

Critical Discourse Analysis of President Buhari's Independence Speech

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Abstract

The language of political discourse is one of the richest sources of examining the role of language in social engagement, power relations, and the projection of ideologies. With insight from Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), this paper investigates how President Muhammadu Buhari uses language to negotiate, threaten, warn, and renegotiate social relationships with his addressees and to legitimise his authority and vision for Nigeria in his 58th Independence Anniversary speech. The analysis projects a mindset deeply dedicated to governance with an underlying appeal for Nigerians' trust.

Keywords: CDA, President Buhari, independence speech, power asymmetry, context, ideology

1.0 Introduction

Language is critical to sustaining relationships germane to the business of governance. Language, as Osisanwo (2003) puts it, "is the instrument of communication among human beings" (p. 5). Generally speaking, language is for human communication. Nevertheless, Wardhaugh (2010) specifies that a language, in particular, is used by the members of society. Language, in other words, is culturally unique (Bloch & Trager, 2007). That is, every cultural concept can be conveyed through language. That is why scholars are intrigued by the relationship between a language and the culture of a people. (Mbisike, 2007; Daramola, 2009).

Language is arbitrary; each group of language users is aware of the certain linguistic symbols acceptable in it. On this note, Block and Trager (2007) describe the concept of language as a system of arbitrary vocal symbols by which medium a social group relates. If the linguistic symbols brought to the discourse of a particular social group are foreign to the group, there is a tendency that communication problems will ensue. Communication problems occur if language users fail to use language in the appropriate social context. In the context of politics, language use is not explicit. Hence the language of political discourse is often oblique, opaque, and indirect, arising from the social constraints that operate on that datatype. This paper, therefore, sets out to unravel such unspoken meanings in President Buhari's 2018 independence speech with the aid of CDA.

2.0 Theoretical Framework: Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)

Critical Discourse Analysis is an interdisciplinary approach to studying discourse, which sees language as a social routine. It studies both the text and the social aspects included in the text. This theory was inspired by Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (Fairclough, 1995, p. 6). It developed from Critical Linguistics, established at the University of Anglia in the 1970s. Prominent figures in the evolution of CDA include Norman Fairclough, Ruth Wodak, and van Dijk (Chiluwa, 2013).

The primary concern of CDA is the social use of language. It is not exclusively interested in language or language use per se but in the linguistic character of social and cultural processes and structures; hence CDA is interdisciplinary (Wodak, 1996). When language is employed in public, meaning is likely to become direct in a subtly indirect way. The meaning of a specific statement may vary depending on how it is analysed in the context of use. CDA becomes essential

in such a socio-political situation as Nigeria's. The tool for understanding an indirect message passed across by certain statements is CDA. It primarily deals with social issues concealed in a text or talk, which are above mere selection of words. Van Dijk (in Ahmed, 2014) observes what CDA entails; thus, CDA "...is a type of discourse analytical research that primarily studies the way social power abuse, dominance, and inequality are enacted, reproduced, and resisted by text and talk in the social and political context" (p. 39).

In explaining the workings of CDA, Fairclough and Wodak outlined the basic tenets of CDA, which are here combined in the list below:

1. CDA addresses social problems
2. Power relations are discursive
3. Discourse constitutes society and culture
4. Discourse does ideological work
5. Discourse is historical
6. The link between text and society is mediated
7. Discourse analysis is interpretative and explanatory
8. Discourse is a form of social action (Ahmed, 2014, p. 39)

The relationship between language, ideology and power, discourse and sociocultural change is the primary goal of CDA (Fairclough, 1989, 1992). CDA studies how discourse reflects (or resists/attacks) social and political inequality, power abuse or dominance. It does not border its investigation to specific text constructions or talk but relays the text rationally to the socio-political context (McCarthy et al., 2010, p. 63). Since communication is a social affair, usually happening within an equally precise social situation, communicators depend on one another to share their conception of the situation based on shared understanding to facilitate communication rather than explain everything (Akmajian et al., 2010). Hence, understanding language is not exclusively the preserve of independent linguistic processes because language users also often depend on non-linguistic cues from texts and background knowledge of events not overtly stated for a complete interpretation.

