



A Stylistic Analysis of Selected Speeches of The Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB)

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Abstract— This work examined a stylistic analysis of some selected speeches of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB). The Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) is a new Biafra (Igbo) movement of the people of Eastern Nigeria. It is led by Mazi Nnamdi Kanu agitating for the declaration of Biafra republic. It was initiated in 1967 by former Military administrator of Eastern Nigeria from 1966 who is now Late Ikemba of Innawi, Chief Odimegwu Ojukwu. The aim of this study is to carry out a stylistic analysis of selected speeches of the Indigenous People of Biafra with the intention to ascertain the particular stylistic choices that characterize the speeches. This study combines stylistics principles with Michael Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar as the theoretical framework to examine the pattern of the language used in the speeches. The study reveals that the speeches are characterized by lexico-semantic features such as Collocation, Figurative and Lexical relations which are creatively used to convey the speakers' intentions of grieving, protesting, self-defending, calling for international aid and so on. It also reveals that the state of agitation, brutality informed their choice of negative words. In view of this, this study concluded that the language pattern of the IPOB speakers are aggressive using propaganda and rhetorical techniques which might be responsible for their being misconstrued as a terrorist group by the Federal government of Nigeria.



Keywords— Stylist Analysis, Biafra(IPOB),Speeches, Lexico-Semantics, Brutality, Propaganda

I. INTRODUCTION

The Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) led by Mazi Nnamdi Kanu is the most recent of the numerous movements agitating for the secession of the Igbo people – the eastern region of Nigeria – from Nigeria for the past fifty years. According to Ibeanu, Orji and Iwuamadi (2016, p. 2), IPOB represents “the most highprofile and radical movement for a separate State of Biafra”. To realise their goal, these youths engage in civil disobedience including the declaration of public holidays and closure of markets in the South-Eastern part of Nigeria and Igbo-dominated markets across the nation. They established Biafran Embassies abroad, an online radio and satellite television, and produced a Biafran passport, flag and other symbols of sovereignty. On 19th December, 2013, IPOB proclaimed the expiration of Nigeria's amalgamation as the country became 100 years; and, therefore, the group called for a

referendum in respect of the self-determination of the Biafran People. Like all agitations, the IPOB struggle is the set of actions that attempt to arouse public feeling in support of or against an idea, in this case, the recognition of the State of Biafra. The group therefore employs slogans and attempts to awaken people from apathy by giving them feasible actions to perform. Since the language of agitation usually exploits the grievances of a group in order to induce sympathy from the public and to expose its opponents to condemnation, IPOB relies substantially on the use of strategic language, such as those related to propaganda.

Propaganda simply means the clever exploitation of language for the promotion of an idea. It is “the deliberate and systematic attempt to shape perceptions, manipulate cognitions, and direct behaviour to achieve a response that furthers the desired intent” of a person or an organisation (Jowett & O'Donnell, 1986, p. 16). It is usually a vague,

deceptive, exaggerated statement (that is, a half-truth) or a complete fabrication and is used either to promote or attack a cause. Propagandists present no argument and they usually associate unrelated objects or ideas (as a mask) with their ideology. In other words, they coerce the audience to believe and support their cause. It is employed in politics not only to project the strengths of a particular candidate, but also to expose the perceived weaknesses of the opponents. Full blown propaganda has, in fact, been employed in war time and warlike ethno-religious crises in many countries, including Nigeria.

To drive home this agitation, protest speeches such as IPOB's have been delivered at different meetings, conventions, rallies and press conferences. Unlike every other political speech, protest speech is always delivered at an atmosphere of agitation and tension. It is usually geared towards motivating, mobilising, educating and informing the target audience. Such event mostly allows the speaker the privilege to instigate, agitate and provoke his/her audience to action as well as request for their support in achieving the mission.

