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**A LINGUISTIC-STYLISTIC ANALYSIS OF SELECTED SPEECHES OF
PRESIDENT BOLA AHMED TINUBU**

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Abstract

This research examines two (2) speeches of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu using the stylistic framework of Leech and Short (1987). The study adopts a qualitative approach to explore the stylistic components of the thematic concerns that foreground issues critical to the author's perception of governance and nationhood. These stylistic choices can be identified via governance and crises. The study postulates that both user-bound and situation-bound factors influence the linguistic choice of the socio-political reality of Nigeria as depicted through a stylistic exploration. The diction of the speech is carefully tailored to ensure national integration and cohesion across the political landscape of Nigeria. Ultimately, the resources of language are demonstrated to be an essential component of speech meaning, thereby enhancing the precision of interpretation and facilitating a deeper understanding of the texts.

Keywords: linguistic, style, stylistic, speeches, political Speeches.

Introduction

Stylistics is a branch of linguistics that focuses on the study of how language is used in different styles, particularly in literary and artistic texts. It analyses the various stylistic features and techniques employed by writers and speakers to create specific effects and convey meaning. Stylistics analysis examines elements such as syntax, semantics, pragmatics and discourse analysis to understand the stylistic choices made by authors and speakers. This field of study examines how linguistic devices, including metaphor, simile, alliteration, rhythm, repetition, and wordplay, contribute to the aesthetic and communicative qualities of a text. Scholars in stylistics also investigate the relationship between language and style, examining how language choices reflect social, cultural and historical contexts. For example, studies by Leech and Short (2007) and Simpson (2014) delve into the stylistic analysis of literary texts, exploring the use of language to convey emotions, create imagery and develop character. Overall, stylistic analysis provides valuable insights into the intricate interplay between language and style, shedding light on the creative and expressive aspects of communication.

A stylistics analysis plays a crucial role in understanding and appreciating the nuances of language use in various contexts, particularly in literature and other artistic forms. One of the key importance of stylistics is its ability to shed light on the aesthetic and expressive qualities of language.

stylistic features and techniques employed in literary texts, readers can delve deeper into the layers of meaning and the creative choices made by authors. This understanding enhances the reader's overall comprehension and interpretation of the text. Moreover, a stylistics analysis provides valuable insights into the social, cultural and historical dimensions of language use.

By analysing stylistic choices and patterns, it reveals how language reflects and shapes the contexts, offering a deeper understanding of the text's significance. Additionally, a stylistics analysis contributes to the development of language proficiency and critical thinking skills, as it necessitates a close examination and interpretation of language elements.

Through a stylistic analysis, students and scholars develop a heightened sensitivity to language use, enabling them to become more effective communicators and critical readers. Overall, the importance of a stylistics analysis lies in its ability to illuminate the aesthetic, social and cognitive dimensions of language, enriching our understanding and appreciation of linguistic expression.

While Presidential speeches are a significant aspect of political communication, serving as a means for presidents to address the nation, articulate their policy agendas, rally public support and shape public opinion. These speeches are carefully crafted to convey specific messages and evoke certain emotions from the audience. Scholars have extensively analysed the rhetorical strategies employed in presidential speeches, examining elements such as language use, argumentation, persuasion and delivery. For example, Gruber (2016) explores the use of rhetorical devices, such as metaphors, in presidential speeches to create powerful imagery and convey complex ideas. Again, scholars have studied how president uses framing techniques to shape public perception and gain support for their policies (Nelson, Clawson, & Oxley, 1997). Furthermore, research has shown that the effectiveness of presidential speeches can be influenced by factors such as the political climate, audience characteristics and the president's communication skills (Zarefsky, 2004). Ultimately, presidential speeches play a crucial role in shaping public discourse, influencing public opinion and providing a platform for presidents to communicate their vision and policy priorities to the nation.

