made, resulting again with the same number 22,687 events. The output file containing all 22,687 events was named “TFPRED160528”. This file contained events such as these:

⁴⁷ To download the filtering program visit the: <http://eventdata.parusanalytics.com/software.dir/filters.html> website and download the zip file entitled “NewNexisFormat.pl (Perl)”. The zip file contains a folder with three software programs and a readme file describing how to use them. For further details on the use of the filtering software please see the section 2.1. Of the TABARI Manual (0.8.4) downloadable from <http://eventdata.parusanalytics.com/tabari.dir/TABARI.0.8.4b3.manual.pdf>, accessed March 1, 2016.

⁴⁸ This step might seem confusing, but once you read the “Readme.txt” file downloaded from Parusanalytics (look at the previous footnote) the details become clarified. Both the readme file and the TABARI Manual explain the filtering process clearly.

⁴⁹ As it is also explained above once you have come to this step, it is assumed that you have already downloaded and filtered the news reports and have a single raw input file for the program to work on. Once ready, you can download the TABARI program bundle from the: <http://eventdata.parusanalytics.com/software.dir/tabari.html>, accessed March 1, 2016.

021118	TUR	ISR	090	Investigate
021118	IRQ	USAGOV	195	Employ aerial weapons
021118	IRQ	IGOUNO	128	Defy norms, law
...				
140827	EUR	IRN	036	Express intent to meet o
140828	TUR	TURGOV	112	Accuse
140828	TUR	TURGOV	112	Accuse

Once the events output file is created, then you can start working on event aggregation. Currently the “Events” package of the Rstudio (CranR) is the easiest and highly useful way to work on event data.⁵⁰ When the events are loaded into Rstudio the “events” package makes some additional tweaking of the data, removing duplicate events and sorting each event according to date.⁵¹ The Rstudio-events package filtered data ended up with 20,187 events after the removal of mostly irrelevant (duplicate and sports related) events. However at this point the newly sorted and filtered data clarified that the TABARI software additionally codes phrases like “actor X said that it will do Y the next year” as if the promise has been made in the previous year. So, an event that took place in 14 March 2003 (Date: 030314) is coded as a promise that has been made the previous year (Date: 020314). Eighteen such instances were manually removed from the data set in order to fine-tune the events. As a result, the data ended up with 20,165 events between November 2002 and August 2016.

ED Step 5: A short note on Rstudio “Events” package: After working on the event data software (Text filtering, TABARI, PETRARCH) for approximately a year, the TFPRED data had finally become ready to aggregate and analyze. I had run the TABARI software a couple of times in order to reach the above-mentioned final document. Only some of the details are written here, however, I have prepared a long readme.txt file in the dataset and have put it in the TFPRED section of my website. Please note that, in my dissertation⁵² I only provide a necessary summary of what I did to prepare Rstudio.⁵³ The document has details on how the R studio “events” package is used in filtering and aggregating the data to be utilized in the TFPRED data set.

Each step in building a data set requires a decision and each decision has certain consequences. In my work, I decided to utilize two programs - “R studio” and “MS Excel” and this is a result of many trials and failures. So the information in the document is based on my personal experience for the specific purpose of building the TFPRED data set. The document assumes that the reader has basic knowledge of R studio. If not, I still provide as much detail as possible but a best suggestion to those who would like to generate event data and aggregate with Rstudio might be a quote from Samuel Barclay Beckett: “Ever tried, ever failed, no matter, try again, fail again, fail better.”

⁵⁰ The aggregation choices are explained in detail by James E. Yonamine in an unpublished manuscript which can be downloaded from website. James E. Yonamine, “Working with Event Data: A Guide to Aggregation Choices” (unpublished paper), accessed April 1, 2015, <http://jayyonomine.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Working-with-Event-Data-A-Guide-to-Aggregation-Choices.pdf>.

⁵¹ For those who are not familiar with CranR, there are video tutorials in the web explaining what CranR is, how Rstudio works and how the packages are to be downloaded. If you are interested in utilizing Rstudio (it is very useful for event data) a short google search for Rstudio tutorials might be quite helpful. Once the events package for R studio is downloaded the package contains a detailed explanation on how to use the commands. For further questions you might reach me via email: ismailerkam@gmail.com.

⁵² Sula, “Regional Directions of National Role Conceptions”.

⁵³ The readme file is quite technical and provides a long and step-by-step explanation of what I did in Rstudio. I explained each step as clearly as I was able to. Please see the codebook. The works of Phillip Schrodtt and other event data scholars have been very helpful for me in understanding how to work with event data. Now, I would very much like to do the same and help others. For any questions, please do not hesitate to reach me via email: ismailerkam@gmail.com.

2.2.3. Matching the events with role conceptions

TFPRED observes the frequency and regional direction of 22 role conceptions and summarizes TFP practices via presenting data on the frequency (# of appearance), nature (conflict/cooperation continuum), and direction (regional orientation) of the events. After presenting TFP discourse and practice separately, I proposed a novel approach in observing the parallelism between the two. As shown in my dissertation; Appendix D 208 different events are coded in the dataset. In order to observe the parallelism, my study matched each of these events with relevant role conceptions. This Event-Role Matching Table is presented below:

Table 5- Role Conception/Event Code Matching Table

Code	Role	Event Codes
R1	GSC	Number of cooperative events (both verbal and material cooperation) From TR (source) to global IGO's (targets).
R2	DoP	0256, 026, 027, 028, 0356, 036, 037, 038, 039, 045, 087, 0871, 0872, 0873, 0874, 1123, 1124
R3	Trade. S.	0211, 0311, 061, 1011
R4	Protector	0233, 033, 0331, 0332, 0334, 036, 070, 071, 072, 073, 074, 075, 1054, 112, 1121, 1122, 1123, 1124, 162, 1621, 1622
R5	Central C.	This role is a verbal construction - Non-observable through event data
R6	Mediator	028, 039, 045
R7	Peace-maker	037, 1056, 107
R8	Independent	016, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 1241, 1246, 127, 129, 130, 131, 132, 139, 160, 161, 162, 1621, 1622, 163, 164
R9	Active Indep.	Foreign policy activity (total number of events towards different regions)
R10	Rising Power	This role refers to a rise in economic and military power. Non-observable through event data.
R11	Bridge (Civ)	This role is a verbal construction - Non-observable through event data
R12	RSC	021, 0211, 0212, 0213, 0214, 022, 30, 031, 0311, 0312, 032, 050, 060, 061, 062, 063, 064, 101, 1011, 1014, 102
R13	West C.	Events to Rg5
R14	East C.	Events to Rg3
R15	Bridge (Geo)	This role is a verbal construction - Non-observable through event data
R16	Faith. A	Rg5 (013, 019, 021, 0211, 0212, 0213, 0214, 022, 030, 031, 0311, 0312, 032, 033, 0331, 0332, 0334, 050, 051, 052, 053, 057, 060, 061, 062, 063, 064, 100, 101)
R17	Model C.	This role is a verbal construction - Non-observable through event data
R18	Developer	033, 0331, 0332, 0334, 070, 071, 072, 073, 074, 075, 1122, 1123, 1124
R19	Energy T.	This role is currently non-observable through event data
R20	Good N.	021, 0211, 0212, 0213, 0214, 022, 030, 031, 0311, 0312, 032, 037, 055
R21	Rg. Leader	014, 100, 101, 102, 104, 105, 106, 107, 130, 131, 1311, 1312, 1313, 132, 134, 136, 138, 1382, 1383, 1384, 139
R22	Rg. Power	010, 012, 013, 017, 020, 040, 041, 042, 043, 044, 045, 046, 050, 051, 052, 053, 054, 055, 056, 057, 110, 111, 112, 1121, 1122, 1123, 1124

With the matching table above one can observe the appearance of each role conception in the foreign policy events of the country. Next, let us see how the parallelism between role references and events are observed

2.3. A combination of role theory and event data: the Case of Turkey

This section gives short examples about the application of this methodology to the case of Turkey. Eighty-seven speeches are coded with the content analysis scheme explained above. The details of these speeches are as follows:

Table 6- TFPRED: Coded Speeches (Codes, Dates and Word Count)

R.T. Erdoğan						A. Gül			A. Babacan			A. Davutoğlu		
Code	Date	Words	#	Date	Words	Code	Date	Words	Code	Date	Words	Code	Date	Words
Er1	30.01.03	3900	Er25	08.07.11	2500	AG1	03.07.03	3000	AB1	01.11.07	3000	AD1	02.05.09	1000
Er2	18.03.03	9000	Er26	23.09.11	3400	AG2	25.07.03	3400	AB2	14.11.07	5000	AD2	09.09.09	1500
Er3	15.11.03	2500	Er27	30.09.12	2200	AG3	24.09.03	2000	AB3	10.12.07	2500	AD3	04.01.10	3500
Er4	30.01.04	1600	Er28	03.11.12	1400	AG4	26.09.03	1750	AB4	21.04.08	2000	AD4	31.05.10	1000
Er5	30.06.04	2000	Er29	11.12.12	1050	AG5	23.12.03	2000	AB5	04.05.08	2000	AD5	03.10.10	1000
Er6	23.02.05	3000	Er30	31.08.13	1300	AG6	17.01.04	3500	AB6	15.07.08	4000	AD6	03.01.11	3000
Er7	27.02.05	3500	Er31	11.12.13	1000	AG7	26.02.04	2000	AB7	21.11.08	4200	AD7	26.03.11	2000
Er8	26.04.05	2000	Er32	28.01.14	1200	AG8	22.05.04	1800	AB8	23.12.08	2000	AD8	08.04.11	1200
Er9	03.05.05	3500	ER TOTAL 76435			AG9	23.09.04	1800	AB9	25.02.09	2000	AD9	23.12.11	3500
Er10	21.02.06	1500				AG10	24.12.04	3000	AB10	10.03.09	4500	AD10	04.06.12	2000
Er11	30.05.06	2500				AG11	11.01.05	1800	AB TOTAL 31200			AD11	07.09.12	1000
Er12	30.07.06	2500				AG12	14.03.05	1500				AD12	28.09.12	1000
Er13	30.08.06	2300				AG13	07.06.05	1500				AD13	06.11.12	4000
Er14	27.09.06	1500				AG14	21.09.05	1800				AD14	27.12.12	8000
Er15	28.11.06	3500				AG15	21.12.05	3500				AD15	02.01.13	7000
Er16	05.12.06	3000				AG16	22.09.06	2400				AD16	02.01.13	4000
Er17	09.01.07	3500				AG17	21.12.06	3200				AD17	06.01.13	1500
Er18	06.02.07	1200				AG18	13.01.07	4500				AD18	09.03.13	7500
Er19	27.03.07	2000				AG19	18.01.07	3000				AD19	15.03.13	5000
Er20	31.08.07	2000				AG20	08.02.07	1500				AD20	13.01.14	9000
Er21	30.12.07	1500				AG21	01.06.07	1500				AD21	18.01.14	6000
Er22	24.09.09	1200				AG TOTAL 50450						AD22	18.01.14	3700
Er23	29.04.10	1185										AD23	04.06.14	1400
Er24	01.06.10	2000										AD24	28.08.14	1400
TOTAL Number of Speeches = 87 Speeches						Total Word Count = 238285								

As indicated above I observed 22 role conceptions in TFP leaders' speeches. All references to each of these 22 roles were coded together with the space, orientation, and regional direction of each reference. An excerpt from the overall data is already shown in the observed role references table above. From that table, I made a list of the most frequently and least frequently referred to role conceptions. The findings are summarized in the next table.

