AWKA JOURNAL OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERARY STUDIES (AJELLS)

Volume 12 Number 1
March, 2025

A Syntactic Analysis of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Inaugural Speech

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Abstract

The aim of this research was to carry out a syntactic analysis of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's inaugural speech, with a view to examining the syntactic devices employed, discussing how the syntactic devices help in the interpretation of the speech and explaining the devices in relation to the context of the speech. The inaugural speech of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu served as the data for the study. A combination of qualitative and quantitative approach was adopted in the study. The analysis of the data was done using frequency-based approach, with insights drawn from Halliday's Systemic Functional grammar. The findings revealed the predominance of simple sentences for clarity and easy understanding as well as the strategic use of ellipsis, appositions, and substitutions to avoid unnecessary repetitions and for the

purpose of emphasis. Adverbial phrases and syntactic parallelism were also employed to create unity and rhythm in the speech. The study concluded that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's language choices reinforce his political ideology, policy priorities and vision for Nigeria's future.
Keywords: Inaugural speech, syntactic devices, political ideology, structural parallelism,

Introduction

Language has an important role to play in politics because it influences all political activities in a country (Sarah & Oladayo, 2018). Beard (2000) observes that in political discourse, language use helps to know how political office holders employ the instrument of language to communicate their ideas and thoughts to the people. For instance, politicians such as presidents and state governors usually use language in their speeches to persuade the people. According to Sarah and Oladayo (2018), language and power are inter-related. Thus, almost everyone in power utilises language as a valuable tool in carrying out their official duties. In most cases, politicians manipulate their words in order to achieve their intentions. We can, therefore, say that language is a potent communication tool for political officeholders and politicians in general.

Discourse is used to give an analysis of language beyond the sentence level. Tischer (2000) opines that discourse is a very vast term that "integrates a whole pallet of meaning". According to van Dijk (1997), public discourse is one of the most important resources shared by the representatives of elite, such as writers, intellectuals, politicians, etc., by using talk or text to influence the public from news stories, articles, TV shows, parliamentary discussions, advertisements and so on. Van Dijk states that public discourse is used for the social reproduction of power that helps politicians to reproduce their political power. Political discourse is

the best medium to express the opinions of the general public in public discourse. According to Fairclough (2003), the person who can shape public opinion can access the power structures. The language used in political discourse has certain qualities that show the ideological position of politicians through which the reader's ideological position is generated. Political discourse is concerned with not only the political context but also the political text structure. According to van Dijk (1997), political speech is generally used to perform politics; it is used for the hidden analysis of the speaker's statements. In political speeches, language is used to control political action and to influence the audience. Language is the tool used in political speech to encourage the audience and attract them. Political speeches can produce and reproduce ideologies, ideas, and opinions.

Opeibi (2009) observes that language is the means by which politicians express their thoughts and ideologies. Therefore, the status of language in mobilising, convincing, enlightening, and persuading the people cannot be over-emphasised. Jegede (2019) notes that the masses usually give their support to politicians because of the way they use language to make their messages logical and accurate. Thus, the success of a politician greatly depends on how well they can use language to manipulate the psyche of the people. Chen (2018) observes that political discourse or speech is a social norm, which plays an important role in actualising the goals of the speaker.

Syntax as an aspect of language deals with internal structure of sentences in a language. It focuses on the arrangement of words and phrases to form sentences and clauses in a language. Specifically, syntax refers to the analysis and understanding of how words are combined to create grammatical structures, including sentence structure, word order, and phrase structure. Andrew (2006) defines syntax as a set of rules, principles, and processes that govern the structure of sentences in a given

language, usually including word order. The goal of scholars in this field is to bring out the rules of the syntax of a particular language, in this case, the English language (Robert & Howard, 2006). Syntax also deals with the study of word combination to form phrases, from phrases to clauses, and finally clauses to sentences or utterances. Syntax mainly focuses on grammaticality and acceptability. The analysis of syntactic structure in a text can be determined by analysing the compositions of the sentences in the text. These include sentence types according to function and structure.

In linguistics, syntactic analysis examines the relationships between words and how they are used to convey meaning, focusing on the rules and patterns that govern sentence formation. This includes studying parts of speech, phrase structure, clause structure, and sentence types, among other aspects. Syntactic analysis also focuses on the analysis of syntactic features or devices used in a particular discourse.

Inauguration is an event that marks the beginning of a new administration of a public office holder. During this ceremony, the newly elected political office holder such as a president or a governor is expected to give a speech. This speech is called inaugural speech and is generally classified as a political speech. Politicians' speeches serve the purpose of making politicians seem more truthful in order to give citizens a sense of belonging and security (Jegede, 2018; Abuya, 2012). Political discourse has been the interest of several scholars in recent times. For instance, Beard (2002), in his work, argues that in political discourse, politicians use language as a persuasive tool. Jegede (2019) also notes that the language of politics is distinct compared to our day to day use of language, because it unravels politicians' intentions. While previous studies on political discourse in the context of political speeches have largely focused on the deployment of metaphors (Charteris-Black, 2004), storytelling (Pentland, 2011), emotional

appeals (Bostdorff, 2003), critical discourse analysis (Fairclough, 2000), and pronoun usage (Wilson, 2001), much attention has not been paid to the use of syntactic devices in political speeches. This study examines the syntactic features inherent in the inaugural speech of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

Literature Review

Several studies have been carried out on speeches made by political office holders. This chapter focuses on the review of related studies on political speeches. Political speeches have long been a crucial aspect of political communication, allowing leaders to shape public opinion, persuade audiences, and construct political identities. Empirical studies have examined various aspects of political speeches, including rhetorical strategies, discourse analysis, content analysis, experimental studies, comparative analysis, and corpus linguistics.

