A Stylo-Syntactic Analysis of Selected Speeches of Nigeria's Past President Goodluck Jonathan

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Abstract
This study undertakes a stylo-syntactic analysis of selected speeches of former Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan with the aim of unravelling how his choice of sentence patterns foregrounds the intended messages and meanings in the speeches. The data for the study comprises ten purposively selected speeches of Goodluck Jonathan, eight of which were culled from Jonathan's (2013) *Determination Unshakable: A Collection of Speeches*, and two from *The Nigerian Tribune* of November 12, 2014 and The Guardian of April 1, 2015 respectively. Both qualitative and quantitative methods were employed in the analysis of the data. All the sentences in the speeches were categorized according to their structural patterns and presented on a distribution table to determine their frequencies. The theoretical framework used for the exemplification of the style and syntax in the research is that of Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics, which considers aspects of choice between/among grammatical alternatives, such as simple, compound, or complex structures The simple sentence types were discovered to form the pervading syntactic structures in the speeches with 69.1%, followed by the compound structures which takes 12.5%, complex 11.3%, compound complex 4.2% and multiple 2.9% respectively. It becomes obvious from the implication of the distributions that Goodluck Jonathan's preference for the simple structures above other types was deliberate in order to make his message to the people accessible, easily recoverable, memorable and profound. Also, his intermittent use of the complex structures was specifically to address some critical, compounding and complex national issues.

Keywords: President Goodluck Jonathan, speeches, sentence patterns, stylo-syntactic analysis, complex structures.

Introduction
Political discourse has been an area of study extensively examined by scholars. This fact corroborates Wilson (2001) when he claims that "the study of political discourse has been around for as long as politics itself" (p. 399). The emphasis placed on the study of political discourse is justified when one considers the strong connection between politics and language. Opeibi (2007), in trying to justify why it is necessary to study political discourse asserts that "one of the core goals of political discourse is to seek out ways in which language choice is manipulated for specific political effect" (p. 162). He argues further that "political candidates carefully construct their language to communicate their messages, seek public approval and support and win the sympathy of the people either in an attempt to gain power or trying to retain power" (p. 162). The above assertion demonstrates the fact of an inseparable nexus between politics and language. The connection between politics and language is captured by Ayeomoni

(2012) when he states that language and politics are interconnected as the search for power is characterized by creative use of language.

Language performs unique purposes and functions in politics. One of the functions of language in politics, according to Beard (2000), is helping to understand how to gain power, exercise power and keep power. No politics can survive without language. Language is therefore considered as the nucleus or better still the combustion fuel of politics. The fact that politics has power is defined by the power that language can exercise in the affairs of governance. No wonder Opeibi (2009) declares that no matter how good a candidate's manifesto is; no matter how superior political thoughts and ideologies of a political party may be, these can only be expressed and further translated into social action for social change and social continuity through the facilities provided by language. In fact, Akinkuolere (2011) submits that the support the citizens have for the politicians will be determined by what they say and how they say it for success to be achieved in candidacy, programmes or policies.

Many scholars have examined speeches of certain politicians from one linguistic orientation or the other; rhetorical analysis (Adjei-Fobi 2011), speech act analysis (Akinwotu 2013), Stylistics (Oha 1994, Akinwotu 2018) and discourse analysis (Okpanachi, 2009). What is cardinal to all these studies is an enquiry into the language use of political discourse. Wilson (2001) opines that "while language is always clearly central to political discourse, what shifts is the balance between linguistic analysis and political comment" (p. 400). Alagbe (2021) also notes that "an interesting thing about language is that it is unlimited in variety and variability" (p. 176). It is that variability which affords scholars the opportunity of dynamism in their enquiries of political discourse. Therefore, in spite of varied research endeavours on political speeches/discourses, which are replete in the literature, this present research considers a stylo-syntactic analysis of selected speeches of Nigeria's former President Goodluck Jonathan. And since political discourse also has interest in the linguistic structures that are deployed to get messages across to the people, this study attempts to examine how the choice of sentence patterns by Goodluck Jonathan affects his intended messages in the speeches, because as confirms by Alagbe (2021), "the language user can … choose syntactic features or units that will maximally convey the intention in mind" (p. 176).