An illustration by Finch (2000) on non-linguistic cues is that "If an action takes place in a restaurant, for example, the listener can infer the presence of a kitchen, even though it may not be explicitly mentioned" (p. 199). Such evidence suggests that we achieve this by creating mental representations or schemes founded on our knowledge of the world around us and as symbolised in language. These empower us to utilise and make sense of propositions and ideas presented through language. Finch (2000) related this ability to the side of psycholinguistics that connects with discourse analysis which is concerned with how we make sense of texts. It can then be said that genres (or the categories of discourse) in CDA are context-based. Hence context is paramount in the critical analysis of discourse.

3.0 Literature Review

Context

The context in CDA is the conditions or circumstances that affect the interpretation of a text or discourse. Akmajian et al. (2010) indicate that the context in which an utterance is made can be expanded. This means including the linguistic elements preceding and following that utterance in the discourse or conversation, the immediate, physical and social environment, and general knowledge. As a result, they note that each of these parallel circles of 'context' can be a factor in interpreting an utterance.

Context can be verbal (co-text) and non-verbal. Verbal context, in the case of a sentence, or utterance, could be the sounds, words, or phrases surrounding a particular verbal item (Finch,

2000). Thus, for example, in the sentence '*Mike went to the movies.*' '*He went alone.*' it is clear that the signifier *he* in the second sentence refers to *Mike* because of the preceding item *Mike* in the first sentence. This kind of context is what is referred to as verbal context/co-text. 'Co-text' means 'accompanying text', i.e. those sounds, words, and phrases accompanying each other in a particular sentence or utterance (Finch, 2000, p. 212).

On the other hand, nonverbal context refers to the physical environment of language use, the circumstance or situation that occasions the text, and the social and cultural ideology from which the discourse emanated (Finch, 2000). Non-verbal context has several possible contexts. To cope with the spread of possible non-verbal contexts, many linguists make a broad distinction between micro-context and macro-context (Finch, 2000). The micro-context is the immediate one in which an utterance occurs. The principal feature is that it combines *setting* and *occasion*. Setting specifies the place where a discourse event happens, and the occasion, the exact situations which prompted it. For example, an utterance (an uproar between a traffic warden and a road user) which occurs at a traffic point (setting), triggered by the disobedience of traffic rules by a road user (situation); a discourse (a lawyer interrogating a witness) in the courtroom (setting), which emanated from a car theft (situation); and so on.

As the name suggests, the macro-context comprises the more distant environments where communication transpires. Any communicative act adopts a basis, or background, of shared values and beliefs. The vital factors here are geographical, social, and cultural. The separation of immediate and more comprehensive features in this way allows us to explain the influence of context on linguistic meaning more evidently. Situational context, otherwise non-verbal context, is extralinguistic. As such, it is the point at which language and the world interact (Finch, 2000, p. 213). In the interpretation of texts, both verbal and non-verbal contexts are helpful. Finch (2000) emphasises that to interpret utterances correctly, one needs to process the words and the context in which they are being used. Anurudu and Lawal (2014) also explain the intertwined nature of verbal and non-verbal contexts in the critical analysis of texts. That CDA reveals the intentions of a speaker behind particular selections of words and that context has the leading role behind these words. Therefore, the paper includes verbal and non-verbal clues in the analysis.

The Formal Features and Their Discourse Values

Fairclough (1989) (in Chilwa, 2013) explains the formal features that they must have significant discourse values known as "experiential", "relational", or "expressive". The experiential value indicates how the speaker's natural or social world experience (knowledge and belief) is signified in the text. The relational value indicates how the enacted social relationships are reproduced using the structure (text) in the discourse. Finally, the expressive value indicates how the speaker's assessment concerning reality, specifically with subjects and social identities, is represented in the text (Chilwa, 2013, p. 238).

Fairclough's four dimensions of interpretation of social context, as listed by Chilwa (2013, p. 239), include:

1. What is going on (activity, topic, purpose)?
2. Who is involved?
3. What relationships are involved?
4. What is the role of language in what is going on?

4.0 Methodology

The population for the data is a text of twenty-nine (29) paragraphs from Nigeria's 58th Independence speech by President Buhari. The primary tools are the identification and description of the formal features of the text in terms of vocabulary and grammar, including semantics, and the discourse values of the formal features, such as experiential, relational, and expressive values. This will help to reveal how the speaker's experiences of the social world are portrayed, which is part of the context that is evident in the text.