From the point of view of social semiotic issues, Shaika (2015) identified the interpersonal metafunction of Nelson Mandela's presidential inaugural speech at Pretoria on May 10, 1994. The investigation reveals that the architecture of Mandela's speech archives his political purposes and fulfils its interpersonal meaning by corresponding with lexico-grammar and considering the textual factors such as the need to reflect the economic, social, and political situations of the country at large.

Akinseye (2015) examined an interpersonal investigation of President Muhammadu Buhari's inaugural speech of May 29, 2015. The study employed the interpersonal metafunction with the framework of Systemic Functional Grammar to investigate Buhari's inaugural speech. The study identifies interpersonal roles assigned to the president and how the choice of interpersonal devices positions him as a responsible agent in the exchange of information.

Daramola (2008) examined President Olusegun Obasanjo's farewell speech to identify the linguistic and political understandings with the use of pragmatic theory. Also, Opeibi (2005) investigated the hidden ideologies in Nigerian political speeches. He discovered that Nigeria's politicians concentrate on praising themselves and apportioning direct attacks on out-group instead of discussing the positive issues of the national interest.

Ogundeji (2004) conducted his research on the linguistic strategies in motion which President Bola Ahmed Tinubu deployed in his presidential inaugural speech of May 29, 2023. He revealed that PBAT applied tact maxim, approbation maxim, generosity maxim, modesty maxim, agreement maxim, and sympathy maxim to convince Nigerians over his ability to deliver on polite governance with strict adherence to rule of laws.

Abuya (2012) examined linguistic acts that manifest in the Inaugural Speech of Goodluck Ebele Jonathan as the democratically elected president in May 2011 general elections in Nigeria through the pragma-stylistic approach. Leonard did a Systemic Functional Linguistic and Critical Discourse Analysis of President Buhari's inaugural speech using critical discourse analysis. The analysis was focused on mood, epistemic, and deontic modality choices, as well as recoverable references through personal pronouns used throughout the political discourse under consideration. The study has demonstrated how political leaders' discourses unearth a sort of harmony with ideologies commensurate with the domestic, sub-regional, and international realities.

Ononye (2017) examined 'Language, Contexts and Power Relations in Nigerian Newspaper Headlines on President Muhammadu Buhari's Inaugural Address'. He examined the context elements constraining the linguistic structures used in newspaper headlines to reflect the power relations surrounding

President Muhammadu Buhari's (PMB) inauguration discourse. Data collected were analysed with insights from van Dijk's theory of Critical Discourse Analysis and context.

Anyanwu (2020) did a stylistic analysis of president Buhari's addresses to Nigerians in the face of COVID-19 pandemic. She investigated two speeches of President Muhammadu Buhari during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic to ascertain how he employed language, the linguistic elements, and the stylistic and pragmatic imports. Using the theoretical framework of stylistics, the researcher found out that Buhari tactfully used words to address Nigerians on COVID-19 and stressed the measures to be taken to contain the spread of the virus. To achieve the pragmatic effect of his speeches, he used lexical devices such as transitional makers, repetition, alliteration, assonance, and pronouns to project the theme/subject matter of the language discourse. It was found out that the speaker used coordination to denote the relationship of grammatical units, show contrast, and as a re-statement of what he said earlier. The speaker repeatedly used coordination in his speeches and this is commendable since, in language, identical items may be conjoined in an indefinite number of times. The analysis revealed that the president was committed to combatting the coronavirus pandemic ravaging many nations then.

Black (2004) analysed metaphors in political speeches, revealing their role in shaping public opinion. However, critics argue that the study's focus on metaphors overlooks other rhetorical strategies. Pentland (2011) examined storytelling in political speeches, highlighting their persuasive potential. Nevertheless, the study's focus on narrative structure overlooks other aspects of storytelling.

Bostdorff (2003) investigated emotional appeals in political speeches, demonstrating their impact on audience emotions. However, the experimental design has been criticised for neglecting real-world contexts. Fairclough (2000) applied critical discourse analysis to political speeches, uncovering power

dynamics and ideological biases. Nevertheless, the study's focus on critical discourse analysis overlooks other analytical approaches.

Wilson (2001) examined pronoun usage in political speeches, revealing the patterns of inclusivity and exclusivity. However, the study's focus on pronoun analysis overlooks other linguistic features. Graham (2007) analysed coherence in political speeches, underscoring its role in shaping audience perceptions. Nevertheless, the study's focus on coherence neglects other aspects of speech structure.

Grimmer and Stewart (2013) employed topic modelling to analyse political speeches, identifying underlying themes and topics. However, critics argue that the study's reliance on topic modelling overlooks the nuances of language use. Liu et al. (2013) conducted sentiment analysis on political speeches, revealing patterns of positivity and negativity. Nevertheless, the study's focus on sentiment analysis neglects the context in which language is used.

McCombs (2004) examined agenda-setting in political speeches, demonstrating their influence on public opinion. However, the study's focus on agenda-setting ignores other factors that influence public opinion. Benoit et al. (2001) conducted experiments on the persuasive effects of political speeches, stressing the role of rhetorical strategies. Nevertheless, the experimental design has been criticised for neglecting real-world contexts.

Brader (2006) investigated emotional responses to emotional appeals, revealing the impact of emotional appeals on audience emotions. However, the study's focus on emotional responses disregards other factors that influence audience emotions. Shaw (2006) examined the impact of political speeches on voter behaviour, demonstrating their influence on electoral outcomes. Nevertheless, the study's focus on voter behaviour neglects other factors that influence electoral outcomes.