While President's Independence Day and End Bad Governance speeches hold a significant role in political tradition, as they provide an opportunity for the president to address the nation on the occasion of celebrating the country's Independence Day. These speeches serve multiple purposes, including honouring the nation's history, reflecting on its values and progress and highlighting current challenges and aspirations. President's Independence Day and End Bad Governance speeches often emphasise unity, patriotism and the importance of democratic principles. Scholars have analysed the rhetorical strategies employed in these speeches, examining elements such as language use, themes and appeals to national identity. For example, Chesebro and Bertelsen (2001) conducted a study on the rhetoric of Independence Day speeches, highlighting how presidents utilise symbols, historical references and narratives to create a sense of shared identity and promote national cohesion. Additionally, scholars have examined the impact of these speeches on shaping public perception and promoting a sense of national unity (Edwards, 2003). Furthermore, research has shown that the content and delivery of Independence Day and End Bad Governance protest speeches can impact public opinion and shape the public's understanding of the nation's values and challenges. Ultimately, Presidential Independence Day speeches serve as a platform for the president to reaffirm the nation's ideals, inspire unity and call upon citizens to reflect on the significance of independence in the context of contemporary issues.

It is in line with the above scholars' views that prompted the researcher to carry out research on A linguistic stylistic analysis of selected speeches of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, specifically focusing on his two speeches, including: End Bad Governance Protest and 64th Independence Day Celebration speeches.

Conceptual Review

Speech refers to "the expression of thoughts, feelings, or ideas through spoken language, often characterised by its intentional and strategic use of verbal and nonverbal cues to convey meaning, establish relationships, and achieve social goals"(Kendon 23).

Speech is a form of human communication that involves the use of spoken language to convey meaning, express thoughts and feelings, and establish relationships with others (Littlejohn, p. 12).

Speech is a fundamental aspect of human communication, enabling individuals to convey their thoughts, feelings, and intentions to others and to negotiate meaning and understanding in social interactions (Hymes 13).

Fairclough opines that "Speech is a dynamic and context-dependent process that is shaped by the social, cultural, and historical contexts in which it occurs" (15). This opinion is shared by Bitzer, who sees Speech as "a rhetorical act that involves the strategic use of language to persuade, inform, or entertain others, and to achieve social, cultural, or political goals" (22).

Speech is a form of symbolic interaction that involves the use of language to create and negotiate meaning, as well as to establish and maintain social relationships (Blumer, 1952).

To Burgoon, "Speech is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that encompasses not only the spoken word but also nonverbal cues, such as body language, facial expressions, and tone of voice" (34).

In a related definition, Gumperz avers that "Speech is a dynamic and context-dependent process that is shaped by the social, cultural, and historical contexts in which it occurs, and involves the strategic use of language to achieve social, cultural, or political goals" (28).

Tannen views Speech as “a form of human communication that involves the use of spoken language to convey meaning, establish relationships, and achieve social goals, and is characterised by its intentional and strategic use of verbal and nonverbal cues” (32).

Speech is a rhetorical act that involves the strategic use of language to persuade, inform, or entertain others, and to achieve social, cultural, or political goals, shaped by the social, cultural, and historical contexts in which it occurs (Foss 25). This definition highlights the fact that speeches perform various functions.

Halliday defines Speech as “a form of communication that involves the use of spoken language to convey meaning, establish relationships, and achieve social goals, and is characterised by its use of linguistic features such as phonology, syntax, and semantics”(12). Halliday's explication of the idea of speech underlines the fact that speeches are used for the accomplishment of goals, and they also share some linguistic features.

Political Speeches

Fairclough argues that Political speech is a form of communication that articulates viewpoints, ideologies, and policy positions within the context of governance and public affairs. It serves as a vehicle for individuals and groups to express their political beliefs, engage in public discourse, and influence the decision-making processes that affect society. Political speech can take various forms, including speeches, debates, campaign advertisements, and social media posts, and is essential for fostering democratic engagement and civic participation. He defines Political speech as “the strategic use of language by politicians and other political actors to shape public opinion, influence policy decisions, and mobilise political action” (23). His point of view corroborates with that of Foss, who sees Political speech as “a form of rhetorical

discourse that consists of the use of language to persuade, convince, and mobilise audiences in support of political goals and ideologies’ (17).

