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A pragma-sociolinguistic analysis of selected political speeches of Governor Dapo Abiodun

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Abstract:

The most essential tool of human existence and survival in any functional society is communication through the use of language. However, pragmatics is one among many other linguistic tools for analysing language use. While communicating through language, sometimes, there are instances of communication mismatch such as misinterpretation and misrepresentation of content as a result of personal or sociological affront. For this study, there will be a retrospect on both Nigerian society and their pragmatic usage of language. This is to ascertain how interlocutors encode their intended messages to their targeted audience. Invariably, this will be done by looking at the different functions of language use in political speeches with proper language choice, context, and the shared beliefs of its decoders. Consequently, the study analyses the use of language and its functions in political speeches using Adegbija's (1982)[1] Pragma-sociolinguistic theory and Lawal's (1997)[2]aspect of Pragmatic theory. For adequate analysis of the data, two political speeches of Governor Dapo Abiodun were procured from the internet. Forty utterances were randomly selected but for this study, six utterances were reflected in this paper, thereby constituting the data used in carrying out the research, using the pragma-sociolinguistic analytical procedure. The illocutionary acts in the speeches were calculated with their percentages shown on a bar chart. When the speeches were analysed and the illocutionary acts frequencies enumerated, it was revealed that the positive response to any political speech depends largely on the effort of the speaker to get his intention known to the audience using appropriate language in an appropriate social context. The study concluded on the note that appropriate language use in day-to-day activities is very germane, especially in politics as this procures positive results. In essence, to improve linguistic communication in politics, appropriate language usage, mutual intelligibility and the social context of the locutionary act go a long way.

[1]Adegbija, E. (1982). A Speech act Analysis of Consumer Advertisement. U.S.A: Indiana University Ph.D. Dissertation.
[2]Lawal, A. (1997). A Speech act analysis of Soyinka's "telephone conversation''. In A. Lawal (Ed.), Stylistics in theory and practice. 150-172. Ilorin: university of Ilorin.

Keywords: Pragma-sociolinguistic, political speeches, language, context and illocutionary acts

Introduction

Language is a peculiar feature of humans, which primary function is communication. It also functions as a means through which feelings, emotions, and desires are expressed. Most importantly, language serves as a medium for building relationships and passing down ideas. Basically, language is a tool of communication. It is through language that feelings, ideas, and emotions are expressed. Gunarwan (2004, p. 6)[3]stated that the function of a language is to make the communicants be able to understand the messages that they deliver. When a single language is used and both speakers understand each other, it means that good communication has occurred. A speaker of a language must acquire extra-linguistic knowledge about the world in addition to his linguistic knowledge (vocabulary and rules of grammar) to succeed in communicating with others (Sameer, 2017, p. 135)[4]

While communicating through language, more is often meant than what is said which is shown by how people ask about something, complain about something, make commands or offer to do something, etc. Pragmatics does not draw meaning from the sentence structure alone; it rather draws meaning from the sentence structure and context of the speech. Pragmatics provides a deeper and fuller meaning to communications. It has been defined as the study of speaker/context meaning showing how language users manipulate language forms, distort or reorganise sentences to express their intentions. Therefore, pragmatics demonstrates the relationships between what speakers say, what they mean, and the kind of effect they expect on the minds of the hearers. It considers the context of the utterance, the interlocutors involved, their knowledge and intention in the speech situation, and many other factors. Adeyanju (2009)[5]submits that pragmatics may be seen as the study of language use in particular communicative contexts or situations of necessity; this would take cognizance of the message being communicated or the speech act being performed; the participants involved; their intention, knowledge of the world and the impact of these on their interactions; what they have taken for granted as part of the context (or the presupposition); the deductions they make based on the context; what is implied by what is said or left unsaid; the impact of the non-verbal aspects of interaction on meaning, etc.

Most times, people are unaware that there is an underlying meaning beyond the sentence structure. Opeibi (2009)[6]notices that most politicians are unaware of

[3]Gunarwan A. (2004). Dari Pragmatikkepengajaran bahos [From pragmatics to language teaching]. (Bachelor), IKIP Negeri Singaraja, Singaraja.
[4]Crystal, D. (1980). The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
[5]Adeyanju, D. (2009). Pragmatic Features of Political Speeches in English by some prominent Nigerian leaders. Journal of Political Discourse Analysis. Vol.2(2). U.S.A: Nova Science Publisher.
[6]Opeibi, B. O. (2009). Discourse, Politics, and the 1993 Presidential Election Campaigns in Nigeria. Lagos: Nouvelle Communications Limited.

the fact that there is a link between what is said, what is meant, and the action conveyed by what is said. The concept of speech is common in all fields, especially in politics. Politicians use this method of communication to convey information to citizens and to maintain a strong link between state representatives (i.e., state power) and citizens.

In politics, politicians need to be competent pragmatically so that they are aware of how they use words and what words suit the context they are in. The most important pragmatic reflections seen in political speech are "speech acts" because the speech implies immediate actions. The words used in speech can have an extreme impact on the way that future events can happen. These are promised, declared statements that make a radical change of perspective. Sentences are not made in isolation but rather are context-dependent in their meaning. The interpretation of any sentence depends on the interpretation of the relationship between contexts. Speeches are capable of influencing the mind of the reader (s) when the context is taken into consideration, political ones for that matter. Implicitly, there are hidden intentions in most political speeches. Pragmatic elements help to bring out the intended meaning of these speeches. Since pragmatics is a field of linguistics and language is used in communicating these political speeches; it is important that the relationship between language and politics is established.