Table 7- TFPRED Content Analysis Role Conceptions Summary

	Erdoğan	Gül	Babacan	Davutoğlu	59th Gov.	60th Gov.	61st Gov.
1	DoP	DoP	DoP	Prot.	DoP	DoP	Protector
2	A.I	RSC	RSC	RSC	AI	RSC	Developer
3	Dev	Good	Good	A.I	RSC	AI	TS
4	RSC	GSC	Dev	TS	PM	GSC	DoP
5	Prot.	A.I	GSC	DoP	GSC	RP	AI
6	GSC	PM	Med	RP	GoodN	Developer	RSC
7	PM	West	A.I	Dev	West	GoodN	GSC
8	TS	FA	RP	CC	CC	CC	GoodN
9	CC	Dev	FA	GSC	TS	PM	PM
10	West	CC	TS	PM	FA	Mediator	CC
Leader based observations: 1. DoP role conception is uttered by all leaders although Davutoğlu puts it in the lower ranks. 2. Only Erdoğan and Davutoğlu refer to the Protector role conception 3. Only Gül and Babacan refer to the GoodN role conception 4. Gül and Babacan's role conceptions are more cooperative than those of Erdoğan and Davutoğlu 5. The most assertive and possibly conflictual foreign policy vision is that of Davutoğlu, then Erdoğan, then Gül and Babacan.					Government-based Observations: 1. A decrease in the peace-oriented roles (DoP, PM, GoodN) is observed 2. A decrease in relations with the West (FA, West) is observed. 3. A significant increase in the Protector, developer and Trading State roles is observed. Probably a result of the Arab Uprisings, and African Opening. 4. The 60 th Government is more cooperative than the 59 th government. However, with the 61 st government there is a significant decrease in cooperative roles (RSC, GSC).		

I calculated the percentages of role reference frequencies and made government based comparisons as well. From the data, I generated a number of exemplary figures in order to make certain interpretations.

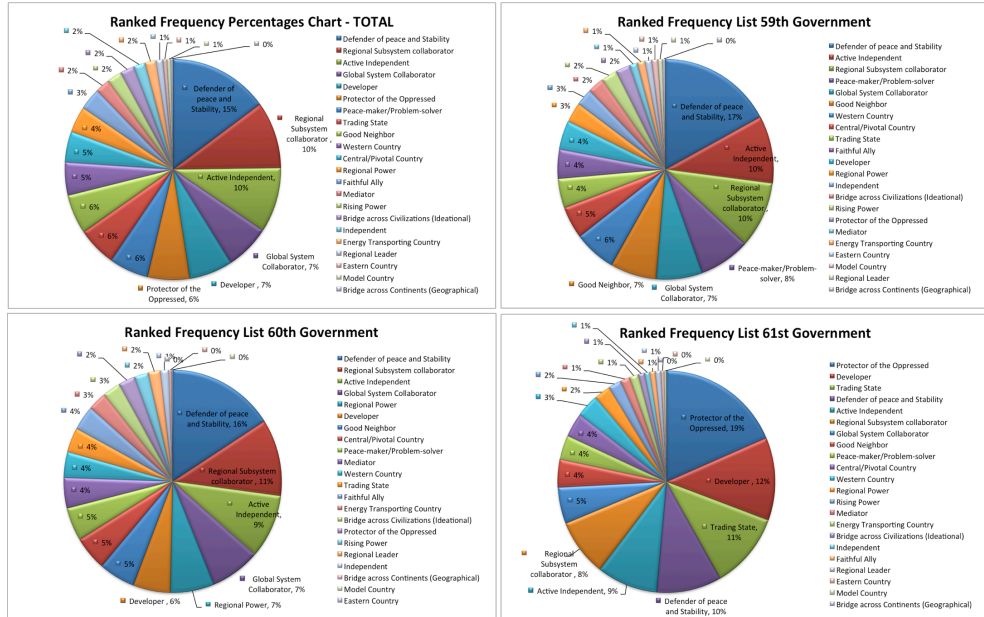


Figure 1: Government-by-government role reference frequency

The charts above show the government-by-government role reference frequency percentages. The figures also indicate the percentage shares of each role conception. I used the percentages in order to compare the weight of each role conception in the speeches. I also used these percentage shares later in comparing role references (words) and role performance (deeds). Once data on TFP role conceptions were collected and interpreted, I focused on TFP deeds. For this purpose, I used TABARI to generate event data, aggregated the data and made my interpretations. With event data one can observe and compare at least three types of foreign policy behavior: 1. Frequency, 2. Scale, 3. Category.

First, one can look at the *Frequency* (intensity of relationship) of foreign policy events. Here, I count the number of observed events (Monthly, quarterly or yearly) and use the rising or declining number of events as indicators of TFP activism:

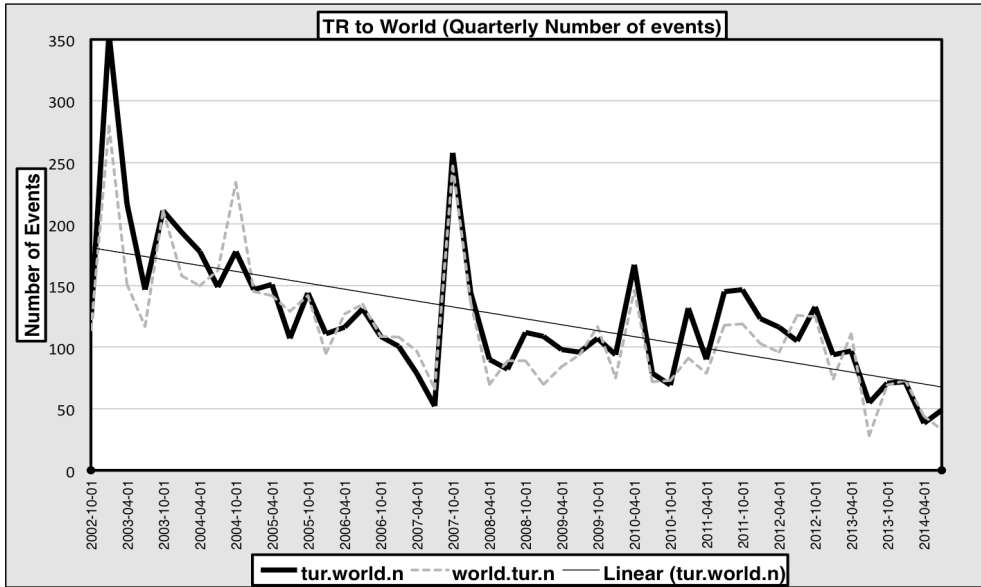


Figure 2: Number of events as indicators of TFP activism

From this figure one can make at least four main observations on TFP activism. First, TFP activity decreases before the general elections and makes a peak just after elections. Second, the number of observed foreign policy events increases when significant real life foreign policy crises (like revolutions, wars, political/military conflicts) emerge in the country's surrounding regions. Third, there is a correlation (if not causality) between domestic political crisis and foreign policy activity. As the significance of domestic political crisis increase, the country's foreign policy activity decreases. TFP activity falls below average when the country deals with domestic political turmoil like the E-Memorandum, Republican Meetings, constitutional disagreements, the terrorist bombing in Reyhanlı, the Gezi protests and the 17/25 December Investigations. Last but not the least, TFP activism follows a pattern of decline from one government to the other, between 2002 and 2014.

Second, one can apply a certain *Scale* to observe the nature of a country's foreign policy behavior. Here, alternative scales exist but the most commonly used and widely accepted version in event data analysis is the Goldstein scale. Accordingly, I scaled events along the cooperation (+10) and conflict (-10) continuum. Then I aggregated these scores (quarterly or monthly) in order to observe the conflictual/cooperative nature of the country's foreign relations. The figures emerged as follows:

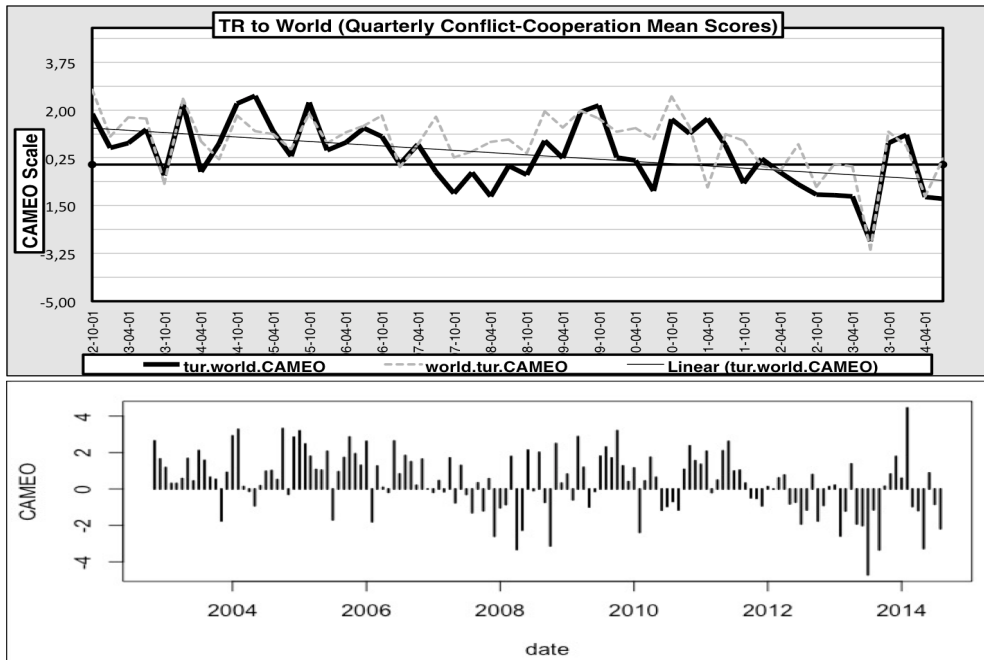


Figure 3: The nature of TFP behavior

TFP event scores indicate three main observations about the nature of Turkey's foreign relations. First, the early JDP governments (58th and 59th) followed a cooperative foreign policy towards the world. This period corresponds with the so-called "golden age" of Europeanization and the establishment of the "zero-problems" policy. The findings indicate that the initial activism in the JDP's foreign policy was cooperative. Second, the TFP under the 60th government (July 2007- June 2011) turned into a mixture of conflict and cooperation. Third, the nature of the TFP turned towards conflict after 2010. As the foreign policy events towards the regions indicate, this turn towards conflict corresponds with the Arab Uprisings period in the MENA region. Overall, there is a significant pattern of decline in the average cooperation scores of the three JDP governments.

Third, one can look at the type of foreign relations by looking at their *Category*. Here, I categorized events along different event types, verbal cooperation/material cooperation, verbal conflict/material conflict. Then, I counted the number of cooperative and conflictual events and compared the type of foreign policy activism from one government to the other.

