Journal of Humanities, Music and Dance
ISSN: 2799-1180
Vol : 03, No. 04, June-July 2023
http://journal.hmjournals.com/index.php/JHMD
DOI: https://doi.org/10.55529/jhmd.34.36.43

A Pragmatic Analysis of 2023 Democracy Day Speech by President Bola Tinubu

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Received: 16 February 2023 **Accepted:** 30 April 2023 **Published:** 20 June 2023

Abstract: ***This research used a speech presentation as the object of research. The speech analyzed in this research is one speech by Bola Tinubu, the president of Nigeria. The aim of this research is to show the interpretation of language. And while revealing the meaning through language features in the speech. It applied a descriptive method in its analysis. It used multi-modal critical pragmatics as the theory that guided it. The results of the study revealed that the president used language in describing the nature of Nigeria during and after the military rule.***

Keywords: Speech, Bola Tinubu, Pragmatics, Language, Nigeria.

1. INTRODUCTION

Language is a significant and vital aspect of human life. It makes sense that it is referred to as "the main method by which people communicate with one another" (Adegbija, 2010). The majority of communication is verbal, but there are also written, nonverbal, and other ways to communicate. Communication is thus the cornerstone of society. There are several different ways in which communication may occur, including discourse engagement via conversation, speech delivery through media (such as radio and television), sign language, music (of any genre), and a great deal more. It is important to note that, in each of these formats, specific pieces of information are essentially given different senses (meanings) and then passed on to different types of people who, in turn, extrapolate different meanings from the information based on their own personal perceptions and preconceptions of it. This is an important point that shouldn't be missed. Therefore, even if the person singing or saying "I love you" is the same, Mr. Ade's interpretation of the phrase can be different from Miss Kemi's. Even if Mr. Ade and Miss Kemi are listening to the same individual, this is still true. Encoding and decoding, a contraction of the phrases "encode" and "decode," is the term used to describe the whole procedure.

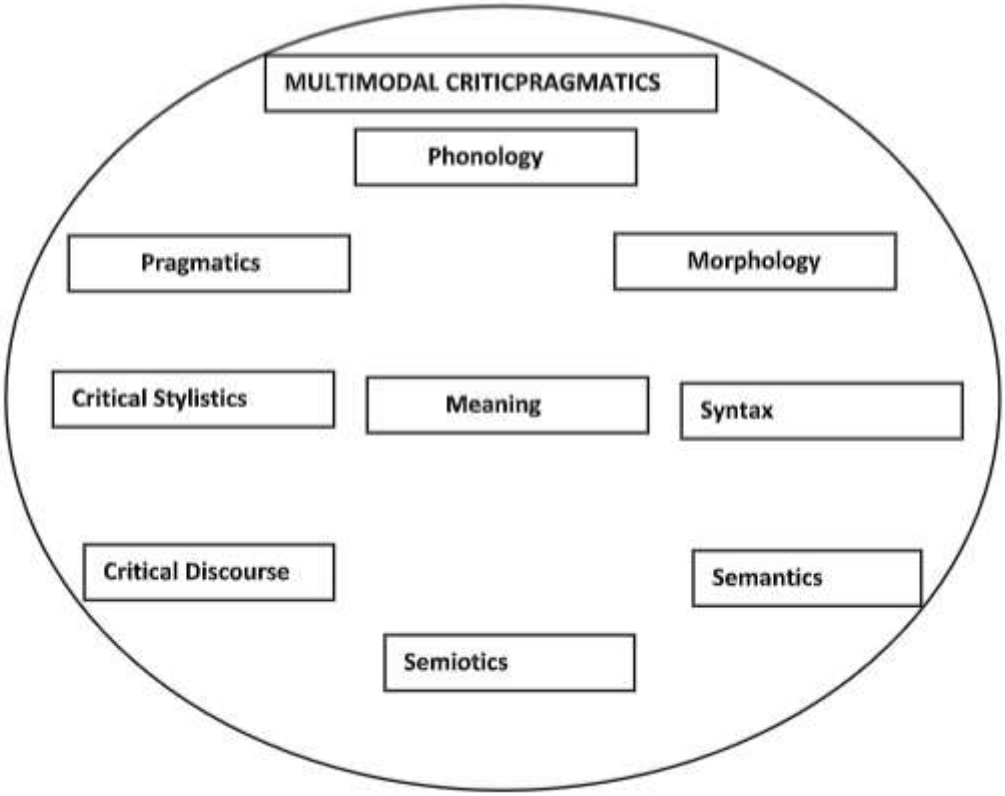
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Theoretical Framework

Multi-Modal Critical Pragmatic Model:

It is a model propounded by Ibiere Ken Maduako (2022). It is a model that uses or applies all kinds of linguistic levels, items, and machinery in interpreting meaning. And the foundation of the model is pragmatics, which means its focus is on the context of speech. According to her, attention is also given to the social aspects of language, power, and dominance, thus bringing out the critical aspects of communication.