Conceptual Framework
The fact that this research is a stylo-syntactic analysis predicts an elucidation of two key concepts in the review, which are combined for a robust linguistic investigation, namely; stylistics and syntax. According to Awonuga (2017), stylistics, which is from the word style, has been viewed as "a nebulous or elusive concept" (p. 16) because it cannot be pinned down to a particular definition. But there is a common compromise in the meaning attached to it by different scholars. Alagbe (2021) opines that "style, as a linguistic phenomenon, deals with some or total language habits of a person, a group of people, a period, a genre, a school of writing, effective expression, appropriate language use, and choice from linguistic possibilities" (p. 176). According to van Dijk (2008), "style is the result of more or less conscious choices among alternative, variable structures" (p. 143). This is saying that a writer deliberately selects from the abundance of linguistic resources available to him the one that will best represent his authorial purpose or the one that "matches his message and situation" (p. 28)

as rightly put forward by Lawal (2003). Style is therefore both a conscious and unconscious effort as clarifies by Osundare (2003). These choices can be noticed at any linguistic level. He gives example of conscious choice as rhetorical preferences like lexical patterns while unconscious choices can be noticed in stylistic options like syntactic patterns. However, just as stylistics has to do with style, syntactic patterns also have to do with syntax.

The word 'syntax' comes from the Greek word 'syntaxis', which according to Yule (2010), literally means "putting together in order or arrangement" (p. 96). Yule (1996) observes further that an attempt to "concentrate on the structure and ordering of components within a sentence... is what is technically known as syntax" (p. 100). Meyer's (2009) expresses a similar opinion when he explains that syntax is "how words are grouped and ordered within sentences, clauses and phrases" (p. 111). What this means is that there are countless ways of constructing phrases, clauses and sentences which depends on how the words which make them up are arranged.

The sentences a writer puts down will depend on a number of factors as subject matter, the occasion on which the writing is being done, the audience, the nature of response envisaged and personal disposition. However, Onadeko (2000b) states that "the English sentence can be approached from two perspectives, vis-à-vis; functional and structural" (87). The functional aspect has to do with the use to which the sentence is put. Accordingly, a sentence may be declarative, interrogative or exclamatory in function. It is declarative when it is just a statement of fact; it is interrogative when it is used to ask a question; it is imperative when it is issuing an order and it is exclamatory when it is an expression of sudden surprise, joy, anger or any feeling. The structural type deals with the components of a sentence in terms of the number and types of clauses that make up the sentence.

The focus in this section shall be on the structural aspect of the sentences deployed by Goodluck Jonathan, former President of Nigeria, in his sampled speeches. Against this background, there are five structural types of sentences, namely simple, compound, multiple, complex and compound complex. The simple sentence type consists of just one main clause and a clause has been described by Tomori (1977) as "a stretch of utterance that has only one finite verb in its structure at the primary degree of delicacy" (p. 51). This means that a simple sentence denotes a single complete and independent thought. When put in another way, a simple sentence consists of a subject and a predicator, with or without a complement, dependent on the class of verb occurring as predicator, with or without one or more adverbs and with or without a vocative. Example:

  1. Dayo is a boy.
  2. They arrived at the decision that she should repeat the exam.

The compound sentence contains two main or independent clauses which can be joined together by a linker or any element that has the property of joining structures of equal status together. Such conjunctions are additive (and), contrastive (but), adversative (or) and correlative (either or). Examples:

  1. The prices of things have gone up in the country and everybody is not finding it easy.

2. Deji gave his wife a new car but his wife preferred the old one.

The multiple sentence contains at least three main clauses. These clauses are linked by coordinating conjunctions like and, but, or and asyndectic coordinator. Examples:

1. He came and met her sleeping but he did not wake her.
2. I may injure you or even decide to kill you but I don't want to go to jail.

The complex sentence is a sentence which has only one main clause and one or more subordinate clauses. Examples:

1. When I called him, he refused to answer because he was angry.
2. You may be late if you don't come at 2.30 pm because the meeting will start at 2.00 pm.