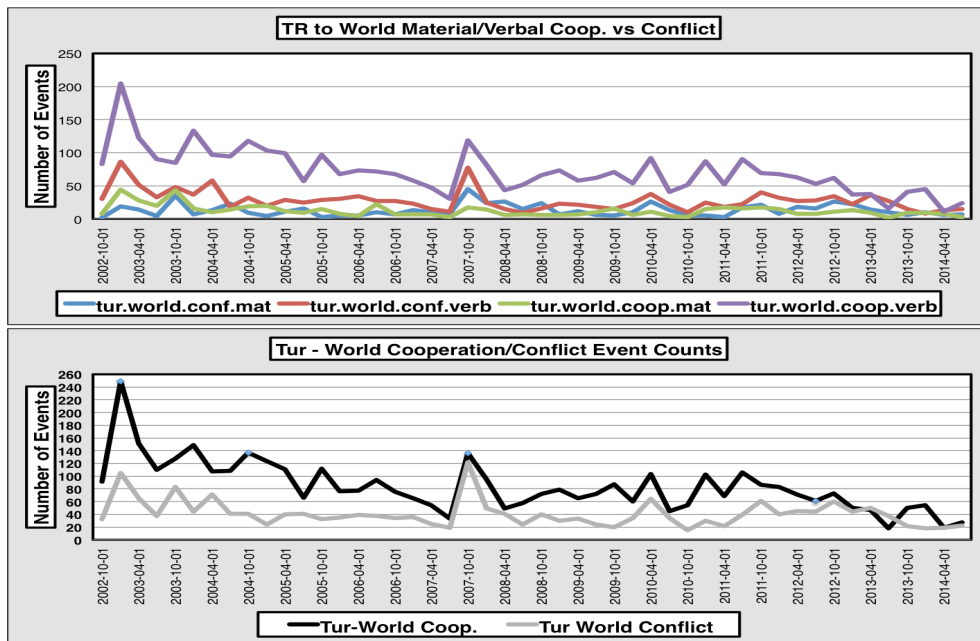


Figure 4: The type of foreign relations by looking at their *Category*

Event types also indicated similar findings with the event scales, with the JDP foreign policy turning towards conflict. As the figures indicate, the gap between the number of cooperative events and conflictual events closes. Cooperative events decrease while the number of conflictual events increases. The percentage share of cooperative events is 71% in the 58th and 59th governments, 67% in the 60th government, and 58% in the 61st government. Second, I also observed that the share of “verbal cooperation” is in decline. Third, there is a parallel significant pattern of increase in the share of material conflict: 5% in the 58th government, 8% in the 59th government, 12% in the 60th government, and 15% in the 61st government.⁵⁴

After making these observations, I developed a novel approach to compare TFP Words (content analysis) and TFP deeds (event data). This comparison was made in four steps: (1) Match each event code with role conceptions; (2) observe the appearance of each role in TFP events; (3) calculate the percentage share of each role’s appearance; and (4) compare the percentage shares of each role in W/D. Then in comparing the words and deeds I applied the following scale:

- If the difference is more than - 15% then the role is “highly underperformed”
- If the difference is between -6% to -14% then the role is “underperformed”
- If the difference is less than 5% then the role is “performed”
- If the difference is between +6 % to +14 then the role is “overperformed”
- If the difference is more than + 15% then the role is “highly overperformed”

Then, an excerpt from the TFPRED dataset is as follows:

⁵⁴ I also applied these comparisons to each region. If you are interested in regional FP Behaviour please refer to Sula, “Regional directions of National Role Conceptions,” or email the author from: ismailerkam@gmail.com.

Table 8- TFPRED Words and Deeds Data Table

FULL DATA TABLE																			
ALL DATA		TOTAL		GOVERNMENTS								REGIONS							
CODE	ROLE	Total - W	Total - D	G59W	G59D	G60W	G60D	G61W	G61D	Rg1W	Rg1D	Rg2W	Rg2D	Rg3W	Rg3D	Rg4W	Rg4D	Rg5W	Rg5D
R1	GSC	169	119	82	69	54	29	33	21	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
R2	Dop	378	128	203	52	115	48	60	28	29	8	45	20	156	76	8	2	4	23
R3	TS	146	38	51	20	26	9	69	9	4	2	30	14	22	14	17	0	7	8
R4	Protect	159	142	26	74	18	24	115	44	5	5	7	14	106	95	7	3	0	0
R5	CC	114	NA	56	NA	36	NA	22	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
R6	Mediate	55	33	14	7	32	22	9	4	0	0	16	6	30	21	2	0	0	0
R7	PM	148	14	91	11	35	2	22	1	12	4	19	5	80	2	3	0	1	0
R8	Indep.	44	359	30	155	9	103	5	101	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
R9	AI	241	5492	118	2468	67	1779	56	1245	3	NA	4	NA	23	NA	18	NA	1	NA
R10	Rise	55	NA	28	NA	15	NA	12	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
R11	Geobridg.	54	NA	29	NA	19	NA	6	NA	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
R12	RSC	249	443	116	233	81	149	52	61	23	39	71	86	87	168	7	5	4	145
R13	West	123	1654	75	959	27	422	21	273	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	123	
R14	East	15	2382	12	869	0	803	3	710	0	0	0	0	15	NA	0	0	0	0
R15	CivBridg.	8	NA	5	NA	3	NA	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
R16	FA	82	256	51	159	26	68	5	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	81	256
R17	Model	14	NA	11	NA	1	NA	2	NA	0	NA	0	NA	12	NA	0	NA	0	NA
R18	Develop.	165	137	50	73	40	31	75	33	21	4	41	14	41	92	28	3	0	0
R19	ETC	42	NA	14	NA	20	NA	8	NA	2	NA	9	NA	1	NA	0	NA	3	NA
R20	GoodN	146	154	82	71	39	57	25	26	24	23	32	43	51	88	0	0	0	0
R21	RL	26	154	8	51	13	57	5	46	4	11	2	28	16	114	0	0	0	0
R22	RP	97	2697	35	1254	47	874	15	569	19	202	27	421	40	1141	8	22	3	911
	TOTAL	2530	14202	1187	6525	723	4477	620	3200	146	298	303	651	680	1811	98	35	227	1343

From the table above, I excluded the roles that were non-observable with event-data and worked with the remaining roles.⁵⁵ The government based percentage shares of compared role conceptions in TFP words and TFP deeds are shown in the next figures:

⁵⁵ Central country, Geographical Bridge, Civilizational Bridge, Model Country, Energy Transporting country are excluded from data because they are not observable through event data (discussed in the conclusion). Certain other roles (Western Country, Eastern Country, and Active Independent) are excluded from overall comparison but analyzed separately because they require count only specific types of events and would misguide the overall comparison.

