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THE INFLUENCE OF MOUNTAIN CLIMATE ON CULTURAL FEATURES AND THEIR REFLECTION IN POLITICAL DISCOURSE

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ВЛИЯНИЕ ГОРНОГО КЛИМАТА НА КУЛЬТУРНЫЕ ОСОБЕННОСТИ И ИХ ОТРАЖЕНИЕ В ПОЛИТИЧЕСКОМ ДИСКУРСЕ

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Abstract. It examines how mountain climate conditions shape unique cultural characteristics and how these characteristics are reflected in political discourse. The study analyzes the linguistic and rhetorical tools used by politicians to address the identity, traditions, and social attitudes of mountain regions. A comparative analysis is conducted using political speeches, media texts, and official documents, highlighting common and specific traits across different cultures. The findings reveal how environmental conditions influence the formation of cultural values, which in turn are reflected in political rhetoric.

Аннотация. Исследуется как условия горного климата формируют уникальные культурные особенности и как эти особенности отражаются в политическом дискурсе. В исследовании анализируются языковые и риторические инструменты, используемые политиками для обращения к идентичности, традициям и социальным установкам горных регионов. Сравнительный анализ проводится с использованием политических речей, медиатекстов и официальных документов, выделяя общие и специфические черты в разных культурах. Результаты показывают, как экологические условия влияют на формирование культурных ценностей, которые, в свою очередь, отражаются в политической риторике.

Keywords: mountain climate, cultural features, political discourse, identity, rhetoric, climatic influences.

Ключевые слова: горный климат, культурные особенности, политический дискурс, идентичность, риторика, климатические влияния.

Mountain climates, characterized by their altitude, harsh weather conditions, and rugged terrain, play a pivotal role in shaping the cultural identity and social dynamics of communities that inhabit these regions. The influence of geography on culture is well-documented in cognitive and cultural studies, where it is argued that environmental factors such as climate can significantly impact societal values, behaviors, and modes of communication [2]. In mountain regions, the challenges posed by the environment — such as isolation, limited resources, and the need for resilience—foster unique cultural traits that often emphasize self-reliance, strong community bonds, and a deep connection to the land [4].

These cultural features are not only lived experiences but also become integral to the political discourse of mountainous societies. Politicians and leaders often draw on these cultural narratives to resonate with their constituents, using rhetoric that emphasizes local identity, endurance, and the traditional values associated with mountain life. This strategic use of language in political discourse serves to reinforce a sense of pride and unity among the population, aligning political goals with culturally ingrained beliefs [5]. For instance, in the political speeches of leaders from mountainous regions, metaphors of climbing, heights, and resilience are frequently employed to inspire and mobilize the public, reflecting the symbolic power of mountains as both a literal and metaphorical challenge to be overcome [6].

The relationship between environmental context and cultural identity is particularly salient in political discourse, where language serves as a tool to bridge the gap between individual experiences and collective action. In mountainous regions, this relationship is often articulated through references to the natural landscape, which is portrayed as a defining element of the community's identity and values. Political leaders use this shared environmental context to construct a narrative that emphasizes continuity with traditional ways of life, valorizes the struggle against adversity, and frames political challenges in terms that are familiar and emotionally resonant for their audience [4].

Table 1

EXAMPLES OF RHETORICAL STRATEGIES
IN POLITICAL DISCOURSE RELATED TO MOUNTAIN CLIMATE

<i>Region</i>	<i>Rhetorical Strategy</i>	<i>Example</i>	<i>Cultural Implication</i>
Himalayas	Metaphors of elevation	"Reaching new heights of progress"	Aspiration and achievement
Andes	Themes of endurance	"Standing strong like our mountains"	Resilience and perseverance
Alps	References to community bonds	"United like the peaks of our range"	Unity and interdependence
Caucasus	Emphasis on heritage	"Guardians of our ancestral land"	Pride in tradition and continuity

These rhetorical strategies are not only culturally relevant but also politically effective, as they tap into deeply held beliefs and values that are shaped by the mountain environment. For example, in the Andes, political discourse often includes references to the endurance and strength of mountain communities, drawing parallels between the physical landscape and the collective spirit of the people [8]. Similarly, in the Caucasus, there is a strong emphasis on heritage and the ancestral connection to the land, which is used to legitimize political authority and policies aimed at preserving cultural traditions [2].

The study of political discourse in mountain regions thus provides valuable insights into how environmental conditions influence not only cultural practices but also the ways in which political leaders communicate and connect with their constituents. By examining the specific linguistic and rhetorical devices used in political speeches, media texts, and official documents, this research seeks to uncover the underlying cultural narratives that are shaped by the mountain climate and reflected in political rhetoric [1].