According to Gumperz, “Political speech is a form of communication that involves the use of language to create and negotiate meaning, and to establish and maintain power relationships between political actors and their audiences.” (30) This view aligns with that of Chilton, who argues that “Political speech refers to the strategic use of language by politicians and other political actors to shape public opinion, influence policy decisions, and mobilise political action” (30).

While Kendon sees Political speech as “the use of language by politicians and other political actors to construct and articulate political ideologies, policies, and programs” (25), Blumer views it as “a form of symbolic interaction that involves the use of language to create and negotiate meaning, and to establish and maintain social relationships between political actors and their audiences” (15).

Chilton declares that Political speech refers to “the strategic use of language by politicians and other political actors to shape public opinion, influence policy decisions, and mobilise political action” (30). At the same time, Charteris-Black views it as “a form of symbolic interaction that involves the use of language to create and negotiate meaning, and to establish and maintain social relationships between political actors and their audiences” (20).

Political speech is “a form of discourse that involves the use of language to shape public opinion, influence policy decisions, and mobilize political action, and is characterized by its dialogical and heteroglossic nature” (Bakhtin 28). It is “a form of performative discourse that involves the use of language to create and negotiate social relationships, identities, and power dynamics” (Butler 22).

According to Halliday, “Political speech is a form of discourse that involves the use of language to shape public opinion, influence policy decisions, and mobilise political action” (30). At the same time, Hymes views Political speech is a form of communication that involves the use of language to construct and negotiate social relationships, identities, and power dynamics (20).

Political speech is a form of symbolic interaction that involves the use of language to create and negotiate meaning, as well as to establish and maintain social relationships between political actors and their audiences (Blumer 22).

Style

The concept of style has been defined differently by various scholars. However, these multiple perspectives on the concept can contribute to a comprehensive understanding of this study. Style on its own, as defined by Lucas, is “the effective use of language, especially in prose, whether to make statements or to rouse emotions. It involves, first of all, the power to put fact with clarity and brevity”. (9)

Miller views Style as “the distinctive manner in which a writer expresses their thoughts, characterised by word choice, sentence structure, and literary devices” (78).

In rhetoric, “style is the effective use of language to persuade or inform an audience, encompassing elements such as diction, syntax, and figurative language” (102) according to Roberts.

Style is understood as the unique combination of verbal and nonverbal elements that conveys a speaker's identity and influences audience perception" (Chen and Patel 56).

In the context of visual arts, “style refers to the characteristics that define an artist's work, including technique, form, and thematic elements” (Johnson 134). Since this work is not in the visual arts, this definition does not apply to it.

According to Anderson, Style is defined as the distinctive features that characterise a piece of music or a composer's body of work, including melody, harmony, rhythm, and instrumentation" (44). This definition looks at style from the angle of music, but not from that of a linguistic text.

Style in fashion is the expression of individual identity through clothing, accessories, and overall appearance, often reflecting cultural and social influences. (Thompson 210). This definition, however, is not relevant to this work.

To Smith, “Style encompasses the visual elements and principles that define a designer's aesthetic approach, including colour schemes, typography, and layout" (88).His view of style, too, does not have relevance to this work

Style has also been defined as the description and analysis of the variability forms of linguistic items in actual language use. Leech quotes Aristotle as saying that “the most effective means of achieving both clarity and diction and a certain dignity is the use of altered form of words.” (14)

Style refers to the distinctive techniques and conventions employed by filmmakers, including cinematography, editing, and sound design, which contribute to the overall narrative and emotional impact" (Garcia 145).This notion of style is certainly not of any relevance to this work since the work is not cinematographic.

Style is identified as the characteristic methods of composition and performance that define a particular genre or period in music history (Walker 62). This definition too is analogous to music and not to a linguistic text.

In building, “Style is the distinctive characteristics of a building or structure that reflect cultural, historical, and technological influences. (Harris 99). This definition has no relevance to linguistic stylistics.