IPOB's agitation activities became very radical and intolerable to the Federal Government immediately after the assumption of power by President Muhammadu Buhari in 2015, and Kanu was arrested on 14th October, 2015, detained and charged with treason. As Kanu's detention and prosecution did not stop the agitation by his supporters, containment measures (codenamed 'Python Dance') were taken by the government against the demonstrators. Kanu was denied bail despite several court orders in favour of his release upon meeting the bail conditions until April 2017 when he was released. After several confrontations between the security agencies and IPOB, the group was labeled a terrorist organisation and later proscribed on 20th September, 2017.

Furthermore, in any political aspiration like that of the IPOB's, language is used as a tool to shape the perception of reality. How we use words – the exact language we select and the emphasis we give it – has the power of shaping somebody else's judgement of a subject (Goshgarian 1986:p.36). Language is therefore usually employed by the politicians and agitators to keep their political subject informed and influenced. Usually, language use in political agitations has certain characteristic features which make it different from other varieties of language use. These features unlike everyday use of language remain very unique and peculiar to the language of politics – 'propaganda' and 'rhetorics' as defined by Okoro (Okoro 2010:p.223).

It is on this proposition that this study is a stylistic analysis of the language used by the IPOB for the Biafra

agitation based on four (4) randomly selected speeches delivered as press releases between 2015 and 2017.

Nevertheless, in the study of stylistics, scholars such as; Omozua and Ezejiadeaku (2008), Akinwotu (2018), Ofoegbu (2017), Abuya (2012), Anderson (2014), have investigated language style in a variety of political speeches paying attention to significant literary features, fundamental techniques, lexical-semantic process of inaugural speeches, campaign speeches, war novels and so on. However, it appears inadequate attention has been given to the stylistic study of the agitation speeches of the new Biafran movement – The Indigenous People of Biafra.

Even though many researchers have carried out a lot of stylistic research in different fields, it seems much work has not been done on the stylistic analysis of the selected speeches of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB).

The aim of the study is to carry out a stylistic analysis of selected speeches of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB). However, the objectives are to;

- i identify what stylistic devices are contained in the speeches;
- ii identify the reason for the use of these stylistic devices in their speeches;
- iii examine the frequencies of occurrence of the stylistic device employed in their speeches

The following research questions would be addressed in the course of this study:

- iWhat are the stylistic devices contained in the speeches?
- What are the reasons for the use of the stylistic devices found in the speeches?
- ii What are the frequencies of occurrence of each stylistic devices identified in their speeches?

This study, therefore, will be of benefit to students of English and Literary Studies. And also various departments in different faculty and researchers as well. It is hoped that the investigation will show how the choice of language style is employed in IPOB speeches to attain desired communicative objective and effective communication.

This research is limited to the stylistic analysis of the selected speeches of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB)

Four randomly selected IPOB speeches delivered as press releases were selected and analyzed keeping in mind the research objectives. The analysis is restricted to stylistic devices found in the speeches.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Style and Stylistics

Style and stylistics are two inextricably interrelated and interwoven concepts. Style according to Crystal and Davy (1980) is identified as a concept which “may refer to some or all of the language habits of one person e.g. Shakespeare's style” or “occasional linguistic idiosyncrasies which characterise an individual's uniqueness”. Osoba (2001) highlighting style states that style is man himself. Moreover, stylistics is a word that is derived from style. It simply means the study or analysis of style in a text or literary work. Osoba (2001) quoting Turner defines stylistics as “that part of linguistics which concentrates on variation in the use of language often but not exclusively with special attention to the most conscious and complex uses of language”. What stylistics does is to make meaning of a text more explicit by critically studying the language used. It is to expatiate how one's comprehension of textual content is achieved by examining the point of interest, the linguistic organisation of the text and how a reader/listener should interact with such text in order to make meaning of it.