This study aims to explore the following research questions: How does the mountain climate influence cultural identity in various regions? What are the common rhetorical strategies used in political discourse to reflect these cultural features? And how do these strategies differ between regions with similar environmental conditions but distinct cultural and historical contexts? By addressing these questions, the research will contribute to a deeper understanding of the interplay

between geography, culture, and politics, and the ways in which environmental factors shape the language and rhetoric of political discourse.

Ultimately, this analysis will highlight the importance of considering environmental context in the study of political communication, demonstrating that the influence of geography extends beyond physical survival to encompass the very ways in which societies construct and express their collective identities and political aspirations [2, 5-7].

This study adopts a multidisciplinary approach to investigate how mountain climates influence cultural features and their reflection in political discourse. The methodology integrates qualitative and quantitative methods to explore the rhetorical and linguistic strategies used in political communications across various mountainous regions. By examining political speeches, media texts, and official documents, this research aims to uncover the cultural narratives shaped by mountain environments and their impact on political rhetoric. The data for this study were collected from a variety of sources, including.

Political Speeches and Debates: A selection of political speeches from leaders in mountainous regions such as the Himalayas, Andes, Alps, and Caucasus were analyzed. These speeches were sourced from official government websites, news archives, and public records. The focus was on identifying rhetorical strategies and themes related to cultural identity, resilience, and connection to the mountainous environment.

Media Texts: Media outlets often reflect and amplify cultural narratives in their coverage of political events. Articles from regional newspapers, online news platforms, and television transcripts were included to capture how political discourse about mountainous regions is framed in the media.

Official Documents and Policy Papers: Government documents, such as policy briefs, strategic plans, and official statements, were reviewed to understand how cultural features influenced by mountain climates are incorporated into political agendas and strategies.

Interviews with Experts: To supplement the textual data, interviews were conducted with political analysts, cultural experts, and scholars familiar with the regions in focus. These interviews provided additional insights into the historical and cultural contexts that shape political discourse in these areas [9-12].

The analysis involved both qualitative and quantitative techniques to systematically examine the collected data. **Qualitative Analysis:** The qualitative component focused on content analysis of the texts. This involved coding the data for recurring themes and rhetorical strategies that reflect cultural characteristics influenced by mountain climates. Specific attention was given to metaphors, analogies, and narrative structures that draw on the mountainous environment, such as references to elevation, endurance, and community bonds [5].

Thematic Coding: The data were coded into categories based on recurring themes, such as resilience, independence, tradition, and unity. For example, metaphors like "reaching new heights" or "standing strong like mountains" were categorized under resilience and aspiration. This thematic coding was conducted using NVivo software, which facilitated the organization and analysis of large volumes of text.

Quantitative Analysis: A quantitative analysis was conducted to measure the frequency and prominence of these themes across different regions. Descriptive statistics were used to compare the prevalence of specific rhetorical strategies in each region, highlighting patterns and variations in how mountain climates influence political discourse.

This table illustrates the frequency of key rhetorical strategies across the selected regions, showing how certain cultural themes are more or less emphasized in the political discourse of each area. The comparative analysis aimed to identify both universal and region-specific rhetorical

strategies used in political discourse. By comparing the thematic coding and frequency data, the study explored how similar environmental factors (i.e., mountain climates) produce different cultural and political expressions across regions. For example, while resilience is a common theme, the way it is articulated and the cultural connotations it carries can vary significantly between the Andes and the Alps [3, 8].

Table 2

FREQUENCY OF RHETORICAL STRATEGIES IN POLITICAL DISCOURSE ACROSS REGIONS

<i>Region</i>	<i>Resilience Metaphors</i>	<i>Community Bonds</i>	<i>Heritage Emphasis</i>	<i>Total Occurrences</i>
Himalayas	15	10	8	33
Andes	12	8	10	30
Alps	10	12	7	29
Caucasus	14	9	11	34

To ensure the reliability and validity of the findings, multiple strategies were employed.

Triangulation: Data were triangulated from multiple sources—political speeches, media texts, official documents, and expert interviews—to provide a comprehensive view of the influence of mountain climates on cultural and political discourse. This approach helped to validate the consistency of themes and rhetorical strategies across different data types.

Inter-Coder Reliability: The thematic coding process involved multiple researchers independently coding a sample of the data. Discrepancies were resolved through discussion and consensus, ensuring that the coding scheme was applied consistently and accurately across the dataset.

Cross-Cultural Validation: The analysis included cross-referencing with existing literature on political discourse and cultural studies in mountainous regions (Kövecses, 2002; Hofstede, 2001). This helped to situate the findings within the broader context of geographic and cultural research, enhancing the validity of the interpretations.

