

**Lexicogrammatical Analysis of News Reporting of 2015 General
Elections in some Nigerian Newspapers**

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Title page

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(PhD) in English

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Approval Page

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Certification

This is to certify that I am responsible for the work submitted in this dissertation, that the original work is mine except as specified in the works cited.

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Dedication

To my beloved wife: Mrs Celestina Adaobi Nwankwo and my children, my parents:
Mr and Mrs John Onyeji Nwankwo (late) and above all, to Omnipresent and
Omnipotent God.

Abstract

This study investigates the news reporting of 2015 General Elections in some Nigerian newspapers using the lexico-grammatical analysis paradigm of SFG. The print media is one of the major channels of information dissemination with a peculiar language use. The problem lies on the need of investigating the language of the print media to unveil the lexico-grammatical features that have made it effective for the audience to understand the information contents meaningfully.. Some of the highlights of the study include: the concept of lexico-grammar and its features, context of situation and culture, language functions and the semantic stratum. The study derived its theorem from Halliday's systemic framework of lexico-grammatical analysis. The population of the study comprised a deliberate collection of four Newspapers from libraries and media houses. The selected areas used for data collection included the headlines, introductions and the news reports. A textual analysis of newspapers was used in evaluating the data collected to answer the research questions. The researcher applied lexico-grammatical analysis on the data in order to discover its prominent features. The study established that the print media employed theme and information systems to indicate the organization of information.. It is also revealed that transitivity systems help in the description of experiences of the world.. It was established that attitudinal lexis were used which are associated with aesthetic and emotive undertones. It was observed that finite clauses were used to achieved tense, number, person, concord, and to indicate mood and modality. Mood systems were used to indicate interactional meanings of the participants and the attitude and judgment of the speaker and also were used to expressed probability, ability, obligation, inclination, certainty, willingness. Non-finites were used for modification and indicating the future plans of the subject respectively.

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CHAPTER ONE

Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

The Print Media and the English Language in Nigeria

The enormous expansion of the print media industry in the latter part of the 19th century has been a very interesting phenomenon. The expansion could not have taken place as such but for the increase in government's dissemination of its policies, programmes and other important national and international events. These are publicized through the newspapers, magazines and journals in the English language. Journalists have watched with mounting interest the ever-increasing number of people who become aware of the benefits of the print media and have doubled efforts to see that their readership demands are satisfied.

Different languages are spoken in Nigeria. It is the multilingual nature of Nigeria, and the non-elevation of one of the languages to serve as a national or official language that the English language is now being used by the print media in the dissemination of information to every part of the country. Olagoke summarizes the role of the English language in the following terms:

Because of the extreme multiplicity of languages in most ELS countries and the relatively underdeveloped state of the indigenous languages, and also for reason of colonialism which had given a lot of prestige and bread and butter advantage to the study of English, the language is used for official purposes and for education, commerce, administration, the media and for national and international communication. (25)

The English language is used by the ethnic groups in Nigeria, both for inter-

ethnic and, at times, intra-ethnic communication. This gives rise to the use of English in the print media as the language of the masses in order to enhance popular demand. In the words of Emenyonu and Nta (qtd in Osuafor,16) the overall influence of the English language in Nigeria as regards inter-ethnic communication is thus: “The choice of a national language has become a more political issue than a linguistic issue. Ethnic groups in Nigeria interpret the language as the country’s lingua franca as a way of conferring political domination on that particular ethnic group” (18).

It is glaring that effective inter-ethnic communication cannot be complete and meaningful without effective dissemination of information to everywhere in the country. To this end, the print media is fulfilling this role by employing the resource of the English language. The English language has been adopted and appropriated by Nigerians and used as the language of education and the print media and made to fill all the roles normally reserved for the mother tongue.

The position of the English language as an official language arises from this important role attached to it as both the language of official transaction (sanctioned by law) as well as the language of cultural expression, education, and information dissemination. It is in fostering unity, education, and information for the ethnic groups that the print media use the English language as the language of information communication. Thus it has been urged that we can believe in “the value of English to the very survival of the Nigerian nation without feeling like deserters” (Achebe, 25).The English language which is an official language in Nigeria has also been adopted in private and in corporate and government functions. This is because the English language is a unifying and integrating language among the multi-ethnic groups in Nigeria. To this end, the print media in promoting the unification and the

communicating ends of the ethnic groups have resorted to using the English language in their day to day dissemination of information in the country.

The increased need for communication and information among societies has led to the establishment of print media industries. Some print media houses use indigenous language either in newspaper or magazine to inform, educate and entertain their readers. However this does not reach a wide readership. In a recent study on the patterns of choice on the use of English and Yoruba as media of mass communication in Yoruba speaking areas of the country by Adenira, it is revealed that "there is a disparity in favour of English" (32). Communication can never be complete until it reaches the final consumer who understands it.

The mass media, radio, television, newspaper, magazines etc utilize the resources of the English language for all round human endeavour. Accordingly, Baldeh reinforces the multi-various uses of English thus:

As the language for wider communication between people of different ethnic groups and medium of general education, the news paper (mass media), affairs of government, the larger business, public agencies etc, it has rightly or wrongly become the tool for nationhood(39).

One of the functions of the mass media is to relate the happenings in the environment. This entails the process of collecting and distributing factual information about the state of the country and around the world; such collection and distribution of "news" is done in the English language. For the purpose of communicating ideas, events, information, opinions etc, the print media have a peculiar way of arranging their structures. They arrange their sentences in such a

way that the meanings of lexical items and syntactic structures have the intended meanings. The precise and concise use of words enhances the audience understanding of the messages. But at times, the structural arrangement is distorted resulting in vagueness and ambiguity.

The function of the language is to express and communicate information in a standard manner.

Accordingly, Banjo, Ayo says, "The Nigeria press had contributed to the positive acquisition of English more than any other social institution in the country" (34). He also saw the language of the print media as serving a great role in determining the standards of correctness of the English Language. However, in respect of the above assertion, I will not concur entirely with Ayo Banjo for the reason that the Nigeria press usually uses ambiguous structures in its communication endeavour in order to enhance its trade. This may spell doom for Nigeria English learners.

The print media is where a writer's register of words: utilization of sentences, clauses, phrases and words are more prominent and because the print media has a tremendous influence on its audience, it arranges its structures well.

According to Okunna, "It is a plain truth that mass communicators (media writers) use English more than the owners of the language. Indeed, they are called the users of the language"(34). Structural grammar provides us the language user(communicators) and the language reader(audience) with a basis for understanding how a language is structured, what the possibilities of patterning are and indeed what the constraints are: For instance, we can say, "I want a banana, perhaps even "A banana want I" but not * "I banana want a". (* denotes a non-grammatical one). It can be shown that in the structure of sentences some words have closer relationship to each other than other words in the same sentence.

Effective communication is the end product of a style of any language. This is because the distinctive use of English by the press is tailored towards relating the intended meaning of information within a short space. This type of language use is peculiar to the profession: this is popularly known as “journalese” in journalistic parlance. Its peculiar use of English may not be said to be out of place, because the language use is oriented towards achieving its goal of educating and informing its overwhelming populous audience.

Lexico-grammar, according to Mathiessen, “is the main source of expressing meanings, for realizing meanings in terms of grammatical structures and lexical items and that it could be seen as a more generalized system of content than semantics adding that it is the level of choice of words and grammatical structures”(97). Allerton says that “there is no hard-and-fast division between vocabulary and grammar, that the guiding principle in language is that the more general meanings are expressed through grammar, and the more specific meaning through the vocabulary”(47).

“Lexico-grammar is the level at which the various patterns of semantic structure are realized in word form and is concerned with the classes of grammar (and in principle also lexical) unit and the relationships which may be established between them. Lexico-grammar accounts through syntax, morphology and lexis for wording structure and patterning of text (Morley, 21). Lexico-grammar in systemic linguistics, in essence, comprises the lexical items and the grammatical structures in a language. It is the area where word choice and selection is made in order to suit a particular speech situation or event.

Syntactic structure in lexico-grammar can be approached in two ways: formal and functional. “Formal syntax deals with how words can combine to create units of form

and eventually sentences. This bottom-upwards perspective reflects the question “what increasingly larger, formal units can we build up with words?”.

Functional syntax, on the other hand, handles the way in which sentences are structured in terms of smaller functional elements and eventually words.(A functional element marks the syntactic role that a unit is playing in structure). Formal and functional syntax are thus seen as complimentary, they are interdependent, though they have different basic concerns. The lexico-grammar, therefore, will incorporate both the formal and functional features of syntactic structure (Morley, 22).

The components of lexico-grammatical include transitivity, mood, modal, theme and information structures. These are realized within the following sub-systems of active and passive voice, declarative, interrogative and imperative clause. Others include pro-forms which serve as cohesive device, and finite and non-finite verbs for indicating tense and modality and modifier respectively.

The functional approach is seen in the stress on the role of social/cultural context and in the importance of the role of register, which consist of the environment in which text is instantiated. The researcher decided to delve into this problem to find out how language user makes appropriate language choices according to the variables in the context of situation, and the exchange of meaning becomes possible. Register is explained by three variables (field, tenor, and mode) that relate to three functional components, called meta-functions. Each of these functions then finds its own place in the lexico-grammatical systems through transitivity, mood and theme. These form part of the systems that consist of a range of choices or options, a set of possibilities that can be used in the grammar of language. That is to say, language users choose what they say from many options available to them in the language they use to achieve a

certain communicative function. There is a possible connection between form and function.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Language is a set of systems. It is organized in interrelated patterns used to make meaning. Meaning is at the heart of everything in language. A user of language can choose any language item because it is a system of possibilities. It represents different ways, different choices to the user of language from all the levels of language. The print media is one of the major channels of information dissemination with the major characteristic of lending its contents understandable to the audience because of its peculiar language use. Then, the problem lies on the need of investigating the language of the print media to unveil the lexico-grammatical features that have made it effective for the audience to understand the information contents meaningfully or that have enhanced its communicative competence.

The lexico-grammatical components include: transitivity, mood, modal and information structure. Over the years, little or no attention has been paid to ascertain the lexico-grammatical content of the print media, and this has given the researcher the zeal to carry out the study.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to explore the lexico- grammatical contents of the print media, especially the newspaper news reporting on the 2015 Nigerian General Election. It is to find out how the components of lexico-grammar have contributed to effective choice of language use or meaning in the print media. The need is also to find out the extent the print media have displayed certain peculiar

lexical and grammatical features in the headlines and sub-headlines and how those features have contributed to their communicative function.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This work would make a significant contribution to knowledge because it will help newspaper audience to be fully aware of the lexico-grammatical features of the print media, and in so doing, expose them to have critical interpretation and thorough understanding of information contents.

The study will also help the undergraduate and post-graduate students especially those studying English as a course and the creative writers to have the understanding that meaning is also embedded in both situational and cultural contexts. This will help them to recognize that choosing the appropriate words to match a given function improves communicative competence.

Scholarly, it will help in understanding the grammatical forms of showing politeness strategies through mood/modal system; the processes and structures for depicting the world of reality or experiences through transitivity system and how to show thematic prominence and information focus through theme and information structures.

1.5 Scope of the Study

This study will look at the concepts of lexico-grammar, and the Halliday's systemic theory for the analysis of lexico-grammar. It is at this level that unit, class, structure and systems are described and choices made. The theory will be used for the analysis of the print media contents, with emphasis on newspaper. For purposes of this study, the research will focus on four Nigerian newspapers deliberately chosen: *The Vanguard*, *The Sun*, *The Punch* and *The Nation*.

The newspaper representations that will be studied are those written in English language in Nigeria in 2015. The justification for their selection was based on the fact that they have a national spread. The news items, the headlines and the sub-headlines will be used for analysis. The data would produce results that would be used for generalization of issues raised in the research questions.

1.6 Research Questions

The following questions are addressed in this study:

1. What are the prominent lexico-grammatical components employed by the print media in their news reports/communication?
2. What are the lexico-grammatical components that are common to the print media?
3. What are the major lexico-grammatical features employed by the print media in the headlines?
4. In what ways do the print media use lexico-grammatical features as source or attribution in the news reporting?
5. What are the lexico-grammatical features that enhance and promote the print media?

CHAPTER TWO

Review of Relevant Scholarship

This chapter discusses the conceptual framework on which the research is based. Effort has also been made to review some of the existing scholarship in the fields related to the study.

2.1 Conceptual Framework

The Structure of Language in Society/ Speech Community

Language is a system of symbols used for meaningful communication. In many ways the structure of language reflects the structure of how the mind processes the world. According to Douglas, there are four different dimensions of language. They are: comprehension and production; and universal grammars. Three questions, according to him are considered before analyzing the structure of a language:

- 1 What are the rules or principles that predict how sounds are made and how they are used (phonology-patterning of sound)?
- 2 How do sound sequences convey meaning and how are meaningful sound sequences strung together to form words (morphology-patterning of sound sequences and words)?
3. How do words come together to form phrases and sentences (patterning of phrases and sentences)? (256).

Understanding a language should first involve understanding of sound system of a language. All languages have definite patterns in the sounds that the speaker uses, how are these sounds combined to form symbols (words) and how are those

symbols organized into meaningful sentences. That is the sounds (vowels and consonants) are combined to form words, and words into group, and groups into clause, and clauses into sentences.

Douglas further indicated that each language structure consists of four different areas: phonology (the basis of speech sound), semantics (word meanings and organization of concept), grammar (Morphology and Syntax). In fact, some languages have similar structural patterns while others are totally different. One of the reasons why some people have difficulty learning another language is often related to language structures. For instance, the Chinese and English languages have unique and totally different structures. However, the structure of a language can be learned because human beings have a natural and inherent capacity to acquire languages. According to language acquisition theory, language learners usually need a transformational period when they are learning a new language. They must apply and compare the structures of their mother tongue to the new language in order to understand its patterns. A good example of this is in bilingual education. The theories of bilingual education state that when new second language learners encounter an unfamiliar language for the first time, they are often confused and disoriented. But, after becoming familiar with the structure of the language, they eventually discover its rules and how the various parts are interrelated.

2.2 Language Functions and the Semantic Stratum

Language is a system of signals, as well as sounds, paralinguistic or written symbols which we use to encode and decode information. When we refer to language functions, we are referring to the purposes, what language does and its

uses in the speech community. The end product of language is to communicate meaning. Through language, we can convey meaning and influence thought and behaviour as well. Without language, people would find it difficult to communicate. Language is used to communicate and express meaning in a given context in society. Society will be nonexistent if nobody talks. People also use language to express themselves.

Again, language is a social phenomenon, both shaping and being shaped by society. That is to say that language is not an independent construct but a social phenomenon both creating and being created by the structures and contexts of social institutions within which we live and function. Certainly, language cannot exist in a vacuum and there is an inevitable kind of 'transfusion' at work between language and culture (Fairclough 138). Thus learning a new language and observing language skills, especially speaking and writing will also involve grappling with the idea of culture in relation to language. Jakobson puts it this way, "languages differ essentially in what they must convey and not what they may convey." (236) Conversely, languages differ in conceptual or formal properties realized in sentential form.