Khan notes that “style represents how individuals or groups express their cultural identity through various forms of art and communication” (77). This definition is broad and does not narrow down to Linguistic style. To Nguyen, style refers to the variation in language use that reflects social context, audience, and purpose. (34).

“Style can be understood as the consistent patterns of behaviour and thought that characterise an individual's approach to life and problem-solving” (Foster 121). Foster’s definition does not holistically encompass linguistic style.

Social style is defined as “how individuals present themselves within social contexts, influenced by factors such as class, culture, and personal experiences” (Robinson 56). This description also clearly refers to social, rather than linguistic, style.

In education, style refers to “the methods and strategies employed by educators to facilitate learning and engage students” (Martinez 88). This explanation applies to pedagogy and not Linguistics.

From an advertising and marketing perspective, Lee views style as “the visual and communicative identity that distinguishes a brand from its competitors and resonates with its target audience”(44).

Style is defined as the characteristic manner of expression that reflects an artist's unique vision and the historical context of their work" (Davis 102). This meaning has some relevance to this work, as it touches on language.

Stylistics

Stylistics is a broad term that has assumed different meanings from different linguistic scholars. To Wales, Stylistics is "the study of linguistic features, and their discussion in relation to literary texts" (12). Stylistics is also defined as a study of the different styles that are present in either a given utterance or a written text or document. The consistent appearance of certain structures, items and elements in a speech, an utterance or in a given text is one of the major concerns of Stylistics.

According to Jeffries and McIntyre, Stylistics is "the analysis of the linguistic features of literary texts" (15). It is "the study of the linguistic and literary qualities of texts" (20) to Toolan, while Carter sees Stylistics as "the study of the language of literary texts" (12).

Stylistics requires the use of traditional levels of linguistic description such as sounds, form, structure and meaning. It then follows that the consistent appearance of certain structures, items and elements in speech utterances or in a given text is one of the major concerns of stylistics. This is why Simpson avers that Stylistics is "the analysis of the linguistic features of texts" (15); Verdonk says that Stylistics is "the study of the linguistic and literary qualities of texts" (15); Fish notes that Stylistics is "the analysis of the linguistic features of literary texts" (20); Herman comments that Stylistics is "the study of the language and style of literary texts" (12).

Linguistic Stylistic studies are concerned with the varieties of language and the exploration of some of the formal linguistic features which characterize them. The essence and the usefulness of stylistics is that it enables the immediate understanding of utterances and texts, thereby maximizing our enjoyment of the texts.

Stylistics is "the study of the linguistic features of literary texts" (Adegbite 15); Stylistics is "the analysis of the linguistic features of literary texts" (Awonusi 20); Stylistics is "the study of the language and style of literary texts" (Osisanwo 18); Stylistics is "the analysis of the linguistic features of literary texts" (Adeyanju 22); Stylistics is "the study of the language and style of literary texts" (Bamgbose 20); Stylistics is "the analysis of the linguistic features of literary texts" (Egbokhare); Stylistics is "the study of the language and style of literary texts" (Ogunsiji); Stylistics is "the study of the linguistic features of literary texts" (Abioye 12); Stylistics is "the analysis of the linguistic features of literary texts" (Adedimeji 15); Stylistics is "the study of the language and style of literary texts" (Agbaje 18); Stylistics is "the analysis of the linguistic features of literary texts" (Adeleke 20); Stylistics is "the study of the language and style of literary texts" (Babalola 22); Stylistics is "the analysis of the linguistic features of literary texts" (Eze); Stylistics is "the study of the language and style of literary texts" (Nwachukwu) among many other scholarly definitions.

From the foregoing, stylistics can be said to be the techniques of explication which allow us to define objectively what an author has done (linguistic or non-linguistic) in his use of language. The main aim of stylistics is to enable us to understand the intent of the author in the in which the information has been passed across by the author or writer. Therefore, stylistics is concerned with the examination of grammar, lexis, semamannerntics as well as phonological properties and discursive devices. Stylistics is more interested in the significance of the function that the chosen style fulfils.