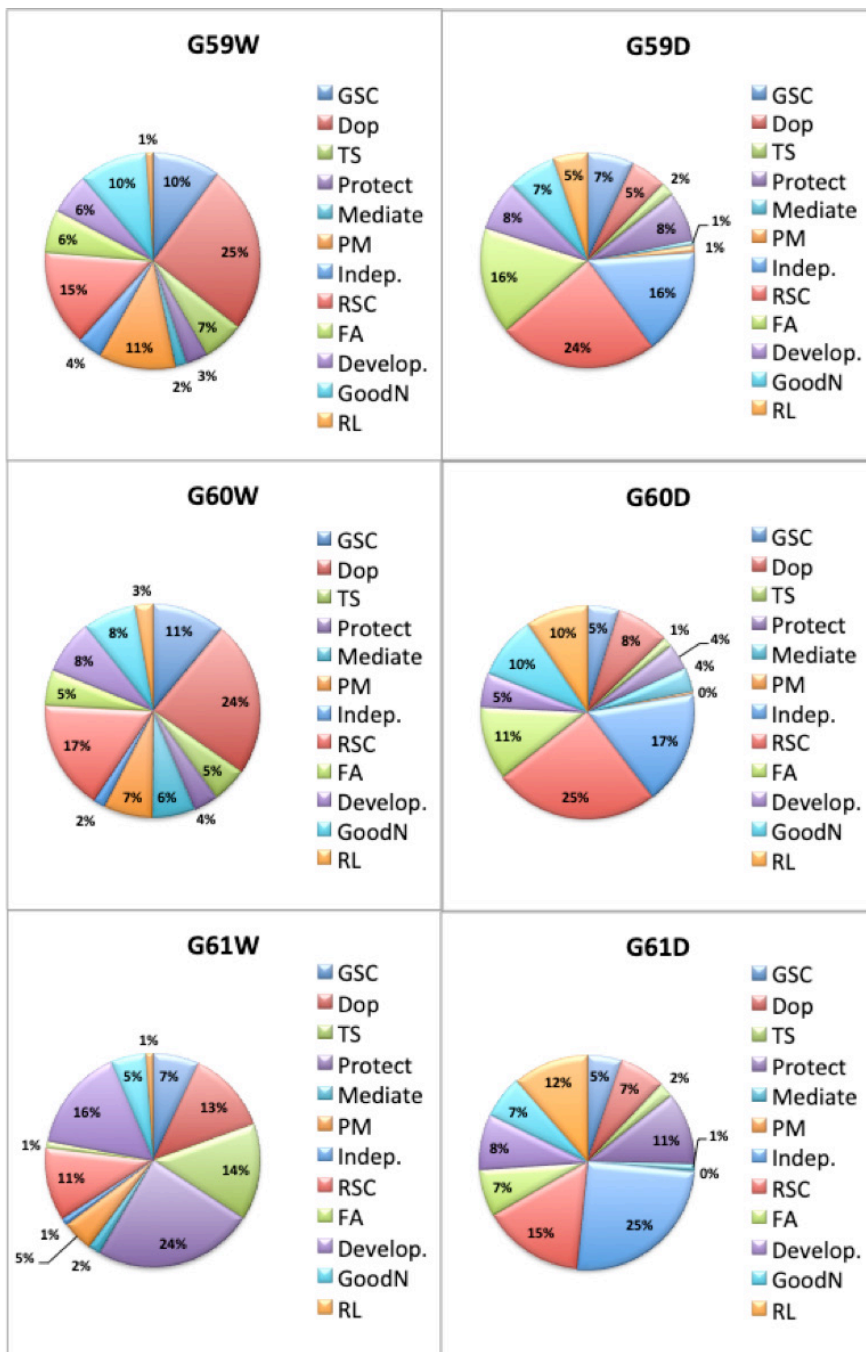


Figure 5: The government based percentage shares of compared role conceptions in TFP words and TFP deeds

Once the percentage shares were compared, I generated the following summary table:

Table 9- TFPRED Summary: Words and Deeds parallelism

ROLE CONCEPTION				ROLE PERFORMANCE			
ROLE	Rank Total	% Share	Type	Total	59th Gov	60th Gov	61st Gov
R1-GSC	4 th	7%	Ge	Performed	Performed	Underperformed	Performed
R2-Dop	1 st	15%	Type3	Highly underperformed	Highly underperformed	Highly underperformed	Underperformed
R3-TS	8 th	6%	Type3	Underperformed	Performed	Performed	Underperformed
R4-Protect	6 th	6%	Type2	Performed	Performed	Performed	Underperformed
R5-CC	11 th	5%	Ge	Non-observable	Non-observable	Non-observable	Non-observable
R6-Mediate	14 th	2%	Type2	Performed	Performed	Performed	Performed
R7-PM	7 th	6%	Type2	Underperformed	Underperformed	Not performed	Not performed
R8-Indep.	17 th	2%	Ge	Highly over-performed	Over-performed	Highly over-performed	Highly over-performed
R9-AI	3 rd	10%	Type2	Performed	Performed	Performed	Performed
R10-Rise	15 th	2%	Ge	Non-observable	Non-observable	Non-observable	Non-observable
R11-CivBridg	22 nd	2%	Ge	Non-observable	Non-observable	Non-observable	Non-observable
R12-RSC	2 nd	10%	Type3	Over-performed	Over-performed	Over-performed	Performed
R13-West	10 th	5%	Type1	Over-performed	D more than W	D more than W	D more than W
R14-East	20 th	1%	Type1	Performed	W/D parallel	W/D parallel	W/D parallel
R15-GeoBrid.	16 th	0%	Type2	Non-observable	Non-observable	Non-observable	Non-observable
R16-FA	13 th	3%	Type1	Over-performed	Over-performed	Over-performed	Over-performed
R17-Model	21 st	1%	Type1	Non-observable	Non-observable	Non-observable	Non-observable
R18-Develop.	5 th	7%	Type2	Performed	Performed	Underperformed	Performed
R19-ETC	18 th	2%	Type2	Non-observable	Non-observable	Non-observable	Non-observable
R20-GoodN	9 th	6%	Type2	Performed	Performed	Performed	Performed
R21-RL	19 th	1%	Type2	Over-performed	Performed	Over-performed	Over-performed
R22-RP	12 th	4%	Type3	Underperformed	W/D not parallel Rg5	W/D not parallel Rg5	W/D not parallel Rg5