Language is one of the crucial tools needed for human survival and existence because it is the best source and most effective way of communicating. Relationships between people, communities, tribes, states, nations, etc. are created and sustained through language. Language plays an important role in the existence of humans so does politics. The importance of language to the human race is not limited to one facet of human life; it cut across every facet of human life; health, education, religion, culture, innovations, inventions politics, etc.

The relationship between language and politics must be established as this research focuses on analysing pragmatically, the randomly selected political speeches in the Southwestern region of Nigeria. It is no doubt that language is essential in the politics of any country or state. This is because, through language, electorates are moved to either put a party candidate into power or remove them from power. As language is an essential entity to humans and society, so is it essential to politicians. Politics is the set of activities that are associated with making decisions in groups or other forms of power relations between individuals, such as the distribution of resources or status; these activities and decisions are however carried out through language.

In every process or act of politics, language plays a vital role, because every political action is prepared, accompanied, influenced, and played by language. Language in politics has been established as an important tool. Pragmatics is essential in analysing the language of politics. Reading the meaning of political language does not depend on the semantics alone; the socio-cultural context alongside the semantics, gives deeper meaning. Considering the context in deriving meaning, helps the reader of political discourse grasp beyond the words uttered. Powerful institutions or an individual makes use of language as both a means of constructing their power and as a way to maintain it.

The intrinsic link between language and politics has been recognized for a while now, especially from the time Aristotle wrote "that man is more of a political animal than bees or any other gregarious animal is evident. Nature, as we often say, makes nothing in vain, and man is the only animal whom she has endowed with the gift of speech" (Politics 1-II). The link between language and politics is a broad and highly competitive area in academic study. It is now agreed that the relationship between "language and power" is a mutual one. Beard (2000)[7]claims that: it is important to study the language of politics because it helps us to "understand how language is used by those who wish to gain power, those who wish to exercise power, and those who wish to keep power".

This means that the level of support citizens has for politicians is dependent on what they say and how they say it for success to be achieved whether in candidacy, programmes, or policies. Charteris-Black (2005)[8]states that "within all types of the political system, from autocratic, through oligarchic to democratic; leaders have relied on spoken word to convince others of the benefits that arise from their leadership". Language is essential to politicians and all their activities, which range from campaigns, manifestos, elections, and inaugurations, to governance are all performed through the creation of language. The support that a politician gets from the public depends on their choices of vocabulary, their use of language, and what they say and how it is been said. This is what led Opeibi (2009)[9]to refer to the relationship between language and politics as symbiotic. It is quite conceivable that politics has become a linguistic issue while language has become a political issue.

Political speeches came forth during the Classical Rhetoric times as the primary object and earliest forms of linguistic interest. Over the centuries, they have preserved their forms which are: deliberative, forensic, and epideictic as well as their significant manipulative potential. Political speeches serve as a text, an output, and as a process that may be spoken or written (Opeibi 2009)[10]. According to Duhaime's Law Dictionary, political speeches are expressions that comment on the government's action rather than the private conduct of an individual. Political speech is a part of the political communication process that is under the study of political science. In The First Amendment, political speech is a category of speech and the Supreme Court of the United States of America (USA), has long considered political and ideological speech to be at the core of the First Amendment. A political speech serves as a text, as an output, and as a process that may be spoken or written (Opeibi 2009)[11]. It is a speech or writing that is intended to influence people. From the latter, it is quite obvious that the major purposes of political speeches are to influence, educate, inform, etc.

[7]Beard, A. (2000). The Language of Politics. London: Routledge, 2000. Print
[8]Charteris-Black, J. (2005). Politicians and Rhetoric: The Persuasive Power of Metaphor. Hound mills, Basingstoke, Hampshire, New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
[9]Opeibi, B. O. (2009). Discourse, Politics, and the 1993 Presidential Election Campaigns in Nigeria. Lagos: Nouvelle Communications Limited.
[10]Opeibi, B. O. (2009). Discourse, Politics, and the 1993 Presidential Election Campaigns in Nigeria. Lagos: Nouvelle Communications Limited.
[11]Opeibi, B. O. (2009). Discourse, Politics, and the 1993 Presidential Election Campaigns in
Nigeria. Lagos: Nouvelle Communications Limited.

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Beard (2000)[12]observes that political campaigns, speeches, written texts, and broadcasts are meant to inform and instruct voters about issues that are considered to be of great importance.

From these submissions, it is crystal clear that speech-making is one of the political activities of politicians which are made possible through the channel opened up by language. In political speeches, ideas and ideologies need to be communicated through language so that they are agreed upon by the receivers as well as others who may read or hear parts of the speech afterward in the media. It is known that speeches of any kind including political speeches are composed by a team of professional speech writers who are educated in the ethics of speech writing and the use of persuasive language. A political speech is not necessarily a success because of the correctness of truth; rather it may be a matter of presenting arguments (Beard, 2000, p. 18)[13].Several speeches are made to address the people before the election; these speeches could also be referred to as 'Pre-election special addresses', especially at rallies and campaigns.