Kampf (2008) compared language use in political speeches across cultures, revealing cultural differences in rhetorical strategies. However, critics argue that the study's focus on cultural differences overlooks other factors that influence language use. Gibson, Ted and Daron (2012) examined language use in political speeches across parties, highlighting partisan differences in discourse. Nevertheless, the study's focus on partisan differences overlooks other factors that influence language use.

Methodology

This study adopted a quantitative and a qualitative approach. The study used frequency to examine the occurrence of the syntactic devices used in the speech. This made the study flexible and ensured a reliable data analysis. The study also focused on how the syntactic devices help in interpreting the ideologies expressed in the speech. President Tinubu inaugural speech served as the subject and data for this study. The speech was critically read while the syntactic devices used in the speech were identified and analysed in relation to the ideas relayed in the speech. The inaugural speech of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu which was the data for the research was downloaded from the Cable online Newspaper website www.thecable.ng because the online Newspaper site is one of the major online newspapers in Nigeria where the speech is readily accessible.

The collection method for analysing President Tinubu's inaugural speech encompassed both primary and secondary approaches. Primary data collection involves the first-hand source which is the speech itself. On the other hand, secondary data collection entails examining existing sources such as official transcripts, news articles, scholarly papers, and published analyses of the speech. These sources offer a wealth of information for a comprehensive analysis of the speech.

The syntactic level of analysis focuses on syntactic devices such as substitution, ellipsis, structural parallelism, personal pronoun, non-

finite clause , finite clause, apposition, structural sentences (simple sentences, complex sentences, compound sentences, compound-complex sentences), functional sentences (declarative sentence, imperative sentences, optative sentences, interrogatory sentences, exclamatory), etc. The data analysis was done with insights from Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics.

Data Analysis

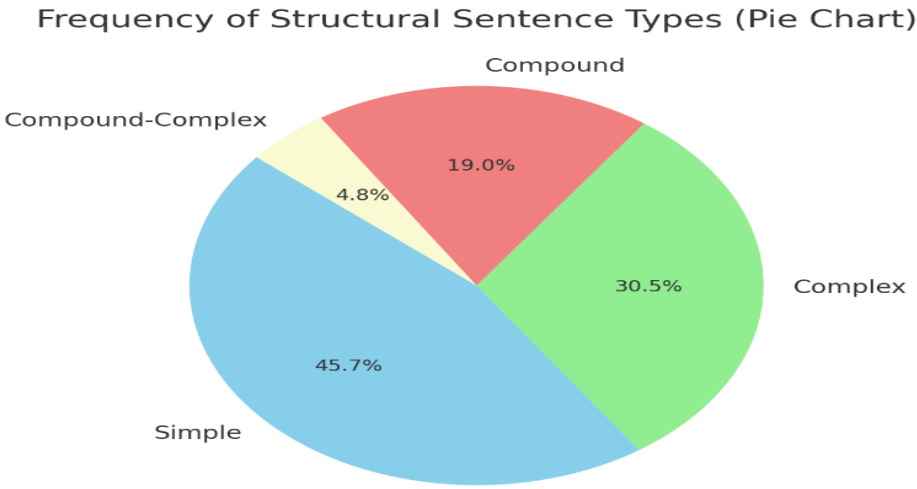
The syntactic devices identified in the speech are hereby grouped and analysed.

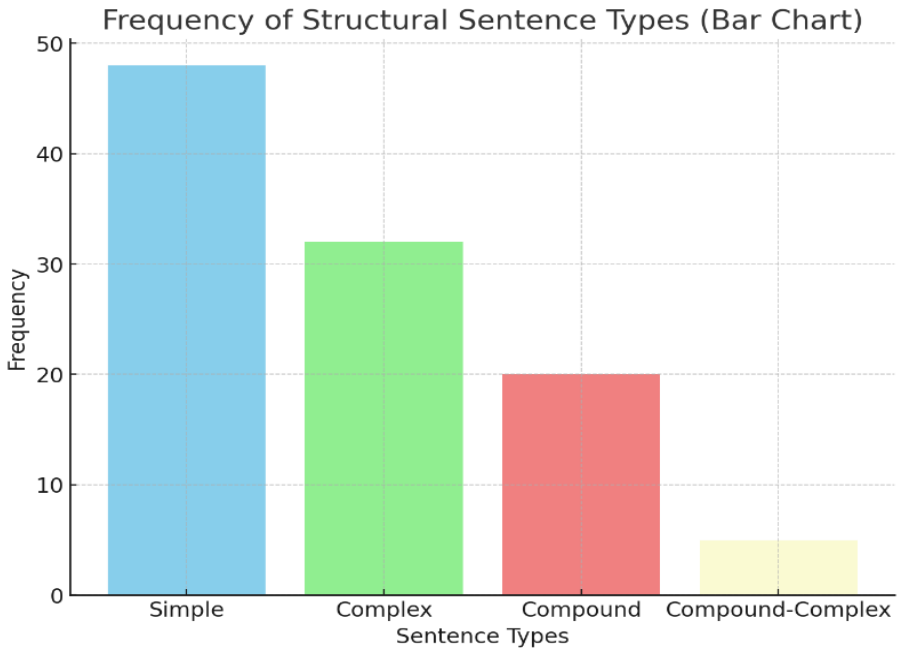
Sentence Types

Structural Sentence Types

Table 1: Frequency of the use of structural sentence types in the speech

Structural Sentence Types	Frequency
Simple sentences	48
Complex sentences	32
Compound sentences	20
Compound complex sentences	5
TOTAL	**110**





As can be seen in the table above, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu uses simple sentences 48 times in his speech. The purpose is to make his speech clear, understandable, and simple to the audience. Tinubu uses simple sentences in his inaugural speech to ensure that his message is easily understood by a wide audience. By using straightforward language, he can effectively communicate his ideas and connect with people from various backgrounds. Simplicity in language helps to convey his points clearly and directly, making his speech more impactful and accessible to all listeners. The following are some of the simple sentences used:

1. My love for this nation is abiding.
2. My confidence in its people, unwavering.
3. May history be kind to you.
4. Yet here we are.
5. Nor does it render them any less patriotic

Similarly, the author makes use of compound sentences 20 times to make his speech more emphatic and concise. He has a lot to say within a short time; so, with the help of compound sentences, he is able to bring two to three ideas together in one sentence. He uses compound sentences to combine related ideas and show the connections between them. By using compound sentences, Tinubu links thoughts, actions, or events in his speech, underscoring the relationships between different aspects of his message. This helps in presenting a cohesive narrative and ensuring that his points are logically connected and flow smoothly throughout his speech. These are some examples:

a. We are here to further mend and heal this nation, not to tear and injure it.
b. I shall serve with prejudice towards none but compassion and amity towards all.
c. On the economy, we target a higher GDP growth and to significantly reduce unemployment.
d. This handover symbolises our trust in God, our enduring faith in representative governance and our belief in our ability to reshape this nation into the society it was always meant to be.
e. Instead, we stand forth as Africa's most populous nation and as the best hope and strongest champion of the Black Race.

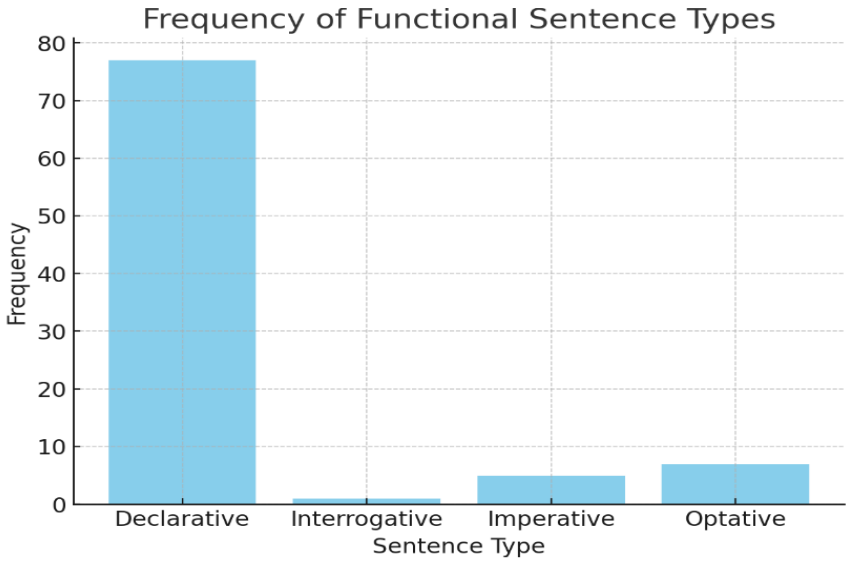
President Tinubu also uses 32 complex sentences in his speech. He uses this sentence type more often than compound sentences because complex sentences enable him to bring multiple ideas together in a sentence while still keeping the sentence clear and informative. Tinubu might use complex sentences to add depth and nuance to his ideas. By incorporating intricate sentence structures, he can provide a more detailed explanation of his thoughts and convey complex concepts effectively. Complex sentences allow him to express a range of ideas within a single sentence, showcasing a sophisticated understanding of the subject matter and demonstrating his command of language. Consider the following extracts:

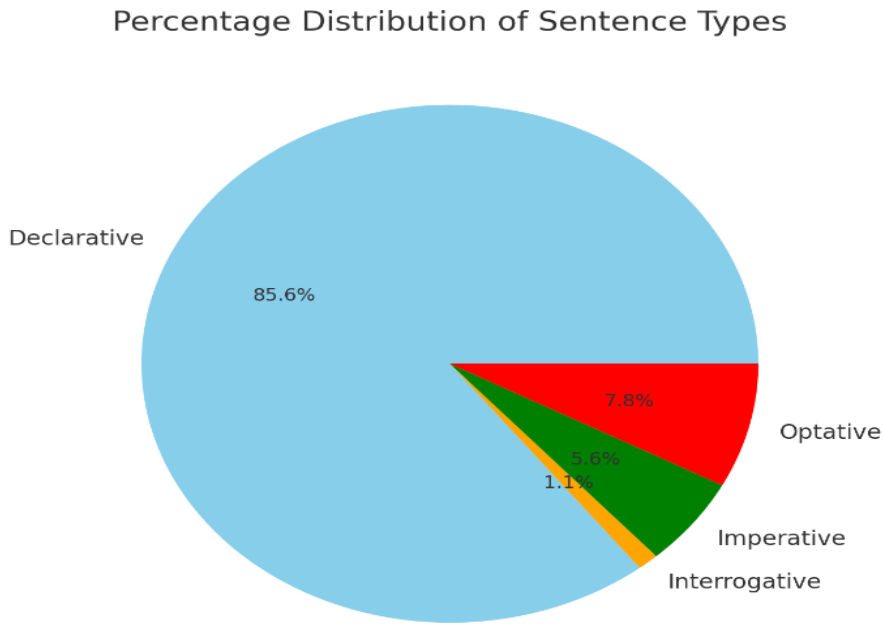
1. We shall insure that investors and foreign businesses repatriate their hard-earned dividends and profits home.
2. Through this actions, food shall be made more abundant yet less costly.
3. Given the world we reside, please permit a few comments regarding foreign policy.
4. We have stumbled, but our resilience and diversity have kept us going.
5. Our burden may make us bend at times, but they shall never break us.