5.0 Data Presentation and Analysis

Nigeria's 58th Independence Anniversary Speech by President Muhammadu Buhari

Fellow Nigerians,

1. Today is a day of celebration and solemn reflection. It is the anniversary of the day Nigerians realised one of the most cherished human desires – the desire for freedom. We, therefore, give thanks to and remember our founding fathers who laboured so hard and sacrificed so much to build and bequeath to us this wonderful nation. It is our duty to consolidate this great legacy.
2. On this first October date and on the eve of the start of the general election cycle, we should do well to reflect on what binds us together and the great strength our diversity bestows on us. Ours is an ambitious nation, and, as citizens, we have every right to look forward to the future with confidence and optimism, which are well-founded, considering where we find ourselves today.
3. There has been a steady improvement in the security situation in the North East. We remain committed to ending the crisis and making the North East safe for all.
4. Our thoughts and prayers are always with the victims of the Boko Haram's atrocities and their families. Beyond that, we know that the goals of the Boko Haram terrorists include capturing territories, destroying our democracy and denying our children the right to education. We will not allow them to succeed.
5. I want at this point to pay tribute to the men and women of our armed forces, the Police and other security and law enforcement agencies, who have been working under the most difficult conditions to keep the country safe. In the process, many have fullmade the supreme sacrifice.
6. As their Commander -In- Chief, I assure these gallant men and women that I will continue to empower them by deepening their professionalism and providing all the necessary force multipliers and enablers required for them to prevail on the field. I am looking into all reported cases of inadequacies in relation to their entitlements, their welfare and those of their families.
7. We are diversifying away from reliance on oil to increased manufacturing capacity, solid minerals development, and agriculture.
8. Efforts are on course in the Niger Delta to clean up polluted lands, restore hopes of the youths in the region and re-establish livelihoods, and strengthen their capacity to guarantee for themselves and for our country a brighter future.

9. The age-long conflict between herders and farmers that was being exploited by those seeking to plant the seeds of discord and disunity amongst our people is being addressed decisively. We will sustain and continue to support the commendable efforts by all, including civil society organisations, local and state governments and our traditional and religious leaders, in finding durable solutions to this problem.
10. This being a transhumance issue, we are working with countries in our region that are also facing similar difficulties to complement our common efforts. In this context, I must warn that the perpetrators of murder and general mayhem in the name of defending or protecting herders or farmers will face the full wrath of the law. Meanwhile, we urge all peace-loving Nigerians to reject any simplistic portrayal, at home or abroad, of this conflict as either religious or ethnic based.
11. We are one of the countries in the world most affected by environmental degradation as a consequence of climate change. We are signatories to almost all conventions and agreements aimed at slowing down the effect of climate change and mitigating its now evident consequences.
12. The consequences on lives and livelihoods of the shrinking of Lake Chad and the pollution caused by oil exploitation activities alone make it mandatory for us to be at the forefront of the struggle for a safer and more sustainable environment. We will continue to mobilise international support for our efforts in this regard.
13. We are making progress in the fight against corruption and recovery of stolen public funds and assets despite vicious and stiff resistance. The shameful past practice of the brazen theft of billions of Naira is no more. Shady oil deals and public contracts that were never delivered have become things of the past.
14. Consequently, and this is very evident across the country, we have done more with less in infrastructural developments. Roads, railways, major bridges, schools, energy and power, air and sea ports, the welfare of serving and retired personnel, both civilian and military, including payment of legacy debt such as pension arrears, have been attended to.
15. There is now an enabling environment for local and foreign investment in Nigeria. We are building a rules-based system – a level playing field that is free from fixers and intermediaries. This is the cornerstone to help genuine investors and honest consumers and the platform that will allow for the real reforms that we intend to deliver over the coming years.
16. We are gradually strengthening the economy with a stable Naira and falling inflation rate. We are building an economy that is moving away from overreliance on oil. Consequently, we have witnessed massive returns to farms and seen bumper harvests, despite recurrent floods across the country.
17. These positive developments are the result of our collective pursuit of a common vision through hard work and dedication after the missed opportunities and disappointments that followed the return to democracy in 1999.

18. At the forefront have always been our youths. They have been at the vanguard of the struggle for independence. They fought in the war to keep the country united. And it was they who kept alive the struggle for democracy and human rights in our country at times when these were at risk, especially following the June 12th 1993 election and the historic 2015 election process.
19. Even today, our youths play a central role in Nigeria's continuing progress and developments in all fields of our national endeavour –technology, agriculture, mining, engineering and especially the creative arts. Together we are building a more diverse, inclusive and self-reliant economy.
20. In the past three years, we have introduced many policies and programmes targeted at youth development and youth empowerment. We support the 'not too young to run' legislation aimed at giving the youths greater say in our national politics and governance.
21. The school feeding program in primary schools is aimed at encouraging enrolment and attendance. We are building on what we have already introduced to support schools and universities, to which funds have recently been released for the upgrade of facilities, training programs for our entrepreneurs, and rehabilitation schemes for victims of terrorism and human trafficking.