The office of the Governor is the highest political office in the thirty-six states in Nigeria; therefore, it needs to be in constant touch with the people and this is made possible through speech-making. The election of Governor Dapo Abiodun was one of a kind in Ogun state, Nigeria; as he faced opposition from the member of his party, the All-Progressive Congress (APC), and the outgoing Governor, Senator Ibikunle Amosun.

A democratically elected government must premium on those allowed to vote as democracy is the government of the people, for the people, and by the people. Therefore, speech-making is the primary means of building, establishing, and strengthening these social relationships, expressing feelings, and selling policies, ideas, and programmes in any society. From this point of view, it is quite agreeable that politics has now become a linguistic affair while language has become a political issue.

In summary, this research intends to analyse the basic actions performed or intended to be performed by the selected political speeches using Adegbija's (1982)[14]and Lawal's(1997)[15]

[12]Beard, A. (2000). The Language of Politics. London: Routledge, 2000. Print.
[13]Beard, A. (2000). The Language of Politics. London: Routledge, 2000. Print.
[14]Adegbija, E. (1982). A Speech act Analysis of Consumer Advertisement. U.S.A: Indiana University Ph.D. Dissertation.
[15]Lawal, A. (1997). A Speech act analysis of Soyinka's "telephone conversation''. In A. Lawal (Ed.), Stylistics in theory and practice. 150-172. Ilorin: university of Ilorin.

theory of pragmatics. Politicians especially are unaware of the fact that there is a link between what is said, what is meant, and the action conveyed by what is said. There have been cases where the words of politicians were used against them. In politics, politicians need to be competent pragmatically so that they are aware of how they use words and what words suit the context they are in.

Statement of Problems

The importance of language in every field of human life cannot be overemphasized. The essentiality of language in politics is just like the importance of money in politics. The use of language in political speech-making and how it is used to make the speech meaningful to the hearer is a very important enterprise that must be ventured into. Even though plain and simple language is used in political speeches, it is quite hard to grasp the underlying meaning without pragmatic competence. Sometimes these political speeches are always interpreted out of context or interpreted by the structure of the sentences thereby attaching wrong meanings or not getting the underlying meaning. Some of these misconceptions or misreadings are a result of a lack of background knowledge of the situation of the nation or state. It is on this basis that the task of this paper is to clarify some of these speeches by providing a pragmatic explanation as regards how context plays an important role in the meaning of political speeches as a way of clearing some of these misconceptions.

Significance of the Study

Politics has been a part of man and human society since the beginning of mankind. There is no doubt in the fact that man is the brain behind political activities, which makes man the master planer of politics. Politics is an important way of ordering, manipulating, and instigating electorates to vote for a particular Party using various means. Among the many means and factors that secured victory for Governor Dapo Abiodun, were his speeches. His speeches influenced and secured his victory at the March 9th, 2019, gubernatorial election held in the state. However, only a few people understand the underlying pragmatic import of these speeches. The main significance of this study is that the governor won the election with the aid of his campaign speeches and manifestos. To this end, this study is carried out to shed more light on the pragmatic exploration in the speeches, and to analyse how the encoder (Governor Dapo Abiodun) was able to use language to win the hearts of the electorates.

It is expedient to note that, for any pragmatic analysis to be successfully carried out, certain guidelines must be set out. Consequently, this paper developed some specific aims and objectives to achieve the purpose of this study which is to establish the efficacy of an effective and appropriate language use. Some of these aims and objectives are:

i. To bring out some linguistic features like locutionary, illocutionary, figurative expressions, etc. in the selected speeches;
ii. to analyse and discuss the pragmatic features like the context, participants, intention, presupposition, implicature, etc. and
iii. to also examine the socio-pragmatic features in the speeches.

Pragmatics as a subfield of linguistics has certain areas that it covers as a study of meaning. These areas include presupposition, performatives, implicature, cooperation, deixis, speech acts, and so on. Under the above-mentioned areas, Pragmatics can broadly be said to have a scope that involves:

- the message being communicated
- the participants involved in the communication
- the knowledge of the world they share
- the deductions to be made from the text on the basis of context
- the implications of what is said or what is left unsaid
- the impact of the non-verbal aspect of interaction on meaning (Osisanwo, 2003)[16]

However, every pragmatic analysis is geared towards certain investigations. Adegbija (1999, p.198)[17]and Osisanwo (2003, p.57)[18] observe that the goal of pragmatics includes knowing:

- How utterances convey meaning.
- The roles of context in encoding and decoding message.
- How meaning is decoded from utterances in context and situations.
- How deductions are made in context with respect to what meaning has been encoded in a particular sentence.

Theories of Pragmatics

Pragmatic theories demonstrate the various attempts by scholars to explain how linguistic pragmatics demonstrates the nature of language and how it works in the context of speakers and situations. For this study, the two major theories to be used in the analysis and discussion of the data are Adegbija (1982)[19] and Lawal's (1997)[20] theories of pragmatics.

[16]Osisanwo, W. (2003) Introduction to Discourse Analysis and Pragmatics. Lagos: Femulous -Fetop Publishers
[17]Adegbija, E. (1999). The English Language and Literature in English: An Introductory Handbook. Ilorin: The Department of European Languages, University of Ilorin.
[18]Osisanwo, W. (2003) Introduction to Discourse Analysis and Pragmatics. Lagos: Femulous -Fetop Publishers
[19]Adegbija, E. (1982). A Speech act Analysis of Consumer Advertisement. U.S.A: Indiana University Ph.D. Dissertation.
[20]Lawal, A. (1997). A Speech act analysis of Soyinka's "telephone conversation''. In A. Lawal (Ed.), Stylistics in theory and practice. 150-172. Ilorin: university of Ilorin.

