

**A Pragmatic Analysis of Selected Political Interviews in a
Nigerian Newspaper**

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Recommended Citation

Omolabi, I. & Adedimeji, M. A. (2019) A Pragmatic Analysis of Selected Political Interviews in a Nigerian Newspaper. *All Nations University Journal of Applied Thought*, 6(2):88-120.

Available at:

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ABSTRACT

Language is a pivotal instrument in political dispensations and as man is a political animal, he manipulates the language at his disposal for designing his world and accomplishing his numerous social goals. Thus, the study explores a pragmatic analysis of selected political interviews in *The Punch* newspaper with a view to seeing how politicians use language to express and convince people of their thoughts. The study drew insights from Mey's (2001) aspects of Pragmatic acts as the theoretical framework undergirding the study. A total of ten (10) political interviews were selected and analysed from the points of pragmatic acts, implicature and presupposition. The study revealed that instantiated act practs of informing, stating, lamenting, advising, accentuating, advocating, threatening, promising etc were used in the selected political interviews in order to make people have confidence in them. The study also revealed that politicians make a lot of promises, and this flouted the maxim of quality as they may not have capacity to fulfil the promises. The study concludes that politisazcians politik with the language to achieve some ideological interest.

Introduction

Language makes human world meaningful; it facilitates interaction among people as well as enables them to create and recreate the world around them. It is central to our lives and to imagine a world without language is to imagine the unimaginable given that its use underpins the study of everything in the universe (Adedimeji, 2006). Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) in explaining how we actually use language to construe reality and enact social relationships opine that the entire architecture of language is arranged along functional lines. These they explicate along a triadic axis: ideation, interpersonal and textual functions which they call *metafunctions*. The choice of *metafunctions* rather than *functions*, they claim, is an attempt to see language beyond the notion of purpose or way of using language that has no significance

for the analysis of language itself. Therefore, the term 'metafunction' is adopted to suggest that function is an integral component within the overall theory of language system (i.e. functionality is intrinsic to all levels of language analysis).

In essence, language as a systemic resource for making and exchanging meaning is an integral tool for conducting interviews. Interviewing is one of the purest journalistic ways of finding information. An interview, according to Lawal (2001, p.20), is “an art of meeting someone personally or through telephone conversation in order to persuade the person to say something enlightening, or amusingly relevant about people and issues.”. Interviews are forms of conversation between two or more people where questions are asked by the interviewer to elicit information. An interview essentially is an interaction that is intended to educate, inform, highlight or the audience on specific issues. A political interview, in particular, is one of the greatest channels through which politicians reach their audience. This is because the interview is an avenue for them to express their opinions on a particular intriguing social or national issue; create understanding or inflame prejudice in the polity; project shoddy or superior ideas to the people; canvass political support or condemn other political parties; justify their worst actions or express their highest ideals (Adedimeji, 2013).

Therefore, the form language takes and the function it performs in political interviews is very crucial. This is because it is an avenue for politicians to perform several acts aimed at having intended perlocutionary effects on the audience, readers or listeners, in a particular context. The branch of language that is concerned with the study of language use in relation to the acts performed, its effect on participants in relation to the context of usage is pragmatics, which is basically the systematic study of language use in relation to context. Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that is focused on how words are used to perform various acts, how meaning is negotiated between speaker and hearer, and the pivotal role context plays in the interpretation of an utterance as well as to explain aspects of meaning which cannot be found in the plain sense of words or structures. According to Mey (2007, p. 6), “pragmatics studies the use of language in human communication as determined by the conditions of society”. Generally, it is concerned

with the way we convey meaning in any given socio-context through the medium of language. This meaning includes verbal as well as non-verbal meanings and it varies depending on the context, the relationship between interlocutors, and many other social factors.

The knowledge of pragmatics helps one to contextualise (situate in the apt context) and interpret the intended meaning inherent in a political interview. This study therefore embarks on a pragmatic analysis of selected political interviews in order to explore how politicians use language to perform several acts, say one thing and mean another and the pivotal role that context plays in meaning explication.

This paper pragmatically analyses ten political interviews in a major Nigerian newspaper, *The Punch*. The choice of the newspaper is selected because of its prominence and high circulation rate among Nigerians across geopolitical zones. Using Mey's theory of pragmatic acts as its theoretical framework, the paper highlights the strategies used and practs deployed in the political actors' projection of reality in a season of socio-political change.

Conceptual Review

Implicature

The term *implicature* was coined by H. P Grice in his publication *Logic and Conversation* (1975). Yule (1996) states that implicature is a short version of conversational implicature which is defined as an additional unstated meaning in a situation whereby speakers mean more than what they literally express. It is what is implied but not stated in the proposition of an utterance.

Mey (2001, p.45) asserts that “implicature is a regularity that cannot be captured in a simple syntactic or semantics rule”. According to this position, implicature goes beyond what is on the surface or deep level syntactic analysis of language study to what is not explicitly expressed but implied via the choice of lexical choices and/or other contextual variables that participants employ in their positions. The concept of implicature was originated by the philosopher H.P. Grice. The whole essence of the concept is to explain how meaning can be

derived from an utterance even when it is not explicitly stated. Moreschler (2007, p.84) explain that “Gricean and neo-Gricean pragmatics defined inferred meaning as conversational implicature, although their approach to the idea of generalized and particularized implicature vary.

Implicature helps in getting out facts or meaning from utterances. Thus, implicature bifurcate into conventional and conversational implicatures. Conventional implicature are derived based on the semantics of the words and expressions used in an utterance. Grice (1991, p.307) explains that “conventional implicature are derived based on the conventional meaning” of the words (the sentences) as uttered”

Papi (2009, p.152) defines conventional implicature “as non-truth conditional aspects of meaning which differ radically from conversational implicature because their meaning depend on the lexical items used in an utterance and not on the context of use.” Conversational implicature on the other hand are not directly related to the conversational meaning of the words expressions used in an utterance. Griffiths (2006, p.134) defines conversational implicatures as inferences that depend on the existence of certain norms for the use of language. Part of the communicational norms as proposed by Grice (1975) is the cooperative principle (CP). Grice also divided conversational implicatures into two: generalized and particularized implicature.