Fellow Nigerians,

22. Now, we have in our hands technology that is a powerful tool that we can and should use for knowledge and understanding. As with other countries, we must also learn how to manage those tendencies that, instead, look to abuse new technologies to provoke passions and stir tensions.
23. Never before have we faced such a challenge. We must all rise to the responsibility of shutting out those disruptive and corrosive forces that hide in today 's world of social media. We need critical minds and independent thinking to question and question until we are satisfied we have the facts. Otherwise, all the progress we have made as a democracy since 1999 is at stake.
24. I have committed myself many times to ensure that elections are fully participatory, free and fair and that the Independent National Electoral Commission will be exactly INDEPENDENT and properly staffed and resourced. The ballot box is how we make our choice for the governments that rule in our name.

Fellow Nigerians,

25. Developing a thriving democracy is not an easy task. There can be no quick fixes or shortcuts. These are the most important lessons that we have learnt in our 58 years as an independent nation.
26. At the international level, we remain a responsible and respected member of the international community, playing active, positive roles within ECOWAS, the African Union and the United Nations, as well as all other regional and international organisations and institutions of which we are members.

27. We will continue to support initiatives aimed at addressing the challenges of our times: global and regional crises and conflicts, terrorism, trans-border crime, climate change, human rights, gender equality, development, poverty and inequality within and between nations, etc. In this context, we are working hard to achieve both the AU 2063 Agenda for the socio-economic transformation of our continent; and the UN 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, which together aim to addressing these challenges. Fellow Nigerians,
28. As we celebrate the 58th anniversary of our independence, we know we are on the right path. Although we have our differences, they count for far less than the values, virtues and common aspirations that unite us as a nation. We have so much for which we should be grateful and in which we should rightly take pride. Our journey is not finished, but we have come a long way.
29. I want to assure you that as President, I will continue to work tirelessly to promote, protect and preserve what really matters: a united, peaceful, prosperous and secure Nigeria where all, irrespective of background, can aspire to succeed.

Thank you. I wish you a memorable Independence celebration.

Formal Features

Lexical Features

The first person pronoun 'I' is used in the text to stress the authority accorded to a country's President. Hence, the succeeding items show such power as to 'assure', 'warn', 'pay tribute', 'look into reported cases of inadequacies' (of course, such cases of inadequacies are committed by members of his cabinet), 'empower', and so on in paragraphs 1, 5, 6, 10, 29, and so on. This means it is (he) the President responsible for carrying out such actions as expressed through verbal elements, which are also to benefit or be carried out on others. Avoiding the first-person pronoun "we" suggests outright excluding any other person but solely the President in carrying out such duties. This is because the pronoun "we" has a clusivity role of being specifically inclusive or exclusive of the addressee.

Using the pronoun 'we' implies the inclusion of other functional members of the present government. Hence, the President performs the function of a leader of a group of government functionaries. The use of 'we' in this context is employed only when he intends to appreciate, promise, encourage, and recount the achievements and future endeavours of the government, such as in paragraphs 1, 3, 4, 7, 10, 12, 13,14, 16, and so on. This word implies that the duty of 'thanking Nigerians', 'ending the crisis in the North East', 'not allowing Boko Haram to succeed', and so on. is a shared responsibility of every government member and the Nigerian armed forces.

Another use of the pronoun 'we' is evident in cases where the President brought himself to the level of the masses. He tries to show with language aid that he is part of the world created. Here, the intention is to refer to all citizens of Nigeria, of which the President is one. However, this only happens when the word precedes such statements aimed at urging (paragraph 22), encouraging (paragraph 2), and listing negative experiences (paragraph 27).

Another observation is that, even though, often, Nigerian writers employ American spellings or even mix up American and British orthographies in a single text, the present text portrays a consistent use

of the British orthographical convention, except for names of organisations and ideas where such names carry the American spelling, maybe because the text is an independence speech, as Nigeria was colonised by the British colony, politically, British becomes the indirect monarch of the country. Such words include: 'organisations', 'laboured'. 'mobilise', 'endeavour', and 'programmes'.