Furthermore, stylistics can readily be divided into two: Literary stylistics and Linguistic stylistics. There are stylistic features or tools used to achieved styles. These features of effectively used to enrich, strengthen and give life to the meaning of a text. Some of the features are Figures of speech – noun, verb, adjective, adverb, preposition etc, Figurative usage – simile, metaphor, hyperbole, euphemism, personification etc, Sentence structures – simple sentence, compound sentence, complex sentence and compound-complex sentence, Parenthetical expression – inserted at the middle or end of a sentence, Lexical relation – synonyms, antonyms, homonym, collocation, Diction – repetition, archaic words, foreign words, acronyms, slangs, jargons, coinage etc, Graphology – lettering character, such as italics, bold words, capitalization, logo etc.

2.2 Linguistic features of Stylistics

Linguistic features are elements or the characteristics of a language that is used by authors to write a text which stylistics studies. These elements are used to achieve different communicative purposes. A professor of modern English language, Katie Wales, in her book titled *A Dictionary of Stylistics* identified various Stylistic features which include slag, sentence patters, figures of speech, diction, etc.

Diction: This refers to the choice of words of an author or speaker. According to Wales (2011), diction “refers to the Lexis, or vocabulary mainly used in the discussion of a style to mean all lexical items in a text or used by an author”. For

instance, the diction of Shakespeare's sonnets, Milton's diction, etc. The characteristics or dialectal patterns in the Lexis of a text are known as diction.

Sentence pattern: This refers to the way a sentence is organized, ordered or patterned. These include:

Periodic sentence: This is a sentence which is constructed to deliver its main point at the end of the sentence. In literary criticism, periodic sentence is described as a complex sentence which delays its main clause until the end. It can be contrasted with a loose sentence in which the main clause comes at the end. Periods are especially useful, therefore, for emphasis, or for climax.

Loose sentence: This sentence gives out its main clause at the beginning. Whether the expression is grammatically sensible, it is accompanied with one or more explanatory phrases or clauses.

Simple sentence: This is the sentence that consists of a subject and a predicate. It is said to be the simplest sentence structure just as it name suggests.

The compound sentence: This is a sentence that consists of two conjoined or coordinated main clauses.

The complex sentence: It is a sentence that has at least two parts: a main clause and one or more subordinate clauses.

The compound complex sentence: The compound complex sentence is made up of two or more main clauses and one or more subordinate clauses (Wales, 2011).

Other linguistic features of style include:

Graphology: This refers to the writing mode of a language, as made obvious in handwriting and topography; and to the other related features such as capitalization, punctuation, italics, etc.

Slang: This is a term used to refer to an informal language consisting of vocabulary that is used to differentiate social groups.

Code switching: This is the process of switching from one language to another in a written text or speech. This phenomenon shows the competence or incompetence of the writer or speaker in language.

Code mixing: This is the system of mixing two or more linguistic codes in an utterance or writing.

Transliteration: This is the transfer of syntactic structures and expressions from one language to another

Archaisms: This is the use of words from the old or middle English period that are not in use in our contemporary day.

Figures of speech: This is a word or phrase that creatively deviates from the conventional use of language in order to produce a rhetorical effect. Figures of speech were occasionally used to distinguish between figures of thought in traditional rhetoric. According to Wales (2011: p.176), figures of speech have pragmatic roles at sentences or text level in the present action of argument. They include:

Rhetorical question: This refers to the question that does not require an answer. This is because this figure of speech avers something which is known to the addresser, and cannot be denied.

Irony: This is found in statement that means something different from what a speaker or writer says. This means that irony is the opposite of what is said and presumably intended by the speaker or writer.

Metaphor: Samuel John's *Dictionary* defines metaphor as simile compressed in words. In other words, metaphor is a figure of speech that directly compares one thing to another for a rhetorical effect.

Parallelism: This figure of speech according to Wales (2011) depends on the principle of equivalence or the repetition of the same structural pattern: commonly between phrases or clauses. Therefore, parallelism is the repetition of pattern in a literary text for a rhetorical or stylistic effect.

Pun: Pun is an ambiguity especially, a foregrounded lexical ambiguity. It involves the use of polysemous words to suggest two or more meanings. "The whole point of a pun, however, is the user's intent to produce humorous or witty effect from the juxtaposition of meaning" (Wales 2011: p.385).