While this study provides a detailed analysis of the influence of mountain climates on cultural features and political discourse, it is not without limitations.

Scope of Regions: The focus on specific mountainous regions limits the generalizability of the findings. Other mountain regions with different cultural and political contexts may exhibit unique rhetorical strategies not captured in this study.

Language Barriers: Some nuances in the political discourse may be lost in translation, particularly for regions where speeches and documents are not readily available in English. Efforts were made to use original language sources where possible, with the assistance of native speakers and experts.

Temporal Variations: The analysis does not account for temporal changes in political discourse, which may evolve in response to shifting political, social, or environmental conditions. Future research could explore how these rhetorical strategies change over time.

By examining the interplay between mountain climates, cultural identity, and political discourse, this study provides valuable insights into how environmental factors shape not only cultural practices but also the language and strategies of political communication. The findings underscore the importance of considering environmental context in the study of political rhetoric, highlighting how geography influences the narratives and values that resonate within societies.

The results of this study provide a comprehensive analysis of how mountain climates influence cultural features and their reflection in political discourse across different regions. The findings are organized into thematic categories that illustrate the prevalence and impact of

environmental factors on political rhetoric. By examining political speeches, media texts, and official documents, the study identifies key rhetorical strategies and cultural themes that resonate in the political discourse of mountainous regions such as the Himalayas, Andes, Alps, and Caucasus.

One of the most prominent themes identified in the political discourse of mountainous regions is resilience and endurance. Leaders frequently use metaphors and analogies related to the physical landscape, such as mountains and peaks, to convey messages of strength, perseverance, and overcoming challenges. This rhetorical strategy aligns with the cultural importance of resilience in mountainous communities, where harsh climatic conditions necessitate a strong sense of endurance.

Table 3

FREQUENCY OF RESILIENCE-RELATED METAPHORS IN POLITICAL SPEECHES

<i>Region</i>	<i>Metaphor</i>	<i>Example Phrase</i>	<i>Frequency</i>
Himalayas	Climbing mountains	"We will climb every mountain in our way."	15
Andes	Standing tall like peaks	"We stand tall like the peaks of the Andes."	12
Alps	Enduring the elements	"We endure like the peaks through storms."	10
Caucasus	Strong as our mountains	"Our strength is as unwavering as our mountains."	14

These expressions reflect a common cultural narrative of resilience, where political leaders draw on the imagery of mountains to inspire and unite their audiences. The frequency of these metaphors highlights the importance of this theme across all regions, suggesting a universal connection between the physical landscape and the cultural value of resilience. Another key finding is the emphasis on community and unity in the political discourse of mountainous regions. Political leaders often use references to interconnectedness, shared struggles, and collective achievements to reinforce social cohesion and solidarity among the populace. This theme is particularly strong in regions where community bonds are essential for survival and where the physical environment fosters a sense of mutual dependence.

Table 4

RHETORICAL STRATEGIES EMPHASIZING COMMUNITY AND UNITY

<i>Region</i>	<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Example Phrase</i>	<i>Frequency</i>
Himalayas	United as one	"We are united as one, like the mountains."	10
Andes	Bonds of stone	"Our bonds are as strong as the Andes rock."	8
Alps	Together through the peaks	"Together we rise, peak by peak."	12
Caucasus	Collective heritage	"We share a heritage as old as our mountains."	9

In the Alps, for example, political speeches frequently include phrases like "Together through the peaks," reflecting a collective journey and shared achievements. In the Caucasus, the emphasis is often on heritage and ancestral ties, using the landscape as a symbol of enduring cultural identity. These rhetorical strategies not only resonate with the cultural values of the regions but also serve to strengthen political messages of unity and cooperation. The results also indicate a strong presence of themes related to heritage and tradition in the political discourse of mountainous regions. Leaders use references to ancestral connections and historical continuity to legitimize their policies and appeal to cultural pride. This theme is particularly prevalent in the Caucasus, where the landscape is deeply intertwined with notions of heritage and national identity. In the Andes, the phrase "Rooted in the mountains" underscores a deep connection between the people and their land, while in the Himalayas, leaders frequently frame their policies as protective measures for preserving sacred traditions. These references serve to bolster the legitimacy of political authority by connecting contemporary issues with longstanding cultural narratives.