Language is useful in the hands of human beings and because of its versatility, it lends itself to different functions, the main purpose being to communicate or interact with others. Halliday opines that the functions of language can be grouped into seven areas:

- 1 Regulatory function: when language controls events. The regulations may encounter the approval or disapproval of the listener.

- 2 Interactive function: When language serves to ensure social maintenance, this implies knowledge of slang, jargon, register, jokes, folklores, cultural mores, politeness, and formality expressions in social exchange.
 - 3 Instrumental function: When language is used to manipulate the environment, to cause certain events to happen .
 - 4 Personal function: When language expresses feelings, emotions, and personality.
 - 5 Heuristic function: When language is used to acquire knowledge and to learn.
 - 6 Representational function: When language is used to make statements, convey facts and knowledge, explain or report.
- 6 Imaginative function: When language is used to create tales, write novels, poetry tongue twisters, etc.(10).

Each of the above functions is equipped to help us deal with the needs or wants of daily life. The above functions of language are further grouped under three super ordinate functional categories by Halliday which characterize language. (Kress, 18-21, Allerton, 6 and Melrose, 35) The three functional categories are the ideational function, the interpersonal function and the textual function.

The University of Lander Course Manual grouped the function of language into three: (1) Expressive language function: reports feelings or attitudes of the writer (or speaker), or of the subject, or evokes feelings in the reader (or listener). Poetry and literature are among the best examples, most of ordinary language discourse is the expression of emotions, feelings or attitudes. (2) Informative language function: essentially the communication of information. This function affirms or denies proposition, as in science or the statement of fact. It is used to describe the world or

reason about it (e.g. whether a state of affairs has occurred or not and what might have led to it). (3) Directive language function: language is used for the purpose of causing (or preventing) overt action. The directive function is most commonly found in commands and requests. It is normally considered true or false and, some of the examples are “Close the windows.” “Read the textbook.” “Don’t rely so heavily on the passive voice.” In these examples, one is using language directly. The point in each case is to make someone perform a particular action. Language is multi-functional and a response to society’s demand. Lexico-grammar dwells on the communicative function of the form and this finds its relevance to both cultural and situational contexts of language use.

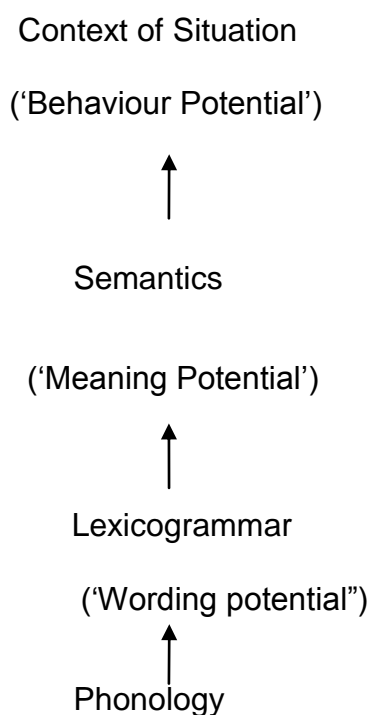
In my opinion, this can be viewed as a juxtaposition of Halliday’s language functions as grouped into three major functional categories such as ideational, interpersonal and textual functions

As I said earlier, systemic grammar views language as a social activity taking place within a situational context and fulfilling a number of different functions. This idea is not in principle new because Bühler and Malinowski had it in their earlier works. Halliday posits the view that there are essentially three main linguistic functions which adult language fulfils: ideational, interpersonal and textual. These in turn are seen as reflecting the different aspects of linguistic meaning and are accounted for respectively by the three components of the semantic stratum under the same heading.

2.3 Language and the Coding System in SFL

Language is a multiple coding system. It comprises three levels of coding or “strata”: the systemic (meanings), the lexicogrammatical (forms) and thphonological and orthographic (expressions). In other words, meaning is usually put into wording, and wording into sound or writing” (Melrose, 25). Halliday’s model shows that there is a strong relationship between language and behaviour.

The diagram below represents the model. Figure 1: language and context of situation



The diagram above indicates that the context of situation is manifested in language by semantics, which assumes shape in the lexicogrammar, which in turn is expressed by phonology. The model expects that linguistic events should be described at different levels because of the processes of abstraction involved.

Matthiessen in line with Halliday “says that language is a stratified semiotic systems embedded in context and should be interpreted as tristratal in systemic theory_ (discourse) semantics, lexico-grammar and phonology (graphology)” (226). Hence, a whole text could be described at the descriptive levels of context, syntax, lexis, graphology and phonology.

2.4 The nature of Language

Language is a patterned behavior which follows specific rules. For example, phonological (for sound combination) and syntactic rules (for word combination), and these make the utterances or texts intelligible. This patterned behaviour accounts for the systematic organization of ideas and thoughts into intelligible texts which convey speaker’s intended message. This makes it easier for language users to keep track of social events. Language is a multiple coding system. It comprises three levels of coding such as the systemic (meaning), the lexicogrammatic (forms) and the phonological and orthographic (expressions). In other words, meaning is usually put into wording, and wording into sound or writing. (Melrose, 25) Any language event will have three crucial aspects. These are substance, form and situation. (Yule, 54-55, Burns and Coffin, 123) Substance is the linguistic material which is made up of sounds or letters. It is the level at which the physical features of language are displayed and we use these features when we speak or write. The substance can be phonic (consisting of sounds) when spoken, or graphic (consisting of orthographic symbols) when written. The sounds are organized into intelligible sound sequences guided by the phonological rules of the language. The rules convert the raw linguistic sounds into meaningful bits of expression which have a specific form. In the same

vein, letters are combined into acceptable sequences guided by the graphological rules to become meaningful under form. Therefore, both sound sequences and graphic substances must have form to be interpretable in any language.

2.5 Context of Situation /Context of Culture

Every language event takes place at a particular place with some people in attendance. The context is the environment in which a text comes to life, it is an environment of language use where every utterance is interpretable given the background to it. From the foregoing, one can discuss any topic or the subject matter of discourse under situation. (Babajide et al,107) This situation can be the thesis, that is, the subject matter or topic; the immediate situation which refers to the participants in a speech event. It shows the social role/class of each speaker/participant, how he should address people and be addressed and the wider situation which is the setting of the speech event. Are participants in a board meeting, family meeting, annual dinner, local club or wedding reception? This contributes to their speeches and how they make such speeches. Thus, thesis, immediate situation and wider situation are extra-textual features that contribute to the real text for a complete understanding of the text.

Melrose characterizes COS (Context of Situation) in terms of field, mode and tenor. Field of discourse refers to the social situation and subject matter. It stands for “area of operation” of linguistic activity which yields the various registers we have in different disciplines. Mode of discourse refers to mainly the channel of communication, as to whether it is spoken or written. The tenor discourse formerly

known as the style of discourse refers to the relationship between the participants. The relationship could be that between speaker (and writer) and hearer (or reader). The basic difference is between formal and informal language use (25).

Irrespective of whenever and wherever language is used or encountered, systemic grammar holds that it is a social activity which always takes place in a context. The context of situation handles the dimensions of the situation which have a bearing on the language used and is studied under register. The language user makes appropriate language choices according to the variables in the context of situation, and the exchange of meaning becomes possible. Register is the use of certain vocabulary items that are peculiar to a certain field such as law, engineering and journalism.

The choices of vocabulary in a speech situation determine the field and this choice is only relevant in the context of situation (since every language use is bound up with situation). Generally, register involves the speaker and the social roles being played at the moment of speaking. Moreover, such social roles and the speech events are transient such that the speaker can suspend the conventions of language used at a setting and revert to his normal speech pattern when discussing with casual friends. Register is a variety of language distinguished according to use and certain variables or elements are relevant to the understanding of it (Wallwork, 112, Hudson, 48, Brook, 81 and Babajide, 116). The three variables or elements are: (field, tenor and mode) that relate to three functional components called meta-functions in the model. Each of these functions then finds its own place in the lexico-grammatical systems through transitivity, mood/ modal and theme.

Field is the subject matter, the topic or the specific area of discourse that determines the specific vocabulary to be used in a particular field. These specialized vocabularies or jargon may be scientific (or technical), domestic and social. Technical could be sub divided into biology, linguistics, politics, business, religion, all have specific brands, styles and registers appropriate to them. Jargon, argot, slang, cant, pidgin and patois are some attributes of technical domains/field. Domestic involves interaction among family members and friends. And social involves interaction from small community to large gatherings. The topic can also determine how much common knowledge is shared between participants and consequently what may be left unsaid. The more intimate the participants are the more knowledge they share.

The field of discourse is also concerned with what is happening, who is doing what, and how, why, when and where they are doing it. It thus seeks to identify the participants or things involved, the actions and events taking place, and any relevant surrounding circumstances such as the time, location, manner, purpose and so on (Morley, 9). Morley illustrates with the text “Whip the cream until it is thick”, relates to the field of food preparation and concerns the processing (whip) of food (cream) for a given period of time (until thick).

Mode is concerned with the language medium through which the text is expressed. The main division that can be recognized under mode is that between speech and writing. That is, how the communication channel is structured could be in written or spoken form. Both written and spoken modes differ in the sense that spoken communication entails immediate contact between the participants while the written mode allows for a deferred contact between the writer and the reader. Also in

the spoken mode there are pauses (which indicate the time speakers plan the next piece of their utterances, fillers (word- searching phenomenon e.g . erm, er), back channel behaviour (e.g. yes, fine, sure etc. used in prayers and students' warm-up campaign for riots), repetitions, false starts, self-corrections, etc. The written mode however, is a finished product that conforms to the normal rule of grammar. The main functional difference between the spoken and written medium is that speech is transient as it is oral and the written text is relatively permanent.

The exploration of the lexico-grammatical content of the print media falls within the written medium. It is a fact that both forms are semi-independent modes of linguistic expression but with unique systems and peculiar intrinsic logic. Mode is defined as the linguistic reflection of the relationship the language user has to the medium of transmission, and the selection of options in the textual systems and cohesive patterns are determined by the symbolic forms taken by the interaction. Thus, selection of reference, substitution and ellipsis, theme, information, voice and so on is determined by the functions of the phonic or graphic substances of language. Note that if the mode of interaction is speech, the choice of language is likely to be informal while the formal register may be preferred in a written discourse.

The written mode has many sub-divisions such as scientific writing, legal language and language of journalism which is the province of this work. (Wallwork, Hudson, Brook and Babajide). Morley adds that in spoken language there is a distinction between 'spontaneous' and 'non-spontaneous' language. Spontaneous language is the normal way of characterizing conversation or 'dialogue'. In addition, it can be found in a 'monologue' situation in which participation by more than one person is effectively ruled out either because the speaker is 'hogging the

conversation' or not letting anyone else get a word in edge ways, or where someone is giving a running verbal commentary, for instance, in a football match. Non-spontaneous spoken language requires the participant(s) to learn the material beforehand, then deliver their lines from memory. This might be associated with the concert monologue when a person recites a poem or tells a narrative story.

Written text which is specifically meant "written to read" may be "written to be read as if spoken", such as dialogue elements in a novel. Again, written texts may have been written specifically "to be spoken" as for example, with the script for a radio or television news bulletin. Also, they may be even be "written to be spoken as if not written", for instance, the script for a play or television soap opera.

In conjunction with these different types of media, there is also the need to take into account the possible interplay between spoken and written language. For instance, when someone reads aloud a story to a child, it is an instance of "speaking what is written to read". A radio or TV news bulletin as heard by the listener illustrates the "speaking what is written to be spoken". The actual performance of a play or television soap requires the "speaking of what is written to be spoken as if not written".

The verbatim transcription of a recorded interview involves the "writing down of spoken spontaneous dialogue". This interplay can also be handled by distinguishing between "medium" the mode of the source text as already outlined, and "channel" the modality in which the hearer/reader actually encounters the language. Channel employs the terms "phonic" and "graphic". By phonic is meant that the language text

is encountered orally, that is, the recipient hears it as speech. By graphic is meant that the recipient encounters the language as reading material. Within channel, there are also two further aspects which have a bearing on the form of language used. They are, on one hand, the use of any technological aid, for instance, radio, telephone, audio recorder, television or computer, as a vehicle for the transmission of the phonic/graphic output to the hearer/reader, and, on the other, in the type of textual base, for instance, newspaper, book, brochure, magazine, poster or letter. It is pertinent to note that lexico-grammatical analysis of the print media, with emphasis on newspaper falls within the precinct of graphic medium of textual base as means of transmission of information.

Tenor is the relationship that exists between the people in communication. This usually induces formality and informality with subsequent sub-categories of superior/inferior, man/ woman, teacher/pupils, lawyer/client, doctor/patient, journalist/masses or readership. Tenor of discourse refers to the role relationships among participants in a discourse encounter and how these relationships influence linguistic choices in different contexts. It is the kind of social relationships enacted in the text such as politeness, degree of formality (and informality) and the relative statuses of participants. That is to say that the degrees of formality or informality which exist between the participants determine the linguistic choices which are actually used, and the resultant features peculiar to it. (Wall work, Hudson and Brook).

Gregory and Susane (qtd in Osuafor,48-49) say that Personal address forms also act as markers of tenor of discourse. For instance, the choice of some singular and plural forms in some languages is not so much to distinguish number but to show personal familiarity or social distance. For instance, in French “tu” (you

singular) and “vous”(“you” plural) or the English “thou” and “you” are markers of social distance. Thus religious language prefers “thou art worthy” to “You are worthy” in addressing God. Similarly, Christian Akpan aged 25; may be called “Chris” by his friends, “Mr Akpan” by his boss, “Sir” by his junior colleagues, “Christian” by his mother-in-law, “Darling” by his wife and so on. In fact in domestic situation, it is possible to guess correctly at the degree of intimacy existing between couples from the way they address each other. A wife who greets the husband as “Dear Sir”, in a letter is likely to be socially distant than one who addresses the husband as “Darling” or by his first name.

In letter writing, such greeting devices as “Sir”, “Dear Mr Nnadi and H! Jonny” show different ranges of formality, semi-formality and informality in address forms. In some situations, however, there are explicit instructions to be followed in addressing participants in a discourse situation, either to show respect or to maintain social/official distance. The lawyer addresses his consultee as “client”, his colleagues as “friends”, in the same way that the judge refers to their colleagues as “learned brothers”. The incumbent president is addressed as “Mr President” or “Your Excellency”. In the print media, with regard to newspaper, the reporters address their patronizers as “audience” or “readership.”

In addition, Morley says that together with the question of interpersonal relationship is that of what language is doing, the purpose of the discourse (its speech function). He gives the following examples “could we stop for a minute, please?” Is a request, “Follow the path along the ridge for a mile past the summit cairn” is a direction,” “Would you like a sweet?” Is an offer,” “Don’t let go of the rope, whatever you do” is a warning command, “Well done” is a congratulation. Any text,

of course, involves a continuous sequence of speech function, and even a single sentence may contain more than one. He illustrates with the following sentence, "Could you make a pot of tea, please, and I will mow the lawn".