2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This is a qualitative and descriptive work. Critical resources are evaluated, assessed, and interpreted using qualitative research criteria. To begin, a short summary of the poems' analytical methodology is offered. Then, pertinent lexical items from the poems are picked using the applied theoretical framework. Grounded theory and practice, ethnography, phenomenology, case studies, and textual analysis are all data gathering methodologies used in qualitative research (Melaknel, 2008).

3. RESULTS AND FINDINGS

Brief Summary of the speech

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President Bola Tinubu, in his inaugural Democracy Day speech on June 12, delivered an address that paid homage to the heroes of Nigeria's democratic struggle and outlined his vision for the nation's future. With a focus on the sacrifices made by Chief MKO Abiola, Pa Alfred Rewane, Major General Shehu Musa Yar'Adua, and Kudirat Abiola. President Tinubu emphasized the importance of democracy, the protection of democratic institutions, the pursuit of social and economic justice, and the rule of law. He sympathized with Nigerians over the recent removal of fuel subsidies and pledged substantial investments in critical sectors to enhance the quality of life for the citizens.

Phonological Analysis

There are a lot of sounds in the poem, but the most commonly used are /ai/,/s/,/d/,/b/³/,/æ/ /ð/,/o/,/^/,/u/I:/, /s/, /d/, /b/3/, /o//, and /u/and/i/. These sounds are constantly used in the speech. The repetition of these sounds, words and the usage of the rhythmic words create a mental picture of the message the president is passing across. It is a speech that uses sounds to create that mental of the people were able to make a choice to elect a president that will lead them from military dictatorship to a representative government.

Morphological Analysis

The president uses past, present, and future aspects in describing his mission and vision for the citizens. The use of the past aspect shows the previous activities and actions that happened in Nigeria. The free contestation of elections in court is a result of democracy. According to the President, "Above all, those who disagree with the outcome of the elections are taking full advantage of the constitutional provisions to seek redress in court, and that is one of the reasons why democracy is still the best form of government invented by man." The present form describes the situation at hand, which the president is handling. And future form means what he will do for the citizen in time to better the country.

The placement of the verbs from the speech

Past form	Present form	Future
Germinated	Endure	Shall
Prolonged	Disagree	
Expressed, Participated, Signified, Unleashed, Demonstrated, Posed, Remained, Tested, Murdered, Granted, Traversed, Perceived, Experienced, Contested, Fulfilled, Disappointed, Trusted, Died, Privileged, Elected, Extinguished.	Enjoin, Pledge,	

In the analysis above, past and present aspects were used. The president's descriptions were of the past, where he describes how some people have fought to make sure the country

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operates democratically. And the present describes how he will rule and better the country for the benefit of the citizens. The future points to the assurance he has for the country in the future.

Speech Acts

The president makes use of illocutionary acts in passing his message to his intended readers. And these acts involve describing, educating, informing, and creating. The president sheds light on his vision for a stronger and better Nigeria. This can be observed from the declaration of the removal of the subsidy. The president expressed sympathy for Nigerians over the recent removal of fuel subsidies and promised massive investment. There are catchy phrases that the poet used to show his love for the natural world, which will be analysed below using illocutionary acts.

Datum 1 : Seed (action)

Illocutionary Act.

Informative-stating. The president is stating that the abortion, by military fiat, of the decisive victory of Chief Moshood Kashimawo Olawale Abiola of the defunct Social Democratic Party in the June 12, 1993, presidential election up to that time is what caused us to enjoy democracy today.

Datum 2 : Farewell to Poverty(Making the country prosperous)

Illocutionary Act. Expressive-expressing. The president was quoting the manifesto of MKO Abiola, who represents June 12 as Democracy Day, as to how he promised the country a prosperous country before his ambition was thwarted by the military.

Datum 3. Renewed Hope (new commitment)

Illocutionary Act. Expressive –expressing. He expresses joy at becoming the president of Nigeria. And giving the assurance of not disappointing Nigeria. According to him, "on my part and that of my administration, I pledge a new commitment to diligently fulfilling every component of the electoral pact with the people."