Generalized implicatures are also conventional meaning that are attached to utterances based on the knowledge of the lexical items used. Harnish (1991, p.334) explains that generalized implicature appear similar to a conversational implicature appear similar to a conversational implicature since the “saying of *P* would normally carry such and such an implicature.” Particularized implicatures are dependent on the content of utterance. In essence, particularized implicatures are also conversational implicatures which can be derived with resource to Grice's co-operative principle (CP). Conversational implicatures are also essentially connected with certain general features of discourse. As such, in this study, we shall be concerned with particularized conversational implicature. Grice uses the co-operative maxims to explain the workings of conversational implicature. The maxims are quantity, quality, relation and manner maxims (Grice 1975) and we shall discuss them in turn.

Maxim of Quantity: This relates to the amount of information given or provided. Under this are two maxims.

- a. Make your contribution as informative as is required (for the current purposes of the exchange).
- b. Do not make your contribution more informative than is required.

The interaction below explains the quantity maxim

A - Where are you going?

B - I'm going to school

In this exchange, the interlocutors obey the maxim of quantity. B responded to A's question by providing only the information requested by A and no other information is included in A's response. This is an ideal instance of the workings of the quantity maxim.

Maxim of Quality: This maxim emphasises that the contribution or information given should be true. Two maxims are distinguished under this category.

- a. Try to make your contribution one that is true
- b. Do not say that for which you lack adequate knowledge/evidence

For example:

A. Mba is dating that girl we saw at the party

B. That guy too likes anything in skirt!

A's utterance is expected to be true; otherwise, he/she is not expected to provide the information. The maxim of quality is expected to be upheld by participants in their interactions. Except in instance where the ideal practice is not in place, one will not expect that one's interlocutor is lying with his/her utterance.

Maxim of Relation:

- a. Be relevant

Contributions to conversation should be connected to the on-going discourse. Except in instances where other abnormal human conditions

set in, one is expected to be in tune with the line of thought or subject matter of the on-going discourse.

For instance:

A- Can I get a bus to Post-office from Tanke?

B- Yes, you can

B's utterance observes both the maxim of quality and that of quantity and it is also connected to the request by A.

The Maxim of Manner: Be perspicuous

- a. Avoid obscurity of expression
- b. Avoid ambiguity
- c. Be brief
- d. Be orderly

The maxim of manner deals with clarity of purpose as it is reflected in the expressions used in any conversational context. One is expected to avoid misconceptions by the choice of words that is deployed in any conversational encounter. It is ideal to express propositions in a manner that can be comprehended by one's interlocutor.

Human beings are not 'robots' and cannot be restricted (and are not in the real sense) with the maxims. As such, participants in an interaction may fail to obey the maxims for different reasons which may be social, personal, moral, cultural, and so forth Grice (1991, p. 310) explains that a participant in a talk exchange may fail to fulfill the maxims in various ways which unostentatiously violate a maxim.

1. He may quietly and unostentatiously violate a maxim
2. He may opt out from the operation of the maxim
3. He may flout a maxim
4. He may be faced by a clash

How then do participants get the implicated meaning in instance where the maxims are not adhered to? The flouting of these maxims makes it possible for discourse participants to rely on shared assumptions in understanding utterances. Thus, the working of implicature gives a

presumption of common ground and shared assumptions by discourse participants. Grice (1999, p.310) explains that conversational implicature relies on the following data in order for it to be worked out.

1. The conventional meaning of the words used, together with the identity of any references that may be involved
2. The cooperative principle (CP) and its maxims
3. The context, linguistic or otherwise, of the utterance
4. Other elements of background knowledge, and
5. The fact (or supposed fact) that all relevant items falling under the previous headings are available to both participants and both participants know or assume this to be the case.

Presupposition

In written as well as spoken communication, the writer makes some basic assumptions about the reader or listener (Osisanwo, 2008). Such assumptions are presuppositions. If something is presupposed, it is in a sense present in the text but as part of its implicit meaning. Any text is a combination of explicit meaning — what is overtly said; and implicit meaning — what is left 'unsaid' but taken as given, as presupposed (Fairclough 1995b, p.106).

Stalnaker (1991) explains that some presuppositions are semantic while some are pragmatic. Semantic presupposition is defined as propositions which are necessitated by the truth and by the falsity of the proposition; when any presupposition is false, the assertion lacks truth – value (Stalnaker 1991, p.42). Stalnaker (2002) explains that “to presuppose something is to take it for granted, or at least to act as if one takes it for granted, as background information “This means that presupposition should be part of the common ground in order for the proposition to be felicitous. But often times, some presuppositions may not be part of the speakers' common ground but is treated as such. The concept of accommodation is brought to use in such instance.

Ash (2008) explains that in certain cases, a presupposition can be backgrounded or accommodated i.e added to the common ground, even if it is new information, when this happens, the backgrounded information enables participants to add the new information and

increment common ground. Stoke (2010) describes accommodation as a mechanism by which a missing presupposition is supplied by the hearer in order to avoid infelicity. Hence, accommodation is the hallmark of pragmatic presupposition; it is a repair strategy in communication.

Jeyez (2004, p.95) asserts that “most theories of presupposing agree on the prethoretical intuition that to be presupposed is to be 'already there, in some relevant belief state” (Stanalker 1973, 1974, Geurts, 1995, 1999 and Beaver, 2001) Ash (2008) explains the importance of the concept of presupposition lies in the fact that no human being is a blank slate. There are things that are already expected to be in the encyclopedic knowledge of one's interlocutors on which interactions can be built.

As observed from the discussion above presupposition is more of backgrounded information. But this does not mean that it is the same as conventional implicature. The difference between presupposition and conventional implicature is that presuppositions affect truth value of utterances but conventional implicature does not.

Stoke (2010) defines semantic presupposition as a proposition which is true or false if and only if the utterance is true in the given situation. Pragmatic presupposition on the other hand, holds for a proposition in the context that the proposition fulfils felicity condition and it is commonly accepted among the participants. Hence, semantic presuppositions are required to be in fact true, while pragmatic presuppositions are merely required to be accepted in the common ground. By accepting presupposing propositions, hearers confirm their validity (Ahmed 2011).