Traditionally, in register studies, the social role or purpose of the discourse is always handled as a sub parameter of tenor. Thus (Gregory and Carrol in Morley, 9) distinguish between personal and functional tenor. In this distinction, too limited a view of communicative function was given by confining it to the interactive relationship, speech functions is accounted for simultaneously alongside all interpersonal systems, including discoursal 'turn' , 'social distance 'and 'personal mediation'.

Language variations are made manifest in different contexts of situation which find themselves in a particular context of culture with their attendant peculiar linguistic expressions and specific functions. That is, language is examined in the context in which it is used in as much as context is an important instrument in determining meaning. This shows that a word, phrase or clause can have one meaning in one field and yet display another meaning in another field.

Thus the wrong use of registers often leads to inappropriateness. Learning a language, therefore, involves learning to master language forms appropriate to specific functions and registers. Consequently, the language of news reporting particularly that used in specific columns such as election displays peculiar lexico-grammar. Elegant variety is most common in election journalism. Although, the journalese is aimed at informing, it also seeks to convince and persuade the audience to action through its stylistic manipulation of language.

Context of situation is primarily interested in the relationship between language and the environment in which it is used. Apart from the linguistic clues, situational clues are also needed for discourse to be meaningfully interpreted. Linguistically, we take cognizance of cohesive elements that enable discourse to join together as a unified whole topically and semantically. Situationally, we take into account anything we know about the environment; what is going on, the function language is performing, and the participants involved. The environment can be material, but it can also be social, ideological, political, cultural, economic (Emezue, 22). This shows that the contextual theory of meaning is the understanding that the meaning of a text or utterance lies inside the environment, that is, the conditions and circumstances of its use.

Firth's contexts of situation include the following:

- 1 The participants together with their verbal and non verbal actions.
- 2 The relevant objects, the non- verbal and non- personal events.
- 3 The effect of the verbal action. (2-3)

These instances of contexts of situation according to Firth, transcend mere verbalism to include extra-linguistic cues. Thus, linguistic choices do not exist in a vacuum. It is situation that humanizes and actualizes them.

When choosing an appropriate utterance for a situation, we usually consider the following facts in order to convey the message effectively to other participants.

- 1 Participants-how do they know each other?
- 2 Social setting- formal or informal.

- 3 Who is talking-status relationship between participants
- 4 Aim or purpose of the conversation
- 5 Topic (Cyndi qtd in Opara, 7)

Context covers both the context of situation and context of culture which are all dimensions of systemic functional linguistics. Context of situation is the aspect of general context that is embedded in the context of culture where the linguistic system is also embedded. Register gets its contextual significance from the context of situation. (Matthiessen, 238-263) It is the level where substance (medium) and form (structure or patterns that convey meanings) interrelate and correlate with the situation. This level, register accommodates speech events, that is, aspects of activities that are guided by rules for the use of speech. Here, there is a meaningful patterning of language which enables us to understand written or spoken text.

Context of culture is accessed by means of the knowledge systems which different participants bring to bear on the situation. Recurrent context of situation or situation types become part of culture. Both contexts of situation and content strata of language represent different type of meaning. "Semantics and lexicogrammar together form the two content strata of language." (Matthiessen,227) Content is traditionally regarded as the "what" of literature. It consists of elements such as theme, major events, moral viewpoint, subject matter, for example, ideational content. Form and content function cohesively to produce meaning: an artistic whole in language as in the figurative use of language especially metaphor. Context of situation complements the grammatical realizations of the meta-functions to make any analyses a complete one. Other than grammar, we can use these categories to

account for the discourse data being analysed. The context of situation explains that “a piece of a language becomes completely meaningful by the consideration of the relevant contextual meaning.” (Halliday and Hassan 6-7, Van Dijk 7-3) This reflects the social and cultural background in which the language is set and the participants’ understanding of the prevailing social meanings and cultural values.

In systemic linguistics, context is studied under ‘genre’, which is concerned with the classification of types of social behaviour within a given cultural environment and, using that framework, with the assignment of the function of any given interaction. (Morley,10) In determining the purpose of a discourse or text in this way and hence the genre to which it belongs, the linguist is concerned with identifying the socio-behavioural activity-through its various component stages- which the participants engage in as evidenced in the language text. Morley illustrates with this example, a transactional visit to a bank to withdraw money might include the following stages:

A Next, please (offer of service)

B Can I take out #50, please? (request)

A How would you like it? (question)

B Four tens and two fives, please (response)

B Thank you (thanks)

In setting out an overview of the linguistic system, Ventola (qtd in Morley) identifies three planes: genres, register, and language, and she describes these as

representing a systemic analysis. The plane of genre handles systems of social behavior and this plane which controls the choices in register, the semiotic plane. The nature of genre study clearly overlaps with the study of speech function/social role as outlined earlier under tenor. It is noteworthy that the study of a text or discourse does somewhere and somehow require the specification of both the communicative purpose (the speech function) and the subject field, interpersonal tenor and role of the language mode.

2.6 Lexico-grammar

The term lexico-grammar refers to two distinct but related notions. (1) the typical lexical and grammatical environment of a sign as it is habitually used in naturally occurring texts or “discourse”, and (2) the core stratum of wording in Halliday’s model of language, which serves to mediate between the lower stratum of ‘sounding’ (graphology/phonology) and higher ‘meaning’ (semantics/discourse). This notion was first developed in the framework of Systemic Functional Linguistic (SFL), (Halliday 107, Fries 181, Halliday and Mathiessen 227) as (qtd in Gledhill 5-23). That is to say that lexis (a structured system of signs which serves to organize the vocabulary of a language) and grammar (a structured system of choices which serves to organize sequences of signs into texts) are not different in nature, but rather form a unified stratum in the language: the lexico-grammar.

Contributing to “what is lexico-grammar?”, Mathiessen says that “lexico-grammar is the main source of expressing meanings, for realizing meanings in terms of grammatical structures and lexical items and that it could be seen as a more generalized system of content than semantics adding that it is the level of choice of words and grammatical structures”(97).

In his contribution, Allerton says:

That in this level, there is no hard-and-fast division between vocabulary and grammar, that the guiding principle in language is that the more general meanings are expressed through grammar, and the more specific meaning through the vocabulary. Transitivity, mood, modality, theme and information (rheme) are the systems at the level of lexicogrammar (47).

Lexico-grammar, in essence, comprises the lexical items and the grammatical structures in a language. It is the area where word choice and selection is made in order to suit a particular speech situation or event.

Morley says that lexico-grammar in systemic linguistics is the stratum which handles the wording of a text. It is the level at which the various patterns of semantics are realized in word form and is concerned with the classes of grammatical (and in principle also lexical) unit and the relationship which may be established between them.(21) He goes to say that differences of wording in a text reflect differences of meaning. It is the job of semantics to handle the meaning contrasts between the following related sentences:

I will give John the map

I will give the map to John

Shall I give John the map?

Give John the map

John has been given the map

The map has been given to John

It is then the task of the lexico-grammar to account for the differences (and the similarities) in the actual wording of these sentences, the differences and similarities of the syntactic structures. Morley says that syntactic structures can be divided into formal and functional. Formal syntax deals with how words can combine to create larger units of form and eventually sentences, Functional syntax, on the other hand, handles the way in which sentences are structured in terms of smaller functional elements and eventually words. (A functional element marks the syntactic role that a unit is playing in a structure) It deals with the progression downwards from the sentence to the word. This top-down view of the sentence reflects the idea that functional syntactic analysis is interested firstly in the question “what (ever smaller) functional elements can we break sentences down into?” and only secondly in its formal composition, (structure) Though formal and functional syntax have different basic concerns, they are complementary and interdependent. The lexico-grammar, therefore, will incorporate both the formal and functional features of syntactic structure.

Therefore, lexico-grammatical analysis is the process of investigating or examining a piece of language in order to find out the extent it contains lexico-grammatical features such as transitivity, mood/modal, theme and information structures.

2.7 Lexico-grammatical Systems

Transitivity, mood, Modality, theme and information (rheme) are the systems at the level of lexico-grammar. The ideational function involves two main systems, namely: transitivity and ergativity. Only transitivity will be discussed.

Transitivity: Halliday defines transitivity as ‘the grammar of the clause’ as ‘a structural unit’ for expressing a particular range of ideational meanings (53). Traditionally, transitivity is normally understood as the grammatical feature, which indicates if a verb takes a direct object; and we know some of the terms as: if the verb takes a direct object, then it is described as transitive, and it is called intransitive if it does not; and an extension of this concept is the ditransitive verb, which takes a direct and an indirect object. Halliday, however, found the new concept of transitivity. This is a further development of the old concept. In Halliday’s concept, whether a verb takes or does not take a direct object is not a prime consideration. There are three components of ‘transitivity process’ namely: the process itself, participants in the process; and circumstances associated with the process. The system of transitivity or process type is divided into six processes namely: material, mental, relational, behavioural, verbal and existential.

2.8 Different Structures of These Process Types

1 Material Processes: processes of doing

Material processes are processes of ‘doing’. They express the notion that some entity ‘does’ something- which may be done ‘to’ some other entity. In material processes, there are two participants role, namely: actor and goal, for example:

The lion caught the tourist

Actor Process Goal

- 2 **Mental Processes: processes of sensing:** perception (seeing, hearing, etc.), affection (liking, fearing, etc.), cognition (thinking, understanding, knowing, etc.)

In mental processes, there are two participants, namely: senser (the conscious being that is feeling, thinking, or seeing) and phenomenon (which is 'sensed'-felt, thought or seen. For example

I believe you

Senser process:cognition phenomenon

- 3 **Relational Processes: processes of being**

There are three types of relational process in the clause, namely: intensive 'x is a' (establishes a relationship of sameness between two entities), circumstantial 'x is at a' (defines the entity in terms of location, time, manner) and possessive 'x has a' (indicates that one entity owns another).

- 4 **Behavioural Processes**

Behavioural processes stand between material and mental processes. Partly as a result of this-between behavioural process verbs and material process verbs on one hand; and between behavioural process verbs and mental process verbs on other hand. A behavioural process verb is intransitive (it has only one participant) and indicates an activity in which both the physical and mental aspects are inseparable and indispensable to it. In this process, there is only one participant, namely: behavior(the agent who behaves). For example:

John neither laughs or smiles

Behaver process

5 Verbal Processes

This is the process of saying. The participants of the process are: sayer(participant who speaks), receiver (the one to whom the verbalization is addressed), verbiage (a name for the verbalization itself). For example:

They asked him a lot of question

Sayer Process:verbal Receiver Verbiage

6 Existential Processes

These processes represent that something exists or happens. These clauses typically have the verb 'be' or some other verb expressing existence, such as 'exist', 'arise', followed by a nominal group functioning as 'existent (a thing which exists in the process). The existent may be a phenomenon of any kind, and is often, in fact, an event. For example:

There was a storm

Process Existent: event

'A process and participant analysis of a text reveals the way language users manipulate language to represent their perceptions of reality and the transitivity system also can solve the case of personal reference in context of potential ambiguity' (Bloor and Bloor,107-109, Halliday and Hassan, 310).

MOOD: Mood and modality are somehow related, but they do not operate in the same environment. Mood is the system that organizes the various interpersonal relationships among participants (speakers) in a given context or environment. Here the clause is used to approve or disapprove, to express belief or doubt, to give information, to ask question or give answers, to greet, to command, to request, to

advice, to pray etc. All verbal groups make choice within the mood system but only those that are finite choose within the system of modality. Options that are available to modality system are aspects of interpersonal relationships such as permission, ability, possibility, politeness and obligation. It could be positive choice or negative choice of modality.

Theme and Rheme

1 “ I want an orange”.

Theme Rheme

2 “ Is she sick?”

Theme Rheme

3 “ When is he coming?”

Theme Rheme

Theme and rheme; given and new are information structures. They show how information is organized to achieve goals. The way information is structured in communication is very important in functional grammar. It is observed that clause (1) has an unmarked theme while clause (2-3) has a marked theme. A clause is marked if it has an unusual form or unmarked if it has the usual form. Anything other than subject in a declarative clause is marked. Thus, “markedness is graded: subject (unmarked); circumstances adjunct (marked); predicator (most- marked)”. In spoken English, when a clause is marked for information structure, special intonation or emphasis will indicate to the listener that shared (given) information appears in the second part of the clause and new information in the first. Thus speakers and writers

use two independent patterns to structure information in a discourse (Bloor and Bloor.82).

Given and New

4 “She had been a student ever since”.

Given New

5 “How right mother was!”

Given New

6 “The soup is boiling”.

Given New

The context where the text is written gives the ‘given’ information. Given information is the shared, mutual or already known knowledge. It is usually found at the beginning of a clause while the new information unlike given information often relays a very important new information focusing on the speaker’s message especially his/her opinion. Theme and rheme; given and new are guided by the textual metafunctions. Though, we can analyse clauses using the functional elements (SPCA) alone, ways of describing clauses are usually related and could be found in one text (Bloor and Bloor,46).

2.9 Headline, Sub-headline and News Report

The headline of a news story is the short summary which introduces the story at the beginning of TV or radio news broadcast or which appears above articles or

news story in a newspaper or on website, (the National Council for the Training of Journalists-Online). Headlines are not full sentences but short summaries designed to attract attention. As a result some words are omitted.

The sub-headline or introduction (intros) as defined by the Hamlyn Encyclopedic World Dictionary is the first sentence of the news report that contains the 'newspoint' and tells the story. It is also a title or heading of a sub-division or sub-section in a chapter, treatise, essay, newspaper articles etc That is to say that the introductions serve the necessary purpose of clarifying headlines that may read ambiguous. It also emphasizes and reinforces in a nutshell the events contained in the news items. This is so because the introductions to an extent contain the basic structural elements of a sentence of which the headlines lack.

News report is a kind of report that disseminates objective and accurate information about something, persons or events. News reports are supposed to be completely devoid of reporters' prejudices and personal biases. News reports are supposed to be factual and verifiable. It consists of the headline, the lead (intros) and the body. The objective of the news report may be to inform, educate or entertain. It gives you details of the news story.

2.10 Empirical Studies

The Language of the Print Media with Focus on Newspaper News Reporting

Various kinds of readers read newspapers for different pieces of information. There are different types of information which are stored away in different columns such as editorial, article, advertisement, news reports and this classification normally

requires varying language use and style. The academic interest of this paper is on the language of the print media especially that of newspaper news reporting.

Contributing on the language of newspaper Bloor and Bloor point out that newspapers use transitivity systems in the news reporting. The use of transitivity processes such as material, verbal, behavioural, existential, relational and mental help in interpretation of our experiences of the world. That is, transitivity system enables speakers and writers to represent and classify their world. In the world, some things function as actors, these actors are usually human being. The actors perform different kind of actions with different goal in mind. These acts are processes (Bloor and Bloor, 107).