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Theoretical Framework

The data of this research will be investigated and analysed using the pragmatic theories of Adegbija (1982)[21] and Lawal (1997). Adegbija's" balanced and unified theory of speech acts (pragma-sociolinguistics)" and Lawal's "hierarchical structure of an utterance (surface and background)" will be used together because these theories are related and interwoven. The master speech act theory by Adegbija which he also calls the "pragma-sociolinguistics" includes linguistic context, pragmatic and social context, and this is also in Lawal's theory under the context and competencies model of an utterance. These two theories shall be adopted in this paper for logicality and coherence in the analyzing of the data.

Furthermore, the two theories will be broken down into linguistic, pragmatic, and social features, using the context as the main model. The knowledge of the linguistic, pragmatics and social context is the competence needed for the decoding and encoding of the selected speeches in any context. The first layer of competence; the linguistic context includes the phonological, syntactic, and lexical aspects of language. However, the focus of this paper will not be on the phonological and syntactic aspects of the selected speeches, rather it will be on the lexical, sociological, and pragmatic aspects. The pragmatic context will include all that can be inferred from the immediate context of our data like presupposition, MCBs, implicature, intention, world knowledge, participants, etc. The third layer will be the social context and it will include the cultural and environmental background knowledge, age, social background knowledge of the targeted audience, status, etc. Also, we shall bring out the speech acts used in these speeches. The illocutionary acts to be adopted for this study is Searle's commissive, directive, expressive, declarative, and assertive (representative).

Data Analysis

To carry out a well explicit and insightful analysis, the two selected speeches were grouped into groups; A and B. From each speech, twenty sentences were drawn out, making a total of forty sentences, which will be used for the analysis of data. Each of these sentences was labeled A1-20 and B1-20 to aid simplicity of the analysis and for easy understanding. Because of space constraints, this paper concentrated on just six utterances. However, both the qualitative and quantitative interpretations of the analysis will be based on the forty extracted utterances. The illocutionary act types in these speeches were also calculated after generating their frequencies on tables and the percentages produced were shown on a bar chart.

[21]Adegbija, E. (1982). A Speech act Analysis of Consumer Advertisement. U.S.A: Indiana University Ph.D. Dissertation.

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Data analysis
DATA A: Victory Speech

A1
"It is with immense gratitude to the Almighty God that I accept the task that has just been bestowed on me by the good people of Ogun State"

A. Linguistic Features

i. **Locutionary Act:** The locutionary act is *"It is with immense gratitude to the almighty God that I accept the task that has just been bestowed on me by the good people of Ogun State"* This act is the act of stating.

ii. **Illocutionary Act:** The illocutionary acts shown through this sentence is expressive. The speaker expresses his happiness about the outcome of the election by accepting the post via appreciation to God. The sentence simply conveys the feeling of appreciation of the speaker.

B. Pragmatic Features

i. **Presupposition:** The speaker presupposes that the audience believes that God exists. It is also assumed that the speaker believes that it is through God's mercies and help that he won the gubernatorial election of 2019. The speaker also presupposes that the audience knows the 'task' he is talking about, which is to manage the State and her people into progress and growth.

ii. **Implicature:** The utterance implies that the people of Ogun State found him worthy of being the State Governor.

iii. **Intention:** The speaker intends to make his audience know that without their support he would not have won the elections and that he is thrilled to be given the privilege to lead and direct the affairs of the State.

iv. **Mutual Contextual Belief (MCB):** The interlocutors (the Yoruba tribe) have a saying and a belief that "if you're grateful to a friend yesterday, you must get another one". The interlocutors share a common belief that, you must be grateful for whatever is done to you, so as to receive another. Another Contextual Belief is that the party's candidate won!

C. **Social Features**

i. **Social:** The relationship that exists among the interlocutors is that all are citizens of Ogun State and they all share the same belief that people need to be grateful for what is done for them.

ii. **Socio-cultural:** The society (Ogun State especially) to which the speaker and audience (encoder) belong to is a religious one. Christianity, Islam and the Traditionalists are the religions present in the State today

A2 "Though the race was tough, the challenge tasking, the odds enormous and the obstacles were many"

A. Linguistic Features

i. **Locutionary Act:** *"Though the race was tough, the challenge tasking, the odds enormous and the obstacles were many"*

ii. **Illocutionary Act:** The acts performed in the locution are *assertive* (stating) and *declarative*. The illocutionary force is an assertive force because it commits the speaker to the truth of the election process. It is declarative as well because the locution effect immediate changes in the status quo of the State. In any society, no process or job comes easily, there are always obstacles that come with it and this is what the speaker depicts in the locution.