Linguistics and Stylistics

Linguistics and Stylistics are two interconnected fields of study that examine the structure, properties and usage of language. Linguistics is the scientific study of language and its structure. It encompasses various subfields, including phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics. Linguistics provides the theoretical framework and tools to analyse language at different levels, such as sounds, words, sentences, and discourse. It helps in understanding the underlying structures and rules of language. Stylistics, on the other hand, is the study of style in language, focusing on how language choices contribute to meaning and aesthetics. It examines the linguistic features used in literary texts and analyses their impact on the reader. Stylistics draws on linguistic theories and methods to analyse the form, structure, and meaning of texts.

O'Grady defined Linguistics as "the scientific study of language, including its structure, properties, and usage" (12). Fromkin sees Linguistics as "the study of the sound, grammar, meaning, and use of language" (15). To Trask, Linguistics is "the study of the structure and use of language" (18).

Stylistics is "the study of linguistic features, and their discussion about literary texts" (Wales 12). Jeffries and McIntyre's view of Stylistics is "the analysis of the linguistic features of literary texts" (15).

The influence of linguistics on stylistic analysis is of recent origin: "... a discipline has to attain a degree of maturity and confidence before it can profitably take into its ken a type of material guaranteed to produce exceptions to rules of general application", says Leech. It is interesting to review the evolution of criticism and its gradually growing concern with the language of

literature in Britain. The importance of linguistic description seems to be a growing factor within the special purview of literary criticism.

In all, linguistics and stylistics are two interconnected fields of study that examine the structure, properties, and usage of language. Linguistics is the scientific study of language, including its structure, properties, and usage (O'Grady 12). Stylistics, on the other hand, is the study of the linguistic features of literary texts (Wales 15).

The interconnection between linguistics and stylistics is evident in the way linguistic theories are applied to the analysis of literary texts. For instance, phonological theories can be used to analyse the sound patterns in poetry (Fromkin 20). Similarly, syntactic theories can be used to analyse the sentence structure in prose (Trask 22).

Stylistics also draws on linguistic theories to analyse literary devices such as metaphor, imagery, and symbolism. For example, “a stylistic analysis of a poem might examine the use of metaphor to create vivid and evocative descriptions” (Jeffries and McIntyre 25).

In recent years, linguistics and stylistics have been applied to a wide range of fields, including language teaching, literary analysis, communication studies, and forensic linguistics. For instance, linguistic theories have been used to develop language teaching methods and materials (Harmer 30). Stylistic analysis has also been used to analyse literary texts and understand their meaning and style (Toolan 35).

In conclusion, linguistics and stylistics are two interconnected fields that examine the structure, properties, and usage of language. Understanding the concepts and applications of both fields can provide valuable insights into the nature of language and its role in human communication. Linguistics and Stylistics are two related fields that offer valuable insights into the language and communication style of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's speeches.

Theoretical Framework.

For this study, M.A.K. Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) theory is used as the theoretical framework. The theory was developed by Michael Halliday in 1978. SFL posits that language is a resource for making meaning, and it operates in social contexts to perform various functions. Halliday's model suggests that language is structured to serve three metafunctions: ideational (expressing content or experience), interpersonal (enacting social relationships), and textual (structuring discourse coherently). These functions allow us to understand how speakers use language to convey meaning, establish relationships, and organise their message for effectiveness.

The principles of SFL focus on how language choices reflect different meanings in varying social contexts. These principles include: (1) language as a social semiotic system where every linguistic choice reflects the speaker's interaction with their environment and audience, (2) the concept of register which categorizes language use into field (subject matter), tenor (relationship between participants), and mode (how the message is delivered), and (3) the metafunctions which examine how language works on multiple levels to perform social, communicative, and textual roles. This multi-dimensional approach to language provides a holistic understanding of how speakers tailor their linguistic choices to meet specific communicative goals.

In applying SFL to the stylistic analysis of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's speeches, the study explores how the language he uses achieves various functions within political and social contexts. For instance, his ideational choices reveal how he frames national issues, while the interpersonal function shows how he builds rapport or asserts authority over his audience. The

textual function points out how his speeches are structured for coherence and persuasion. By using SFL, the study will be able to dissect Tinubu's speeches in terms of linguistic features that reveal his style, political intent, and rhetorical strategies.