The compound complex sentence is the one which contains two or more main clauses and one or more dependent clauses. Examples:

1. Do good, you will surely reap it no matter how long it takes.
2. He promised to come but he failed to turn up and went elsewhere because he was afraid.

Theoretical Framework
The theoretical framework suitable for the kind of linguistic enquiry to be examined in this study is that of Halliday's (1994) Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL). The theory views language as an activity in which the user consciously chooses an item out of a chain-like arrangement of options. SFL considers how language works in a functional relationship with its constituent part, and systems of choice which are made whenever language is used. The model provides language users with tools for describing how language is used in varying social contexts, and for understanding why a text is the way it is (Martin, Matthiessen & Painter, 1997). And according to Osisanwo (1999) these tools account "for the fundamental grammatical patterns of any human language" (p. 10). It accords utmost considerations to user's rights to make up their minds about how they choose to express themselves. For example, at the level of functions, while trying to construct a statement, a user may prefer making it inform of a question, exclamation, greeting, request or suggestion. And at the level of structure, options like simple, compound, complex, multiple and compound complex present themselves. The grammatical choices made will be determined by stylistic and contextual factors. Such choices are not imposed, and there are always tenable reasons for preferring one form to another.
    Feng (2013) opines that the SFL conceptual framework is therefore functional in three distinct senses: in interpreting texts, systems, and the elements of linguistic structures. In the first sense, functional grammar is designed to account for how language is used. Every text unfolds in some context of use. Halliday (1994: xiii) succinctly explains this when he maintains that "a functional grammar is essentially a 'natural' grammar, in the sense that everything in it can be explained, ultimately, by reference to how language is used". In the second sense, Halliday explains further that all languages are organised around three metafunctions, which

are the ideational, interpersonal and textual components. Ideational has to do with understanding the environment, interpersonal interacts with the social world by negotiating social roles and attitudes while textual creates messages with which meaning can be packaged.

Methodology

The target population for this research comprised all the prepared speeches delivered by President Goodluck Jonathan while he was the Head of Government in Nigeria, precisely between 2010 and 2015. However, only ten of such speeches were purposively selected to cover the six years of his tenure. The speeches, arranged chronologically and numbered A to J, include; his February 10, 2010 acceptance speech as Acting President and Commander-in-Chief of Armed Forces (tagged A), his September 15, 2010 declaration of intent to run for 2011 presidential race (B), the April 19, 2011 acceptance speech following declaration as the winner of 2011 presidential election (C), the May 29, 2011 inaugural address after being elected as president (D), the October 1, 2012 independence day anniversary speech (E), the January 1, 2013 new year speech (F), the February 4, 2013 speech to flag-off activities marking the celebration of Nigeria's centenary anniversary (G), his November 11, 2014 address to declare an intent to run for 2015 presidential election (H), the January 1, 2015 new year speech (I) and lastly, his May 26, 2015 concession speech (named J). The first eight speeches were drawn from Jonathan's (2013) *Determination Unshakable: A Collection of Speeches*, while the last two were cutouts from the *Nigerian Tribune* and *The Guardian Newspapers* of January 2, 2015 and May 27, 2015 respectively. Both qualitative and quantitative approaches were employed in the analysis of data. After a thorough reading of the speeches, all the sentences in the addresses were extracted and put on a distribution table to determine the frequencies of the different sentence structures, and this formed the basis of the qualitative analysis.

Data Analysis

The analysis examined in this research is based on the statistics presented in the table below. Only structural types of sentences constitute the main focus of this research so as to examine the level of accessibility of Goodluck Jonathan's message to the people. Therefore, five basic structural types of sentence, namely; simple, compound, multiple, complex and compound complex sentence patterns vis-a-vis their distributions in the different speeches are represented for linguistic interrogations. The quantitative interpretations are presented in percentages and form the basis for the qualitative analysis from which conclusions/deductions are made.