Theme structures reveal the organization of the message. The speaker or writer organizes his message to make his ideas stick together and to make is easier for the hearer or reader to understand. Theme structures give a sense of continuity in discourse and they help to make a text coherent. The theme system is hence a system at the clause level which takes care of the positioning of elements within the clause. The theme is the starting point of the speaker's or writer's message at clause level and could be realized by a nominal group, a verbal group, a prepositional phrase and an adverbial group. Rheme is the part of the clause that deals with what is said about the theme as in: 'My mother is a beautiful woman'. Theme- My mother, Rheme- is a beautiful woman. 'I saw her in the market', theme- I; Rheme- saw her in the market. They say that a marked theme is a theme which is unusual or untypical and anything other than the subject in a declarative clause is a marked theme. In written English, when a clause is marked for information structure, it indicates

special emphasis or focus is directed to the first part of the clause(Bloor and Bloor 82, Melrose 32, Opara 90).

Also, on the language of the print media, the use of mood systems indicates interactional meanings. It is a system that involves the choices of declarative, interrogative, and imperative and relating to the interaction of subject and finite. It indicates personal meaning in the type of exchange going on, the role of the participants and attitude and judgment of the speaker. Mood is one of the ways of classifying speech acts or statements, questions, and order. It enables the researcher to account for the various options at the disposal of a person making an utterance as regards, for instance, the choice of representing or not representing the subject. The choice of each of these moods (declarative, interrogative, imperative) involves further choices to be made, for instance, the choices of an interrogative mood demand further choices between Yes/No question; wh-question and so on(Bloor and Bloor 259, Opara 39-40). The mood system is basically concerned with the situation of the subject in the clause structure; whether the speaker has chose a subject or not; whether a subject is present, whether it is positioned before or within the predicator, whether or not the speaker is one of the participants in the action (Osisanwo,75).

Also, commenting on the language of print media, Opara says that finiteness plays a very important role. She says that the system of finiteness features at the group level to indicate choices made between a finite and non-finite; if the initial verbal element is finite, the whole verbal group is finite. If it is non-finite, the whole group is non-finite. It is finite if it is the first member of a complex verbal group. Examples are: 1 He *has* been living in Nigeria. 2 They *were* living in Lagos. 3 Nkechi *may* be around. 4 The locations *filled* beyond capacity, and 5 He *is* a king. Each of

the items in Italics is a finite. Has in (1) shows tense, number (singularity) concord, were in (2) shows past tense, number and finiteness and may in (3) reflects mood (probability). In addition, both the finite elements and the lexical verbs are fused in (4) and (5). The finite element or finite verb is therefore a verbal operator that expresses tense and agrees in number/ person with the subject or modality. A non-finite has no subject and no finite verb. It cannot make a statement about the predicate because it is limited by number, person and time. For instance, 'Mother told me to study'. The verbal phrase 'to study' is not limited to a performer or doer. It is usually introduced by the marker 'to' or by a bare infinitive. Present and past participles are also non-finite verbs and act as modifiers in SFG (128-130).

The use of logical relation also plays a vital role in the language of newspaper. Contributing on this, Morley says that logical function relates the propositional ideas and elements of these ideas to each other on equal or subordinate basis. It thus encompasses relationships of coordination, subordination, reference, apposition and modification. All these are often working in concert with the experiential function. For instance, Jack and Jill went up the hill (coordination), When she comes home, she always makes a cup of tea, (subordination), The president, a pilot, is giving a talk on the history of aviation (apposition) and The news of the party's victory came as quite a surprise (modification) (12).

Crystal and Davy, contributing on the headline writing say that the verbal group 'to'- non-finite is used to indicate future plans and arrangements of the subject (174). For instance: President Jonathan to reject ASSU proposal, and President Buhari to visit North West. The above headlines are the shortened form of the sentences: President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan is going to reject the ASUU's proposal and President Muhammadu Buhari is going to visit the North West geo-political zone.

Explaining, Crystal and Davy say that determiners which identify nouns are deleted in the headline writing to ensure quick attention grabber. For instance, the determiners: 'the' and 'a' are deleted here: " The Space Station has been hit by a rocket". Also possessive pronouns 'my', 'your' and 'their', 'his', 'her' are deleted here: "Governor Obi has pinned his hope on the Federal High Court." They reiterated that headlines are not full sentences, but short summaries designed to attract attention.

The prominent feature of news reports is the presence of circumstantial adjuncts realized by adverbial group and deictic (epithets) adjectives, nominals or participles are pre-heads and usually modify the headword(Opara,119-120). Adverbial appears in forms of phrases and clauses in subject, object or complementary case. Adverbials are used to explicate the theme of a sentence. Adverb is the name of a category while adverbial is the name of function and that adverbials enjoy a degree of mobility within the information structure which other sentence constituents do not. Adjectives can either pre-modify or post-modify a noun in a nominative or predicative case, adding that adverbs and adjectives have the functions of situating time, place, degree or comparison and describing nouns respectively and so on (Brown and Miller, 153; Crystal and Davy, 182 and Quirk, 161-163). For instance, these sentence constructions are examples of adverbs that situate time, place and degree or comparison and adjectives that describe noun:

- 1 I left the market when the wind started blowing.
- 2 Wherever they went, they were honoured.
- 3 He was much happier than I envisaged.s
- 4 The beautiful woman whose mother is blind is my wife.

Sentence 1 is an adverb of time, while 2 is an adverb of place, and 3 is an adverb of comparison, while 4 is an adjective describing the noun before it.

Another feature of the language of newspaper is the use of voice system which is very much related to one of the three major systems of the English clause, 'transitivity', and can be sub-divided into active and passive. Crystal and Davy explain that the use of active (transitive verb) indicates that the actor or initiator is the subject of the clause and the choice of passive indicates that the goal or range is. The choice of active is to focus attention on the actor, the subject and the choice of passive is to focus attention on the goal, the subject. It is used to describe the world of reality where some humans function as actors with goals, making different kinds of acts or things to happen. The choice of passive makes news reports sound formal and by putting the goal at the beginning of a sentence diverts our attention away from the subject (192-196).

Another device is the use of finite and non-finite clauses for quotes, sources and attribution. Attribution can add authority, drama, immediacy or emotion to an account as well as gives the reader a sense of the quoted person's voice and personality. Reporters use sources to distance themselves from the issues they explore. Instead of to express their views on a subject, reporters use sources to present a range of views over which they can appear to remain objective and neutral. Reporters usually separate opinions from the news by crediting statements to their sources by using appropriate finite and non-finite clauses for that. For instance, expressions like: "commenting on this...", "The Aso rock said...", briefing news men..." are used in accrediting sources in the news report. These comments

are to strengthen and to explicate the news being reported and to give credence and credibility to the news reporting (Idiagbon, 8-9; Bell, 190 and Keeble, 44).

The presence of modality cannot be overlooked in the news reports. Modality refers to how speakers as well writers indicate probability, obligation, inclination, certainty, plans and arrangements. They use modal finites, mood adjuncts, and interpersonal grammatical metaphors to indicate modality. Modality enables us to understand how people make meanings about interpersonal dimension, such as the power or solidarity in relationships, their status and social roles, and their attitudes and judgements (Opara, 64).

2.11 Summary of Literature Review

The review of literature looked at the conceptual framework which is based on Halliday's idea of lexico-grammar as embedded in Systemic functional grammar. The concepts reviewed are: the structure of language in society, language functions and the semantic stratum, register, context of situation and culture, lexico-grammar and the lexico-grammatical systems: transitivity, mood. modal and information structure. Example, all these are relevant in the research as concepts in lexico-grammatical analysis. While reviewing the related literature to this work, it has been observed that there is a strong relationship between language, society and culture. Language shapes society and is being shaped by the society, therefore it is not an independent construct but a social practice both creating and being created by the structures of social institutions within which we live and function.

The empirical studies of this work reviewed the work of some scholars both headlines and news reports, master's thesis and some PhD dissertations, and found

out that there is a gap that still needs to be covered. None of those works did a lexico-grammatical analysis of newspaper based on news reporting of 2015 general elections of any sort. Based on this, the work intends to fill the gap by doing a research on lexico-grammatical analysis of the news reports of the selected newspapers.

In doing this, the researcher will find out the main syntactic features in these newspapers which are prominently used by the print media in their day to day dissemination of information. The study intends to discover how the print media with reference to newspaper have displayed certain peculiar lexico-grammatical features in the headlines and sub-headlines (introduction) through the data analysis as guided by the research questions.

CHAPTER THREE

3.1 Theoretical Framework

According to Opara, Halliday's systemic theory was developed against a background of: unit, class, structure and system. Essentially, these language tools made up the surface and deep structures of the systemic theory. It is at this level that sentences, clauses, phrases (groups) are described and choices made (21-22). The two pillars of the systemic functional theory are the systems and the meta-functions. Lexico-grammar is one of the levels in the systems; others are semantics and phonology. Lexico-grammar is delicate in the system with the following sub-themes: transitivity, mood, modality, theme and information structures. Transitivity is related to ideational function, mood and modality to interpersonal function and theme and information structures to textual function (Melrose, 32-35). Halliday's systemic theory of syntactic analysis of lexico-grammar is used for the analysis. Accordingly, Halliday says:

Unit, class, structure and system are the four fundamental general
Categories of the theory of grammar which are the basic framework
For the description of all natural languages in systemic functional
Linguistics. They are referred to as the "categories of the highest
order of abstraction"(247-8).

The category of unit: The systemic model recognizes five units on the grammatical rank-scale. The category of unit accounts for stretches of language of varying lengths and composition such as "sentence or word" which carry

grammatical patterns or which operate in grammatical patterns. The different units are set out on a hierarchial basis and are related to each other through scale of rank.

For instance, the syntactic structure of an utterance has the sentence as the highest unit of the scale followed by the clause, the group, the word and down to the lowest rank of the morpheme.

The Concept of Grammatical Rank Scale: This the hierarchical arrangement of units within a given language in such a way that the smaller units combine to form larger ones or vice versa.

The Scale of Rank

Sentence	Highest
Clause	
Group/Phrase	to
Word	
Morpheme.	Lowest

(Morley,25)

Sentence

1. \\\ After John has finished his exams, he is planning a trip abroad.\\\

Clause

2. \\ After John has finished his exams,// he is planning a trip abroad.//

Phrase.

3. \ After/ John/ has finished/ his exams,/ he/ is planning/ a trip abroad./

Word

4. : After: John: has: finished: his: exams ,: he: is: planning: a: trip: abroad.:

Morpheme

5. -After-John-has- finish-ed- his- exam-s, he- is- plan-ing-a-trip-abroad.

In morphological description, the first category of free morphemes, the content words such as nouns, adjectives, adverbs and verbs are treated as free morphemes, and thus have lexical meaning, but the other group of free morphemes such as prepositions, articles, pronouns and conjunctions are called grammatical or functional morphemes. For instance, “his” is a pronoun, a free morpheme, and can be described as a grammatical or functional morpheme.

The Category of Structure

Structure is the organization or arrangement of grammatical elements. Structuralism is a feature of linguistic approach shared by most linguists. “To a large extent, in fact, functionalism and structuralism may be regarded as pointing in the same direction, describing the function of an element means examining its use in a wider context, including the structure of which it forms parts.” (Allerton, 16) structure could also be regarded not only as the category set up to account for the grammatical patterns which the unit carries but also as arrangement of elements in places ; for example.

6. The black boy assisted the wise politician yesterday.

7. The wise politician was assisted by the black boy yesterday.
8. The Governor gave the team a new bus.
9. The team was given a new bus.(by the governor)
- 10.The new bus was given to the team by the governor (OPara,26)

Sentences 6 and 7 have the same message but they differ in the way they are arranged. Similarly, sentence 8-10 have the same message but differ in structuring. Structure explains the type of differences in examples 6-10. Structure also highlights how groups of words relate to advance the intended message..

In the system theory, the clause is the second highest rank in the rank scale, immediately above the rank of the group. It has a finite verb and a subject of its own. Speakers and writers make choices within the clause using structural elements such as SFPCA, Theme and Rheme, Given and New, mood and residue, Process and Participant (transitivity) to structure information.

The Category of Class

Class could be seen as 'any set of items having the same possibility of operation in structure. (Tomori, 49) There are, for example, classes of verbs, nouns, adverbs. There are three main classes of units in English made up of the verbal group, which functions as the predicator; the nominal group, which functions as subject or complement; and the adverbial group which functions as the adjunct. For example, the utterance: the foresighted labourer found a treasure yesterday.

The	Foresighted	Labourer	Found	a treasure	Yesterday
Article	Classifier	Noun	Verb	Noun	Adverb

[OPARA, 24]

Each word in the unit (in this case a sentence) belongs to a class as shown in the column. All together, we have six classes consisting of an article, a classifier, a noun, a verb, a noun and an adverb

The Category of System

The system is the fourth fundamental linguistic category and one of the two pillars of SFL. It consists of a range of choices or options (system), a set of possibilities that can be used in the grammar of language. (Opara 27). The options represent the speaker's potential at the levels of semantics, lexico-grammar and phonology/graphology. For example, in English, a choice can be made at the place of the element 'P' in clause structure within the following systems, voice which involves a choice between active and passive verb, finiteness which involves a choice, between finite and non finite verb. There could also be a system of gender with a choice between masculine, feminine and neuter and a system of tense with a choice between past, present, and future. We could also have a system of mood with a choice between declarative, interrogative, and imperative. Therefore, unit, class, structure and system are the language tools or theoretical categories of grammar set up for the description of the grammatical pattern of human language. Unit, class, and structure make up the surface level of grammar, system makes up the deep level of grammar.

Syntactic Realization in System

In syntactic structures, Halliday sees syntax as a scientific study or investigation of the processes of combining words to form sentences. Sentence in surface grammar are realized within the following system network.

FINITENESS: This system considers whether a clause is finite or not. A clause is finite when it is complete in itself, that is, when it has a subject, a number and a tense, and non-finite when it is incomplete, it does not have subject, no definite number and no certain tense. Finite verbs are sub-divided into two namely, lexical or main verb and auxiliary or helping verb. Lexical verbs are further divided into transitive and intransitive verbs or transitivity (traditional grammar) or transitivity as a process-oriented grammar (SFG). Voice is a system related to one of the three major systems complexes of the English clause. Voice considers actor and initiator. Two terms are recognized within the voice system, that is, active and passive; from the systemic network, it is clear that there is a choice to that of effective/descriptive, namely, that of operative/ middle/receptive.

Auxiliary or helping verbs are of two kinds: primary auxiliary verbs and modal auxiliary verbs. Primary Auxiliary verbs: These can function as main or lexical verbs. They include: 'have', 'be', 'do,' and their variants: 'have', has 'has' as its variant, 'be' has seven variants which include is, are, am, was, were, been, being and 'do' has does as its variant. Modal Auxiliary verbs: These traditional auxiliary verbs are what Halliday sees as Operators as follows: need, dare, could, would, should, ought +to, used +to, can/could, may/might, will/would, shall/should, may, might, must, (have/had +to), am/are/is/was/were/ +to, going to be /am/is/are/was/were, being/been, have/has, having/had. Non-finite verbs are divided into infinitive (traditional), or 'to'-non-finite(SFG) present and past participles.