Lexical Analysis

Nouns	Verbs	Adjectives	Adverbs	Prepositions
(x3)Nigerians, fellow, Decades, poll, pain, retirement, age, Seventh integrity, Right, President, ease, onslaught, light, liberty, heroes, trenches, Choice, stability, validity, essence, Government(2x), Dictatorship,	Exercise, lead, turn, Expressed, participated, feel, ennobles , yield, unleashed, resulted, demonstrated, experience, pose, Elicited, Remained, Growing, Fighting, Appreciate, perceived,	Oppose, decisive, unjust, Inalienable, fairest, freest, historic, substantial, fierce, valuable, thorny, dark,	Exactly, currently, strongly, widely, ultimately, steadily, cruelly, truly, readily, intensely, diligently,	(35x)To,(11x) in, on,

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People(2x), Abortion, poverty, (2x)Military fiat, Victory, Chief Moshood Kashimawo Olawale Abiola, Social Democratic Party, (4x) June 12, Presidential election, Country (2x), election, political evolution, seed, birth, (2x) Annulment, Historic election, Number, Pro-Democracy, Colonial rule, Nigerian's Independence, anti-colonial movement, 19th century historian, Arnold Toynbee eternal postulation, civilization societies, Yesterday progress, environment, free, Resistance, Civil society, attainment, second independence, democratic governance, 1999, fellow compatriots,	become, Elated, fulfilled, compete, Accept, Invented, Started, offers, Eliminated, Died, Rededicate, fulfilling,			

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watershed, nation's history, future, silver platter, polity, gifted, (5x)Democracy, Custodian, Life, Country men, Women, Elected president, capitulation, Ages, Pa Alfred, independence, Major General Shehu Musa Yar'Adua, Dignity of Freedom, Humiliation, Degradation,, tyranny, ceaseless quarrels, bitter electoral contestation, Federal Republic of Nigeria, God, Land, Authority, Fairness, Administration, Commitment, Component, Electoral pact, Renewed hope, pledge, electoral promises, Executive, Legislative, public offices, democracy dividends, 24 years, 1993, welfare, ruling class, fulfillment,				

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personal interest, public utilities, transportation, regular power supply, infrastructure, education massive investment, stranglehold, harmonization,				

From the analysis above, the noun appeared more than any other category. Following the verb are the adjective, the adverb, and the preposition. The semantic interpretation is that the president is concerned about the citizenry and infrastructural development, which are important to him and humanity. And this action shows the love he has for his country and its citizens. The involvement of numerous nouns is an indication of the seriousness of his vision. The use of verbs is to show the actions and activities that are going to propel his seriousness.

Syntactic Analysis
The president makes use of complete sentences. And the speech is being segmented into paragraphs according to the points raised in the speech. For instance, the first paragraph was a tribute to democracy fighters, where he mentioned people like Chief MKO Abiola, Pa Alfred Rewane, Major General Shehu Musa Yar'Adua, and Kadirat Abiola.

Pragmatic Interpretation
The speech is practically all about paying tribute to Chief MKO Abiola and other democracy fighters in Nigeria. It goes further to have sympathy over fuel subsidies removal. The president expressed sympathy for Nigerians over the recent removal of fuel subsidies and promised massive investment in transportation, power supply, healthcare, and public utilities to improve the quality of life.

Stylistic Analysis
There are different kinds of styles employed in the speech. For instance, the speech has some words repeated. Like "we shall be faithful to the truth." Faithful to equity. And faithful to justice. There is the use of alliteration in line two, stanza one, for "blood red mud" . According to Leech (1969), style is the way in which something is spoken, written, or performed. The essence of the recapitulation is to create emphasis and meaning for the readers. The manner in which the repetitions occur gives meaning to the speech, and the meaning is the president's eagerness to work. The president makes a persuasive statement. The speech is of the one that is begging the citizens to join hands to make all sectors of the country work again..

Semiotic Analysis

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The president explores a few signs and symbols in the speech. And these items carry meanings, and they are meanings themselves. Onwuegbuzie (2008) defines semiotics as a science that explores the relationship between signs, including talk and text, and their intended specific meanings. For stance, MKO Abiola stands as a Democrat, and he represents June 12, Democracy Day in Nigeria.

4. CONCLUSION

The president's speech is the one that gears toward giving hope to the citizens, considering what they went through during the last administration. And the speech is persuasive in nature by making sure he expresses his visions as regards commitment to the rule of law, social and economic justice, the promise of development, renewing commitment, sacrifice for democracy, Abiola's sacrifice, democracy day commitment, the importance of democracy, sympathy over fuel subsidies, and tribute to democracy fighters.

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