B. Pragmatic Features

i. **Presupposition:** The speaker presupposes that the audience knows that he is referring to the election process, its hurdles, and the difficulties encountered in the cause of the election process.

ii. **Implicature:** The locutionary act implies that nothing comes easily, especially in politics. The locutionary act also implicated that political race in this part of the world (Nigeria) is not easily completed, as many trials and tribulations are encountered.

iii. **Intention:** The speaker's intention is to let his audience know that there are challenges and uneasiness in the running of any gubernatorial position. He, therefore, intends to let his audience know that, as difficult or challenging as it seemed, it was still achievable.

iv. **Mutual Contextual Belief (MCB):** The contextual belief among the interlocutors is that, *'the best things in life do not come easy by Adrianna Locke'*. This means that there are hurdles and challenges that come with certain things in life. Nothing is that easy to get or come by.

C. Social Features

i. **Social:** The interlocutors belong to the same society as they are all citizens of Ogun State and Nigeria.

ii. **Socio-cultural:** The society, in which the interlocutors belong, is a society where politics is a dirty game. As soon as intentions are made by a person to run for a political position, oppositions and trials begin to arise from every corner. Private life of such a person becomes a public affair and threats to lives occur as well.

A3 "We will run a government of all and for all".

A. Linguistic Features

i. **Locutionary Act***: "We will run a government of all and for all"*

ii. **Illocutionary Act:** The illocutionary act in the locution is *commissive*. The locution is commissive because the speaker is committing himself to practice an authentic democratic government.

B. Pragmatic Features

i. **Presupposition:** It is presupposed that the audience knows that some administrations violated the definition of democracy in Nigeria, which is the government of the people, by the people and for the people.

ii. **Implicature:** It is implied that the past administration was unfair in the governing of the State. It is also implied that the new administration will avoid every mistake that the former administration made.

iii. **Intention:** The speaker's intention is to assure the citizens of Ogun State that his administration will not be partial or biased in governing the State and her people.

iv. **Mutual Contextual Belief (MCB):** The Mutual Contextual Belief among the citizens of Ogun State and Nigeria is that a government should be fair, equal and accountable in its dealings and affairs. A government should not treat or share resources among the citizens based on the social class.

C. Social Features

i. **Social:** The interlocutors are all citizens of Ogun State and are citizens of the larger society, Nigeria.

ii. **Socio-cultural:** In the interlocutors' society, fairness and equity are scarce. The government in the society are not fair in the affairs of the State or the nation, the wealth of the nation/Sate is not equally distributed and sometimes, it is usually in the hands of the elites of the society while the masses suffer.

DATA B: Inaugural Speech

B1"We stand on the threshold of a new dawn and a new beginning".

A. Linguistic Features

B. Locutionary Act*: "We stand on the threshold of a new dawn and a new beginning".*

i. **Illocutionary Act:** The action performed by the locution is assertive (stating). The illocutionary act is assertive because the locution commits the speaker to the truth of the expressed proposition. The assertive force of the locution is that it states the current situation of the State clearly.

ii. **Figurative Expression:** The utterance is an idiomatic expression. *Threshold* means the starting point of something new. A *new dawn* means a new era or beginning. Naturally, *dawn* signifies the breaking of a new morning or day. In this context, the meaning of the utterance above is: a new beginning; the starting point of a new era or beginning.

C. Pragmatic Features

i. **Presupposition:** It is presupposed that the audience knows that the speaker is referring to his tenure or administration as the threshold and new dawn. It is also presupposed that the speaker is not talking about literal standing or literal dawn.

ii. **Implicature:** This utterance implies that the State and her people have entered into a fresh start, that is, the system of the past administration

has become something outdated and that the newly inaugurated governor believes that is tenure is an opportunity to start afresh.

iii. **Intention:** The speaker in this utterance intends to make the audience know that things will be done differently from how it was done in the past administration.

iv. **Mutual Contextual Belief (MCB):** The belief among the interlocutors is that dawn introduces light after the night time, it introduces a new day and a fresh start. 'Dawn' is used in this context to liken the new administration to a fresh start and a new day.

D. Social Features

i. **Social:** The interlocutors are all citizens of Ogun State.

ii. **Socio-cultural:** In the larger society (Nigeria) that the interlocutors belong to, they all liken dawn to a new beginning, especially in Christianity where it is used in a biblical context. Also, it is believed that with a new administration comes a new change and development. In the Yoruba community, an adage goes thus: 'Omi tituntiru, ejatituntiwonu e' which means it is a new dawn, it is a new day.

B2"I will not betray your trust".

A. Linguistic Features

i. **Locutionary Act:** *"I will not betray your trust".*

ii. **Illocutionary Act:** The action performed in the locution is *commissive.* The speaker is committing himself into taking an action in the future. It expresses the speaker's intention to remain loyal to the people.

B. Pragmatic Features

i. **Presupposition:** The speaker assumes that he has the trust of the audience.

ii. **Implicature:** The locution implies that the speaker has the trust of the audience.

iii. **Intention:** The speaker intends to inform the audience that he intends to be loyal to them during the entirety of his tenure.

iv. **Mutual Contextual Belief (MCB):** The contextual belief among the interlocutors is that you automatically lose the trust people have in you when you betray them. In the political context, you lose relevance and support from those who trust you.

C. Social Features

i. **Social:** The relationship existing between the interlocutors is that they are citizens of Ogun State and they share the same belief about betrayal and trust.

ii. **Socio-cultural:** The socio-cultural belief of the interlocutors is that betrayal causes a person to lose the trust put in him/her. It becomes really hard for people to believe a person who has betrayed their trust.

B3 "Our workers are the prime resource of the State".