Methodology

The research adopts a Qualitative approach as the design for the description and analysis of the collected data. The approach is both qualitative and textual, as it involves words rather than numbers. Kumar (2011), cited by Mangeyu (2014), defines research design as a plan through which a researcher provides answers to the research questions of his/her research work in valid, accurate, objective and economical ways. Research design can be qualitative, quantitative or mixed, etc. This research is a descriptive study, using the qualitative research design because all the data collected were in textual form, meaning they are all in words, not in numbers. Meanwhile, the phenomenon or situation described is the stylistic features used in the selected speeches of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, which also aim to describe lexical, syntactic categories, cohesive devices, and figurative devices.

Data Presentation, Analysis and Interpretation of Excerpts from President Tinubu's Speech on End Bad Governance Protests (Appendix I)

Excerpt 1. Appendix 1: "My fellow Nigerians, I speak to you today with a heavy heart and a sense of responsibility, aware of the turmoil and violent protests unleashed in some of our states."

Lexical Categories:

The use of lexical categories such as "Nigerians," "turmoil," "protests" is suggestive of Politics. Emotive language use is seen in such usage as "heavy heart," "sense of responsibility". The expression, "fellow Nigerians" encodes social relationship.

Predominantly, the stylistic features are formal tone, serious tone, emotive language and inclusive language.

Syntactic Categories and Usage

The sentence in the excerpt is a complex sentence structure (main clause + subordinate clause), utilising prepositional phrases (e.g., "with a heavy heart"). There is a direct address ("My fellow Nigerians") to the audience. There are figurative devices: Metaphor (e.g., "heavy heart" conveys emotional weight), Allusion (e.g., "turmoil" references national crisis), Personification (e.g., "sense of responsibility" emphasises presidential duty).

Cohesive Devices

The speech uses such cohesive devices as: Direct address ("My fellow Nigerians"), Conjunctions (e.g., "and") and Prepositional phrases (e.g., "with a heavy heart")

This excerpt showcases President Tinubu's formal and serious tone, emphasising his concern for national turmoil and his sense of presidential responsibility.

Excerpt 2: Appendix 1 "Notably among the protesters were young Nigerians who desired a better and more progressive country where their dreams, hopes, and personal aspirations would be fulfilled."

Lexical Categories

The lexical categories in this excerpt fall under Politics (e.g., "protesters," "country"), Social (e.g., "young Nigerians") and Emotions (e.g., "dreams," "hopes," "aspirations")

The Predominant stylistic features are the use of optimistic tone, inclusive language, emotive language and idealistic language.

Syntactic Categories and Usage

There is the use a complex sentence structure (main clause + subordinate clause), use of relative clauses (e.g., "who desired..."), use of adverbial phrases (e.g., "notably"), figurative devices such as: personification (e.g., "dreams, hopes, and personal aspirations" are given human-like qualities), allusion (e.g., "better and more progressive country" references national ideals), symbolism (e.g., "young Nigerians" represent future and change)

Cohesive Devices

These are seen in the use of relative pronouns (e.g., "who"), conjunctions (e.g., "and"), adverbial phrases (e.g., "notably"), Pragmatic Analysis:_

The president uses this excerpt to acknowledge protesters' motivations and aspirations. He clearly identifies the protesters as youths while efficiently recognising their concerns and aspirations. It sets the tone for an optimistic and inclusive message.

Excerpt 3: Appendix 1 "I am especially pained by the loss of lives in Borno, Jigawa, Kano, Kaduna and other states, the destruction of public facilities in some states, and the wanton looting of supermarkets and shops, contrary to the promise of protest organisers that the protest would be peaceful across the country."