The table above illustrates that 11 roles are performed, five roles are underperformed and the parallelism of six roles could not be observed in the TFPRED.⁵⁶ From the words and deeds comparison I was able to make four overall observations. First, the TFPRED showed that all uttered roles are not performed in TFP practices. Second, there is a significant gap between W/D in peace-related roles. This indicates that TFP practices are not as peaceful as the decision-makers frame in their speeches. Certain peace related roles like Defender of Peace, Peacemaker, and Mediator are underperformed. Finally, both activism and cooperation are in decline in TFP. Turkey's foreign policy activism is in decline and a turn towards conflict from one government to the other can be observed through this methodology.

3. Conclusion

This article offers a new methodological approach to analyze state foreign policies. With this approach a researcher can analyze foreign policy words, deeds, and parallelism between the two. Indeed, there is a wide and rich set of tools in the FPA literature that can be fruitfully utilized. However, most of the existing studies look at only one aspect of foreign policy while –somehow- disregarding the other. Foreign policy is the combination of both vision and action and the analysis requires a methodological tool that can identify the relationship between the foreign policy vision and its actual conduct. Thus, the claim here is that the relationship between the state foreign policy vision identified in the words or speeches of decision-makers and the actual foreign policy practices of states is not always direct. Vision does not always turn into action. In this sense, a holistic analysis of foreign policy requires a holistic methodological approach that can observe and identify the link between the two.

I have worked on this topic and other relevant ones for eight years and presented my research in several conferences. In most of those academic meetings I could only get mixed and limited feedback from the people who were not so busy to listen to me. Indeed, it was

⁵⁶ The role-specific observations section of Sula 2017 (Chapter VI – Section 6.2) provides detailed explanations and interpretations on how I came up with these results for each role.

not always easy to get technical support to fine-tune the methodological approach that I was trying to develop. I could do the hard work by myself, hand-code and collect my own data, learn using new computer software by myself, yet for the methodological approach I needed support from experts. So it will be much easier if a beginner gets guidance and training from experts on the basics of data collection, use of software, and some tips and difficulties in the path. A qualified and encouraging supervision committee works perfectly in this case. Another way is to take part in research projects. During my graduate education, I took part in two different research projects where I assisted data collection. I strongly believe that experiencing teamwork and taking part in research projects is a perfect way to start data collection. At a certain point a young researcher wants to have more maneuvering capacity and to go beyond the limits that are pre-determined by another scholar's research project. That point becomes the starting point of her/his own data collection journey.

Utilizing the above-mentioned eclectic methodology, I collected and categorized data on TFP words and deeds between November 2002 and August 2014 in the TFPRED. I categorized and aggregated data in order to make leader-specific, region-specific and government-specific observations on TFP. The TFPRED makes the following contributions: (1) it builds up a novel methodological model to combine observed role conceptions (words) with observed event data (deeds); (2) it builds a large open-source dataset on observed role conceptions and foreign policy events; (3) it provides a structured, comprehensive, and falsifiable explanation of TFP in the JDP period based on observable and replicable data; (4) it establishes a new role conceptualization of performed, underperformed and over-performed role conceptions; and (5) it proposes a new role typology to cover the regional direction of role conceptions. However, while these present positive steps forward, the comparison summary table shown earlier also revealed that the performance of some roles could not be observed, indicating the need to acknowledge certain methodological limitations.

Some methodological limitations stem from the use of event data analysis. As I have summarized above there are some studies that use event data in FPA. Yet, most of these studies utilize event data for conflict analysis. These studies analyze domestic events, but not foreign policy events. Because of this, some of the event verb codes are only related to domestic conflict. The coding software TABARI or PETRARCH are continuously developed with an aim to observe domestic or international conflicts around the world. The coded data includes data on actors other than states and issue areas other than foreign policy. The current state of the literature indicates that event data analysis will continue to develop in the 'conflict analysis' path and will increasingly part from the FPA field. While building the TFPRED, I filtered relevant actors and excluded irrelevant verbs from the data. The filtering, excluding, and aggregating relevant data, which is the approach that I apply in this study, will still be applicable in the future. Yet, a better approach at the issue would be to further update event data software, and increase its capacity to observe a larger set of foreign policy events with more foreign policy related verb codes. To achieve this aim, the theoretical and methodological approach of this study can be a good starting point.

Indeed, the study of foreign policy will continue to remain incomplete without having a scale to measure performance. The procedures that I apply in building the TFPRED dataset and in making the words-deeds comparison in this study aim at developing such a scale. Yet, although it has a high potential, I should admit that the scale needs further development. Perhaps, acquiring and applying more advanced statistical skills could increase the validity

of the comparison.