Syntactic Features

As specified in the vocabulary analysis, the President generally uses the country's official code, which shows the level of formality of the context. Despite this, there are cases where specific constructions indicate particular possible inclinations, such as in the construction '...local and state governments' (paragraph 9), which shows that the English language is foreign to Nigeria. Hence, an Independence speech of this sort has such a construction where a modifier 'state' is inflected. 'The shameful past practice' (paragraph 13) and 'Age-long conflict between herders and farmers' (paragraph 9) are expressions which could still be accepted without the modifiers 'shameful' and 'past' and 'age-long'. The President deliberately uses the items to emphasise a point explained in the semantic features. In the expression '*We are gradually strengthening the economy with a stable Naira and falling inflation rate*' (paragraph 16), the adverb 'gradually' modifies the pace of the naira strengthening process since Nigeria is well-known for its weak currency. The adverb is employed to silence any doubting Thomas.

In paragraph 18, the President rained praises on the youths, enumerating such instances of their contribution to independence, a united country, democracy, and, most importantly, the historic 2015 election process. This is the use of language to indirectly buy the minds of the youths by ascribing voting power to the youths. The expression 'historic election' is loaded with much meaning. It explains that, since democracy succeeded in military rule, an incumbent government had not been overthrown until 2015, when the present government was the opposition that took over from the party which ruled for 16 years uninterruptedly. The youths are here credited with the victory experienced, which seemed almost impossible. After attributing such triumphs to the youths, in paragraphs 22 and 23, the President advised them on what seemed to be a disturbing challenge the government is yet to tackle. Every Tom, Dick and Harry want to abuse the availability of technology to say what they think about the government through social media, with instances of doctoring offensive videos of government dignitaries, which are 'disruptive and corrosive forces that hide in today 's world of social media' (paragraph 23).

The expression 'As with other countries' in the last sentence (paragraph 22) shows that using social media to 'provoke passion and stir tension' is a common problem in Nigeria, whereas other countries use technology for 'knowledge and understanding'. Technology has made it possible for even ordinary people to air their views since they will not go to a radio station or television station where their identity may be in danger. Since there are no penalties for such persons, the President can only counsel them to 'rise to the responsibility of shutting out' (paragraph 23) such practices.

Semantic Features

The level of understanding of the different shades of meaning in the text is determined by the ideology or assumption of the participants about Nigerian political, social, cultural, and economic life before the time of discourse. The speech began with a salutation, 'Fellow Nigerians, ' a pleasant expression that intends to entice the audience to pay more attention to the entire message. If a hostile expression is used at the speech's opening, the tendency for uninterested listeners will ensue. After the first two paragraphs, which were used to retain the

audience's attention, some positive achievements were mentioned. Then the President's tone changed to hostility, using expressions that suggest warning and threat.

The citizens' social issues are captured in paragraphs 3, 4, 8, 13, and 22. The lexical items used imply that there is a severe security situation in the North East, land pollution in the Niger Delta, which has resulted in the inadequate livelihood of the youths, corrupt practices such as stealing public funds and assets, and the abuse of new technologies to sabotage the government. Here, the President emphasises only the steps taken to improve the situation, not the government's failure to stop such conditions.

The use of the expression 'age-long conflict' (paragraph 9) is to implicitly shy away from the notion that the battle between the herders and farmers is a challenge his government is facing. He then relates the problem as that which other governments have tried to solve and have also failed and that it is familiar to his government. Paragraphs 2 and 10 expose religious and cultural issues affecting the country's unity. In order to encourage economic and political growth, the President tries to portray the strength of 'our' diversity rather than the 'age-long' conflict the country incurred through cultural and religious differences.

The glory of positive developments is ascribed to the present government, in which the President is the front-runner while excluding former governments, which were also constituted by citizens of the country, thereby indirectly ascribing the harmful practices to them (paragraphs 13 and 17) - 'we' (his government) 'correction of past shameful practices'. The speech entirely stresses the ills of past governments and the present government as a rescuer to salvage the country from doom. This may be because the present government represents the party's first taste of power; hence any praise given to past governments implies campaigning for the major opposition party. The speech becomes timely in this regard since general elections are at hand. Another angle from which this speech is aimed is at spotlighting the ruling party as the best to impress the citizens for a choice of presidential candidate for the forthcoming elections. Paragraph 16 implies that the country should decide to retain the ruling party in the subsequent political tenure so that the process of making the Naira gain value, which the present government has started, will be completed.