Table 1: Frequency Table Representing the Structural Sentence Types in the Selected Speeches of Goodluck Jonathan

Sentence Types	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	Total	%
Simple	30	18	58	45	92	55	24	37	199	16	574	69.1
Compound	4	5	14	6	8	14	4	12	34	3	104	12.5
Multiple	_	1	6	2	4	33	_	4	4	_	24	2.9
Complex	5	6	14	5	25	12	_	3	22	2	94	11.3
Compound complex	2	6	4	8	7	1	_	2	5	_	35	4.2
Total	41	36	96	66	136	85	28	58	264	21	831	100

The table above shows the frequency distribution of the structural sentence types made use of by Goodluck Jonathan in his selected speeches as President of Nigeria. As it can be noticed, the speeches are of varying lengths and types, all having a total of eight hundred and thirty one sentences. Out of the total number, simple sentence is five hundred and seventy four, representing 69.1%, compound sentence is one hundred and four, representing 12.5%, complex sentence is ninety-four, representing 11.3%, compound complex sentence is thirty-five, representing 4.2% and multiple sentence twenty-four, representing only 2.9%.

The implication of the frequency occurrence is that simple sentence is the most used by Goodluck Jonathan in the sampled speeches. This is not unexpected because, the success of political speeches as in advertising or campaign, relies on the target audience reading and remembering as much of the text as possible. By using more of short and straight-to-the-point constructions typical of simple sentences in the speeches, Goodluck Jonathan communicates clearly in an easy to understand manner and thus reduces the chances of the listening/reading audience getting distracted by unnecessary details. Examples:

> ///I have no enemies to fight. /// (C)
> ///This is a new dawn we crave. /// (D)
> ///The day of transformation begins today. /// (E)

The above three excerpts are simple sentences because each contains an independent/alpha clause. The number of words that make up each sentence range between six and seven. 'C' has the structure SPCA, 'D' has the structure SPC while 'E' has the structure SPA. The messages being passed across are short, clear and straight to the point. The audience will not only find the points being raised in the speech easy to remember, they will almost be able to repeat the sentences as exactly said by the speaker, especially in the future when there is need to cross-check his performance vis-à-vis his earlier campaign promises. The first sentence is loaded in communicating one of the basic ideological stances of Goodluck Jonathan when he said "I have no enemies to fight". He speaks like someone who initially recognizes the inevitability of

enemies but quickly dismisses the thought to allay people's fear for a vendetta. This is a vehement premise upon which he plans to relate particularly with the opposition in the guarantee of their safety. The statement is reassuring, firm and decisive. The second simple structure is also an affirmative clause to describe the auspicious occasion of his election. It is used to instill hope in the people. 'The new down' refers to the new political dispensation under his watch and it shows that the people had already been awaiting/craving for it. Also, the last sentence affirmatively presupposes the beginning of transformation, which is starting in earnest with his assumption of office. This is indirectly condemning the erstwhile bad leadership and reassuring the people that transformation would begin immediately.

Transformation happens to be one of the political emphasis of Goodluck Jonathan in his speeches. The preponderant use of simple sentences by Goodluck Jonathan in the sampled speeches has been found to reiterate that single purpose. The simple sentences characteristically portray the projection of this transformation idea. As a result, it is a deliberate attempt by the former President to stylishly present the sole reason that dominated his sampled speeches using the simple structures. For example:

> ///Our vision is encapsulated in the Transformation Agenda. /// (F)
> ///We will remain focused. /// (G)
> ///We will build the Nigeria of our dream. /// (H)

The above examples of simple sentences from different speeches of Gooddluck Jonathan reiterate one of his main themes. He deliberately and consistently dwells on the subject of Transformation Agenda using different simple paraphrase and polysemous constructions. The 'transformation agenda' in 'F' is the same as the 'focus' in 'G' and 'dream' in 'H'. This is communicating the same message in different ways to impress it on the hearts of the people.