The description of verbal group (systems and sub-system) above is ordered in delicacy. Systems ordered in delicacy in relation to others are listed with indentation after the less delicate ones to which they are related. Systemic grammar is delicate

and is realized in the form of finiteness, mood, modality, Theme and information structures, person, aspect, voice, transitivity, polarity, logical relation, deictic.

Examples: Finite

x+0: are, have and pledged

x+s: is, has and pledges

x+d: assembled, was/were/had/pledged

Non-finite

To+x: to buy, to see, to carry

X+ing: appealing, doing, contracting

X+en: 'been' form of is/was/were/being.

MOOD:

Indicative

- 1 John visited James- (Declarative)
- 2 Did John visit James?-(Interrogative) (yes/no)
- 3 Who will visit James?- (Interrogative) (non-polar information)

Imperative

- 4 You go/go- (Exclusive-jussive) (person)
- 5 Let's go- (Inclusive-jussive) (person)
- 6 Do visit James, won't you?-(With tag-jussive)

All verbal groups make choice within the mood system but only those that are finite choose within the system of modality. Options that are available to modality system are aspects of interpersonal relationships such as permission, ability, possibility, politeness and obligation. It could be positive choice or negative choice of modality.

For example:

1 I may go 2 She can go } Positive choice of modality

1 Go 2 She goes } Negative choice of modality

Polarity

This is the system that handles negation in the clause. The expression of negation is made within any of the four elements of clause structure but the predicator element (the verbal group) is a major exponent of it. It is closely attached to the auxiliary element and is a modifier. Two terms in this system are negative and positive. Negative indicates the choice of negation and positive, the lack of it. The choice of negation is realized by the presence of 'not' or its variant 'n't' within the verbal group and always goes with the auxiliary verb as in 'hasn't, 'doesn't'; and the positive, by its absence. For instance:

Negative: The man is/was not /n't here.

Positive: The man is/was here.

3.2 Research Method

The research adopted the use of library. It is a non-experimental research method based on qualitative methods of analysis of the selected materials. It is non-experimental because it does not involve any laboratory experiment which is carried out in a constrained environment nor does it require definite measurement taken to maintain a high level of accuracy. It is a non-experimental research because it does not involve field experiment which involves research in a natural environment where the researcher overtime observes and investigates the variables of his interest.

3.3 Area of Study

The study involves newspapers that are indigenous to Nigeria. These newspapers were chosen in order to represent other print media such as bulletins, magazines and journals.

3.4 Population and Sample of Study

The target population comprises the newspapers published in the English Language in Nigeria. For the purpose of this research, a deliberate selection of four newspapers was made. The newspapers selected were: *The Daily Sun*, *The Punch*, *The Vanguard* and *The Nation*. The justification for their selection was based on the fact that they have national spread and maintained a wider readership in this part of the country, South East Nigeria. The researcher is of the view that the result of this study could be generalized to national dailies not mentioned here.

3.5 Data collection

A textual data, newspapers, was used for the research- the data was drawn from the headlines, sub-headlines (introductions) and the news reports of the selected newspapers.

3.6 Method of Data Analysis

The textual data was analyzed based on research questions raised in chapter one in such a way that they provide responses to the questions. It also included discussion and matching data with the theoretical framework. To achieve this, the researcher applied Halliday's systemic theory of syntactic analysis of lexico-grammar.

It is to be noted that Leech and Short have observed that "any practical method of stylistic analysis/lexico-grammmatical analysis must select some features for analysis and ignore others. They define the term 'feature' as the occurrence in a text of a linguistic or stylistic category". (69) Examples of stylistic/lexico-grammatical categories according to Leech and Short include: noun, transitive verb, passive verb, question, negative, adverb, morpheme, lexis, and cohesion. They note that there is no agreement on the set of descriptive categories required for an adequate account of a language such as the English Language and different investigators are likely to differ in the way they identified linguistic/lexico-grammatial features in a text. The headlines, sub-headlines and news items analyzed in subsequent chapter could, therefore, be given other descriptions by different investigators.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.1 Analysis and Discussion of Findings

This chapter deals with data analysis and the discussion of the findings of the study. The relevant data will be used to answer the research questions formulated for the study.

Research Question 1

The first research question:

What are some of the prominent lexico-grammatical features employed by the print media in their news reports/communication?

Clause Systems: Transitivity System

Transitivity is one of the systems at clause level. Others are theme and mood. According to Halliday (1985a), there are three major functions of language, namely: the ideational, the interpersonal, and the textual. The function is the use of language to express content and to communicate information. Where content is the focus, the emphasis will be on transferring information clearly and effectively so that it can be comprehended quickly and easily. In the traditional grammar, lexical verbs may be transitive or intransitive. In transitive verb, there is a transfer of action from the agent to the object. In an intransitive verb, the action or state of the verb remains with it, it does not affect any other person or thing (Fabb,173). In SFL, transitivity is not only a feature of the whole clause. The ideational function involves transitivity system. Halliday further develops the old concept of transitivity, whether a verb takes or does not take a direct object is not a prime consideration. There are three components of

what Halliday calls 'transitivity process', namely: the process itself, participants in the process; and circumstances associated with the process. Halliday, then, divides the system of transitivity or process types into six processes, namely: material, mental, relational, behavioural, verbal, and existential "A clause in English is the simultaneous realization of ideational, interpersonal and textual meanings"(Halliday, 53). So we can analyze a clause by the transitivity system. Examples of some the process types above are:

Verbal Processes: These are the processes of 'saying'. The participants of the process are: sayer (participant who speaks), receiver(the one to whom the verbalization is addressed), verbiage(a name for the verbalization itself). Examples as used in the newspapers are:

1 PDP candidates told reporters the decision was reached after a wide consultation with the electorate.

(Headline: The Vanguard, Tuesday, April 14, 2015)

PDP Candidates (sayer), told (process-verbal), reporters (receiver), the decision was reached after a wide consultation...(verbiage).

2 AIG Ogunsakin hailed special electoral security team for their determination and commitment.

Headline: The vanguard, Tuesday, April 14, 2015)

AIG Ogunsakin (sayer), hailed (process-verbal), special electoral security team(receiver), for their determination and commitment (verbiage).

- 2 The Chief justice of Nigeria (CJNI) has warned lawyers to avoid being used as agents to truncate the nation's democracy.

(Introduction: The Nation on Sunday, march 22,2015)

Chief Justice of Nigeria (sayer), has warned (process-verbal), lawyers (receiver), to avoid being used as agents...(verbiage).

- 3 PDP says that INEC security men manipulated polls in favour of APC.

(Headline:The Vanguard, Tuesday, April 14,2015)

PDP (sayer), say(process-verbal), INEC security men(receiver), manipulated polls...(verbiage)

- 4 The APGA governorship candidate in Anambra, Willie Obiano, has described the last election as a sham.

(News report: The Vanguard, Tuesday, April 14,2015)

APGA governorship candidate...(sayer), has described(process-verb), the last election...(verbiage).

- 5 The factional speaker warned the APC lawmakers and their sponsors would be in trouble should they go ahead...

(News report: The Vanguard, Tuesday, April 14, 2015).

Factional speaker(sayer), warned(process-verbal), APC lawmakers and their sponsors(receiver), would be in trouble...(verbiage).

Verbal processes feature more in newspaper reporting. They are to a large extent projections of speech in that they indicate actions or feature of material processes. Typical verbs used as verbal processes are, 'say', 'tell', 'declare" 'warn', 'repeat', 'describe', etc. These verbs and many others which add or express "different shades

of meaning”(Bloor and Bloor,122) and function as speech acts with illocutionary forces indicating the way the writers want their information to be understood.

Material Processes- Processes of ‘doing’ or ‘happening’

Material processes are the process of ‘doing’. They express the notion that some entity ‘does’ something-which may be done ‘to’ some other entity. In material processes, there are types: the one with one participant (intransitive), and the one with two or more participants (transitivity). The processes have the transitivity structure of process+ actor +goal. Examples as found in the newspapers are:

6 Police arrest senator, sister in Imo

(Headline: Sunday Punch, April 26, 2015)

Police(actor), arrest(process), senator, sister(goal), in Imo(circumstance-location).

7 APC takes Imo

(Headline: Sunday Punch: April 26, 2015)

APC(actor), takes(process), Imo(goal).

8 Dickson visits Oronto Douglas family

(Headline: SundaySun: April24,2015)

Dickson(actor), visits(process), Oronto Douglas family(goal)

9 PDP leads in Taraba

(Headline: Sunday Punch, April 26, 2015)

10 Reps(actor), pass(process), budget(goal)

In sentences: 6, 7,8, and 10, the police, APC, Dickson and Reps performed the actions, and the actions are carried over to other participants or things which affect them, while in sentence 9, PDP’s action is limited to itself. Fabb

says that transitivity clauses have degree of choices ranging from high to low. H is the high transitivity option while L is the low transitivity option (173). High transitivity (H) verbs allow the transfer of activities from one participant to the other while in low transitivity (L), there is one participant, disallowing a transfer. Thus sentences 6, 7,8,10 have high transitivity verbs whereas sentence 9 has low.

Mental Processes: Processes of Sensing

1. Perception (seeing, hearing, smelling, etc)
2. Affection (liking, fearing, loving, hating, etc)
3. Cognition (thinking, knowing, understanding, etc)

In the mental processes, there are two participants, namely: senser(the conscious being that is feeling, thinking, or seeing) and phenomenon(which is 'sensed'-felt, thought, or seen). Examples are:

11 The PDP party stalwart believed that sanity would return to the party

(News report: The Nation, Friday, April 10, 2015)

The PDP stalwart (senser), believed (process-cognition), that sanity would return...(phenomenon).

12 Every Rivers man and woman today understands that yester year incidence of political hooliganism and cultism is over.

(News report: The Nation: Friday, April 10, 2015)

Every Rivers man and woman (senser), understands(process-cognition),incidence of political hooliganism...(phenomenon)

13 The cultists and political thugs seeing the police and the special election team took to their heel.

(News report: Daily sun: Friday, April 24, 2015)

Cultists and political thugs (senser), seeing (process-perception), the police and the special election team...(phenomenon)

14 Chief Uchechi Ogbuka, PDP spokesman reckoned that ballot box snatching and politically motivated killings have been on the increase...

(News report: Dailysun, Friday 14, 2015)

Chief Uchechi Ogbuka, PDP spokes man (senser), reckoned(process-cognition), ballot box snatching and politically motivated killings...(phenomenon).

Mental processes are features that are used to describe psychological events, not actions, the system of voice plays an important role in the mental processes because it allows the writer the choice to add or omit certain participants for the subject position. Senser and phenomenon may also alternate as subjects (Bloor and Bloor, 127).

Existential processes

These processes represent that something exists or happens. These clauses typically have the verb 'be', (eg, there is) or some other verb expressing existence such as 'exist' 'arise', followed by a nominal group functioning as 'Existent' (a thing which exists in the process). The existent may be a phenomenon of any kind, and is often, in fact, an event. Examples

15 'There was a shootout between his men and the ballot box hijacker...' , the IG said.

(News report: The Punch, Monday, March 30, 2015)

Was (process), a shootout between his men and...(existent-event)

16 "That was a clear case of man' inhumanity to man", a APC spokes man has said.

(News report: The Punch, Monday, March 30,2015)

Was (process), man's inhumanity to man (existent-event).

Relational Processes

These are the processes of being. The central meaning of clauses of this type is that something is. There are three main types of relational processes in the English system. They are:

1 Intensive : 'x is a'

2 Circumstance : 'x is at a'(location or position of things)

3 Possessive : 'x has a'

Each of these comes in two different modes:

a attribute 'a is an attribute of x'

b identifying 'a is the identity of x'

Some examples in the newspapers are:

17 They are the ones who set up the station

(News report: The Nation on Sunday, march 22, 2015)

They (identified), are(process,relational) the ones who(identifier), set(process, material), the station(goal).

17 Election is not war, but a celebration of democracy

News report: The Nation on Sunday, March 22, 2015)

Election(identified), is(process, relational), war(identifier), celebration of democracy(identifier).

The relational processes have the transitivity functions of process+ identified+ identifier and for the identifying relational process and process+ carrier+ attribute for the attributive relational process. Identifying relational process usually dominate news report. The clauses are often reversible while the attribute ones are not. They indicate that an entity is the identifying or another serves to define the identity of another. Identifying clauses highlights the theme in that they function to express the theme-rheme structure in such a way as to foreground the theme by making any of the elements of the clause the theme (Halliday,42; 119-120).

From the above explanation, it is observed that the transitivity system can effectively analyze clauses and it involves the transfer of an action from one participant to the other. The fact is supported by the following quotation: “Clause” rather than ‘word’ or ‘sentence’ is the unit of analysis in systemic Functional language (SFL). And the function of a clause is analysed in terms of: (a) subject, Finite, Predicator, Complement, and Adjunct (SFPCA), (b) Theme and Rheme, (c) Given and New, and (d) Process or transitivity system. SFPCA captures syntactic niceties of the text. Theme and rheme, and Given and New....However, a process

and participant analysis of text reveals the way language users manipulate language to represent their perception of reality” (Bloor and Bloor, 107-109). Again, Halliday says that “Transitivity specifies the different types of process that are recognized in the language, and the structures by which they are expressed”.(101). In essence, transitivity helps us recognize and encode our experiences of the world. Thus, the clauses above act as techniques for indicating verbal, material, mental, relational and as a means communicating information and placing order of events in the news reports.

Mood System

Examples as used in the newspapers are:

Declarative:

1 Police arrest 10 for electoral violence in Osun.

(Headline: The Punch, Monday, March 30, 2015)

2 APC wants Fayose’s deputy charged with election violence.

(Headline: The Punch, Monday, March 30, 2015)

3 DPP adopts Buhari as candidate.

(Headline: The Nation on Sunday, March 22, 2015)

4 Jega deploys 6INEC commissioners for Imo guber re-run

(Headline: The Daily sun, Friday, April 24, 2015)

5 Onovo urges APC to form unity govt

(Headline: The Saturdaysun, April 25, 2015)

Obas call for free polls

(Headline: The Nation on Sunday, March 22, 2015)

Interrogative

7 “Why would anyone want to arrest APC leaders at this time? What have they done to warrant their arrest? Will there be a level playing field for the elections if the main opposition party is decimated just days to the polls?”

(News report: The Nation On Sunday, March 22, 2015)

8 “How do we hold them responsible if they eventually get into office and fail to do all they have promised?”

(News report: The Daily Sun, Friday, April 24,2015)

9 “So, how will you describe it? How will you describe a situation from the polling unit where the results were supposed...?”

(News report: The Daily sun, Friday, April 24, 2015)

10 “Who’s in Charge?”

(News report: The Nation on Sunday, march 22, 2015)

11 “President Who?”

(News report: Saturday sun, April 25,2015)

Imperative

12 ‘Irked by AIG Ogunsakin’s directive, the presidency ordered him to leave Rivers State within six hours...

(News report: The Vanguard, Tuesday, April 14, 2015)

13 CJN advised lawyers and others that would be involved in the election litigation to ensure... (News report: The Nation on Sunday, March 22, 2015)

14 Jonathan orders removal of campaign materials

(Headline: The DailySun, Friday, April 24,2015)

15 Speak up on Abia now, group urges Jega

(Headline: The DailySun, April 24, 2015)

16 The party said it was repositioning to stand by the people... and requested all its elected and appointed officials...