III. BIAFRA AND THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF BIAFRA (IPOB)

The Republic of Biafra was a secessionist state in Nigeria made up of the people from the Eastern region of the country – Igbo. The Igbo aspiration for independence commenced with the Nigerian civil war between 30th May 1967 and January 1970. Lieutenant Colonel Odimegwi Ojukwu with other Igbo leaders aspired the independence of the Igbo people because of the claims that "Nigeria's oppressive military government would not allow them to develop or even survive". Therefore, Ojukwu declared the independence of the Biafra people. However, on the 11th of January 1970, the war was over when Nigerian federal forces captured the provincial capital of Owerri.

Consequently, Ojukwu went on exile to Ivory Coast and Biafra surrendered.

Though Biafra seems captured and silenced yet like a time bomb that waits for the right time to explode. The agitation for the Republic of Biafra has birthed some movements even after Ojukwu's death with the people still clamouring for the independence of the Igbo people from Nigeria. The most recent among these movements is the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) created and led by Nnamdi Kanu in 2014.

IV. EMPIRICAL REVIEW

Bitrus (2015) in his work titled "Literary Stylistic Analysis of Labor Yari's *A Day Without Cockcrow*", looked at the literary techniques, stylistic devices and approaches used by Lari Yari. Bitrus goes on to explain the language use of the author in portraying meaning in the novel.

Fidelis (2011) in a work titled, "Stylistic Analysis of Ngugi Wa Thiong'o's *Wizard of the Crow*"; Fidelis looked at the sentences and words that Ngugi used in his novel and the effects of the devices. He also went on to extract those sentences as well as prominent stylistic devices Ngugi used in his text.

Zioness unpublished works titled, "Stylistic Analysis of Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*", also examined the sentences used in the text, the use of literary devices and loan words (Cited in Ohanedozi, 2013).

Eman Adil Jaafar (2014) in a work titled, "A Stylistic Analysis of Two Selected Poems"; analyse two poems of well-known poets of the English literature, namely; E.E. Cummings and the Irish noble laureate Seamus Heaney. The study attempt to approach Cummings's poem "maggie and milly and molly and may" and Heaney's "A Kite for Aibhín" from the stylistics' point of view. The study also analyzes the poems using the tools of linguistics with a view to make their meaning explicit. The findings of the revealed that, it is worth noting that stylistics as a scientific discipline is really beneficial to those who are teaching and studying English language and literature. No matter whether English is the native, second or foreign language. Not only foreign students but also the speakers of the English language can benefit from stylistics. They can get linguistic besides literary competence. Nowadays, stylistics with its tools and methods of linguistics can help to a logical and scientific understanding of the literary texts based on linguistic evidence.

Jide Omowumi (2011) in a work titled, "a stylistic analysis of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's the *Thing Around Your Neck*" This work was done to examine the basic linguistic features that have been used by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

in *The Thing Around Your Neck* to pass some messages across to the readers and the society. A functional approach was adopted, an approach where particular note is taken of the stylistic function, effect and thematic significance of linguistic features in a literary text. The stylistics tools employed were morphology, graphology, phonology, syntax, lexico-semantics and point of view. After applying these tools the novel, it was discovered that language is an integral part of any work of art and that the success of a work depends on how the writer has been able to manipulate language. Adichie had effected changes through a systemic use of language which helped a better understanding of her work.

V. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The theoretical framework for this work is Systemic Functional Grammar. In Systemic Functional Grammar, language is seen as a form of behaviour, something that one does. In other words, Systemic Functional Grammar analyses language from a sociological perspective. Language is seen as a form of functional behaviour (declarative/statement, imperative/command, exclamatory/injection and question/interrogative) which relates to the social setting (situation) in which it is used. To Systemic Grammar, language is what one does with the purpose (which is the function: declarative/statement, imperative/command, exclamatory/injection and question/interrogative). Language is usually used in a particular situation or setting which can be immediate: circumstance applicable to the language used (micro-situation) or wider setting which is the basis of the language used (macro-situation) as identified by Berry M. (1977:2) Systemic Grammar goes further in its concern with relating the internal organisation of language. Berry M (1977:1) writes to buttress this that, "it is interested in showing which bit of which pattern is determined by which functions of language. The origin of this theory can be traced to MAK Halliday with his work known as scale and Category grammar in 1961. Systemic Functional Grammar is simply a combination of structuralism and functionalism in the evaluation or analysis of language.