In addition, Goodluck Ebele Jonathan's frequent use of simple sentences is significant because they serve as foundation block for highlighting salient points of his administration's achievements before longer stretches of utterances are introduced to buttress them. In most cases, when this happens, the simple constructions have a pattern of creating a spontaneous flow that strongly appeals to the general sensibility. Example:

> ///I have taken bold steps to confront our security situation. ///(C)
> ///We have taken pro-active measures to check the menace. /// (F)
> ///Today, we have revived the rail sector. /// (I)
> ///We have changed the face of agriculture. /// (I)
> ///We have ended decades of corruption in the fertilizer and seed sector. /// (I)

The above excerpts are typical examples to show Goodluck Jonathan's use of simple sentence constructions to pin-point the laudable achievements of his administration. 'C' and 'F' recount the deliberate efforts geared towards checking 'security' challenges/'menace' while 'I' vehemently states the success achieved at reviving the 'rail sector' and 'agriculture'. The essence of using simple sentence construction for such purposes is to enhance a quick glance

into the numerous landmark achievements of his administration. This is a ploy to present his administration as active and working in order to mooch off support. The sentences, characterized by repetitions of paralleled structures at the level of subject, predicator, extensive complement and adjunct, become remarkable for meaning creation.

Table 2: Showing Parallelism of Sentence Structures in Goodluck Jonathan's Sampled Speeches

S	P	C^E	A
I	have taken	bold steps	to confront our security situation
We	have taken	pro-active measures	to check the menace
We	have revived	the rail sector	
We	have changed	the face of agriculture	
We	have ended	decades of corruption	in the fertilizer and seed sector

The repeated and thematised personal deictic elements 'I' and 'we' are to demonstrate the president's personal achievements and reverberate his government's collective successes. The transitive verbal groups comprising of the same modifier 'have' and present participial lexical verbs 'taken', 'revived', 'changed' and 'ended' were not only used to positively touch/affect different areas of developments but also attest to the recency and freshness of the achievements. The receiving complement extensive 'bold steps', 'pro-active measures', 'the rail sector', 'the face of agriculture' and 'decades of corruption' are definitive and precise. Lastly, the adjuncts of reason and place used to end sentence one, two and five are to offer substantive explanations on the president's actions.

Moreover, the simple sentences have been deployed by Goodluck Jonathan to make definite and specific commitments to the people. These personal commitments come in form of promises, pledges and vows to assure the people of a purposeful government under his tenure. Examples:

*///Our commitment to ensure the security of lives and property in all part of the country **will** also be pursued with renewed zeal. /// (A)*

*///There **shall** be no excuses for failure. /// (A)*

*///We **will** fight for your rights! /// (C)*

*///We **will** not let you down. /// (D)*

*///We **must** make a vow that we will make the Nigerian Enterprise thrive. /// (E)*

Goodluck Jonathan is fully aware of the prevailing challenges of the nation and allays people's fear by making a commitment to tackle the problems. Top on the list of the nagging problems

seems to be security challenges. That probably explains the reason security issue occupies top priority among his numerous promises in 'A', which is the very first speech he delivered as President of Nigeria. In 'C', Goodluck Jonathan makes a promise to tackle human right violations and in 'E', he vows on a general note to make the Nigeria Enterprise thrive. The use of the deontic modal auxiliary verbs 'shall', 'will' and 'must' in stating his intensions is not only promissory but commisive. These simple sentence contractions were deployed to substantiate his sincerity as a man of few words, who can be trusted.

Furthermore, a good number of the simple sentences in the selected speeches of Goodluck Jonathan serve as complementary remarks to commemorate different auspicious occasions that call for the speeches. For example:

> ///For this I am very grateful. /// (C)
> ///This election is a renewal of hope. /// (D)
> ///The moment is right. /// (E)
> ///The signs are heart-warming. /// (E)
> ///This is unprecedented on our nation's history. /// (I)

In the above excerpts, Goodluck Jonathan utilizes the simple sentences to drive home complementary remarks about the occasion being marked in a dramatic way. The words in the sentences range between four and seven. Generally, the sentences are short and straight to the point. The president breaks the flow of the speeches in order to provide extra emphasis for the cause of celebration. 'C', for example, is expressively deployed to show appreciation to the people turning out en-mass on the occasion of the declaration for the 2011 presidential election, 'D' celebrates the renewed hope brought about by the election and 'E' expresses joy at his eventual swearing in as president, which is coming at an appropriate time.