A. Linguistic Features

i. **Locutionary Act:** *"Our workers are the prime resource of the State".*

ii. **Illocutionary Act:** The illocutionary act performed by the locution is *assertive.* The illocutionary force is assertive because the speaker is informing the audience about the affairs of the State and also publicly stating a fact to the audience.

B. Pragmatic Features

i. **Presupposition:** It is taken for granted that the audience knows the importance of the workers. Also, the speaker assumes that the audience knows the workers he is referring to, as there are many workers in the state. These workers include Teachers, Doctors, Nurses, Police officers, Judges, Lawyers, etc.

ii. **Implicature:** The implicature of the locution is that the 'workers' (civil workers) are important to the efficient and effective running of the administration's operation. It also implies that the workers are assets to the State.

iii. **Intention:** The speaker's intention is to inform the audience of the importance of the civil workers and to seek the cooperation of the workers.

iv. **Mutual Contextual Belief (MCB):** The contextual belief among the interlocutors is that civil workers (Teachers, Doctors, Nurses, Police officers, Judges, Lawyers, etc.) generally, contribute to the economic development of an organisation. However, in the administration of any government, the civil workers play significant roles in developing the economy of the state and all other sector.

C. Social Features

i. **Social:** The existing relationship between the encoder and decoder is that they are workers in their various field and also citizens of Ogun State.

ii. Socio-cultural: The socio-cultural belief of the society is that every worker contributes their own quota to the development of the society, either through their skill, creativeness, productivity, brain-storming, etc.

Table 1 Data A Victory Speech
Source: Drawn by the author based on questionnaires administered

Illocutionary Act	**Frequency**	**Percentages**
Assertive (Representative)	5	20%
Commissive	9	36%
Declarative	5	20%
Directive	1	4%
Expressive	5	20%
Total Number of Speech Acts	25	100%

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Table 2

Illocutionary Act	**Frequency**	**Percentages**
Assertive (Representative)	9	38%
Commissive	12	50%
Declarative	1	4%
Directive	0	0%
Expressive	2	8.3%
Total Number of Speech Acts	24	100%

Data B Inaugural Speech

Source: Drawn by the author based on questionnaires administered

Table 3
Summary of Tables A and B

Illocutionary Act	**Frequency**	**Percentages**
Assertive (Representative)	14	29.00%
Commissive	21	43%
Declarative	6	12.00%
Directive	1	2.00%
Expressive	7	14.20%
Total Number of Speech Acts	49	100%

Source: Drawn by the author based on questionnaires administered

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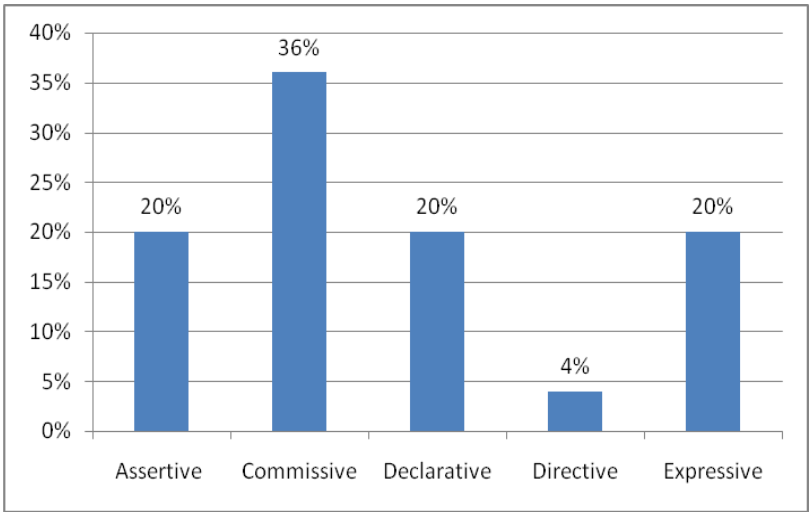
Graphical Representations of Speech Acts

Table 1: Victory Speech (Data A)



Source: Drawn by the author based on questionnaires administered

Table 2: Inaugural Speech (Data B)