Functional Sentence Types

Table 2: Frequency of use of functional sentence types in the speech

Functional Sentence Type	Frequency
Declarative sentence	77
Interrogative sentence	1
Imperative sentence	5
Optative sentence	7
TOTAL	**90**





According to the table above, Tinubu uses 77 declarative sentences in the speech. The use of declarative sentences enables the speaker to clearly state his goals and declares the objectives of his administration. Since the speaker is just starting an administration, all he has to do is to give his audience all the information they need about his administration. Thus, he has to use mainly declarative sentences. He uses declarative sentences in a more detailed way to provide specific information or explanations. It helps him to clearly express his ideas and make sure the reader understands the points he's trying to convey. The following are some extracts featuring declarative sentences:

1. For me, there is but one answer.
2. My love for this nation is abiding.
3. I stand before you honored to assume the mandate you have given me.
4. The peaceful transition from one government to another is now our political tradition.

5. This is the proudest day of my life.

The imperative sentence is used five times in the speech. The speaker uses it to request for his listeners' support and to express his ideas more powerfully and zealously. He also uses it to stimulate the listeners' interest and actions, and most importantly, instil confidence in them during his administration. He uses imperative sentences to give commands or instructions. It allows him to direct the reader on what to do or how to act, making his writing more engaging and directive. This is seen in the extract below:

1. I ask you to grasp it in national affinity and brotherhood.
2. The North must see the South likewise.
3. Today permit me to outline in broad terms a few initiatives that define our concept of progressive good governance in furtherance of the Nigerian ideal.
4. Power generation should nearly double and transmission and distribution networks improved.
5. My administration must create meaningful opportunities for our youth.

An interrogative sentence was used just once in the sentence. This is the extract:

1. In this vein, may I offer a few comments regarding the election that brought us to this juncture.

However, he uses seven optative sentences in his speech to express wishes or desires. It helps him to convey hopes or aspirations in his writing, adding a touch of emotion and personal sentiment to his message. This is shown in the extracts below:

i. Let us take the next great step that began and believe in.

ii. May we uphold these fitting and excellent notions as the new Nigerian ideal.

iii. Let us develop a shared sense of fairness and equity.

iv. Here, permit me to say a few words to my predecessor, President Muhammadu Buhari.

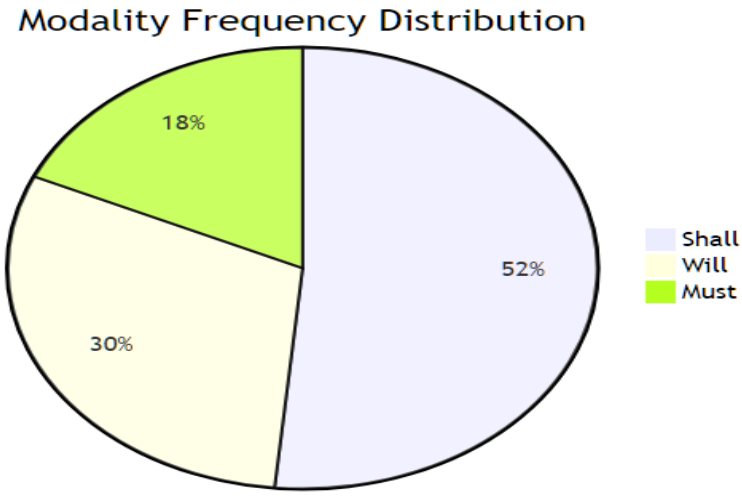
v. May history be kind to you.

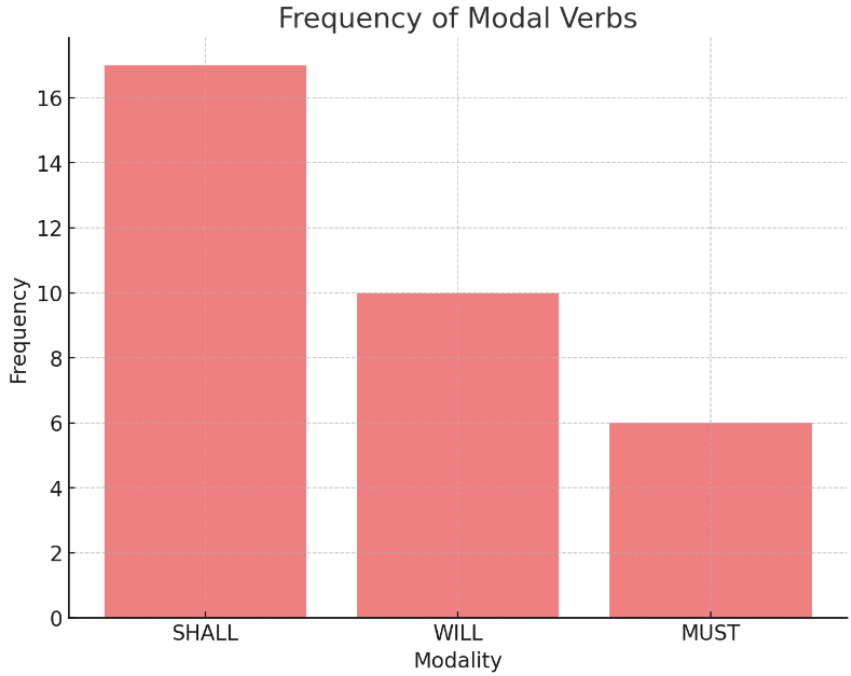
Modality: The Use of Modality

The modal verbs ‘shall’ and ‘will’ are mostly used in the speech because the speech focuses on the future that is, revealing future plans. 'Must' is sparingly used to express necessity, commands, insistent requests, and counsel in the speech. The frequency of use of the modal verbs ‘shall,’ ‘will,’ and ‘must’ in the speech is shown in the table below.