Again, some of the simple sentence constructions in the sampled speeches are pieces of advice and admonitions. Example:

> ///The progress we seek for our country is in our collective hands. /// (D)
> ///The Nigeria of our dreams must be built on hard work and not on short cuts. /// (E)
> ///The one Nigeria consciousness which has kept us together is what we must safeguard. /// (H)
> ///We must put our hopes to work! /// (I)
> ///The unity, stability and progress of our dear country are more important than anything else. /// (J)

Goodluck Jonathan, in the above sentences, is found admonishing the people in one way or the other. In 'D', he advises the people to join hands together to realize the desired progress for the country. In 'E', he encourages the people to imbibe the spirit of hard work in order to achieve the shared national dream of greatness. In 'H', he advises that they should defend the unity of the country no matter what. In 'I', he advises that people must put their hope to work for a better future, and in 'J', he admonishes the people to place unity, stability, and of course,

progress above everything else. Thus, it seems whenever Goodluck Jonathan is trying to counsel the people to imbibe certain wholesome characters, he uses simple sentence constructions in order to achieve clarity of purpose and drive home his points.

On the whole, if one considers the general purpose for which Goodluck Ebele Jonathan chooses to address the people in simple sentences often, it is mostly to make him appear simple and more accessible to the people, majority of who are not highly educated. As a man seeking people's support, his message must be simple, clear, and easy to interpret and must be devoid of ambiguities. In addition, he must communicate in such an impressionistic way to enhance adequate grasping of his thoughts and also make his expressions memorable. This supports what Alimole (2002) says that "...the speech that appears simple... will usually turn out to be a fine speech" (p. 11).

The compound sentence is the second most used by Goodluck Jonathan in his selected speeches as indicated by the table. It is observed that when he uses the compound sentence, it is to detail the developmental efforts of his administration. These efforts are presented inform of what he had done, what he is doing or what he intends to do. For example:

///We placed Nigeria first// and delivered. /// (B)

///I kept my word// and the election was adjudged nationally and internationally as free and fair. /// (H)

///We created a Pan-Nigerian political party// and brought home to our people the reality of economic development and social transformation. /// (E)

///We are fighting corruption in all facets of our economy, // and we are succeeding. /// (F)

///We are equipping the armed forces// and deploying special Forces to engage the terrorists and end this senseless war. /// (I)

///We will therefore strengthen the capacity of the anti-corruption agencies// and give them a free hand to prosecute the anti-corruption war. /// (A)

///We will free our daughters// and defeat terrorism. /// (I)

///Arise we shall, // and prosper, we will. ///(H)

In each of the excerpts, two main clauses are conjoined to form compound sentence. The two clauses briefly highlight the developmental efforts which the administration of Goodluck Jonathan had carried out or is carrying out or is going to carry out. While the first three expressed in simple past tense; *placed* and *delivered; kept* and *was adjudged; created* and *brought*, highlight his past efforts, the fourth and fifth are examples of what he is currently doing; *fighting* and *succeeding; equipping and deploying.* The last three are indications of what

he plans to do. It is observed that the relationship between the two clauses in each case is that of action and result or consequence. That is why the additive conjunction *and* is used. The essence of placing side by side those clauses in a compound sentence is to make people understand both the efforts and results of his developmental initiatives. In addition, the use of 'I' or 'we' draws the personal deictic center to himself and his governance, while trying to sound authoritative.

The complex sentence is the third most used type of sentence in the selected speeches as shown earlier by the table. The percentage of use in the speeches is small but commensurate when compared with simple and compound sentences. As noted by Adejare and Adejare (1996:49), 'complex sentences are more difficult to construct and interpret. Indeed, they are like spice in a text, too much or too little of which is undesirable'. While using too many complex constructions will overtly alienate the audience, using too little will expose a deficiency in communication competence of the writer. Since it is one of the aims of Goodluck Jonathan in his speeches to carry the people along, he intentionally avoids the risk of confusing his messages with too many or too little complicated sentence constructions so as to ensure easy readability and understanding.