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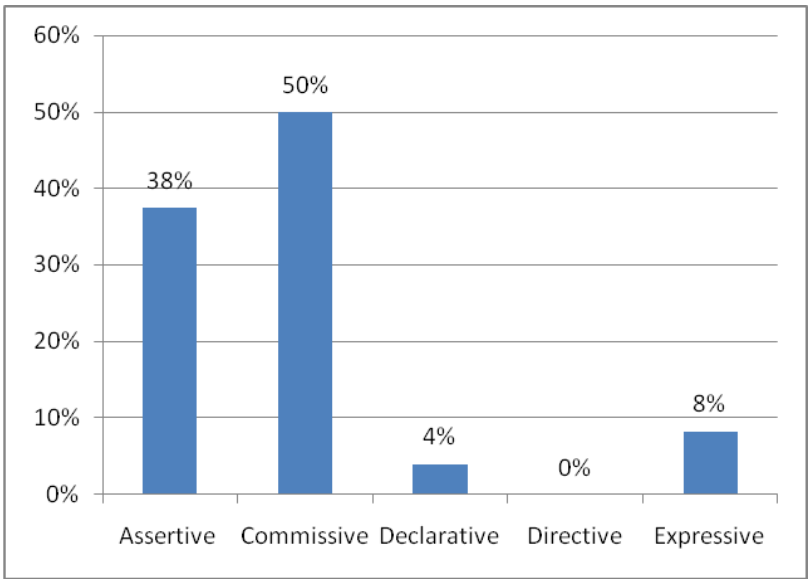
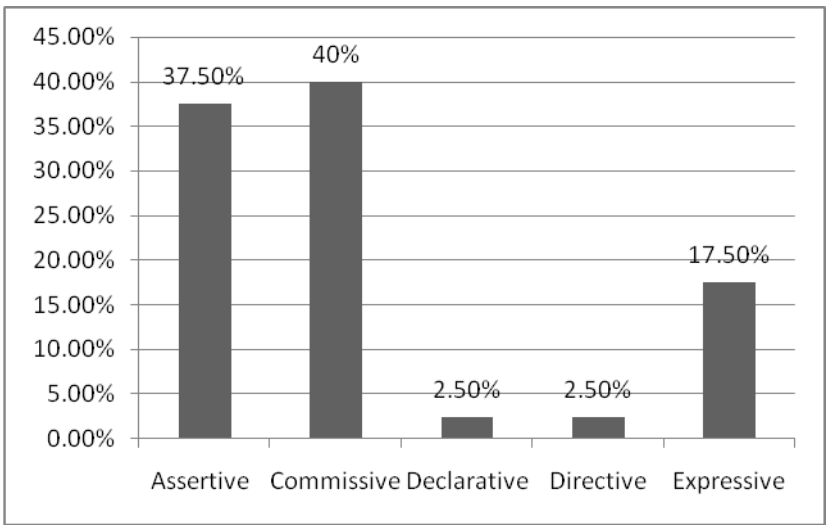


Source: Drawn by the author based on questionnaires administered

Table 3: Summary of tables A and B



Source: Drawn by the author based on questionnaires administered

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Discussions of the analysis of the two speeches of governor Dapo Abiodun
The Illocutionary Acts in the Speeches of Governor Dapo Abiodun

The table and bar chart above indicates the percentages of the illocutionary acts found in the two speeches. From the table and bar charts, the commissive acts have the highest frequency in the two speeches. This shows how commissive acts are important in politics. Commissives are acts that commit someone to do something as a promise, bequeath, etc. The function of commissive in these speeches is to perform promissory acts to elicit certain behaviours and attitudes from the audience (that is, to accomplish a specific intended perlocutionary effect). The use of commissive in these speeches has also helped the speaker in outlining the actions he would be carrying out subsequently. The percentage of assertive acts in table one is 20% and in the second table, it is 38%. This shows that assertive acts were not frequently used in the victory speech, but were frequent in the inaugural speech. The function of assertiveness in the speeches, especially in the inaugural speech is to affirm, claim, clarify, and inform the audience. This illocutionary act is important in politics because it allows the speaker to clarify facts that are unclear and also lay emphasis on facts.

The declarative and directives acts are the two illocutionary acts with the lowest percentage. Declarative acts constitute 2.50% of the total speech acts. They affect immediate changes in some current state of affairs. The percentage of the declarative act is less in the Inaugural speech and it was used to confirm a fact in the status of the State. A directive act on the other hand directs the audience to do something. The directive act is used to give orders, commands, make requests, invite, etc. The illocutionary act was found once in the Victory speech.

Expressive acts express a psychological attitude or state of the speaker such as joy, sorrow, and likes or dislikes. In the two speeches, expressive acts were used to express the speaker's feelings and beliefs. The expressive act has a total of 17.50 percent. We see the speaker use this act to express the feeling of appreciation, happiness, and willingness, among many others.

Political Context

The politics of Ogun State functions within the context of a presidential republic, with the Governor of Ogun State as both head of state and head of government. Ogun State is known for being a politically engaged people. The official seat of government is in Abeokuta. Under the Constitution, executive power is vested in the Governor and he or she exercises them directly. Such authority may also be exercised through the Deputy Governor or Commissioners. Legislative power is vested in a 26-member unicameral House of Assembly. Judicial power is exercised solely by the judiciary of Ogun State. As with the Federal Government of Nigeria, power is divided into three main branches: executive, legislative, and judicial. The main political players are the

People's Democratic Party and the All-Progressives Congress. These parties along with several minor ones put forward candidates for elections to the executive, legislative, and local government councils. Presently, Ogun State is being ruled by a candidate from the All-Progressives Congress.

The 2019 gubernatorial election of the State was supposed to be a straight battle between the All-Progressives Congress and the People's Democratic Party, but it turned out to be a battle within the All-Progressive Congress. The APC crisis all started when the Ogun State chapter carried out its internal affairs to select candidates for the forthcoming elections through consensus. This process produced Honourable Adekunle Akinlade as the gubernatorial candidate. However, the party's National Working Committee ordered that candidate be selected through Primary elections, hence the refusal to endorse Honourable Adekunle Akinlade as the gubernatorial candidate. This order caused Akinlade to leave APC to join the Allied Peoples Movement (APM), along with Amosun's undisguised backing. This crisis within APC resulted in a lot of disorderliness and confusion.