Table 5

EMPHASIS ON HERITAGE IN POLITICAL DISCOURSE

<i>Region</i>	<i>Heritage Focus</i>	<i>Example Phrase</i>	<i>Frequency</i>
Himalayas	Guardians of tradition	"We are guardians of our sacred traditions."	8
Andes	Rooted in the mountains	"Our roots are deep in these mountains."	10
Alps	Peaks of our past	"Each peak holds a piece of our history."	7
Caucasus	Ancestral land	"This land is our ancestral right."	11

The comparative analysis revealed both shared and distinct elements in how mountainous environments influence political discourse across regions. While resilience and community are common themes, their articulation varies depending on the cultural context. For instance, in the Andes, resilience is often framed in terms of standing tall and enduring hardships, reflecting the rugged and formidable landscape. In contrast, the discourse in the Himalayas places a greater emphasis on spiritual endurance and the sanctity of the mountains, aligning with the region's broader cultural and religious significance [8].

The influence of cultural features shaped by mountain climates extends beyond rhetoric into actual policy and governance. In regions like the Caucasus, where heritage and land are deeply valued, policies often prioritize environmental protection and the preservation of cultural sites. Similarly, in the Alps, there is a strong focus on community-based initiatives and regional autonomy, reflecting the emphasis on unity and local identity.

Table 6

POLICY FOCUS IN MOUNTAINOUS REGIONS

<i>Region</i>	<i>Policy Focus</i>	<i>Example Policy</i>
Himalayas	Environmental protection	Preservation of sacred mountain areas
Andes	Community development	Support for local agricultural cooperatives
Alps	Regional autonomy	Policies supporting regional governance structures
Caucasus	Cultural heritage preservation	Protection of historical and cultural landmarks

These policies not only reflect the cultural values shaped by mountain climates but also reinforce them through governance, creating a cyclical relationship between environment, culture, and politics.

The results of this study underscore the significant impact of mountain climates on cultural features and their reflection in political discourse. The recurring themes of resilience, community, and heritage highlight the deep connections between the physical environment and cultural identity in mountainous regions. Political leaders effectively harness these cultural narratives to resonate with their audiences, using the landscape as a powerful rhetorical tool. This study contributes to a deeper understanding of how geography shapes not only cultural practices but also political communication, with implications for both regional governance and broader studies of environmental influence on society.

The findings of this study reveal a significant interplay between mountain climates, cultural features, and their reflection in political discourse across various regions. The analysis underscores the ways in which environmental factors, such as the harsh conditions and isolation typical of mountainous areas, shape distinct cultural values that resonate deeply in the political narratives used by leaders in these regions. This discussion explores the implications of these findings, comparing the similarities and differences across regions, and considers the broader impact of these dynamics on governance and cultural preservation. Mountain climates inherently demand resilience and adaptability, fostering cultural traits that emphasize endurance, self-reliance, and a strong sense of

community. The results show that these cultural features are not merely abstract values but are actively cultivated and reinforced through political discourse. For instance, the frequent use of metaphors related to climbing and standing tall in the Himalayas and Andes aligns with the physical and metaphorical challenges posed by the mountainous environment. This suggests that environmental conditions directly inform the collective consciousness of these communities, as seen in their cultural expressions and political rhetoric [2, 5].

The strong emphasis on community and unity, particularly in the Alps and Caucasus, reflects how physical isolation and interdependence in mountain regions necessitate close social bonds. Political leaders leverage these themes to foster a sense of solidarity and collective responsibility, which is crucial for effective governance in these challenging environments. The repeated references to heritage and tradition, as observed in the Caucasus, highlight the role of the landscape in anchoring cultural identity and legitimizing political authority. This connection between environment and culture underscores the broader principle that geographic factors are deeply intertwined with the formation of social and political structures [4].

While common themes such as resilience, community, and heritage emerge across all regions, the articulation and emphasis of these themes vary, reflecting the unique historical and cultural contexts of each area. In the Andes, the political discourse often frames resilience in terms of standing firm and enduring, drawing on the imagery of the towering, rugged peaks that dominate the landscape. This framing resonates with the Andean cultural emphasis on strength and survival in a challenging environment, which has historical roots in the indigenous communities that have inhabited these regions for centuries [8].

In contrast, the discourse in the Himalayas frequently incorporates spiritual dimensions, with metaphors of enlightenment and transcendence linked to the mountains. This reflects the broader cultural and religious significance of the Himalayas in South Asian societies, where mountains are not only physical entities but also sacred spaces imbued with spiritual meaning. Political leaders capitalize on this cultural narrative to connect contemporary political goals with deeply ingrained spiritual and cultural values, enhancing the emotional appeal of their rhetoric.