VI. CORPUS

Four speeches were selected for the study. The speeches are; two of Mazi Uchenna Asiegbu as texts 1 and 3, one of Mazi Chika Edoziem as text 4 and of Mazi Nnamdi Kanu as text 2. The choice of these speeches is informed by the fact that they are speeches of IPOB leader Mazi Nnamdi Kanu and the heads of directorates of IPOB. The content analysis method was adopted for data collection (the online speeches of the spokespersons for the

Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) who are Mazi Nnamdi Kanu as the leader with Mazi Uchenna Asiegbu and Mazi Chika Edoziem as heads of directorates of state of IPOB). After reading each of the selected speeches stylistic features in them were identified for analysis and discussion.

The procedure for data analysis in the study involves a close reading of the selected speeches, identification and categorisation of stylistic features in the speeches. Possible reason for the use of the stylistic devices as well as their frequency of occurrence. Furthermore, findings of the research are discussed bearing in the research questions.

VII. DATA PRESENTATION ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

7.1 Data Presentation

The data are presented as found in the speeches labelled as text I –text IV. The presentation covers identification of stylistic features in the speeches, possible reasons for the use of the stylistic features, and their frequencies of occurrence as we find below:

Text I

1. The massacre, the maiming and forceful displacement of unarmed peaceful people of Biafran on a day we remember the atrocious genocide of the same government id utterly unthinkable, absurd.
2. Without any shred of doubt whatsoever, Buhari's order ("the-order-from-the-above") was carried out to the later, and that was to kill unarmed Biafran.
3. They harassed and gruesomely murdered innocent citizens without sparing even the most vulnerable like the pregnant women.
4. No amount of intimidation will make us give up on this issue.

Text II

5. The world is hereby put on notice that Biafrans will henceforth exercise their fundamental human right to self-defence
6. Biafrans shall defend themselves in order to put a stop to further genocide and this should NEVER be construed as an act of terrorism but rather an act of self-defence.

Text III

7. The DOS wants to inform the world and Biafrans in particular that those appointed and approved by the office of the Deputy

Leader and that of Directorate of State as IPOB spokespersons are: Barrister Emma Nmezu and Dr Clifford Iroanya.

8. Any other person parading himself or herself as the spokesperson of IPOB is a liar from the pit of hell.

Text IV

9. The international community is put on notice that former President Obasanjo is calling for the assassination of the leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra Mazi Nnamdi Kanu.
10. It has come to the attention of the Directorate of State of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) that a new report which appeared on the daily news online of 4th July 2017 written by one Chijioke Jannah call for the leader of the Indigenous people of Biafra (IPOB) Nnamdi Kanu to be assassinated.

Highlighted words

massacre

absurd.

order

murdered innocent

intimidation

self-defence

defend

appointed

approved

parading

COLLOCATION

1. Forceful displacement
2. Criminal... assault
3. Unarmed peaceful people
4. Real terrorist
5. Peaceful protest
6. Damnable contraption
7. Gruesomely murdered
8. Unlawfully killed

PRONOUNS

Furthermore, grammatical items such as pronoun are used to attain rhetorical effects in the speeches. The personal pronouns 'we', 'our', 'us' are expansively employed in the speeches. IPOB leaders used the first

person plural pronouns 'we', 'us' and 'our' to show rhetorical alignment, collective destiny of the Biafra, responsibility and unity of purpose for the attainment of the Biafran mission.