Table 3: Frequency of the use of modality in the speech

Modality	Frequency
Shall	17
Will	10
Must	6
TOTAL	**33**





As shown in the table above, the modal verbs ‘shall’ and ‘will’ are the most frequently used modals. This reveals that the president makes known his plans and wants Nigerians to join him to achieve the plans. As a newly elected president, he tries to make his intentions known to Nigerians and the world at large. Also, he uses the modal verb ‘will’ to relay what lies ahead, and then uses 'must' to show his commitment in his plans as seen in the following exacts:

1. NIGERIA SHALL EXIST.
2. We SHALL reach out to all but never put down a single person for holding views to contrary to our own.
3. Our administration SHALL govern on your behalf but never rule over you.
4. We SHALL consult and dialogue but never dictate.
5. They SHALL forever be my fellow compatriots.
6. And I WILL treat them as such.

7. The principles that WILL guide our administration are simple.
8. Nigeria WILL be impartially governed according to the constitution and the rule of law.
9. In our administration, Women and youth WILL feature prominently.
10. In the coming days and weeks, my team WILL publicly detail key aspects of our programmed.
11. We MUST never allow the labor of those who came before us to wither in vain but to blossom and bring forth a better reality.
12. The South MUST not only seek good for itself but MUST understand that its interests are served when good comes to the North.

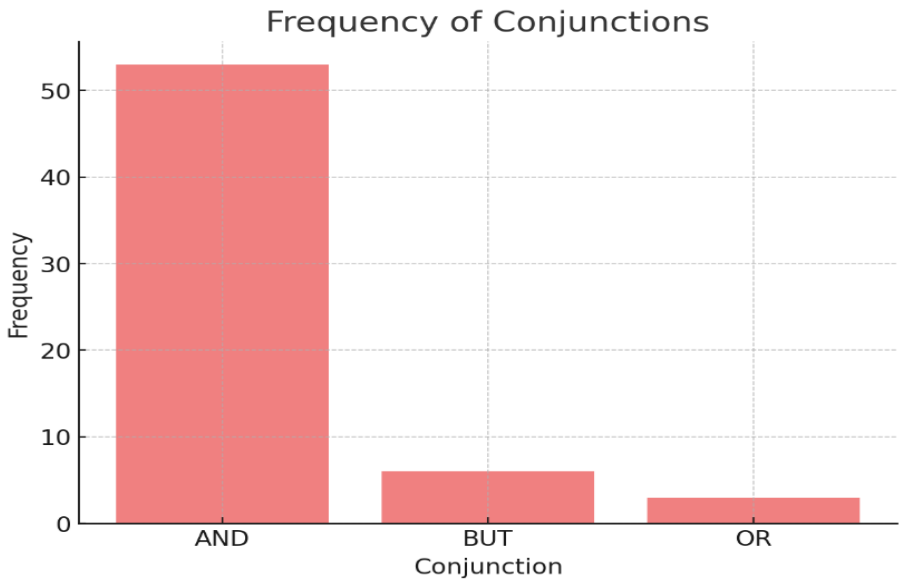
From the extracts above, the speaker makes his intentions known to the citizens. He also tries to build confidence in them so that they will rest assured that his tenure will favour them, and the country will benefit immensely. He makes use of the expression, 'We will' and 'We shall 'to remind the citizens that his administration is a collective effort.

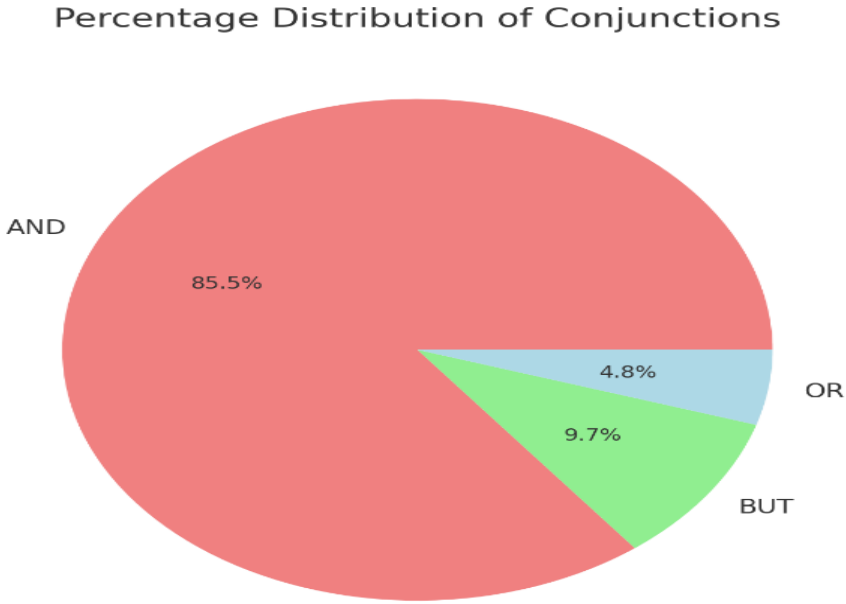
Conjunction

Conjunctions are of three types – coordinating conjunctions, correlating conjunctions, and subordinating conjunctions. This study focuses only on the coordinating conjunctions used in the speech. The frequency of the use of the conjunctions is shown in the table below.