The ideology behind the term 'Niger 'Delta' helps us to understand the expression: '...in the Niger Delta to clean up polluted lands' (paragraph 8). Ordinarily, the expression would have yet to be understood, but for every Nigerian's background knowledge about the region. Hence, cleaning up polluted lands is self-explanatory, as it is common knowledge that the Niger Delta region is rich in oil, so it has been explored and polluted. The expression in paragraph 28 is discursively directed at the agitators of the Biafran struggle. As it is the tradition that during such speech presentations, there have been pronouncements on creating new states, the audience would have been expecting such declarations as the country's division into Nigeria and Biafra. Hence, the speech is also to tell the Nigerian citizens that we are not divided no matter our differences in terms of culture and ethnicity, that we should appreciate the achievements as one nation, and that there is still so much more to achieve as one people, therefore the division will not enable us to accomplish much.

In paragraph 27, language use betrays that Nigeria is yet to be developed. It combats undeveloped minds capable of causing unrest; it experiences a high rate of crime, terrorism, gender inequality, and poverty, all traits of an undeveloped country. The President, therefore, urged Nigerians to support initiatives to address such challenges to achieve the UN 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

This campaign strategy is quite timely. The electioneering strength is indirectly ascribed to the youths in terms of the meanings of the lexical items in paragraphs 18 and 24, where the June 12th election in 1993 and the historic 2015 election are being categorised as free and fair, symbolising an interplay of the power of the youth. Power is at play here; as the President of the country, he persuades and manipulates the citizens to behave in a particular manner to achieve specific goals. This was manipulated by using such expressions as "...youths...have been at the vanguard of the struggle...they fought in the war to keep the country united...they ...kept alive the struggle for democracy" (paragraph 18).

Discourse Values

Experiential Value

The President and Nigerians share a common cultural experience (experience of socio-political culture), an experience depicted in the text. In the socio-political culture of the Nigerian nation, there is the common background knowledge (ideology) that the President gives an independence speech every October 1st, with some vital information which may only be handy on some occasions the President is featured. It is a known fact that in such a speech, the aim or position of the government on particularly contentious issues is made evident.

Furthermore, the notion of ethnic diversity and the struggle for recognition is another common experience shared by Nigerians. This is captured in the text as the President urges his subjects to take pride and be grateful for the positive aspects of the ethnic divergence (paragraph 28). The aspects of cultural pluralism that threaten the country's development were intentionally avoided, as it is the wish of the President, obviously from a region with political advantage, to promote, protect and preserve the country's unity.

Relational Value

The President has an official power, influencing his choice of words, resulting in a power asymmetry. The President and the Nigerian citizens have an unequal relationship (high and low). Here, power is carried out in the reflection of inequality. The social distance is shown with lexical items portraying threat, warning, promise, and so on, exposing the speaker's status as prestige and the audience's status as subordination. This is captured in paragraph 6, where the President reiterates some of the powers bestowed on him: 'As their commander in chief, I assure...I will...empower...'.

Expressive Value

The assessment of the President as relates to reality within the Nigerian domain is that of headship and subordination on the part of the audience. As a result, the former shows in his speech the authority bestowed on him, which results in promises, advice, warnings and threats. Such expression of superiority is shown in the text: 'I will...empower them' (paragraph 6); 'We will sustain and continue to support...' (paragraph 9); 'I must warn that the perpetrators...will face the full wrath of the law' (paragraph 10); and so on. The ideology behind such expressions is power. The President expressed power in reaction to the likely truncation of his government from accomplishing expected goals. **Conclusion**

Critical Discourse Analysis has aided a proper knowledge about what the President does with language in his bid to address the entire nation. The speech shows how language gains power by the use the President makes of it. He founded the ideology that the President can negotiate, encourage, warn, threaten, and renegotiate relationships with his addressees. Thus, it becomes difficult for the citizens to question that predominant ideology. The sophisticated status of the President is overlaid with the lesser status of the audience. There is a status scale of superiority

versus inferiority in the developmental asymmetry portrayed in the text. The President's choice of words in their lexical, syntactic and semantic values indicates that his business is not a doddle, and his job is not to beg his subordinates but to ensure his command is the final.

The paper has yet to cover comprehensively every situational context of a president's speech. However, it has effectively carried out a critical discourse analysis of the routine linguistic commitments of the President in carrying out his duties. For instance, the President's campaign, swearing-in, and handover speeches.

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