This means that all semantic presuppositions are also pragmatic but the converse is not true (Simons 2006). The implication is that we do not need a semantic and pragmatic divide in explaining how meaning is generated in context. We need to complement semantic presupposition with the inferable speaker assumption to be able to make out meaning from the propositions used in different contexts. Yule (1996) identifies six forms of presuppositions

1. Existential presupposition

This has to do with entities named by the speaker and assumed to be present. When we name an object, it is presupposed that

the object exists. All nouns are presuppositions e.g *Simba's car is new*. This presupposes that Simbi exists and that she has a car.

2. Factive Presupposition

It is the assumption that something is true due to the presence of some verbs such as “know” and “realize”. For example, when a teacher says that he didn't realize someone has failed the exam, we can presuppose that someone has failed the exam.

3. Lexical Presupposition

It is the assumption that, in using one word, the speaker can act as if another meaning (word) will be understood. Example:

- Clara stopped smoking (she used to smoke)
- You are pregnant again (you were pregnant before)

The use of the expressions “stop” and “again” are taken to presuppose another (unstated) concept.

4. Structural Presupposition

This is the assumption associated with the use of certain words and phrases. WH-questions in English (e.g when and where) are conventionally interpreted with the presupposition that the information after the Wh-form is already known to be the case. Examples:

- When did she leave home?(She left)
- Where did you get the information? (you got the information)

5. Non- Factive presupposition

It is an assumption that something is not true. For example, verbs like “imagine”, “pretend” and “dream” are used with the presupposition that what follows is not true.

- I dreamt that I got married (I am not married)
- We imagined that we were Americans (we are not Americans)

6. Counterfactual presupposition

It is the assumption that what is presupposed is not only untrue, but is the opposite of what is true or contrary to facts.

Mey's Theory of Pragmatic Acts

Mey (2001) agrees with Austin (1962) that in uttering a speech act, the speaker does something with his or her words. He, however, disagrees with Austin and other earlier scholars on the nomenclature of 'speech acts' and the idea of 'speech act verbs' (SAVs). His argument is that there exists asymmetry in the relationship between speech act verbs (SAVs) and speech acts (SAs) proper. Mey argues that not all SAs are represented by specific SAVs but rather they may be represented by several verbal items (except the pure, strictly institutionalized SAs such as 'to baptise'). For example, the SA of 'ordering' may be expressed in various, often, indirect ways. Also, not every SA has a corresponding, custom made SAV of its own. Mey adds that SAVs are not really needed since performativity is all over the verbal spectrum. Thus, as a result of the problems noticed in SAs and SAVs, Mey came up with the idea of pragmatic acts to which a speech act is just a part.

Mey's theory of pragmatic act offers a solution to the problems that were noticed with the speech act theory. Mey's objection to the notion of speech act theory is on the insistence on the abstract idealization of the intentional speaker and hearer and not on social reality (Hoye & Kaiser, 2007 cited in Ogungbe 2012). Mey (2006) further argues that the speaker/writer and listener/reader cannot be isolated from societal reality. He contends that they cannot be isolated as they are not dummies but rather real-world users of language. Mey (2006 p.6) also observes that "speech by itself does not act: strictly speaking there are no speech acts since ultimately all speech acting crucially depends on the situation in which the action takes place. Hence, speech acts, in order to be viable, have to be situated". As Odeunmi (2006, p.157) succinctly puts it, the emphasis in pragmatic act "is not on conditions and rules for an individual speech act but on characterizing a general situation prototype, capable of being executed in the situation". Hence, pragmatic acts unfold within a particular context and are conditioned by it (Hoye & Kaiser, 2007). The basic idea about pragmatic act, as differentiated from speech act, is the fact that the pragmatic act does not depend solely on the actual words being used but rather on the circumstances that lead up to, and accompany those words. Thus, the explanatory power of pragmatic act theory lies in its focus on use, users, and context.

Mey (2001) labels the prototype or generalized pragmatic act as a **pragmeme** and its instantiation in a particular situation as a **pract**. He also submits that a pragmatic act can be approached from two points of view: **'agent'** and **'act'**. As far as the individual **'agent'** is concerned, his or her class, gender, age, education, and previous life history will affect his or her communication. Mey adds that such factors also constitute **affordances** (action possibilities latent in the context, enabling the speaker/writer to act in accordance with his or her capabilities) imposed on the individual in the form of necessary limitations on the degree of freedom that he or she is allowed in the society.

From the point of view of **'act'**, the interest is in the representation resources (language, gesture, or visual image) that are used in performing a pragmatic act. And from the point of view of the **'agent'**, the emphasis is on the user's intention and attitude to the language and visual image deployed, for example, especially as determined by the user's gender, class, status, experience, position, and education. Thus, Mey affirms that pragmatic acting can be considered as adapting oneself linguistically and otherwise, to one's world.

Mey (2001) further observes that pragmatic act engages the whole communication activities, not just the verbal or linguistic portion. It also involves body language and visual images (not as simple supplement or aid to verbal language but taking part in the communication process). According to Mey (2001, p.223), pragmatic acts are essential in "establishing and maintaining the meta-communication function of framework for communication". The theory is schematized in fig. 1 below:

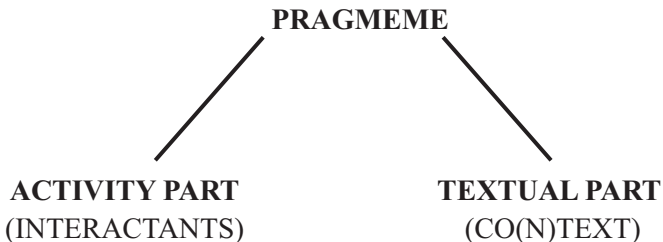


Fig. 1: Mey's model of pragmatic acts (Mey 2001, p.222)

