A Functional Analysis of 2013 Australian Member of Parliament and Prime Minister Debates

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Abstract

Kevin Rudd (Labor) engaged in two election debates in 2013: first for his seat in Parliament (Griffith) and then for Prime Minister. In seeking re-election to his Griffith seat he was challenged by Bill Glasson (Liberal), Geoff Ebbs (Green), and Karen Hunter (Palmer United). He faced Tony Abbott (Liberal) in the PM Debate. This study content analyses these two debates: an August 6, 2013 Member of Parliament debate and an August 11, 2013 Prime Minister debate. Acclaims were more common in these two debates than attacks; defenses were the least common function. Statements about policy outnumbered those on policy. In each debate, when the candidates discussed record in office (past deeds), the incumbent acclaimed more and attacked less than the challenger. More acclaims and fewer attacks addressed general goals and ideals.

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leanings and how they rated leaders’ competence and trustworthiness: Source: A Green, ‘Antony Green: Vote Compass reveals how voters view our leaders’, ABC News, 13 August 2013, accessed 13 August 2013. The Prime Minister must ensure that a general election is held before the term expires. The Queen may issue writs for a new election at any time, except when a new ministry has been appointed and the Prime Minister has yet to appear before the Folketing. Polling day: Set by royal public notice. A draft of the statutory instrument must have been approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament. The draft must be accompanied by a statement setting out the Prime Minister’s reasons for proposing the change in polling day. Early general election: An early general election takes place if The Prime Minister. The Cabinet. The Speakers. While Parliament is in session, MPs typically spend Monday to Thursday in Ottawa, and Fridays and weekends in their riding, although this can change depending on their meeting schedules and on Parliament’s business. When Parliament is sitting, there is a routine schedule to follow called the Daily Order of Business. MPs spend a set amount of time in the Chamber, in their offices and in committees. Like Senators, MPs work on committees to examine proposed bills in detail and to investigate issues. They also hear witnesses and report back to the House with their findings and recommendations.