(News report: The Vanguard, Tuesday, April 14, 2015).

The analysis is guided by the interpersonal meta-function which expresses interaction meanings between speaker and listener, writer and reader. Mood block indicates personal meaning in the type of exchange going on, the role of the participants and the attitude and judgement of the speaker (Bloor and Bloor, 256) The clauses above is used to offer information(declarative), to ask questions(interrogative), to command or order, as well as to request etc (imperative). Accordingly, White says, “declaratives are offers of information, they are normally used for information dissemination, while interrogatives act interpersonally, not to offer information but to demand it. In the above analysis, nos, (7) to (10), the wh- question is used with the intention of arousing the curiosity of the reader; the reader is being provoked not only to think of the answers to the question but it even demands information from the reader. This is achieved through the precise use of wh-question. Declaratives, interrogatives and imperatives are affective in determining the stylistic and communicative consequences of a text. The systems of mood make the subject responsible for the event. The subject is the

theme in declarative clauses and carries the development of the text as an 'interactive event'. Hence, a statement could be an assertion, question, request or even a threat or could have a reservation e.g. I don't have to see them; reflecting attitudes negative or positive, Osisanwo remarks (75). He (Osisanwo) continues to say 'that since the mood system is basically concerned with the situation of the subject in the clause structure, whether the speaker has chosen a subject or not; where a subject is present, whether it is positioned before or within the predicator, whether or not the speaker is one of the participants in the action mentioned in the utterance'.

Modality (one of the systems in verbal group systems)

All verbal groups make a choice within the mood system but only those that are finite choose within the system of modality. Thus, the options that are available are the positive and negative choice of modality. That is, it expresses aspects of interpersonal relationships such as permission, ability, possibility, politeness and obligation. In systemic network, the system of modality operates only in the environment of finiteness. The two sets of modality are modal and non-modal operators. Examples are:

1 The South South lost the presidency and if APC fails to be magnanimous in victory but embarks on vendetta by denying the zone the opportunity to produce speaker, the government may unwittingly...

(News report: Saturday sun, April 25, 2015)

'If APC fails to be magnanimous in victory' (this is a conditional clause which may or may not happen); 'the government may unwittingly...' (possibility).

2 According to the statement, the APC, as the majority party has promised that their manifesto will be carried to the letter.

(News report: Saturday sun, April 25, 2015)

3 The PDP National Secretary, Chief Olisah Metuh, flayed INEC because it wouldn't answer any questions regarding the bags of voters card found...

(News report: The vanguard, Tuesday, April 14, 2015)

'...it wouldn't answer any question....'It indicates that INEC would refuse...(refusal)

4 According to Dr. Kachikwu, the governor-elect can take on such key areas as agriculture, education...

(News report: Saturday sun April 25, 2015)

Modal operator indicating 'ability'

5 The PDP spokesperson noted that Niger's 16 years of democracy must be sustained...)

(News report: The Vanguard, Friday, April 14, 2015)

The modal operator 'must' indicates obligation and necessity expressed idiomatically.

7 Metuh, who warned that if INEC failed to produce what they requested, they should give the people fresh elections in Imo State.

(News report: The vanguard, Friday, April 14, 2015)

The conditional operator 'if' means probability and supposition and the modal operator 'should' means 'obligation coupled with necessity'

- 8 In a statement jointly signed by comrade S. O. B Igwe and Ihuoma ufughi, they said. "We will be seeing the PDP leaders in the state in order to discuss...

(News report: The Daily, Friday, April 24, 2015)

The non-modal operator indicates 'future plans and arrangements'.

- 9 The information we receive that some hoodlums are planning to attack Isiokpo Central polling booth may, or may not be true, but, all the same, we are ready for them...

(News report: The Nation on Sunday, March 22, 2015)

The modal operator 'may' and 'may' with negative 'not' signifies 'possibility and uncertainty' mixed together.

- 10 According to its Director General, Tony Enwerenzo, the shameful act can discourage the supporters of APGA from coming out to vote for Otti...

News report: The daily Sun Friday, April 24, 2015)

The non-modal operator signifies 'ability'

- 11 He said, 'the radio could be the handiwork of the same people who are accusing us of establishing...'

(News report: The Nation on Sunday, March 22, 2015))

The non-modal operator signifies 'possibility'

Modality performs various functions in communication. Modality is an important politeness strategy. According to Lipson, modulation (and modalization) is an important strategy for politeness and in some occasions we all use modulation when formulating our requests, depending on the familiarity we have with the person with whom we are interacting().

Mood and modality carry interpersonal meanings. Their analysis in the clause helps to understand how people make meanings about interpersonal dimensions such as possibility, refusal, obligation and necessity, future plans and arrangements, ability and uncertainty. These are associated with their social roles, and their attitudes and judgment.

Attitudinal lexis

Attitudinal lexis is a system realized in mood and modality in interpersonal functions. The term evaluation might be what Halliday calls attitudinal lexis. Using Melrose example (qtd in Opara), 'slim' and 'skinny' have roughly the same experiential meaning, but the former implies a positive evaluation while latter implies a negative one. Attitudinal lexical (SFL), or emotional lexical (Traditional) words are words chosen and calculated to produce a picture or image and induce emotion. They are dressing words. It may be loaded with negative or positive attribute. They are associated with aesthetic or emotive undertone, for instance, onomatopoeic words. Examples abound in the newspapers.

1. In Ekiti, the PDP trounced all the contending parties including its main opposition, the APC.

(The Punch: Monday, March 30, 2015)

In the above, the word, “trounced” has more evaluative appeal than “beat” or “defeated”.

2. The APC governorship flag bearer in Imo State, Rochas Okorocha , wondered why people should be clamouring for new Local Government Chairmen.

(Saturday Sun: April 25, 2015)

In the above, the word “clamouring” has a high evaluative appeal much more than “demanding.”

3. Olusegun Obasanjo seemed to have said that the retired Director General had a cause to gnash his teeth.

(The Punch: Monday, March 30, 2015)

The word, “gnash” is onomatopoeically used which shows the use of words whose sounds naturally suggest their meaning. That is the “striking together of the teeth”, eg in rage.

4. Nyesom Wike, a PDP governorship contestant in Rivers State, from upland Ikwere in Rivers State is expected to have a resounding victory.

(The Nation: Friday, April 10, 2015)

The word, “resounding” is onomatopoeic. That is, victory that spreads far and wide like an echo.

5. The PDP crashed woefully in the APC strongholds of Kaduna, Niger, Borno and Bauchi states.

(The Vanguard: Monday, April 13, 2015)

The word, “crashed” is emotionally used.

The print media in their effort to reach or access a good number of audience use different lexical devices to achieve it. The use of attitudinal lexical/emotional words which are in themselves lexical words stir up emotions or create images or pictures in the readers’ mind. These images or pictures created by the use of special words are important in the language of news reporting, especially, in “election column” where many contestants normally vie for the same or different posts. More often, those who have the gift of the gab or persuasive speakers draw crowds to their sides more easily than non-persuasive speakers do.

Question 2: What are the lexico-grammatical features that are common to the print media?

Logical Function

In Halliday’s systemic functional grammar (SFG), experiential and logical components are imbedded in the ideational function. Experiential function is used for communication of ideas in the world of reality whereas the logical function relates these ideas to each other on an equal or subordinate basis. The logical function encompasses relationships of pronoun, coordination, subordination, opposition and modification. Examples from the newspapers are:

Pro forms

1 AIG Ogunsakin hailed the special electoral security team for their determination and commitment. He also berated...

(The Nation: Friday, April 10, 2015)

In the above, 'he' is inter-sententially and anaphorically used to refer to 'AIG Ogunsakin'

2 The PDP governorship candidates said that the decision was reached after a wide consultation with their teeming and magnanimous supporters...

They said: We, the following governorship candidates after due consultation...

(The Nation: Friday, April 10, 2015)

Here, 'they' stands for 'PDP governorship candidates anaphorically and maintains inter-paragraph cohesion while 'we' also refers to governorship candidates cataphorically. '

3 The Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN) Justice Mahmud Mohammed has warned lawyers...

He spoke in a key note address of the opening ceremony...

(The Saturday Sun, April 25, 2015)

'He' is anaphoric and maintains inter-paragraph cohesion and refers to 'Justice Mahmud Mohammed

4 The APGA governorship candidate in Anambra, Willie Obiano has described the last election as a sham. It is nothing to write home about...

(The Saturday Sun, April 25, 2015)

'it' refers to 'last election' anaphorically and inter-sententially

5 Mrs Nwaogu who was rigged out... She noted that it is in order to salvage...(The Vanguard, Tuesday, April 14, 2015)

'she' stands for 'Mrs. Nwaogu' inter-sententially and anaphorically.

Coordination

6 A fresh controversy between the president and the House of Representatives may be in the offing... (Introduction: The DailySun, Friday, April 24,2015)

"And" coordinates 'the president and the 'House of Representatives'

7 The group described the April 11 governorship and House of Assembly elections in Abia as a rape of democracy.

(News report: The DailySun, Friday, April 24, 2015)

'And' coordinates 'the April governorship'; 'House of Assembly elections'

8 Governorship and Houses of Assembly elections are slated for tomorrow.

(News report: The Nation, Friday, April 10, 2015)

'And' coordinates 'governorship, ; 'Houses of Assembly.

9 The Imo State governorship candidate told his campaign manager what to do but he refused.

(News report: The Punch, Monday, March 30, 2015)

'But' coordinates 'Imo State governorship candidate', and 'he refused'.

Subordination

10 The police have deployed special forces in Rivers State because of the tense political atmosphere, Inspector General, Suleiman Abba has said.

(Introduction: The Vanguard, Monday, April 13, 2015)

‘Because of the tense political atmosphere’ is subordinated to ‘The police have deployed special forces in Rivers State (main clause)

11 Elections petition tribunal sitting in Owerri has received five petitions from politicians, challenging elections in which they lost out.

(News report: Dailysun Friday, April 24, 2015)

‘Which they lost out’ is subordinated to ‘Elections petition tribunal sitting in Owerri...’

Apposition

11 On his part, the Iyase of Ogwashi Uku, Chief Mike Nwaukoni, said, Dr. Okowa must ensure...

(News report: Saturdaysun, April 25, 2015)

‘Chief Mike Nwaukoni’ is in apposition to ‘Iyase of Ogwashi Uku’.

12 The Bishop of Sokoto Diocess, Dr. Mathew kukah, yesterday blamed greed and arrogance as the major...

(News report: The Vanguard, Tuesday, April 14, 2015)

‘Dr. Mathew Kukah’ is in apposition to ‘Bishop of Sokoto Diocess’.

13 The warning by General Suleiman Abba, police Inspector, that voters should steer clear of polling booths after casting their votes...

(News report: The Nation on Sunday, March 22, 2015)

‘Police Inspector’ is in apposition to ‘General Suleiman Abba.’

14 The plot. According to the APC National Publicity secretary, Alhaji Lai Mohammed, is for the PDP to gain an undue advantage ahead of the election.

(News report: The Nation on Sunday, March 22, 2015)

‘Alhaji Lai Mohammed’ is in apposition to ‘APC National Publicity Secretary’

Modification

15 The rate voters on Saturday stormed and vandalized the Independent National electoral Office at Adago, the headquarters of Ajaokuta Local Government Area..

(Introduction: The Punch, Sunday, April 26, 2015)

‘The rate,’ pre- modifies ‘voters’ and ‘on Saturday’ circumstance of location, post- modifies ‘voters’ too.

16 The news of the party’s victory came as quite a surprise. The Victory that the PDP clinched in the governorship election was absolutely fascinating.

(News report: The vanguard, Tuesday, April 14, 2015)

‘The’ determiner, pre-modifies ‘news’ headword, and ‘of the party’s victory’ adjunct, post-modifies ‘news’. Also ‘as quite a surprise’, an adjunct of manner, post-modifies ‘came’ the finite verb. Also the other clause: ‘The’ modifies “victory’ that the PDP clinched in the governorship election’ adjectival clause post-modifying ‘victory’.

The pronouns used maintain coherence within the paragraphs and inter-paragraphs. They function as logical sequence of ideas from sentence to sentence.

This precise use of pronouns is to reiterate their antecedents and to link one sentence or idea to another. That is, they are used to avoid repetitions and redundancy. All in all, the logical function relates ideas expressed in experiential component to each other on an equal or subordinate basis.

The Group System: Voice System

This is a system very much related to one of the three major complexes of the English clause, 'transitivity'. Voice considers actor or initiator, and goal or range in relation to an action and their respective positions in the organization of the clause. Two terms are recognized within the system, namely, active and passive.

Active

The use of active voice in the newspapers cannot be overlooked. The choice of active indicates that the actor/initiator is the subject of the clause and thus corresponds to the choice of operative. Examples are:

- 1 Kukah blames PDP for its woes
(Headline: Saturday Sun: April 25, 2015)
- 2 Anioma political leaders task Okowa on development
(Headline: Saturday Sun: April 25, 2015)
- 3 Police warn politicians, supporters as supplementary gov poll...
(Headline: Saturday Sun: April 25,2015)
- 4 Security agents manipulated results in favour of APC
(Headline: the vanguard: Tuesday, April 14,2015)
- 5 Police deploy special forces in Rivers

(Headline The Nation: April 10, 2015)

6

Police arrest man with 813 PVCs in Ebonyi

(Headline: The Nation: Friday, April 10, 2015)

In the above clauses, nos (1-6), 'Kukah', 'Anioma political leaders', 'Police', 'Security agents', 'Police' and 'Police are the initiators or operatives(subject) of the various actions contained in the clauses and 'PDP', 'Okowa', 'politicians, supporters', 'results', 'special forces' and 'man' are the goals or receptive.

To sum up, all the newspapers used for the analysis almost exhibit the same or common features/characteristics. *The Nation*, *The Punch*, *The Vanguard* and *The Daily Sun* have the inclination of using present tense in their headlines to make it seem that news items happen now rather than in the recent past.

Passive

Passive is an important feature of the print media. The use of passive voice makes the news reports sound more formal. By putting the goal or receptive at the beginning of the sentence, passive structure takes our attention away from the agent/actor. For instance, although the sentences, "Five men were arrested (by the police) (The action of the verb is directed towards the actor or agent) and "Police arrested five men" (There is a surface expression of the goal as complement in this clause) have the same meaning, the reporter focuses on the result of the action (goal) instead of the people doing the action (actor) News reports often use the passive voice to avoid saying directly that someone has done something. In this way, news reports try to remain impartial. Passive voice with agent deletion

symbolizes impersonal style in academic writing. Cases of the use of passive voice abound in the language of the print media. Examples:

1. Senator Hope Uzodinma representing Imo West and his sister were arrested for alleged electoral malpractices at Omuma, Oru East Local Government Area of Imo State on Saturday (by a combined team of policemen and soldiers).. (News report- Sunday Punch. April 26, 2015)

2. An eye-witness, Balogun yahaya, told journalists that crisis started when the voters were told that there were no ballot papers for them to vote. (agent deletion)

(News report—Sunday Punch. April 26, 2015)

3. The returning officer for the election, Prof. James Epoke said, Emmanuel scored 996071 votes and has been declared winner by INEC

(News report: The Vanguard. Monday, April 13, 2015)

4. Votes were being counted by the presiding electoral officer when the demonstrators arrived in the polling unit and started snatching ballot boxes and ballot papers.