SPEECH ACTS INF REF REL VCE SSK MPH 'M'...
INDIRECT SPEECH ACTS

PSYCHOLOGICAL ACTS (EMOTIONS)
 PROSODY (INTONATION, STRESS,...)
 PHYSICAL ACTS
 BODY MOVES (INCL. GESTURES)
 PHYSIOGNOMY (FACIAL EXPRESSIONS)
 (BODILY EXPRESSIONS OF) EMOTIONS
 ...
 Ø (NULL)

PRACT

ALLOPRACT

PRAGMEME, PRACT, ALLOPRACT

Figure 1 above shows that there are two parts to a pragmeme: activity part, meant for interactants and textual part, referring to the context within which the pragmeme operates. To communicate, the interactants draw on such speech act types as indirect speech acts, conversational ('dialogue') acts, psychological acts, prosodic acts and physical acts. These are engaged in contexts, which include INF representing "inference"; REF, "reference"; REL, "relevance"; VCE, "voice"; SSK "shared situation knowledge"; MPH, "metaphor"; and M "metapragmatic joker". The interaction between activity part and textual part results in a pract or an allopract.

Predating Models of Pragmatic Act Theory

Scholars have modified Pragmatic Act Theory in an attempt to provide firm theoretical models for their research. This section presents different models of the PAT.

Odebunmi's Model of Pragmatic Acts

Odebunmi (2006, 2008) modifies the PAT with the intent of providing a veritable tool that can adequately capture the analysis of acts performed by the use of proverbs in Ola Rotimi's *God's are not to Blame*. He

presents a new category captured as socio-cultural knowledge (SCK). This is to offer the researcher a necessary basis for accounting for the sociolinguistic nuances that account for the acts performed in Yoruba proverbs.

The model captures the classification of the proverbs in *The Gods Are Not to Blame* as crisis motivated proverbs (CMP) and non-crisis motivated crisis (NMP). These proverbs are used between the speaker and the hearer designated as (S) and (H). The model also attempted pract taxonomy.

Ogungbe's Model of Pragmatic Acts

Ogungbe (2012) designed model of analysing pragmatic acting in Nigerian newspapers which has import from many other theoretical and methodological models (such as SFL and CDA) but patterned after Mey's (2001) model of pragmatic act theory, Hoyo and Kaiser's (2007) visual act theory, and Odeunmi's (2008) model of pragmatic act. He used the model to critically analyse the pragmatic acts performs through the various meaning making resources deployed in newspaper. He opines that no single pragmatic theory can carter for the analysis of the multimodal resources that are present in Newspaper, hence, the model take a leaf from the works of Halliday, Fairclough, Hoyo and Kaiser, Odeunmi and Mey. He further claims that “no other theoretical framework would successfully offer all-encompassing analytical tools and explanations that can account for diverse pragmatic acts performed through news headlines, framing strategies, and pictures in Nigerian newspapers.

Omolabi's model of Pragmatic Acts

Omolabi (2016) modifies the PAT in order to succinctly establish the acts performed by news paper headlines. He designed the model for analyzing pragmatic acting in Nigerian newspaper which has inputs from other theoretical and methodological models (Such as Mey's 2001, Searle 1969 and Hoyo and Kaiser's 2007 visual act theory). The model introduces strategic and narrative pragmatic acts. Omolabi argues that

the various strategies engaged by journalists in news reports performed acts. This idea further corroborates Ogunbe's model on the potentials that are present in discourse strategies and framing in news reporting. The model has been further simplified to capture the heterogeneous nature of newspapers.

Conceptual Model for the Study

A purely pragmatic analysis can neither explain the concepts of language nor the wide range of contextual factors necessary for a comprehensive understanding of news reports, particularly in political interviews. Hence, the in-depth pragmatic analysis which explores the direct and indirect linguistic and pragmatic devices has to systematically explore explicit and implicit meanings in Nigerian newspapers. Therefore, the model for analyzing pragmatic acting in Nigerian newspaper which has inputs from other theoretical and methodological models (Such as Mey's 2001 and Searle 1969 theory) is adopted for data analysis. The model caters for a critical analysis of pragmatic acts performed through various textual resources in the newspaper. The analytical model is represented in the figure below:

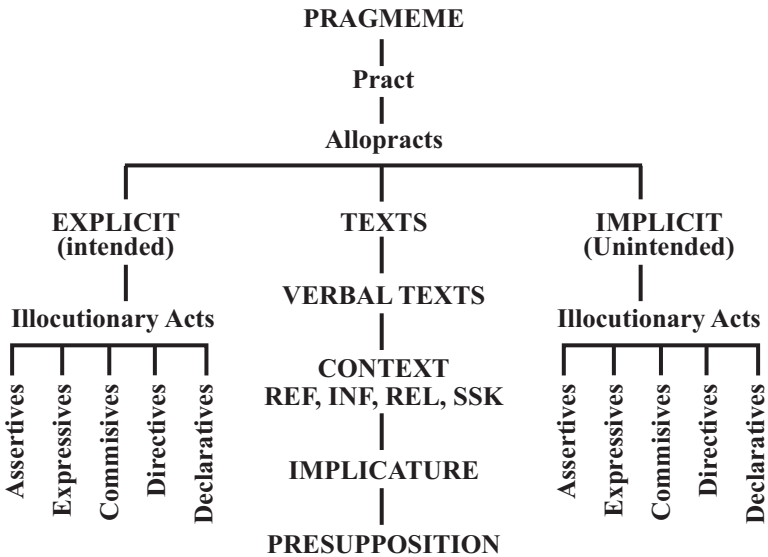


Fig.2 Modified Mey's pragmatic Acts

Figure 2 above shows the model for analyzing pragmatic acting in Nigerian newspaper which has inputs from the other theoretical models and methodological models such as Mey's (2001) pragmatic acts and Searle's (1969) classification of speech acts complemented with other elements of pragmatics such as Implicature and presupposition. In the figure above, it can be inferred that pragmeme has three parts: the explicit and implicit with Illocutionary forces and the news items under which, there is verbal text. To report facts, the journalists draw on news discourse such as political interviews and they are engaged in contexts. Given that news/interview has a lot of influence on the readers, news reports perform verbal (pragmatic acts), which interact with contextual features such as reference REF, Inference INF, Shared Situational Knowledge SSK, and Relevance REL to produce some practs which include condemning, sentisising, warning, criticising, etc. The practs are directed at both the reader and the news maker.