Lexical Categories:

The lexical categories are: emotions (e.g., "pained", "loss of lives"), politics (e.g., "protest", "public facilities"), and violence (e.g., "destruction", "looting"). The predominant stylistic features are: serious tone, emotive language, critical tone, specificity (naming states)

Syntactic Categories and Usage

The excerpt contains a complex sentence structure (main clause + subordinate clauses). It makes use of prepositional phrases (e.g., "in Borno, Jigawa, Kano, Kaduna and other states") and contrastive conjunctions (e.g., "contrary to"). There is also the use of figurative devices, such as metaphor (e.g., "pained" conveys emotional suffering), Allusion (e.g., "loss of lives" references a national tragedy), and Irony (e.g., contrasting promised peace with actual violence).

Cohesive Devices

Such cohesive devices in the excerpt include conjunctions (e.g., "and"), prepositional phrases (e.g., "in some states"), and contrastive conjunctions (e.g., "contrary to").

Pragmatic Analysis:_

This excerpt showcases President Tinubu's condemnation of violence and expression of concern, emphasizing the severity of the situation and setting a tone for a firm response.

Excerpt 4 Appendix 1: "I commiserate with the families and relations of those who have died in the protests. We must stop further bloodshed, violence and destruction."

Lexical Categories

The lexical category encompasses emotions (e.g., "commiserate", "bloodshed"), politics (e.g., "protests"), and Social concerns (e.g., "families", "relations"), with predominant stylistic features including an empathetic tone, serious tone, urgency, and inclusive language.

Syntactic Categories and Usage

The excerpt has a simple sentence structure (declarative) and makes use of the imperative mood ("We must") and direct address (implied). The figurative devices include the use of metaphor (e.g., "bloodshed" conveys violence), allusion (e.g., "protests" references national crisis) and emotive appeal (e.g., "families and

relations")

Cohesive Devices

Conjunctions (e.g., "and") and imperative mood ("We must") are some of the identified cohesive devices.

This excerpt showcases President Tinubu's empathetic tone and urgent call to action, emphasising the need to stop further violence and destruction.

Excerpt 5 Appendix 1: "As President of this country, I must ensure public order. In line with my constitutional oath to protect the lives and property of every citizen, our government will not stand idly by and allow a few with a clear political agenda to tear this nation apart.

"Lexical Categories

The lexical categories in the excerpt include politics (e.g., "President", "constitutional oath", "government"), authority (e.g., "ensure public order") and security (e.g., "protect", "lives", "property"). The predominant stylistic features are an assertive tone, authoritative language, a sense of responsibility, and a warning tone.

Syntactic Categories and Usage

The excerpt has a complex sentence structure (main clause + subordinate clauses). It employs prepositional phrases (e.g., "In line with") and emphasises its point through negation ("will not stand idly by"). Figurative devices include metonymy (e.g., "this nation" represents the people), allusion (e.g., "constitutional oath" references presidential duty) and personification (e.g., "tear this nation apart")

Cohesive Devices

Conjunctions (e.g., "and"), prepositional phrases (e.g., "In line with"), and pronouns (e.g., "I", "we") are some of the cohesive devices employed in the excerpt.

This excerpt showcases President Tinubu's assertive tone and emphasis on presidential responsibility, warning against divisive actions and reaffirming commitment to public order.

Conclusion

The analysis reveals that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu employs metaphorical language. He also employs the use of pronouns, a series of questions for stylistic effects, though each serves a fairly different purpose. Also, abide by the principle of reduction. President Tinubu makes a subtle and effective use of a complex range of vocabulary in his speeches. Adjectives are used predictively and attributably, which makes the speech style more vivid, colourful, forceful and appealing. The speech, therefore, showcases an array of lexical collates in line with this objective. These lexical choices can be identified, viz, governance, crises, chronology/ time and politics. He demonstrated his readiness to hit the ground running on the assumption of duty, using words related to governance, such as "lead," "team," "serve," "governing," "democracy," "rule of law," "protection," "safe," "nation," "public life," "office," "servants," "administration," "statesmanship," etc.

Ultimately, the resources of language are demonstrated to be an essential component of a speech's meaning, thereby enhancing its interpretation and facilitating a deeper understanding of the text.

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