Table 4: Frequency of the use of conjunctions in the speech

Conjunction	Frequency
And	53
But	6
Or	3
TOTAL	**62**


Frequency of Conjunctions
Frequency
50
40
30
20
10
0
AND
BUT
OR
Conjunction


Percentage Distribution of Conjunctions
AND
85.5%
4.8%
OR
9.7%
BUT

The table reveals that 'and' is used in the speech 53 times, 'but' six times, and 'or' three times. 'And' has the highest frequency because Tinubu tries to reveal that actions or instances of two or more events will occur at the same point in time or space during his administration. Thus, he uses 'and' to show non-contrasting event(s) or idea(s). He uses 'but' to show contrasts or exceptions in his plans and scarcely uses 'or' to show alternative plans or ideas. He uses conjunctions to link ideas together and to show how different parts of his speech are connected. It helps him to make his points flow smoothly and to maintain a coherent structure in his message. The following are the extracts containing conjunctions in the speech:

The Conjunction "AND"

1. I know that His hand shall provide the needed moral strength AND clarity of purpose in those instances when we seem to have reached the limits of our human capacity.
2. We lift high this torch so that it might shine on every household AND in every heart that calls itself Nigeria.
3. They shall forever be my fellow compatriots AND I will treat them as such.
4. They represent important constituencies AND concerns that wisdom dare not ignore
5. Let us develop a shared sense of fairness AND equip.

The Conjunction "BUT"

1. Our administration shall govern on your behalf but never rule over you.
2. We shall consult and dialogue but never dictate.
3. We shall reach out to all but never put down a single person for holding views contrary to our own.
4. Our burdens may make us bend at times, but they shall never break us.
5. These things are important; but they can never convey the fullness of our story.

The Conjunction "OR"

1. The question we now ask ourselves is whether to remain faithful to the work inherent in building a better society OR retreat into the shadows of our unmet potential.
2. Today, let us recommit our very selves to placing Nigeria in our hearts as the indispensable home for each and every one of us regardless of creed, ethnicity, OR place of birth.
3. Whether from the winding creeks of the Niger Delta, the vastness of the northern savannah, the boardrooms of Lagos, the bustling capital of Abuja, OR the busy markets of Onitsha, you are all my people.

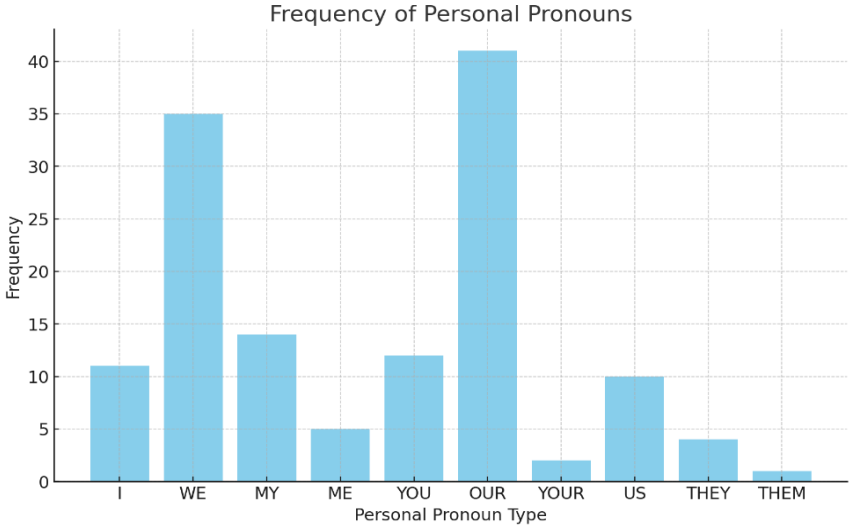
From the extracts, we will observe that the speaker uses the conjunctions to lay emphasis on certain issues such as equality, unity, and better governance. He also uses them to strengthen and affirm what he promised them during his campaign.

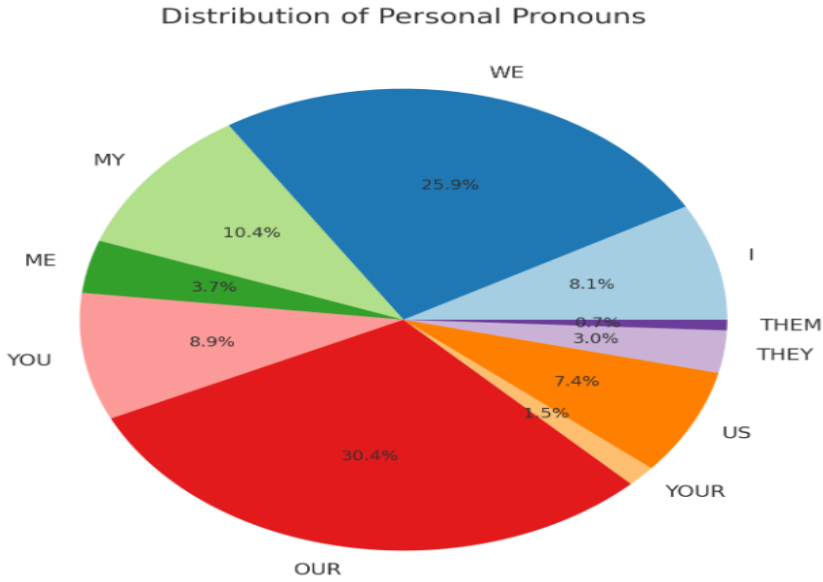
Pronouns

This analysis focuses on personal pronouns only. Personal pronouns take the place of common and proper nouns. The following table reveals the frequency of use of personal pronouns in the speech.