However, the moderate use of complex sentences achieved two main purposes in Goodluck Jonathan's sampled speeches. One is that, just like a complex sentence which is an addition of at least one main clause and one or more subordinate clauses, Goodluck Ebele Jonathan demonstrates that he is incomplete or certain actions are not complete without the complementary effort or support of the people. Example:

> ///Since God Almighty and yourselves permitted me to serve you in the present capacity//, I have busied myself with setting Nigeria on the part of peace and progress. /// (B)

> ///As we march towards our centenary as a nation in year 201, // this election will be remembered as that which reaffirmed our faith and strengthened the bond of our union. /// (D)

> ///I call upon all the presidential candidates who contested with me to join hands with us// as we begin the transformation of our country. /// (E)

In the examples above, the complex sentences are made up of one dependent clause and one independent clause; that is, one standing alone to make complete meaning while the other can only rely on the other before making meaning. In the same vein, the two ideas that make up each sentence rely on each other for meaning. For instance, the only reason Goodluck Jonathan has busied himself with setting Nigeria on the path of peace and progress in 'B' was adduced to the support and permission granted by God, and of course the people. Also in 'D', the election that brought him in as president will only be remembered as a confirmation of people's faith and unity as the centenary celebration draws near. Likewise, in 'E', the transformation of the country depends on the cooperation of the presidential candidates who contested the election

with him. All these facts point to one thing; Goodluck Jonathan sees himself as not complete without the support of the people.

The second meaning that could be deduced from the use of complex sentence in the speeches is that, Goodlluck Jonathan deliberately presents the naughty and complex situation of the country in complex sentences in order to draw people's sympathy and emotion towards the challenging task of governance. Examples:

> ///In all these, there are no winners and no losers, // because by the grace of God we have once again succeeded in moving our country forward. /// (A)

> ///I call on you my friends on this page and all Nigerians to give me your support and prayers// so that together we can liberate our country from the confines of self-inflicted wounds and limitations of the past. /// (B)

> ///Unfortunately, despite the free, fair and transparent manner the elections were conducted, // a senseless wave of violence in some part of the country led to the death of ten members of the NYSC and others. /// (E)

The above complex sentences underline the complex problems of the country as at the time Goodluck Jonathan assumed office. In 'A', the naughty issues can be traced to the anaphora *these*, which are understood from the previous sentence to be *suspicions*, *hurts* and *doubts*, which had occurred. In 'B', *self inflicted wounds and limitation of the past* and in 'E', the *senseless wave of violence leading to death of NYSC members* become the issue. By presenting these challenges in complex sentences, Goodluck Jonathan is deliberately decrying the pitiful state of the nation and at the same calling for support to tackle the hydra headed issues. Thus, Goodluck Jonathan, rather than using the complex sentences to present himself as a difficult and inaccessible person, he uses them to show the complexities of the country's problems which need the support of the people to solve them and at the same time shows his communicative competence in using appropriate sentence types to reach the people. He stylishly avoids a situation where the people will have to start remembering a list of information items from one or many extremely long sentences.

Conclusion

This research has examined a stylo-syntactic analysis of ten speeches of President Goodluck Jonathan of Nigeria using Halliday's theoretical framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics. It was discovered that Goodluck Jonathan made use of more pervading simple structures than any other sentence types to portray himself as a simple and accessible president to the people. In addition, the predominant short expressions in the speeches helped not only to achieve profundity, but also to enhance stress-free memorability and recoverability of the messages of the speeches.

For Goodluck Jonathan, the choice of simple sentence patterns becomes deliberate in order to gain uninterrupted access to the people and for the people to distil through his intended messages without any ambiguities. This supports Wilson (1990) as quoted in Opeibi (2007)

that "one of the goals of political discourse analysis is to seek out the way in which language choice is manipulated for specific political effect. Political candidates carefully construct their language to communicate their messages, seek public approval and support and win the sympathy of the people either in an attempt to gain or control power or trying to retain power" (p. 162). However, it is equally important to state that his occasional use of both compound and complex structures was mainly to present some of the critical, naughty, compounding and complex national issues.

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