Methods

The study is both quantitative and qualitative critical content analysis of selected political interviews from a Nigerian newspaper, (*The punch*). The choice of the newspaper was selected as a representative of national newspapers because of its circulation cuts across the six geo political zone in Nigeria and it is known for moulding enlightened public opinion, pungent editorial issues of national interest and informed political news stories. The newspaper was also part of the most widely read newspaper in Nigeria and it shares similar features in term of circulation, coverage and fame. Ten political interviews were purposively selected for the analysis. The theoretical appurtenances of job mey's pragmatic acts complemented with other pragmatic elements such implicatrure and presuppositions were used for the analysis of selected interviews.

Data Presentation and Analysis

Datum 1:

The PDP has taken control of the strategic committees that should

drive the change agenda of the APC and Mr. President (Muhammadu Buhari) (The Punch, November 1, 2015, pg.10)

Explicit pract: Assertive (Informing)

Implicit pract: Expressive (Lamenting)

Pragmeme: In this datum, there are two instantiated pragmatic acts being performed. The first is an explicit pragmatic act of informing, while the second is an implicit pragmatic act of lamenting. The interviewee here is Mr Garba Dhatti-Muhammad, a member of the Nigerian Federal House of Representatives. He is also a member of the ruling party: All Progressives Congress (APC). The sociocultural milieu undergirding his statement is the decision of the Speaker, Nigerian Federal House of Representative, Yakubu Dogara, to appoint members of the opposition People's Democratic (PDP), into alleged important committees. This apparently annoys members of the APC who are the majority in the House (the speaker being one of them). The activity part of the pragmeme is acted on by the MrDhatti-Muhammad via the conversational (dialogue). This is undergirded by the shared situational knowledge (SSK) of recent events in the Nigerian Federal House of Representatives. His inference from this event informs the practs performed: informing and lamenting. The explicit pract of *informing* is overtly performed. The aim is to inform/reiterate to Nigerians about what is going on in the Federal House of Representatives. On the other cline, the implicit pract of *lamenting* is entailed. Dhatti-Muhammad deplores the decision made by the speaker regarding the appointment of chairmen to head different committees. He uses the medium of the interview to inform the populace that he does not agree to the way the Speaker is running the affairs of the House of Representatives, and this perceived anomaly should be corrected in the interest of Nigeria as a nation that wants to undergo *change*.

Implicature: Dhatti-Muhammad Obeys the Gricean maxim of quality: be truthful; do not lie. Indeed, the speaker gave all the three oil and gas sector committees (the supposed juicy committees) to the PDP, but the

APCs are heading majority of the committees (48). Actually, based on the dynamics of political expediency, the chairmen of the three oil and gas sector committees are traditionally allotted to the indigenes of the oil producing states (perhaps to avoid ethnic clash/super imposition) and all the members of the Federal House of Representatives from these states happened to be from the opposition party, the PDP.

Presupposition: the existential presuppositions: **The PDP... the APC** assume the existence of a party called the PDP and APC.

DATUM 2:

The President must articulate his visions and sell them to Nigerians. Let's stop diversionary issues like tribe, youths, or ethnic debate. I think the youths have had a fair share of leadership. (The Punch, Sunday November 8, 2015 pg.15

Explicit practs: Assertive (stating), (pleading), (affirming)

Implicit pract: Expressive (advocating)

Pragmeme: The interviewee in this pragmeme is Dr Paul Unongo, Deputy Chairman of the Northern Elders Council, Nigeria. In this datum, he performs at least three instantiated pragmatic acts: advising, stating and advocating. The first two practs are explicit while the last is implicit. Based on SSK, the deictic expression *The President* refers to Muhammadu Buhari, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. He is advising the President to articulate his “visions and sell them to Nigerians”. In addition, he makes a clarion call to Nigerians in general to jettison divisionary *issues like tribe, youths, or ethnic debate* in order to move the country to greater heights. The locutionary act of “I think the youths have had a fair share of leadership” .is aimed at dissuading those Nigerians saying that the youth are being side-lined or that President Muhammadu Buhari is too old to pilot the affairs of the country. The implicit act becomes axiomatic as the implicature of the pragmeme is aimed at declaring public support for the incumbent President:

Muhammadu Buhari. The interviewee advocates that the whole country should unite in their support for President Muhammadu Buhari-led Federal Government.

Implicature: The interviewee appears to flout the maxim of relevance as the three sentences are not relatively cohesive. However, in relation to the co-text (other segments of the interview: the previous as well as the subsequent ones), the excerpt obeys the maxim of relevance. As a matter of fact, the interviewee was asked: *What is your reaction to the debate on the exclusion of the youths in governance, especially in the Buhari administration?* So his response was in relation to this. In other respects, Dr Paul Unongo obeys the other Gricean maxims of quality, quantity and manner.

Presupposition: “The President” and “the youths” are existential presuppositions. *The President* assumes the existence of a particular President, and in this context, the Nigerian President, Muhammadu Buhari. *The youth* as well assumes the existence of a particular youth, and in this context, it refers to the Nigerian youths.

DATUM 3:

The effect of corruption is under-appreciated and people say that corruption is not the only problem we have. But, it's central to many things. It impacts many things. And that's about grand corruption, what about retail corruption? (The Punch, Sunday November 15, 2015) pg.14

Explicit pract: Assertive (stating)

Implicit pract: Expressive (condemning)

Pragmeme: Two kinds of pragmatic acts can be identified in the pragmeme: the explicit pragmatic act of stating and the implicit pragmatic act of condemning. The interviewee is Professor Bolaji Owasanoye, the Executive Secretary, Presidential Advisory Committee

against corruption. To perform the instantiated pragmatic act of stating, Professor Owasanoye relies on shared social cultural knowledge and inferential assumption about the history of corruption in Nigeria. Not only these, he condemns corruption lamenting that “it is central to many things ... impacts many things.” Furthermore, reference is rhetorically made to *retail corruption* which the reader reckons as part of the bane of the Nigerian society.