Another and equally important point of assessment is about content analysis. I preferred to use hand-coding in content analysis in my research. There are quite advanced coding software programs that a researcher can use to analyze foreign policy speeches. Yet, I am not sure if I could rely on the capacity of these programs in analyzing Turkish speeches. Role conceptions are generally hidden in the context and the meaning attributed to words. For this reason, it is also necessary to fine-tune the definitions in the process of reading the speeches. Sometimes I even needed to add new role conceptions to the list while reading different leaders' speeches just because of the meanings hidden in the context. One of the most important steps here is to create exclusive and exhaustive definitions of each role conception. This step will most probably take longer than expected. Having public opinion polls, making interviews to check the definitions with other experts, looking at the existing definitions in the literature and checking the inter-coder reliability by asking other people to code speeches with the existing definitions might be useful measures to have better definitions.⁵⁷

After coming up with definitions of role conceptions that work for the research, an important next step is to observe the parallelism. Yet, here the researcher faces another significant problem. Some role conceptions are basically non-observable. In my study, I could not observe the performance of six role conceptions because I could not measure them with event data. I think that one can develop alternative ways to observe these role conceptions. For instance, the performance of 'rising power' role conception requires having a detailed look at economic, and military figures indicating the increasing power of Turkey. A 'model country' role conception necessitates fieldwork in the regions towards which the role is directed at. In addition, the performance of 'energy transporting country (ETC)' role conception requires taking a look at Turkey's energy agreements with the countries of the regions. All these methods are currently beyond the scope of this study. Yet, these are fruitful directions for future research.

These limitations also determine the applicability of the methodological approach, which is, of course, always open for further development. The approach contains both advantages and disadvantages in its application. One of the important advantages is that the researcher can collect data. Data-collection is a burdensome yet very fruitful process. In addition to reviewing the existing literature a researcher needs to acquire certain skills to collect and code data. Learning the basics of data collection, obtaining the raw material (speeches or news reports) to analyze/process, taking necessary scientific measures, coding data, checking data validity, and convincing the scientific community/audience are difficult and time/energy consuming processes. Indeed, as indicated previously this is a journey where the researcher "tries again, fails again, and fails better." However, the process usually brings very concrete, observable and applicable results. For instance, my research produced the TFPRED. Collecting data and combining words and deeds of foreign policy came up with a potentially very productive research agenda. In its current state, beside its contributions to the academic literature, the study stands as a 'research questions generator.'

As a research questions generator, the TFPRED has shown the validity of my two main claims: 1) There are region-specific differences in Turkey's NRCs, and 2) All role conceptions (words) do not turn into practice (deeds) in foreign policy. The TFPRED gives descriptive/statistical data on foreign policy vision, on the foreign policy practices, on the roles attributed

⁵⁷ Indeed, we used all these measures in the TUBİTAK Project (Özdamar et al. 2014).

to the country, and on the foreign relations of the country. It also shows both performed and non-performed role conceptions. With each performed and non-performed role conception one can come up with new research questions: (1) Why are some role conceptions performed whereas others are not? (2) Why do leaders utter role conceptions that are not performed? (3) If non-performed role conceptions are not to be taken as determinants of future foreign policy actions then why do we find them? On the other hand, one can also come up with country-specific or empirical research questions. For Turkey, the country is generally referred to as a middle power, or regional great power. Such status potentially affects the country's role performance in the five neighboring regions (Balkans, MENA, Southern Caucasus/Central Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Euro-Atlantic). In addition to status, role prescriptions are those that are ascribed to the ego (the agent- in IR the state) by the 'alter' (other actors within the society- in IR the countries/allies and/or other international actors). For instance, Turkey has been prescribed a bridge role between the democratic/Christian West and authoritarian/Muslim Middle East. For a long time, Turkish leaders have been eager to perform such a role. But the understanding of bridge has been slightly changed in the JDP period, at least in rhetoric. For instance, JDP decision-makers, especially in their first term of government referred to a mediator role in establishing an alliance between civilizations. However, it is hardly possible to claim that together with Spain the two countries were able to materialize such a role, except for routine meetings between the heads of the two states. Was this role beyond Turkey's capabilities? Or was it due to Davutoğlu's vision of becoming a central country, which clashed with the bridge role prescribed by Turkey's Western allies? All these questions require separate in-depth research that builds on the data collected with the eclectic methodological approach.

It is always possible to update and upgrade this eclectic approach. One can increase the capabilities of this eclectic approach and/or the validity of the collected data by merging it with new research techniques. Just like content analysis and event-data analysis it is possible to bring in new research methods and combine it with the approach offered here. For instance, one can use semi-structured interviews to better understand the foreign policy vision of the decision-makers. In addition, other FPA approaches and tools like Leadership Trait Analysis (LTA) and Operational Code Analysis (Op-Code) can also be integrated with this approach to better understand how the decision makers' observe their foreign policy environment and what kind of foreign policy they envision for their states. The quality of the collected data and the validity of the claims can be increased with the application of new techniques to this approach.

This study started five years ago, drawing on Rosenau's call to develop a 'theory' of foreign policy.⁵⁸ After reading this call, I aimed at building a data-based and generalizable explanation of TFP and developing a *sui generis* framework to observe the parallelism in foreign policy words and deeds. This scheme is currently in a state of development and there is long way to go in this quest. After five years of work, I still agree with Hudson⁵⁹: "It is a wonderful time to become engaged in FPA, a time of new horizons."

⁵⁸ James N. Rosenau, "Pre-theories and Theories of Foreign Policy," in *Approaches in Comparative and International Politics*, ed. R. Barry Farrell (Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1966), 27–92.

⁵⁹ Valerie M. Hudson, "FPA: Actor-Specific Theory and the Ground of International Relations," *Foreign Policy Analysis* 1 (2005): 27.

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