(News report: The Vanguard. Monday, April 13, 2015)

5. The elections petition tribunal sitting in Osun has been advised to entertain petitions...

(News report: The Daily Sun. Friday 24, 2015)

6. Governorship and Houses of Assembly elections have been slated for tomorrow...

(News report: The Sunday Nation. March 22, 2015)

The choice relations between these sentences can be described either by the use of transitivity system at the clause level or by the voice system at the group level. Hence differences in choice of language items made by the language user can be described using clause and group system.

In the above examples, the goals (receptive) are put in the beginning of the sentences with the aim of focusing attention on them because they are deemed to be more important or worth emphasizing than the initiators. For instance, no.1 above can also read: "A combined team of policemen and soldiers arrested Senator Hope Uzodinma and his sister for alleged electoral malpractices at..." Both statements have similar meaning. In the above, the actor (operative) is emphasized and it is given a front focus. In systemic linguistic, SFG, there is a choice to that of effective/descriptive, namely, that of operative/middle/receptive in a voice system. Thus, it can be said that voice considers the actor or initiator, and the goal or range in relation to an action and their respective positions in the organization of a clause. The choice of active indicates that the actor or initiator is the subject of the clause and the choice of the passive, that of the goal or range. Thus, the active corresponds to the choice of operative; and passive, of receptive. Accordingly, nos1-6 are classified as the goals or receptive.

Finally, the use of passive and active is one of the commonest features found in all the newspapers. The passive when used has the implication of emphasizing the

goal or receptive and the active, the implication of focusing our attention on the actor or operator. The transitivity system helps to interpret the sentences whose meaning could remain opaque at the surface level, and also it enables writers and speakers to represent and classify their world.

The System of Finiteness:

The system of finiteness features at the group level to indicate choices made between a finite and non-finite verbal group. In complex verbal groups, the initial verbal element makes the choice of the entire group. That is, if the initial verbal element is finite, the whole verbal group is finite. If it is non-finite, the whole group is non-finite. It is finite if it is the first member of a complex verbal group. Since the predicator is an obligatory element of clause structure and each clause must make a choice within this system, all verbal groups are involved in the option. Examples of headlines with simple and complex finite verbal groups are:

1 APC wants elections cancelled in Abia, A-Ibom, Rivers

(Headline: Vanguard, Tuesday, April 14, 2015)

2 PDP leads in Taraba

(Sunday Punch, April 26, 2015)

3 Reps pass 2015 budget

Daily Sun, Friday, April 24, 2015)

4 We're ready for trouble makers

(Saturday Sun, April 25, 2015)

5 How elections were rigged by PDP, APC (Complex verbal group)

(The Vanguard, Tuesday, April 14, 2015)

6 APC raises fresh alarm over planned clampdown on Tinubu, other leaders

(The Nation on Sunday: March 22, 2015)

7 GOV POLL: Security agents manipulated results in favour of APC-PDP

(The Vanguard: Tuesday, April 14, 2015)

7 APC is a party to reckon with...

(News report: The Punch, March 22, 2015)

8 The PDP, chairman in Ideato North has been living in London(Complex verbal group)

(News report: The Nation, Friday, April 10,2015)

Each of the underlined items is a finite. 'Wants' and "leads' in (1) and (2) show tense, number (singularity) concord, 'pass' and 'are' in (3) and(4) show present tense, number (plural) concord, 'were' and 'manipulated, in (5) and (7) show past tense, number and finiteness. 'is' in (9) shows tense(present), number(singularity) concord(when forms of 'be' and 'have' stand alone, they show finites). It is to be noted that nos (5) and (10) are complex verbal group.

The finite element or finite verb is therefore a verbal operator that expresses tense or modality. In complex verbal group, the finite written in small letters is the auxiliary verb which in principle has tense and agrees in person/number with the subject .e.g. 'were' and 'has' in nos (5) and (10) respectively. They are the first

element in the verbal group of more than one word. A finite clause is a clause with finite verbal group.

Non-finite

Non-finite can be classified into: 1 'to+x'= to eat, 2 'x+-ing' =eating and 3 'x+-en' = eaten. This grammatical feature can be found anywhere in a clause. The non-finite can have object (goal- SFG) of its own because it is a verb and it can be used in the subject (head word-SFG) position because it is a noun. It is non-finite because it is incomplete, it does not show tense and agreement

1. **Reflecting on his stay** at the training command, the Air force chief said...

(The Sunday Nation: March 22, 2015)

Nominal group, non-finite clause, functioning as the subject

2. **Expressing delight** at the presidential election...

(The Sunday Nation: March 22, 2015)

Nominal group, non-finite clause; functioning as the subject

3. **Briefing reporters** yesterday in Awka...

(The Daily Sun: Friday, April,24 2015)

Nominal clause, non-finite; functioning as the subject.

4. **Recalling his experience**, therefore, the former president Olusegun Obasanjo said...

(The Daily Sun: Friday, April,24, 2015)

5. **Addressing news men** after the closed door meeting with Buhari...
(The Vanguard: Tuesday, April 14, 2015)

6. **Announcing the result** at the Independent National Electoral Commission Headquarters...
(The Vanguard: Tuesday, April 14, 2015)

7. While we urge INEC **to take** disciplinary actions against its erring officials...
(The Vanguard, Tuesday, April 14, 2015)

8. **Reacting to the killing** in Ile-Ife...
(The Sunday Punch: April 26,2015)

- 4 **Baffled by the incessant politically motivated killings**, the IG assured Nigerians that... (The Nation: Friday, April 10, 2015)

Past participle acting as a modifier (killings)

- 5 **Having won the election**, Mohammed Buhari proceeded to inaugurate...
(The Vanguard: Tuesday, April 14, 2015)

- 6 Politicians **pushing** for ING will face the wrath of the law

(Headline: The Nation on Sunday, March 22, 2015)

- 7 The **drowning** PDP and its presidential candidate who are looking for straws to hold unto...

(The Nation on Sunday, March 22, 2015)

‘Drowning’ a present participle acting as an adjective (attribute) modifying ‘PDP’

8 The party **deceiving** people has wasted 16 years of the nation's democracy life...

(The Nation on Sunday, March 22,2015)

'Deceiving' a participle, acting as an adjective modifying 'people'

The above words in bold letters are nominal groups and non-finite clauses. From nos 1 to 6 and 8 are non-finite forms of verbs function as nouns but as modifiers in SFG, in classical grammar, they are called gerunds which usually have the '-ing' form of a verb. Present and past participles are also non-finite verbs and act as modifiers in SFG. Therefore, non-finite verbs are verbs in the '-ing', the participle and the infinitive. Non-finites help for proper identification of ideas and actions. They don't show tense and agreement, therefore, they cannot exist alone in the language. Textual, interpersonal and ideational components of the meta-function express "independent sets of semantic choices" (Halliday, 179).

The researcher found out the newspapers: *The Punch*, *The Daily sun*, *The vanguard* and *The Nation* used for the analysis almost display all the lexico-grammatical features found out in this work but the major ones are the use of logical relations such as reference, coordination, subordination, apposition and modification; voice system in terms of active and passive and finiteness in terms of finite and non-finite structures .These are the major features that are more common to all the newspapers analysed.

Research Question 3

What are the major lexico-grammatical features employed by the print media in the headlines?

Group Systems

It is divided mainly into verbal group system and nominal group system. The researcher will concentrate on nominal group system since verbal group system has been analysed.

Noun Group System

This system is divided into number system and dietic system, and the dietic system also comprises the determiner system which is analysed here.

The determiner System

Headlines are not full sentences, but short summaries designed to attract attention, to achieve immediacy and to save space. As a result, some structural words or determiners are omitted. Some of the “Unnecessary” words that are left out include: determiners, possessive pronouns. Determiners are important items in the nominal group. A determiner is also called a marker- an item that shows the status or function of some other item. Determiners are markers of nouns or they identify nouns, for instance, ‘a’ ‘an’ ‘the’ and possessive pronouns such as ‘his’ ‘her’ ‘their’, ‘my’, etc. The implication is that structural ambiguity usually arises if determiners do not mark the status of nouns. For example, the headline, ‘Ships sail today’. This has two quite different possible meanings: ‘Ship the sails today’ (that is, bring them on board) or ‘The ship sails today’, ‘ship’ in the first case is a ‘verb’; in the second, it is a

noun, and the word 'the' which is inserted to clear the ambiguity, does this because it marks the status of 'ship' and 'sails'.(Fries qtd in Branford, 106). Other examples of headlines are:

1. APC raises fresh alarm over planned clampdown on Tinubu, other leaders.

(The Nation: Sunday, March 22, 2015).

In the above headline, some determiners are missing. There is the omission of a definite article (specific determiner-SFG) "the", an indefinite article(non-specific determiner-SFG) "a ". The headline should read: The APC raises a fresh alarm over the planned clampdown on Tinubu and other leaders.

2. Police arrest senator, sister, 25 others in Imo.

(The Sunday Punch: April 26, 2015).

This should read: The police have arrested a senator, his sister and 25 others.

In the above, definite and indefinite articles "the" and "a" and "his" are omitted.

Infinitive

Infinitive is one of the verbal groups in future tense systems which is used among other things to refer to the future plans and arrangements of the subject.

Examples are:

1. APC threatens to sue Fani-Kayode

(The Sunday Nation: March 22, 2015).

The headline above is the shortened form of the sentence: The All Progressives Congress is going to sue Fani- Kayode for claiming that General

Muhammadu Buhari's campaign is funded by terrorist groups like Boko Haram, Al-Qaeda and ISIS.

2. **Verdict:** PDP to win SOUTH EAST

(The Nation: Friday, April 10, 2015)

This is the shortened form of the sentence: The Peoples Democratic Party is going to win the March 28 Presidential and National Assembly elections in the South East.

3. President –elect to emerge today-Jega

(The Punch: March, Monday 30, 2015)

4. PDP to win governor election in A-Ibom

(The Punch: Monday, March 30, 2015)

5. PDP to resist spoilers

(The Sunday Punch: April 26, 2015)

In the headlines above, some basic structural elements, determiners, that are likely to clarify them and make the audience understand their impact are lacking. This may lead to ambiguity and vagueness. However, the omission of the determiners enhances attention grabbing, and aptness of the headlines for space economy. The use of the infinitive is not only to indicate future tense but also to indicate future plans, arrangements or intentions of the subject.

Polarity System

This is the system that handles negation in the clause. The expression of negation is made within any of the four elements of clause structure but the predicator element (the verbal group) is the major exponent of it. Polarity is sub-divided into negative and positive.

The use of negation (the negatives) in headlines and news stories is noteworthy. Negative indicates the choice of negation and positive, the lack of it. The use of negatives is realized by the presence of 'not' or its weak variant 'n't'. It is used to deny actions and ideas as previously alleged.

Examples-Headlines

1 Election materials not supplied to most polling units in A-Ibom

(The Vanguard: Tuesday, April 14, 2015)

2 Why next Rivers' governor can't be Ikwere

(The Nation: Friday, April 10, 2015)

3 Why APC should not ignore South South

(Saturday Sun: April 25, 2015)

4 Ngwa people didn't place coffins in Aba

(Saturday Sun: April 25, 2015)

5 APC godfathers can't dictate to Buhari

(Sunday Punch: April 26, 2015)

6 The opposition does not want soldiers deployed during the polls...

(News story: Sunday Nation: march 22, 2015)

7 The same has not been seen of the APC, which has unleashed...

(News story: The Vanguard: Tuesday, April 14, 2015)

Question 4: In what ways do the print media use source or attribution in the news reporting?

The System of Finiteness

The system of finiteness features at group level to indicate choices made between a finite and non-finite verbal group. No news item or story exists without a source or attribution. In view of this, the use of finite and non-finite clauses becomes highly significant. Bell is convinced that the “use of attribution and quotes can add authority, drama, immediacy or emotion to an account as well as give the reader a sense of the quoted person’s voice and personality . Reporters use sources to distance themselves from the issues they explore (190). That is to say that the use of finite and non-finite verbs in reporting is in consonance with the ethics of journalism because the report of news items follows what has happened and the reporter was there. He writes about what other people did or said. Instances of attribution as found in the news reporting:

1. The Nation recalls that the fracas ensued when some unidentified youths invaded...

(Attribution to Nation newspaper)

‘recalls’ is a finite verb which indicates the statement the subject ‘The Nation’ has made, ‘that the fracas ensued when some unidentified youths invaded....’ It agrees in number and tense with the subject.

2. According to the chairman , presidential team...(Attribution to personality)

‘According’ is a non-finite verb functioning as a noun but as a modifier in

SFG, it pre-modifies ‘Chairman’.

3. Briefing news men in awka , Okafor said...(Attribution to personality)

‘Briefing’, also, a non-finite form of verb, modifying ‘news men’; ‘Said’ is a finite form of a verb in agreement to the subject ‘Okafor’ in number and tense, indicating what Okafor has said.

(The Sunday Nation, march 22, 2015)

4. An insider in the party hierarchy said...(Attribution to no one in particular)

5. The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that...(Attribution to NAN)

6. The Aso Rock said...(Attribution to Federal Government Authority)

(The Punch, Monday, March 30, 2015)

7. In a press release signed by the state chairman of APGA...(Attribution to personality)

8. In a statement yesterday in Abuja, the Director of Media and Publicity of the APC, Mallam Garba Shehu said...(Attribution to personality)

9. Government sources said...(Attribution to a source)

(The Vanguard, Tuesday, April 14, 2015)

10. In a statement credited to APC chieftain in Katsina...(Attribution to personality)

11. In an exclusive interview with the Punch, Anambra APGA campaign coordinator said...(Attribution personality).

12. Speaking to journalists during the announcement of the results...(Attribution to journalists

(The Punch, Monday, March 30, 2015)

Finite clauses are used in nos: 4, 5, 6, 7,8,9, 10, and 11; the finite verbs are ‘said’, ‘reports’, ‘said’, ‘signed’, ‘said’, ‘said’ ‘credited’ and ‘said’ respectively. While no 12, is

a non-finite clause, 'speaking'. Besides the stylistic function of using finite and non-finite clauses to indicate the point of view of the narrative, these attributions give source, credence and credibility to the news reporting.

Question 5: what are the lexico-grammatical features that enhance and promote the print media?