Implicature: Firstly, the interviewee obeys the Gricean maxim of manner as his utterance is clear in addressing the question asked: *As a member of the academia and an advocate of the fight against corruption, don't you think the issue of corruption is exaggerated in Nigeria?* Secondly, the maxim of manner is adhered to as Prof. Owasanoye's response is clear and perspicuous. In addition, the speaker is overtly truthful: corruption indeed has been the bane to Nigeria's development. The speaker however flouts the maxim of quantity: he gives more information than is needed. The basic answer to his question is: *The effect of corruption is under-appreciated and people say that corruption is not the only problem we have. Others: But, it's central to many things. It impacts many things. And that's about grand corruption, what about retail corruption?* Are ancillary, they are used to buttress the first sentence. This makes them relevant.

Presupposition: the speaker's utterance: *The effect of corruption is under-appreciated and people say that corruption is not the only problem we have. But, it's central to many things. It impacts many things. And that's about grand corruption, what about retail corruption?* presupposes the existence of corruption in Nigeria. As such, there is an existential presupposition.

DATUM 4:

But, that is not important compared to the fact that it is us in the APC who will appropriate funds for government (The Punch, November 1, 2015 pg.11)

Explicit pract: Assertive (affirming)

Implicit pract: Expressive (accentuating)

Pragmeme: The shared situational sociocultural knowledge undergirding the explicit pract of affirming and the implicit pract of accentuating performed in this pragmeme emanated from the allocation of ninety-three (93) chairs: 48 to the APC and 43 to the PDP, to members of the Federal House of Representatives. The participant in this conversational act is Mr. Abdulrazak Namdas, Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Media/Public Affairs. In this pragmeme, Mr. Namdas in clear term states that it is the ruling party, the APC, that *will appropriate funds for government*. This is a covert means to accentuate or remind members of the PDP that irrespective of the roles they play in government, it is the APC that is in charge of government affairs. This can be inferred from the relative clause... *who will appropriate funds for government*.

Implicature: The utterance, *But, that is not important compared to the fact that it is us in the APC who will appropriate funds for government* is in response to the question *How do you defend three oil and gas sector committees going to the PDP in a dispensation of change?* Thus it obeys the maxim of relation. The response is also clear and unambiguous. So it complies with the maxim of manner. The maxim of quality receives uptake from the fact that it is indeed the APC that is the party in charge at the federal level in Nigeria. Besides, the utterance conforms with the maxim of quantity.

Presupposition: The central assumption in Mr. Namdas expression is that there is a party called the All Progressives Congress (APC), and it is this party that *will appropriate funds for government*, or is in charge of the administration of the country. This is an existential presupposition.

DATUM 5

We have not been able to produce goods that are competitive in the

international market because we are an import-dependent nation.
(The Punch, November 8, 2015 pg.10)

Explicit pract: Assertive (stating)

Implicit pract: Expressive (condemning)

Pragmeme: The interviewee in this pragmeme is Sheriffdeen Tella, a Professor of Economics, Olabisi Onabanjo University. The textual part of the pragmeme is Professor Tella's shared situational knowledge of how the economy works. He is a professor of economics so it is presumed that any opinion he has on the matter carries a stronger *voice*. So, based on the debilitating economic situation in the country he performs a categorical instantiated pragmatic act of stating (i.e. affirming the worrisome inability of Nigeria). Apart from the explicit pract, there is also an implicit pract of *condemning*. Professor Tella indirectly condemns Nigeria for being *an import-dependent nation*. The two “we's”: *We* and *we* are a deictic expression referring exophorically to Nigerians.

Implicature: The locution, “*We have not been able to produce goods that are competitive in the international market because we are an import-dependent nation*” obeys the maxim of manner as it is clear and concise. The maxims of quality and quantity are also upheld. Professor Tella is truthful by affirming that Nigeria is not producing goods that are competitive in the international market; thus she is an export-dependent nation. In addition, his submission is straight to the point: no more or less is needed to make it clearer. It is also relevant as it is part of the utterance which answers the question: *How will naira devaluation benefit Nigeria?* posed to him by the interviewer.

Presupposition: The utterance contains factive presupposition. It factually presumes that Nigeria used to produce goods that were quite competitive in the international market.

DATUM 6

The era of federal might is gone. What we want to do is to work with the states and local government using the platform of the national council on health. (The Punch Sunday November 22, 2015 pg. 15)

Explicit practs: Commissive (promising)

Implicit practs: Expressive (condemning)

Pragmeme: The speaker in this pragmeme is Professor Isaac Adewole, the Minister of Health of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. His locution is based shared situational knowledge of what was obtainable in the previous regime as regards the use of Federal might which often created division among states and local governments. As such, he promises a more unifying system of health scheme using an explicit instantiated pragmatic act of *promising*. Thus, he promises that the Federal Government will work with both the state agencies as well as the local government in order to achieve a unifying healthcare system. There is also an indirect pract of condemning. Probably having the shared situational knowledge of a proclivity to blame the past government, Professor Isaac Adewole indirectly condemns the previous administration; for using *federal might* and side-lining state and local government.

Implicature: Professor Adewole observes the maxim of manner by being succinct and unambiguous. He also sticks to the maxim of relevance because his response is part of the answer to the question: *Are there things you have mapped out to work out the states to ensure that your policies do not end up only at the federal level?*. The maxim of quantity is tacitly flouted. The locution “*The era of federal might is gone*”, does not in any way point to a particular regime. However, based on socio-cultural knowledge and spatio-temporal factors, it is assumed to be referring to the recently ousted government of ex-President Goodluck Jonathan. This also appears to flout the maxim of quality which states that “do not say that for which you lack evidence”. Though Professor Adewole is merely stating his own opinion, no court of law has

condemned the ousted administration of such executive high handedness. Moreover, as a serving minister of health of the federal republic of Nigeria, Professor Adewole is expected to explicitly and implicitly speak the truth always as everything he says carries weight and can have far greater implication.