Text I

1. ... that the acts so melted on our kith and kin... and killing of our people
2. We are deeply pained by... killing... our members
3. However, our resolve remains resolute.
4. No amount of intimidation will make us give up

Text II

5. ... we shall not... accept... campaign of labelling IPOB as a terrorist.
6. We shall resist any attempt to tag us as terrorist just because we are merely defending ourselves and stopping the Nigerian government from exterminating us through their act of terrorism.

FIGURATIVE USAGE

Text I

1. General Buhari has indeed proven to be undemocratic hiding under the cloak of democracy to perpetuate ponderous evil deed on ordinary people.
2. Of course, we trusted the words of the Lion. – (Metaphor) (The Police commissioner of Anambra State)...
3. As a result, remembrance of fallen heroes is an acceptable rite in any civil and responsible society or country. - (Euphemism) (Biafran who died in the struggle)

Lexical relation

Lexical relation looks at the way words are linked together systematically and interdependently. This is achieved through lexical relations such as repetition. Lexical relation as to do with "the internal organisation of the linguistic system" (Ayodele and Adeniyi 1999:p.78). It is used to form cohesion which enhances the meaning. IPOB speakers also employ repetition as a stylistic device not only to achieve internal link of their speeches but for emphasis and to arouse intended emotion in their audience.

Repetition

		TEXT 1	TEXT 2	TEXT 3	TEXT 4	TOTAL
28.	Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB)	13	8	9	7	37
29.	Nigerian (government)	2	5	0	2	9

30.	General Buhari	8	0	0	0	8
31.	Office of The Directorate of State	3	2	2	3	10
32.	Kanu	1	1	1	4	7
33.	Genocide	4	0	0	0	4
34.	Killing	5	1	0	0	6
	TOTAL	36	17	12	16	81

Lexical collocation

Collocation simply refers to two or more words that are usually and closely used together. Words, mostly adjectives and adverbs are carefully selected as collocates of other words in the speeches as presented below:

Adjective-Noun Collocation

Text I

4. Forceful displacement
5. Criminal... assault
6. Unarmed peaceful people

Text II

7. Real terrorist

Text III

8. Peaceful protest

Text IV

9. Damnable contraption

Adverb-Verb Collocation

Text I

10. Gruesomely murdered
11. Unlawfully killed

The speaker use lexical collocation to portray Biafrans positively and represent Nigerian government negatively. In examples 11 and 12, the IPOB's spokesmen adopt adjectives which collocate with nouns to negatively present Nigerians and their actions towards the Biafrans as forceful and criminal. This according to Wilson and Wilson (2001: p.353) is identified as 'demonising the enemy', a technique of propaganda. On the other hand, in example 13 adjectives are carefully collocated with noun by the Biafran spokesmen to positively represent them as unarmed and peaceful people. A propaganda technique is what Wilson and Wilson (2001) call 'glittering generality', a situation whereby a product or person is praised for such person or product to be accepted and approved without examining the evidence'. So the Biafrans are represented positively with those words to get the approval of the international community.

Moreover, in examples 14 and 16, the Biafrans spokesmen employ adjective-noun collocates to call

Nigeria names such as 'real terrorist' and 'damnable'. This contradicts the Nigerian government's labelling of Biafrans as terrorists. They claim that Nigeria is the 'real terrorist' while Biafran's actions are a peaceful protest. In examples 17 and 18 adverbs collocate with verbs to express the manner in which Biafrans are 'murdered' and 'killed by the Nigerian government.

7.2 Data analysis

The stylistic choices in the speeches reveal the action and the mood of the speakers such as protesting, grieving, conveying, provoking, alleging, commiserating, commending, encouraging, exonerating, determining, informing, promising, and assuring and so on.