Theme Systems and Structures (Clause systems)

The systems at clause level are the theme, mood, and transitivity. Theme is one of the three ways of looking at the clause and the functional components of meaning that determine the structural shape of the clause and derive from the 'meta-function' in the systemic theory (unit, class, structure and system), (Opara, 21). Theme structures reveal the organization of the message/information. The speaker/writer organizes his message to make his ideas stick together and to make it easier for the hearer/reader to understand. Theme is the starting point of the speaker's/writer's message at clause level and could be realized by a nominal group, a verbal group, a prepositional phrase and an adverbial group. Theme and information structures are supported by grammatical linkage such as reference, ellipsis, substitution, conjunction and lexical cohesion. Rheme is part of the clause that deals with what is said about the theme. The following examples appear in the headlines:

1 PDP leads in Taraba

(The vanguard: Tuesday, April 14, 2015)

The structure of this clause is SPC; it has a subject theme 'PDP' which occupies the first position in the clause, hence indicating the common way to begin sentences. It is an unmarked clause.

2 Jonathan, Buhari in last minute battle for votes

(The Nation on Sunday: March 22, 2015)

The clause structure is SAC; it has subject theme 'Jonathan, Buhari' in the subject position which occupies the first position in the clause hence, indicating the common way to begin sentence. The clause is therefore unmarked for theme.

3 APC wants elections cancelled in Abia

(The Vanguard, Tuesday, April 14, 2015)

The structure of this clause is SPCCA; it has the subject theme 'APC' which occupies the first position in the clause hence, indicating the common way to begin sentences. The clause is therefore unmarked for theme

4 We're ready for troublemakers

(The Saturday Sun: April 25, 2015)

The clause structure is SPCC; it has the subject theme 'we' which occupies the first position in the clause hence, indicating the common way to begin sentences. The clause is therefore unmarked for theme.

8 Why APC should not ignore South South

(The Saturday Sun, April 25, 2015)

The structure of the clause is ASPC; it has an Adjunct theme 'why' which occupies the first position in the clause, hence indicating the uncommon way to begin sentences. The clause is therefore, said to be marked.

9 Speak up in Abia now, group urges Jega

(The Daily Sun: Friday, April 24,2015)

The clause structure is PASPC. It has a predicator theme 'speak' occupying the first position in the clause, hence indicating the uncommon way to begin sentences. The clause is therefore marked.

10 Cancel Imo State election, PDP urges INEC

(The Vanguard: Friday, April 14, 2015)

The structure of the clause is PCSPC; it has predicator theme 'cancel' occupying the first position in the clause hence, indicating the uncommon way to begin sentences. The clause is, therefore, marked for theme.

It is observed that clauses 1, 2, 3 and 4, have unmarked themes and 5, 6 and 7 have marked ones. A clause is marked if it has an unusual form or unmarked if it has usual form. 'Anything other than the subject in a declarative clause is marked. Hence, 'markedness is graded', Subject (unmarked), circumstantial Adjunct (marked), predicator(most-marked). The most common unmarked theme is the first person pronoun. The less common marked theme is the adverb or preposition phrase. The least common most marked theme is the complement' (Melrose, 32). Unmarked and marked themes are used to indicate information focus. The theme is the starting point of the message at clause level and could be realized by a nominal group, a verbal group, a prepositional phrase and an adverbial group. Rheme is the

part of the clause that deals with what is said about the theme, e.g. (a) I saw Mark in the school, and (b), Yesterday, I saw Mark in Owerri. In (a) 'I' is the theme, and 'in the school', the Rheme, Also, in (b) 'yesterday' is the theme, and 'I saw Mark in Owerri, the Rheme (Melrose, 32). Theme structures give a sense of continuity in discourse and they help to make a text coherent.

The Dietic System- Adjective

According to Halliday, 'functional elements and their corresponding word classes could be presented in this paradigm: dietic- determiner, dietic- adjective, numerative- numeral, epithet- adjective, classifier- adjective and thing-noun. The adjectives (epithets), nominals or participles are pre-heads and usually modify the headword Up to three or four adjectives may precede the headword as in: those wise beautiful young ladies; that active young ugly dog (185). It is one of the lexical categories.

Other Categories of Deixis – Lyons says that “ the notion of deixis... is introduced to handle the orientational features of language which are relative to the time and place of utterance.” (279) He says that the categories of deixis include: person deixis, place deixis and time deixis.

Person Deixis: This is to do with the expressions with reference to the participant's role of a referent, like pointing to a person.

- The speaker
- The addressee and
- Referents which are neither speaker nor addressee.

Examples of person deixis—

- Pronoun
- Possessive affixes of nouns
- Agreement affixes of verbs.

The following categories are involved, singular pronouns: I, me, myself, my, mine.

Plural Pronouns: we, us, ourselves, our, ours.

‘Am’ the first person form of the verb ‘be’

Forms: Exclusive and inclusive. Exclusive first person deixis refers to a group not including the addressee(s) while inclusive first person refers to a group including addressee(s).

Second person: This refers to a person or persons identified as addressee.

Example: you, yourself, yourselves, your and yours.

Third person: This refers to persons and entities which are neither speakers nor addressees of the utterance in question. Examples: he/him, she/her, they, the third person singular verb suffix-s, he often eats.

Place Deixis: Levinson defines it as “the encoding of spatial locations relative to the location of the participant in the speech event” (62). Place deixis are ‘here’ and ‘there’ and the demonstratives- ‘this’ and ‘that’.

Time Deixis: It is used to point to a time. Time deixis is grammaticalized in deictic adverb of time as- now, yesterday, today, next Tuesday, last Friday, tomorrow, this afternoon, last week then etc. ‘This’, ‘next’, ‘next’ etc are referred as deictic modifiers.

When expressions like- this, here, now are used, they show that what is being described is close to the speaker while that, there, then show distance. In addition, when movement is towards the speaker 'come' is used but when is away from the speaker, 'go' is used. Mark goes there often and John comes here often.

The typical role of adjective is to pre-modify or post-modify nouns or pronouns. Examples of adjective as found in the newspapers' news reports are:

1. This is a golden opportunity that the APC must not miss.
(The Daily Sun, Friday, April 24, 2015)
'golden' is an attributive adjective pre-modifying the word 'opportunity'
2. Keyamo displayed a total ignorance of the incontrovertible facts of the matter.
(The Daily Sun, Friday April 24, 2015)
Also, 'incontrovertible' is an attributive adjective pre-modifying 'facts'.
3. Dr Alex Otti campaign organization (AOCO) has said that it views the development as despicable and barbaric.
(The Daily Sun, Friday, April 24. 2015)
'Despicable' and 'barbaric' are predicative adjectives post-modifying 'development'
4. Uduaghan commends Deltans for peaceful conduct of elections.
(The Vanguard, Tuesday, April 24, 2015)
'Peaceful' is an attributive adjective pre-modifying 'conduct'.
5. The remaining aspirants received insignificant votes.
(The Vanguard, Tuesday, April 24, 2015)
'insignificant' pre- modifies 'votes'.

6. The election was declared inconclusive by the Resident Electoral Commission.

(Sunday Punch, April 26, 2015)

'inconclusive' is a predicative adjective post-modifying 'election'

7. The APC is still basking from its landslide victory across the country.

(The Sunday Nation, March 22, 2015)

'landslide' pre-modifies 'victory'.

Adjectives modify nouns and pronouns in different capacities. Attributive adjective pre-modifies nouns and pronouns while predicative adjective post-modifies nouns and pronouns too. Each of the underlined words above describes or adds something to the meaning of the noun coming before or after it. The pre-modification and post-modification have the function of bringing to the fore the intended meaning of words and expressions which inevitably enrich the language of journalism which is technically called 'journalese'.

Circumstantial Adjuncts- Adverbs

Circumstantial Adjuncts convey information about the circumstance of the process, such as when (time), where (place), how (manner), etc or it tells us about the people or other entities accompanying the process (accompaniment) rather than directly engage with it. It functions as Adjuncts in SFPCA and the grammatical realization is adverb. It is one of the lexical categories. Examples in the newspapers abound:

1. The All Progressive Congress, APC, colleagues in the House are working tirelessly with outsiders ...
(The Vanguard: Tuesday, April 14, 2015)
2. APGA is a party whose differences are usually amicably settled
(The Vanguard: Tuesday, April 24, 2015).
3. President Jonathan won the March 28 polls comfortably in the South South zone.
(The Sunday Nation: March 22, 2015)
4. The use of Smart Cards Readers (SCRs) for the elections would be strictly applied.
(The Sunday Nation: March 22, 2015)
5. Okorochoa said that he had convincingly won in almost all the Local Government Areas in Imo
(The Sunday Punch: April 26, 2015)
6. At the Lagos Mainland Local Government collation centre in Sabo Yaba, the electoral officer tried as much as he could to convince the voters... (The Sunday Punch: April 26, 2015)
7. Goodluck Jonathan, the president of Nigeria whose profile rose sharply was evidently the choice of the people.
(The Saturday Sun: April 25, 2015)

The above underlined adverbs modify verbs coming before or after them. In nos. 1-2 the adverbs modify 'working' and 'settled' respectively. Also in no. 2, 'usually' is an intensifier, which tells us the extent the amicable settlement takes place. Both are adverbs of manner.

In nos. 3 and 4, the adverbs modify 'comfortably' and 'applied' respectively, and they are adverb of manner.

Also, in nos.5, 6 and 7, the adverbs modify 'won', 'tried' and 'rose' respectively. They are all adverbs of manner. The adverbs tell or show us the manner in which the actions of the verbs take place. They make the news reporting vivid, precise, concise and evergreen in readers' mind. On the whole, adverbs situate time, place, manner, condition, concession, degree or comparison.

Conjunctive Adjuncts

There is the use of conjunctive adjuncts which is rooted in textual function. It indicates the relationship of addition, conclusion, causative, etc- the grammatical realization is adverbial (Morley, 11). Examples abound in the newspapers:

1. On the other hand, we urge INEC to take disciplinary actions..., we strongly call to question...
(The Vanguard: Monday, April 13,2015)
2. Besides, Olugbemi had told the CJ in his counter directive...
(The Vanguard: Monday, April 13, 2015)
3. Finally, we invite Nigeria and the international community...
(The Vanguard: Monday, April 13, 2015)
4. However, I urge all of you from Ikot Ekpene to team up
_ (The Sunday Nation: March 22, 2015)
5. Consequently, Nigeria was visited by the worst group of legislators...(The Sunday Nation: March 22, 2015)

6. In spite of the assurance, Alagbe and some of the corps members were...(The Punch: Monday 30, 2015)
7. Thus, when the opportunity called, the Imo State governor had to call... (The Punch: Monday 30, 2015)
8. Although, the murder of the APC stalwart in Rivers State was...
(The Saturday Sun, April 25, 2015)

The indicated examples above are found at the initial position of sentences. That is, they fall outside the structure of the sentences. Their function is to form a logical link between what is said in one sentence, and what is said in the next. The effective use of conjunctive adjuncts ranging from no.1 contrast, no.2 additive, no.3 conclusion, no.4 contrast, no.5 causative, no.6 contrast, no.7 causative, and no.8 contrast in the source materials have helped putting the print media industry in lime light in terms of information dissemination.

Conjunctive adjuncts) usually realize the grammatical function. Circumstantial adverbials have similar function to that of conjunction. They signal the rhetorical organization of the text. All these features enhance and promote the print media.

CHAPTER FIVE

Observations, Recommendations, Conclusions and Suggestions for Further Research

Anyanwu maintains that the language of the print media which is technically called 'journalese' has mass appeal, unlike the other stylistic genres such as the 'legalese' and 'officialese' that have limited and educated audience that indulges in the jargon of their profession. The audience of 'journalese' is not special in the sense of professional jargon but everybody seems to be equally targeted. The linguistic levels of the audience (readership) range from basolect, through mesolect to acrolect has the implication for the variety of sentence types and the non-special vocabulary used. This is made manifest through the process of lexico-grammatical analysis of the print media with emphasis on newspaper. Its effective use of lexico-grammatical features or styles for meaningful communication of information cannot be over stressed.

The National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ) says that reporters should be able to recognize, to obtain and to select, to write a clear, vigorous and balanced news story in the form that will attract and interest the readers (Online). The news story is written in such a way that it contains the main points of the story which is followed by a coherent, logical, concise and readable structure. This helps in the meaningful understanding of the news items. The stories maintain a high level of objectivity since any intrusion of subjectivity will eventually

lead to bias in the reportage. That is why personal comment is avoided. The news is free from innuendo and words are chosen with precision.

Another important device used by the print media is the transitivity system, a clause system. It involves the transfer of action from one participant to another. It also helps to describe our experiences of the world. The language of the print media is also written in such a way that the result of an action is deemed to be more important than the people doing the action (the voice system). This is why the most important information is given a front focus, and this stimulates a comprehensive understanding of the information they pass across to the readership.

Another most interesting thing is the use of mood system which indicates interactional meaning. It is a system involving the choices of declarative, interrogative and imperative. Some function words (determiners) are deleted in the headlines and these serve as attention grabbing, but may lead to ambiguity. Though the argument against using ambiguity as a style for creativity for the matter of journalism is nonetheless pleasing whether the writers use it intentionally or unintentionally. More often than not, ambiguity is used for sharpening the reader's mind rather than confusing it.

It is apt to quote the comment of Okunna with regard to the language of mass media

The information function of the mass media is all embracing and indispensable for the meaningful existence of members of the society. Through their various linguistic contents, the mass media collect, store, Process and disseminate news, data, pictures, facts, messages, opinions and comments which members of the public require in order

to react knowledgeably to personal environment, national and international conditions as well as to be in a position to take appropriate decisions (274).

5.1 Recommendations

In order to reach the wider public the more, the Nigeria newspapers should avoid using ambiguous and vague expressions and incorrect arrangement of elements in a structure, notwithstanding that some of these devices are advantageous to them. Our youths might end up copying the wrong use of English grammar. To curb this trend in their language use, a body should be set up within the print media to vet news items before they are published and also language experts should be employed by each media house to help straighten out this anomaly. This will in no small measure promote reading newspapers and enhance the more, free flow of ideas, understanding and comprehension of news reports.

5.2 Conclusion

Lexico-grammatical analysis of the language of the print media is quite a revealing one. The language of the print media which is technically called 'journelese' boasts of different syntactic features such as the use of transitivity system, mood and modality, finiteness, theme structure, passive and active construction, simple and complex sentences which are mostly declarative, negation, logical relation, attitudinal lexis, adjectives (epithets), circumstantial adjuncts to reach the wider audience. Also the omission of grammatical and function words (determiners) in the headline is noteworthy. The copious use of pre-modification and

post-modification as well as the use of coordination, subordination and appositional devices is also important to note. It is these lexico-grammatical features (syntactic features) that put the print media in the front burner as a genre that maintains mass appeal. That is, the linguistic levels cut across basolect through mesolect to acrolect. It has no special audience or special jargon as a profession, but everybody seems to be equally targeted, that is why it is called mass communication.

5.3 Suggestions for Further Research

The lexico-grammatical analysis of news reporting in some Nigerian newspapers is in the main targeted towards bringing to the fore the lexico-grammatical features (syntactic features) of print journalism. I suggest that similar research might be carried out in other places in order to compare the results with the current investigation. Also a study of lexico-semantic analysis of the same topic is another important area the researcher is suggesting for further research.

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