Presupposition: *The era of federal might is gone* carries a lexical presupposition which implies that there was a regime which used *federal power*. On the other hand the reference to *states* and *local government* presupposes their existence. Thus, this is an existential presupposition

DATUM 7

The police are not preventing anyone from holding peaceful procession; what we are saying is that they should not prevent others from going about their business, they should be law-abiding. (The Punch, November 15, 2015 pg.11)

Explicit practs: Assertive (informing)

Implicit pract: Directive (warning)

Pragmeme: The speaker here is the Nigerian Police Force Public Relations Officer, Olabisi Kolawole. The shared situational knowledge that undergirds this pragmeme is the hullabaloo on whether or not the pro-Biafra groups have the right to hold protest and assembly. On this issue, Mrs Kolawole reiterates that the groups are allowed to hold peaceful protest and assembly as guaranteed by the constitution but it does not include agitation to break up the country or infringing on the rights and privileges of other law-abiding citizens. This she asserts through an explicit instantiated pragmatic act of *informing.*, Besides, there is also an indirect pract of warning which is aimed at those who would otherwise break the law in the course of their protest and assembly. Her message: YOU CAN PROTEST AND ASSEMBLE AS LONG AS IT IS WITHIN THE AMBIT OF THE LAW. Given her office, her VOICE carries weight. In other respects, *reference* was made

exophorically and endophorically to certain participants outside the extracted pragmeme. To start with, *we* in her expression refer outside the text to the Nigerian Police Force. Then *they* are an endophoric anaphoric reference referring to the *Movement for the Actualisation of the Sovereign State of Biafra and the Indigenous People of Biafra*.

Implicature: The expression, *the police are not preventing anyone from holding peaceful procession; what we are saying is that they should not prevent others from going about their business, they should be law-abiding* obeys the maxim of relevance. It squarely addresses the question: *Why are the police preventing members of the Movement for the Actualisation of the sovereign State of Biafra and the Indigenous People of Biafra from protesting as guaranteed by the 1999 Constitution?* The speaker also adheres to the maxim of manner by keeping her response simple and straightforward, avoiding in every way any form of ambiguity. Elsewhere she conforms to the maxim of quality and quantity by being truthful and giving adequate information as expected of her and her position.

Presupposition: The phrase, “The police” is an existential presupposition. It presupposes the existence of the police. Her whole expression creates a factive presupposition. This is because it assumes that protest has been going on.

DATUM 8

I will continue to break that law that makes me to remain under perpetual bondage ... We will explore all necessary means to get our separation. (The Punch, November 15, 2015 pg.10)

Explicit Practs: Commissive (threatening)

Implicit Practs: Expressive (agitating)

Pragmeme: In this pragmeme, there are two practs performed: an explicit pract of threatening and an implicit pract of agitating. The

interviewee in this context is a former Director, Youth and Sports, Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra, Mr. Ndubisi Igwekani. Based on shared situational socio-cultural knowledge, some South Easterners in the Federal Republic of Nigeria are agitating for a sovereign state: they have decided not to be part of Nigeria anymore. Mr. Ndubisi Igwekani is a staunch member of this group. So, in the pragmeme, he plainly performs a commissive pragmatic act of threatening to break away from Nigeria, implying that being a Nigerian is being under bondage. Covertly, as he is frustrated being Nigerian, one can sense agitation in his expression. This informs the indirect pragmatic act of agitating: he is trying to arouse the public interest of the Igbo in joining the secession bid from Nigeria.

Implicature: The maxim of relevance is axiomatically adhered to, as Mr. Igwekani's pragmeme is in response to a preceding question: *The agitation for Biafra has been viewed by many as a threat to Nigeria's sovereignty. Do you think your agitation is worth another war?* The maxim of manner is tacitly flouted. The second locution, ***We will explore all necessary means to get our separation*** relatively implies that every legal and *illegal* means will be used to achieve secession. This is not overtly stated but it can be seamlessly implied. The maxim of quality is also infringed on because Mr. Igwekani's utterance is prejudiced. This prejudice is based on his premise that being a Nigerian makes him "to remain under perpetual bondage." This is not axiomatically true. It is just his personal opinion which is clouded with ethnic bias.

Presupposition: There are two lexical presuppositions in this data. *I will continue to break that law that makes me to remain under perpetual bondage* lexically presupposes that he has been breaking some law. In "***We will explore all necessary means to get our separation***" it is **lexically presupposed** that the agitators are yet to ***explore all necessary means to get separation.***

Datum 9:

God designed Nigeria for unmatched success, politicians who don't

know the power of God are trying to mess up God's design. If Buhari doesn't revise his programmes; if he doesn't change, he will fail. (The Punch, December 27, 2015, pg.14)

Explicit practs: Assertive (advising)

Implicit practs: Expressive (castigating)

Pragmeme: Based on the shared situational knowledge and background knowledge that another leader, (Buhari, through his All Progressives Congress) has taken over the power from the People's Democratic Party (PDP) after its 16 years of ruling, this pragmeme is based on the fact there is need for the new president to have a new cabinet that would work with him to ensure his government runs better. Also, the speaker in this pragmeme is a prominent political figure of the People's Democratic Party and former Governor who is advising President Buhari to ensure he does what is right and give equal distribution of resources and projects among the States without being an ethnocentric President. Though this, an implicit pract of castigating the president is performed. He uses the medium of interview to recriminate the President.

Implicature: Chief Chukwemeka flouts the Gricean maxim of quality. That is, do not lie. The pragmeme debunks the existing common ground that President Buhari is wants to appoint his ministers from North. This can only be true if President Muhammadu Buhari has failed to appoint his Ministers as stated from the 1999 Constitution that a Minister should be selected from each state of the country. As matter of fact, the Minister of State for petroleum is from the South, precisely Delta State and the pragmeme ostensibly castigates the President for excluding the South from any political appointment.

Presupposition: Buhari and God are existential presuppositions. It is factive presupposition that Buhari is the President of God and there is another one is "God designed Nigeria for unmatched success", which presupposes that only God has power to decide the fate of any nation.