In examples 1, 2, 3, 4 the words, such as 'massacre', 'maiming', 'genocide', 'kill', 'murdered' and 'intimidation' are adopted by the Biafrans to show the brutality and atrociousness of Nigerian government towards the Biafran people. The Biafran people also with words such as 'self-defence', 'defend' in 5 and 6 justify that they are protesting to debunk the notion that 'they are terrorist as well as stop genocide against them'. In examples 7 and 8 lexical items such as 'put on notice' and 'attention' are adopted by the IPOB spokesmen to call the attention of the international authority. Those words are also adopted to notify the international community about the allegation that former president Obasanjo is planning the assassination of their leader Mazi Nnamdi Kanu, therefore calling for Kanu's protection.

In examples 19, 20 and 21 personal pronouns 'our', 'we' and 'us' are adopted by the Biafran spokesmen to achieve alignment and collective destiny. The pronouns are used by the speaker to align with every Biafran that the killing of one is the pain of all. This is also used to attain collective destiny portraying both the speaker (leaders) and the victims as one - Biafrans.

In examples 21 and 22 personal pronouns 'our' and 'us' are employed to achieve unity of purpose and collective commitment. The unity of purpose of the Biafrans is to stop the genocide killing of their people as well as disprove the allegation of being called terrorists and all Biafran – leaders and community members are committed and determined to achieve this purpose.

In examples 23 and 24 the personal pronouns 'we' and 'us' are rhetorically adopted in the speeches as resistance against been labelled terrorists collective responsibility of both the leaders and community members to defend Biafran community and to resist being labelled terrorist, stop the genocidal killing of the Biafrans by Nigerian government.

Figures of speech are used when politicians are comfortable with abstract concepts which are difficult to explain... (Essien and Oko, 2003:97). IPOB spokesmen skilfully use this to create a rhetorical and propaganda effect in their speeches such as the name-calling in example 26. In examples 25, 26 and 27 metaphor was adopted to convey different concept and opinion. The word 'cloak' is metaphorically used to convey pretence and deception. This is used to convey General Buhari as evil and undemocratic person pretending to be good and democratic in his deeds. The word 'Lion' was adopted to refer to the Police commissioner of Anambra state with whom the speaker was disappointed for betraying the trust of the Biafrans by joining the conspiring to kill and assault the Biafrans as claimed by the spokesmen. In example 41, the word 'fallen' and 'heroes' are employed as euphemism to mildly present the Biafrans that died in the struggle not as dead but heroes that fell. This is used to avoid the usage of the word dead and the emotion of 'fear' which can spur up from this and to instil courage and boldness in the Biafrans to continue the struggle and agitation.

In the above examples Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), Nigerian (government) and General Buhari, are repeatedly used to intentionally link the speeches together and to achieve emphasis of the major participants in the speeches. In examples 33 and 34, the words are also repeatedly used across the speeches to persuasively impact emotion in their fellow Biafrans with the intention to get them to defend and strive to attain the unity of purpose by all means. Such words were also repeatedly used to attract sympathy and assistance from international communities.

The lexical choices of the IPOB have revealed how lexical choice is made to serve the purpose of establishing textual ties, maintaining cohesion, social roles and looking to influence the attitude and behaviours of their target audience – Biafrans, the Nigerian government and the international community.

7.3 Discussion of findings

The study discovered that the IPOB's spokesmen carefully adopted stylistic devices such as Lexical Choices, Repetition, Figurative Language, Rhetorical Questions, Appeals to Emotions, Confrontation Language, First-Person Pronouns, Catchphrases and Slogans, these stylistic devices are strategically employed in the IPOB speeches to

captivate the audience, convey the speakers' intentions effectively, and mobilize support for the cause of Biafra independence.

The study found out that the reasons for the use of the stylistic devices found in the speeches is to;

Emotional Impact: The use of stylistic devices such as repetition, emotive language, and vivid imagery aims to evoke strong emotions in the audience, such as anger, grief, or determination. This emotional impact can help mobilize and motivate the listeners to support the cause of Biafra independence.

Rhetorical Effectiveness: Stylistic devices like rhetorical questions, parallelism, and alliteration are employed to enhance the persuasiveness and rhetorical power of the speeches. These devices help in making the messages more memorable and engaging for the audience, thereby increasing the effectiveness of the communication.

