A Pragmatic Analysis of President Nnamdi Azikiwe's Speech: a response to the foremost Military Seizure of Power in Nigeria – January, 1966

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Abstract

This study is a pragmatic analysis of President Nnamdi Azikiwe's speech responding to the foremost Military Seizure of Power in Nigeria – January, 1966. Post the Nigerian colonialism in 1966 and the attainment of independence, a military coup emerged which caused the reaction of the interim leader President Nnamdi Azikiwe. The foremost military seizure of power happened when the then Nigerian President was out of the country on an official assignment. Immediately he heard of the coup plot by the military against him, he released a speech against this incident. Speech presentation is a feature of the communicative process; hence it is encoded with meanings. For instance, in discourse, meanings are decrypted and certain acts elicited. Therefore, using qualitative methodology espoused by diagnostic analytical technique; the paper analyses the pragmatic effects using the speech acts and functional models as the conceptual framework. In concise, there were occurrences of functional and structural patterns are identified as well as several illocutionary acts.

Key words: Pragmatics Analysis, Contemporaries, Young Turks, Revolution, Mutinous, Violent, language.

Introduction

Mkwinda-Nyasulu (2013) states that the elementary intention of a language is for interaction. The capacity humans hold in the usage of a language to communicate makes humanity exceptional, compared with other creatures (Aduradola & Ojukwu, 2013, p. 105). Language is a means of interaction in the daily activities of people because it drives their very essence as well as influencing the

development plans and procedures of any society. Further, De Valoes (2014) states that language assists in the expression of emotions, wishes, as well as questions within the society we lived in.   The ability for effective interaction of an individual or a group of people within society brings about the desired growth, implying that interaction is essential for growth established through the usage of language (Mkwinda-Nyasulu, 2013).

The explanations of events from the past, cultures, customs, and traditions of different societies are executed through their languages (Ilić, 2004). Language serves dissimilar purposes in every society. Taiwo (2009) mentions that language can be used for educating, enlightening, expressing ideas, and in social gatherings. Furthermore, it is an instrument designed to build or damage, make peace or instigate conflict, accept or deny and in arguing or repelling propositions (Taiwo, 2009).

However, in the political scene, language is a device for political speech and is a resilient tool for interaction that conveys diverse interpretations and meanings (Aduradola & Ojukwu, 2013; Makoro, 2018). For instance, throughout the colonial period in Africa, the local language was used by most African nations to combat the language of the colonial masters. At independence, countries in East Africa such as Kenya used a strong Swahili term Uhuru meaning "a call to action''. This call to action was directed at jettisoning the colonisers. Likewise, in Malaysia, the term ''merdeka'' which connotes ''freedom'' was employed (Aduradola & Ojukwu, 2013). Nevertheless, the lexical item Uhuru has become a favourite among freedom fighters, not only in Kenya or East Africa but across Africa.

Furthermore, in Nigerian society, language has been used in a variety of ways, either by the citizens (associations, organizations, politicians) or the government. Generally, language is a strong and veritable weapon in the hands of politicians to influence and manipulate the electorate for political gains, especially during elections. Hence, political campaign language is regularly categorised into slogans, jingles, parallelism, propaganda, persuasion, and rhetoric (Aduradola & Ojukwu, 2013; Aduradola & Ojukwu, 2013).

Besides, language has been used by various individuals to win a person or make individuals consent to other's ideas or opinions. It has also been used either to change governments, work in support or contrary to the agenda and plans of sitting governments, and to also use force on individuals, groups, or governments.

There have been many attempts by different scholars in the field of pragmatics to carry out different studies on the language of politics, power, and the military. This underscores the relevance of politics in the study of language, and in turn the power of language in politics.

Akinbiyi (2006) in his study examined the importance of deixis in political discourse, where he used two dissimilar speeches by Nigeria's former president, Olusegun Obasanjo. Deixis is an aspect of pragmatics that relates to and deals with the association within language structures and the settings within which the language occurs (Akinbiyi, 2006). The study examined whether politicians, at any point in time during their tenure of office, can either relate well or not with citizens, concerning some of the consequences of their decisions and activities (Akinbiyi, 2006). The study conclusion relates with the analysis of two separate speeches of the former president, where he reveals and confirms that Nigeria's political system is a field of communication between the leaders and the governed. Akinbiyi (2006) mentions that occasionally the verbal expression between the leaders and the electorate is amicable, polite, and friendly. However, at times, where the communication between the leaders and the electorate constitutes complaints, there is protest and objection.