Datum 10:

Buhari cannot complain of lack of funds in the implementation of welfare programmes for the Nigerian people who have been sentenced to eternal agony due to grand corruption and gross mismanagement of the economy. (The Punch, December, 13, 2015, pg.14)

Explicit practs: Assertive (affirming, admitting)

Implicit practs: Expressive (condemning, prodding)

Pragmeme: The speaker in this pragmeme is the human rights lawyer, Mr. Femi Falana. In this pragmeme, he performs at least four instantiated pragmatic acts: affirming, admitting, condemning and prodding: the first two practs are explicit while the last two are implicit based on the shared situational socio-cultural knowledge (SSE) and background knowledge (BK) that the current administration is fighting corruption in the country which was one of the campaign promises of All Progressives Congress (APC). This pragmeme is therefore affirming to the audience that a lot of damage had been done in the last administration and there is need for the current administration to continue the fight against corruption. As already established that some funds have been recovered from the last administration, Mr. Femi Falana is therefore encouraging the government under Buhari's administration to continue the fight against corruption. Apart from this, the human rights lawyer condemns the president for complaining that lack of funds may hinder the implementation of welfare programme for the citizens. He therefore prods the president to fulfill his promises.

Implicature: the speaker obeys the Gricean maxim of quality and quantity as it the datum provides adequate information on what the law says in the fight against corruption. The interview is also true by advising Buhari not to complain of lack of funds before he performs his constitutional right. The interview is also relevant and it is clear and unambiguous. Therefore, the respondent obeys all the Gricean Maxims.

Presupposition: The speaker's utterance that President Buhari cannot

complain of lack of funds for the implementation of welfare programme for the Nigerian people who have been sentenced to eternal agony due to grand corruption and gross mismanagement of the economy is a factive presupposition. This is because it has already established that some funds have been recollected from the last administration.

Table 1: Summary of the Analysis

Datum	PRACTS									
	Implicit Allopracts					Explicit Allopracts				
	Assertives	Expressives	Commissives	Directives	Declaratives	Assertives	Expressives	Commissives	Directives	Declaratives
1.	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
2.	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
3.	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
4.	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
5.	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
6.	-	+		-	-	-	-	+	-	-
7.	+	-	-	-	-	-		-	+	-
8.	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
9.	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
10.	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-

Table 2: Frequency of Occurrence of Implicit and Explicit Practs

S/N	ALLOPRACTS: Implicit and Explicit	Number of Occurrences	Ratio of Occurrences
1.	Assertives	8	40%
2.	Expressives	9	45%
3.	Directives	1	5%
4.	Commissives	2	10%
5.	Declaratives	-	-
	Total	20	100%

Table 2 above shows the overall frequencies of occurrence and percentages of the implicit and explicit allopracts that occurred in the study. Expressive allopracts has the highest frequencies of occurrence with 45%. This is closely followed by Assertives act with 40%; Directive pract has the number of occurrence of 5%; Declarative pract was not present in the analysis. This shows that political interviews are known for the expressive statements in projecting their views to the readers through assertive practs of, informing and stating which are foundational to the performance of various pragmatic acts (Expressives, Directives, Commissives) of condemning, admitting, advising, castigating, threatening, agitating, advocating lamenting, promising

Table 3: Distribution of Implicature and presupposition

Datum	Implicature: Maxim				Presupposition					
	Quality	Quantity	Manner	Relevance	Existencial	Factive	Lexical	Structural	Non-Factive	Counter Factual
1.	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
2.	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-
3.	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
4.	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-
5.	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
6.	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
7.	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
8.	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-
9.	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
10.	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-

Table 4: Frequency of Occurrence of Implicature

S/N	Implicature: Maxims	Number of Occurrences	Percentages
1.	Quality	3	42.9%

2.	Quantity	2	28.5%
3.	Manner		
4.	Relevance	2	28.5
		-	-
	Total	7	100%

Table 3 above shows the distribution of the four Gricean maxims with maxim of quality has the highest percentage of 42.9%. This is followed by maxim of quantity and relevance with 28.5%; and maxim of manner was not flouted in the news report. This implies that most of the political interviews were relevant and situated within the context of the stories of the abducted girls.

Table 5: Frequency of Occurrence of Types of Presupposition

S/N	Presupposition: Types	Number of Occurrences	Percentage
1.	Existential	5	41.6%
2.	Factive	6	50%
3.	Lexical	1	8.3%
4.	Non-Factive	-	-
5.	Counterfactive	-	
6.	Structural	-	-
	Total	-12	100%

Table 5 above shows the distribution of various types of presuppositions found in the selected interviews. The factive presupposition has the highest percentage of 50% followed by existential presupposition which has 41.6% while lexical presupposition with 8.3%. Other types of presupposition such as structural, non factive were not observed in the paper.

Findings and Conclusion

The study revealed that the instantiated pragmatic act (practs) is concrete to the instantiation of each particular pract. Two types of allopracts were observed: explicit and implicit allopracts. The implicit allopracts are

overtly used to perform specific act such as *informing* and *stating*. This is because political interviews inform to the public about the political issues, politics, political actors and issues in the country.

The study has equally revealed that political interviews are structured in different ways to perform some explicit pragmatic acts of reporting, and asserting facts about their parties. Nevertheless, the explicit practs pave way for the performance of implicit (Expressive pract) such as condemning, challenging, urging, castigating etc. This is in consonance with the findings of Chiluya (2007) that the pragmatic values of news reports are implied or invisible.

The study has also sought to reveal that out of four Gricean maxims, only the maxim of manner was not flouted. The maxim of quality, quantity and relevance were mainly flouted in the study which was due to one reason or the other as they failed to give enough information i.e datum 8 and also where the information that was given lacks evidence or it is untrue such can be found in datum 3 and 6 etc. However, the dearth violation of the maxim of manner was due to the fact the interviews were presented unambiguously.

Furthermore, the study has also sought to reveal that out of six types of presupposition identified by Yule (1996), only four are observed in the selected data. These are existential, lexical and factive. Factive presupposition occurred six times with the percentage of 50%, extistential presupposition occurred fifty times with 42%; lexical presupposition occurred just once seven with the percentage of 12%. The preponderant occurrences of factive presupposition and to some extent existential presupposition was due to the fact that the assumptions being made on the selected interviews are inherently actual and real and easily embedded in structures of the study.

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