Social Context

The encoder, Governor Dapo Abiodun is a Nigerian businessman and politician, who won the Ogun State 2019 gubernatorial election under the platform of the All-Progressive Congress. He was declared Governor-Elect of Ogun State on 10 March 2019 by the Independent National Electoral Commission. He contested the Ogun East Senatorial seat on the platform of the All-Progressive Congress (APC) in the 2015 Nigerian general elections which he lost to the People's Democratic Party (PDP) candidate. He was elected a senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the platform of the defunct United Nigeria Congress Party (UNCP) in 1998. In 2019, he contested in the gubernatorial elections in Ogun State and won, under the platform of the All-Progressives Congress (APC). He was sworn in as Governor of Ogun State on 29 May 2019. He is a born-again Christian and worships with the Mountain of Fire and Miracle Ministry (MFM). He has testified that despite much opposition to him getting into the office of Ogun State governor God still got him there.

Perlocutionary Act

Perlocutionary Act is a response to the illocutionary act. It is the consequences or effects of the illocutionary acts on hearers. The effect of the Victory and Inaugural Speeches on the audience is seen in the high expectations the audience had after the speaker was inaugurated. The citizen's displeasure towards the decamping of Honourable Akinlade and Senator Amosun's 'undisguised backing', is seen in the voting in of the speaker: Governor Dapo Abiodun.

In the speeches, it was discovered that 'people-centeredness' and 'inclusiveness' were emphasized. The effect of these emphases is that: the audience now sees themselves as important to the government and that they

have duties to the State. The perlocutionary effect of the speeches on the audience is also seen in their cooperation and support for the government. It is observed that the audience is performing their duties as citizens like paying taxes and obeying government orders and laws. A good example of the cooperation of the people is the adherence to the lockdown of religious places and schools in 2020. Also, the Ogun people have been impressed and happy with the governance, as well as the improvements made in every sector of the State. It can be said that the speeches' perlocutionary effect has been good and smooth, but there have been some complaints from the people.

One of the very popular complaints among the people is "all-around infrastructural developments across the State and not the capital alone". These complaints arose as a result of the action of the speaker's predecessor. The Governor was however advised by the people to be a state leader and not a local government governor. There have been complaints about the uncompleted and abandoned projects by the ex-governor. There has also been a warning strike of the Ogun Workers in September 2020 over non-payment of the minimum wage. The EndSars protest was the only protest recorded so far in the State. Apart from these complaints, the citizens have been supportive, cooperative, and impressed with the achievements of the Governor in the past two years.

With the facts and news of the development in the State, there may be a high chance that the Governor is re-elected for a second term. There have also been opinions from other people like the Chief Press Secretary to the governor: Kunle Somorin, and Senator Adeola that the Governor will indeed be voted in for a second term.

Findings

The basic findings of this study began with the background of the study where language was seen as a socio-political issue and a centrality to political stability. The pragma-sociolinguistics theory of Adegbija and Models of a Pragmatic Theory of Lawal served as the theoretical framework for the analysis of data. It was discovered that political speech depends largely on the effort of the speaker to get his intention known to the audience using appropriate language in an appropriate context. In the course of this study, it was discovered that the illocutionary acts employed are assertive, commissive, directive, declarative and expressive. Out of these acts, the commissives have the highest percentages in the total speech acts analysed. The commissives which constitute 40% of the total speech act are used to make promises, assure and guarantee the audience. It was also discovered that commissives are peculiar to politicians. This is because politicians make a lot of promises during the election process. The assertives constitute 37.5% of the total speech acts while expressive acts are 17.5%. Declaratives and directives, however, have the lowest percentages in total speech acts.

It was discovered that the Governor made extensive use of presuppositions. Many of the unsaid facts in the locutionary acts were left for the audience to

deduce on their own. This deliberate attitude of not overtly stating some information is because the speaker was aware of the mutual intelligibility among the interlocutors since they were all operating in the same political context. Presupposition was also used to avoid wordiness in the speeches, as this would wear out the audience. It was used to save time as well. In the analysis, we discovered that figurative expressions were used minimally. However, for these expressions to be decoded properly, the context of the speech has to be applied. The audience has to go beyond the literal level to infer meaning. It was discovered that the encoder made use of figurative expressions to beautify the language used and convey his emotions.

The goal of any encoder is to pass his intentions to his decoders. Similarly, Governor Dapo Abiodun aims to pass his intentions across to his decoders. We discovered that the Governor's intention is to assure and guarantee the audience, as well as gain their trust, support, and cooperation. This is because the Governor wants the decoders to trust him enough to vote for him for the second time. This is found valid with this research work in that, out of the forty sentences drawn from the speeches, the majority assure the citizens as well as make promises. It was also discovered that context is a crucial tool for deducting or inferring meaning. The meaning of what is uttered is dependent on the context of the conversation.

Conclusion

The conclusion of this paper with what has been obtained from our study of the language used in the selected political speeches of Governor Dapo Abiodun is that the way language is used to communicate in politics, the mutual intelligibility, and the context of the locution are three essential tools for effective communication in politics. However, the languages used in political speeches are not always straightforward and the meanings are most times invisible. This is where the audience's pragmatic knowledge is verified. The audience is therefore left to decode based on the Mutual Contextual Beliefs (MCBs), socio-cultural and situational contexts. The study concluded on the note that language is important in political communication and the way it is used to reflect politicians' intentions can either repel or attract the people's support.

Finally, from the analysis, it is clear that language use in any context is a very important aspect of human existence. Many people see language use as casual and irrelevant, but this simple instrument of communication is capable of causing menace in society if care and caution are not applied in the course of interaction.

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