Table 5: Frequency of personal pronouns in the speech

Personal Pronoun Type		**Frequency**
First person	I	11
	We	35
	My	14
	Me	5
	Our	41
Second person	You	12
	Your	2
Third person	Us	10
	They	4
	Them	1
TOTAL		**135**


Frequency of Personal Pronouns
Frequency
0
5
10
15
20
25
30
35
40
I
WE
MY
ME
YOU
OUR
YOUR
US
THEY
THEM
Personal Pronoun Type


Distribution of Personal Pronouns
WE
25.9%
I
8.1%
THEM
0.7%
THEY
3.0%
US
7.4%
YOUR
1.5%
OUR
30.4%
YOU
8.9%
ME
3.7%
MY
10.4%

The above table shows the frequency of use of personal pronouns by the president in his speech. The president uses the first person personal pronouns 'I' 11times and 'we' 35 times. He uses ‘I’ when he shows Nigerians his determination and readiness. The frequent use of ‘we’ shows that the president’s speech focuses on Nigerians rather than on himself. He uses ‘you’ only 12 times when trying to gain or regain the attention of the audience. Personal pronouns manifest in the following extracts from the speech:

First Person Personal Pronoun

1. I stand before you honoured to assume the sacred mandate you have given me.
2. WE have endured hardships that would have made other societies crumble.
3. MY love for this nation is abiding.
4. For ME, there is but one answer.
5. OUR burden burdens may make us bend at times, but they shall never break us.

Second Person Personal Pronoun

1. In this spirit, I ask YOU to join me in making Nigeria a more perfect nation and democracy such that the Nigerian ideal becomes and forever remains the Nigeria reality.
2. It belongs to YOU, the people of Nigeria.
3. As YOUR president, I shall serve with prejudice towards none but compassion and amity towards all.

Third Person Personal Pronoun

1. THEY shall forever be my fellow compatriots.
2. THEY represent important constituencies and concerns that wisdom dare not ignore.
3. This nations journey has been shaped by the prayers of millions, and the collective effort of US all
4. The course of our past and the promise of the future have brought US to this exceptional moment.
5. Nor does it render them any less patriotic.

Adverbials

President Tinubu uses adverbials five times in his inaugural speech to provide additional information about the actions or events he is describing. Adverbials help to clarify the circumstances surrounding the main points he is making, adding depth and context to his speech. This is evident in the following extracts:

1. IN THE MEANTIME, my administration will treat both currencies as a legal tender.
2. AS SUCH, my primary foreign policy must be the peace and stability of West African subregion and the African continent.
3. AS WE CONTAIN THREATS TO PEACE, we shall also retool our foreign policy to more actively lead the regional and continental quest for collective prosperity.
4. IN THIS SPIRIT, I ask you to join me in making Nigeria a more perfect nation and democracy such that the Nigerian ideal becomes and forever remains the Nigerian reality.

Ellipsis

President Tinubu uses 26 ellipses in his inaugural speech to create pauses for emphasis and to build anticipation in his audience. The ellipses help to convey a sense of drama and draw attention to specific points in his speech. This is evident in the following extracts:

1. Thirdly, ELECTRICITTY WILL BECOME MORE accessible and ……..affordable to businesses and homes alike
2. WE SHALL REMODEL OUR ECONOMY TO BRING ABOUT growth and……. development through job creation, food security, and an end to extreme poverty
3. I SHALL SERVE WITH prejudice towards none but……. compassion and amity towards all.
4. Let us take the next great step in the journey THEY began and ….. believe in.
5. THE SOUTH must not only seek good for itself but…….. must understand that its interests are served when good comes

to the North.

Substitution

Tinubu uses substitution nine times in his inaugural speech to add variety to his language and avoid repetition. Substitutions help maintain the audience's interest by introducing different ways to refer to the same subject or idea. Substitution manifests in the following extracts:

1. Today, FATE and DESTINY join together to place the torch of human progress in our very hand
2. We are here to further MEND and HEAL this nation, not TEAR or INJURE it.
3. Let us develop a shared sense of FAIRNESS and EQUITY.
4. As your president, I shall serve with prejudice towards none but COMPASSION and AMITY towards all.
5. Security shall be the top priority of our administration because neither PROSPERITY nor JUSTICE can prevail amidst INSECURITY and VIOLENCE.

Appositions

Tinubu uses five appositions in his inaugural speech to provide additional information or clarification about particular subjects. By using appositions, he can elaborate on key points, emphasise important ideas, or provide context for the audience. This technique helps to make the speech more engaging, informative, and impactful. The following are some extracts containing appositions:

1. Here, permit me to say a few words to MY PREDECESSOR, PRESIDENT MUHAMMADU BUHARI.
2. Mr president, you have been an HONEST, PATRIOTIC leader who has done his best for the nation you love.
3. You are a worthy PARTNER and FRIEND.
4. That our nation will BREAK APART, EVEN PERISH.

Syntactic Parallelism

Tinubu uses syntactic parallelism twice in his inaugural speech to create a sense of balance and rhythm in his statements. This technique involves using parallel structures in successive sentences or phrases, which can enhance the overall flow and impact of the speech. This is evident in the following extracts:

1. Whether from the winding creeks of the Niger Delta, the vastness of the northern savannah, the boardrooms of Lagos, the bustling capital of Abuja, or the busy markets of Onitsha, you are all my people.
2. My love for this nation is abiding. My confidence in its people, unwavering.

Conclusion

The study has conducted a syntactic analysis of President Tinubu's inaugural speech to examine his language use and communication style. The analysis revealed a clear and concise language use, with a focus on simplicity and clarity. The speech features a mix of short and long sentences, with an average sentence length of 15 words. The president uses a range of linguistic structures, including declaratives, imperatives, and interrogatives. The speech exhibited a strong emphasis on key messages, with repetition and rhythm used to create emphasis. The language use was inclusive, with a focus on unity and collective action. The study contributes to the understanding of President Tinubu's communication style and language use, providing insights into his inaugural speech. The findings reveal that President Tinubu's language use is effective in conveying his message and engaging his audience. However, the study's limitations, such as its limited scope and methodological approach, highlight the need for further research to fully understand President Tinubu's language use and communication style.

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