The Alps present a different but related dynamic, where the emphasis on regional autonomy and community-based governance reflects the historical development of small, self-sufficient communities that maintain a degree of independence. Political discourse in the Alps often highlights the importance of local traditions and environmental stewardship, aligning with broader European values of sustainability and cultural preservation [3]. This region's political narratives underscore the role of the environment in shaping not just cultural values, but also political structures and policy priorities.

This table highlights the relative emphasis on different cultural themes in the political discourse of each region, illustrating how environmental and cultural contexts shape distinct rhetorical strategies.

Table 7

COMPARATIVE EMPHASIS ON CULTURAL THEMES IN POLITICAL DISCOURSE

<i>Region</i>	<i>Resilience</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Heritage</i>	<i>Spirituality</i>
Himalayas	High	Moderate	Moderate	High
Andes	High	Moderate	High	Low
Alps	Moderate	High	High	Low
Caucasus	High	High	High	Moderate

The integration of cultural themes shaped by mountain climates into political discourse has practical implications for policy and governance. In regions where heritage and land are deeply

valued, such as the Caucasus, policies often prioritize the protection of cultural and environmental resources. This is seen in initiatives aimed at preserving historical sites, promoting traditional crafts, and safeguarding the natural landscape from industrial exploitation. Such policies are not only culturally resonant but also serve to strengthen the legitimacy of political leaders who position themselves as guardians of the community's heritage.

Similarly, in the Alps, the emphasis on community and local governance is reflected in policies that support regional autonomy and encourage community-based initiatives. This aligns with the broader cultural values of self-reliance and local identity, reinforcing the connection between cultural features and political priorities. In the Himalayas and Andes, where resilience is a dominant theme, policies often focus on disaster preparedness, sustainable development, and initiatives that empower local communities to overcome environmental and economic challenges.

Table 8

POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF CULTURAL THEMES IN MOUNTAIN REGIONS

<i>Region</i>	<i>Cultural Theme</i>	<i>Policy Focus</i>
Himalayas	Resilience	Disaster preparedness, sustainable development
Andes	Heritage	Cultural preservation, community development
Alps	Community	Regional autonomy, local governance
Caucasus	Heritage and Unity	Environmental protection, cultural heritage

These policy focuses demonstrate how cultural narratives, shaped by the mountainous environment, influence the governance strategies adopted in these regions [13]. By aligning policy initiatives with culturally significant themes, political leaders can effectively address the needs and values of their constituents, enhancing both the appeal and effectiveness of their governance. The study's findings have broader implications for understanding the role of environmental context in political discourse. The pervasive use of mountain-related imagery and themes in the political rhetoric of these regions suggests that geography is not just a backdrop for cultural and political life, but a fundamental component that shapes how communities see themselves and their leaders. This has implications for how political communication is tailored to resonate with specific audiences, particularly in regions where the physical environment plays a significant role in daily life. Furthermore, the study highlights the importance of considering cultural context in the analysis of political discourse. While resilience and community are universal themes, their specific manifestations and rhetorical deployment can vary significantly based on regional cultural norms and historical experiences. Understanding these nuances is crucial for a comprehensive analysis of political rhetoric, particularly in diverse and geographically distinct regions such as mountainous areas [14].

The intricate relationship between mountain climates, cultural identity, and political discourse reveals the profound ways in which geography shapes human experience and expression. In mountainous regions, where the environment imposes unique challenges and fosters distinctive values, cultural narratives of resilience, unity, and heritage are not just reflections of the landscape but are woven into the very fabric of political rhetoric. Political leaders, aware of the deep-seated connections their constituents have with the land, skillfully invoke these themes to resonate with the collective consciousness, inspiring a sense of pride, solidarity, and shared purpose. The recurring metaphors of peaks and heights, the evocation of ancestral ties to the land, and the celebration of community bonds all underscore how deeply the environment influences cultural and political life. These narratives are not only culturally resonant but also strategically potent, serving to legitimize leadership, galvanize support, and reinforce the continuity of tradition and identity in the face of modern challenges. Whether it is the spiritual undertones of the Himalayas, the steadfast endurance

of the Andes, the communal spirit of the Alps, or the heritage-driven pride of the Caucasus, each region's discourse reflects a unique interplay between nature and human society.

Ultimately, this study illuminates the enduring power of place in shaping the stories we tell about ourselves and our communities. It reminds us that political discourse is not just about policies and power but is also a mirror of our deepest values, hopes, and connections to the world around us. In the towering peaks and rugged terrains of mountainous regions, we see more than just physical landscapes; we see the contours of human resilience, the heights of our aspirations, and the steadfastness of our shared journey. As these narratives continue to evolve, they will undoubtedly remain rooted in the mountains that have shaped them, standing as a testament to the enduring bond between environment, culture, and the human spirit.

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