Creating Unity: By using certain lexical choices and repetition of key words, the IPOB speeches aim to create a sense of unity and solidarity among the Biafran people. This linguistic strategy helps in fostering a shared identity and purpose among the listeners, encouraging them to work together towards a common goal.

Drawing International Attention: The stylistic devices used in the speeches, such as specific lexical choices and emotional language, are also intended to attract attention and sympathy from the international community. By framing their cause in a compelling and emotive manner, the IPOB seeks to garner support and assistance from external actors.

Defensive Strategy: The aggressive language and propaganda techniques employed in the speeches may serve as a defensive strategy against being labelled as a terrorist group by the Nigerian government. By presenting their arguments forcefully and strategically, the IPOB aims to counter negative perceptions and misconceptions about their movement.

Overall, the stylistic devices used in the IPOB speeches are carefully selected and employed to achieve specific communicative goals, such as emotional engagement, rhetorical effectiveness, unity-building, international appeal, and defensive positioning (Wilson and Wilson 2001: p.353).

It is also discovered that the frequencies of occurrence of each stylistic devices identified in their speeches such as; adjective-noun collocation and adverb-verb collocation are skilfully selected to contrast the acts and personality of Biafran and Nigerian government as positive and negative respectively. It is also discovered that the lexical relation such as repetition, synonyms and antonyms are also

deployed by the spokesmen to indicate cohesion and inter-textual ties (Ayodele and Adeniyi 1999). Figures of speech and grammatical items such as pronoun are carefully selected as stylistic foregrounding to create propaganda and rhetorical effects such as name-calling and demonising enemy in the speeches.

Findings also revealed that the reasons for the use of the stylistic devices found in the speeches such as pronouns like 'we', 'our' and 'us' are also skilfully and extensively used by the IPOB's leaders to create rhetorical effect such as rhetorical alignment, collective destiny, responsibility and unity of purpose. It is also revealed that collocations are also used to create propaganda effect such as demonising the enemy and glittering generality.

VIII. SUMMARY

This study on "A Stylistic Analysis of the Selected Speeches of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB)" presents a detailed exploration of the stylistic elements employed in the speeches of IPOB. The study delves into the origin, scope, and significance of stylistics, highlighting its importance in understanding texts. Through a thorough analysis of lexical collocation and linguistic features, the study identifies and categorizes stylistic devices used in IPOB speeches.

The study underscores the importance of stylistic analysis in comprehending texts and communication strategies. By examining the syntactic structures, word choices, and sentence types in IPOB speeches, the study sheds light on the rhetorical and propagandistic aspects of their discourse. The study emphasized the educational value of the findings and their contribution to understanding the stylistic nuances of IPOB's communication.

Overall, the study provides a comprehensive overview of the stylistic analysis of IPOB speeches, offering insights into the language of politics, propaganda, and rhetoric within the context of Biafra and the Indigenous People of Biafra.

IX. CONCLUSION

Having carried out the linguistic analysis of four (4) selected speeches of the IPOB's spokesmen, it is concluded that the spokesmen skilfully deployed propaganda and rhetorical techniques to achieve clear, simple and expository language style. The spokesmen deliberately choose aggressive lexical item spiced with propaganda and rhetorical techniques to communicate their agitation against genocide and 'terrorist' labelling against them by Nigerian government. In conveying their message to their audience, lexical items are also carefully selected to establish textual ties and maintain cohesion in the speeches.

The lexical-semantic analysis revealed the lexical selection are stylistically foregrounding to achieve propaganda and rhetorical effect in the speeches such as name-calling, demonising enemies and glittering generalisation, alignment and collective destiny for effective communication. It can be inferred from the preceding that this study will contribute to informing scholars, politicians, Biafran, agitators generally on the significance of language and lexical-semantic choices in political speeches. It will also inform politicians and agitators on the syntactic and lexical device required for effective communication to getting attention of one's audience.

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