Furthermore, Ayeomoni and Akinkuolere (2012) carried out a study of the pragmatic analysis of the triumph and the maiden speech of Nigeria's former president, the late Umaru Musa Yar'Adua. In this study, there was the recognition of the speech act features by paying attention to some of the pragmatic purposes such as the locution, illocutionary and perlocutionary acts. Hence, these speech acts enhanced a better understanding of the speech. In the speech, it is established that the former President made mention of how important it is to place the interest of Nigerians as a priority.

Also, Abuya (2012) explored the pragma-stylistic method of the maiden speech of former President Goodluck Jonathan after his victory at the 2011 Nigeria's nationwide poll. As established in Austin (1962) and Searle (1969), Abuya's (2012) study concentrates on the categories of speech acts, which are locution, illocutionary and perlocutionary. Ultimately, the study concludes that the speech that stands out with high quality is established.

In contrast, Uduma (2011) also carried out a pragmatic analysis of the 50th independence speech by former President Goodluck Jonathan. In his study, he examines the pragmatic, semantic, and sociolinguistic significance of speech. Uduma (2011) uses speech acts to recognize the consequence of the speech on Nigerians. It identifies the significance of the pragmatic hint (modal auxiliaries like a will, must, and can) as represented in the speech.

In the independence speech, the former President commended the efforts and labours of Nigeria's heroes in ensuring that the country's unanimity still stands against all odds. There is evidence that he felt remorse because of the attitudes of some Nigerians who kept on threatening the peaceful coexistence and harmony of the country.

Therefore, given the essence of pragmatic analysis and its impact on the speech; this paper pragmatically analyses the impact of President Nnamdi Azikiwe's speech against the January 1966 military seizure of power in Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

This study aims to analyse the impact of President Nnamdi Azikiwe's speech responding to the foremost Military Seizure of Power in Nigeria – January of 1966. Hence, the aim is embedded with the following objectives:

    i.   To identify the characteristics of the speech act with its circumstances and
    ii.   To ascertain how the established characteristics convey the speech.

Problem Statements

The emergency of Nigeria's independence and freedom from British colonisers around 1960 to 1963, serves as the basis from which the pragmatic analysis of this paper emanates. Due to post colonization and attainment of independence, Nigeria became the Republic, and the then interim leader Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe who was the custodian of Nigerian affairs; was forcefully relinquished from the presidential position. As a result, Azikiwe's speech effects i.e the pragmatic meaning, intention of the speaker, and the manner the speech were received and these had an adverse impact on the political system. Therefore, the problem is the manner in which President Nnamdi expressed his disgruntlement about the military coup as well as the pragmatic effects of his reaction to the coup.

Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe was from the Ibo extraction of the South-eastern part of Nigeria. He was the third Governor-general of the Nigerian Federation after Nigeria's independence in 1960, and afterwards became Nigeria's first ceremonial president on October 1, 1963, when Nigeria was named a Republic. He controlled the affairs of Nigeria for three years through which the first military coup in Nigeria brought an end to his tenure of Presidency on January 16, 1966 (Bayode, 2015). The outcome of this first military coup challenged the new democracy in Nigeria, leading to the country's civil war. Bayode (2015) asserts that the military's explanation of forcefully taking over the affairs of the country was to stem corruption and to avoid bitter conflict within the country. The coup thereafter prompted President Nnamdi Azikiwe's speech, where he expressed his strong and tough disapproval against the action of the Nigerian military. He insisted that the coup bred violence within the country's political system (Bayode, 2015).

However, the rhetorical effect of the evocative speech hinges on the right choice of words. Language is useful in presenting one's stance on issues of governance. This article examines President Nnamdi Azikiwe's response to the foremost Military Seizure of Power in Nigeria using pragmatic tools. It also explores Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe's dissatisfaction about how the military took over the country through a coup, and how they interrupted the young and new political system in Nigeria.

Literature Review

Pragmatics: a general overview and definition

It is imperative to have the definitions of pragmatics within the political context of language or speech influence, among the bulk of definitions; Juckre and Jaszczolt (2012) argue that pragmatics, a sub-field of linguistics, is etymologically derived from a Greek term, 'pragma,' which denotes 'deed', and the usage was associated with scholars and philosophers who had a concern in the study of meaning. The source of contemporary pragmatics is credited to a Philosopher, Charles Morris (1938), who picked interest in the field of the science of signs, also called "semiotics" (Unubi, 2016). According to Morris,

he divided semiotics into three parts which include; syntax, semantics, and pragmatics (Niu, 2020).

(1) Syntax states the prescribed relation of symbols to each other.

(2) Semantics states the prescribed relations of symbols to substances they pertain.

(3) Pragmatics states the prescribed relations of symbols to the translator (the exploiter of the language).

In each of the subdivisions of semiotics, Morris (1938) when tackling syntax; differentiated "pure studies" and "descriptive studies." In the explanation of the "pure studies", he identifies making comprehensible details of the sign symbols used for the description of language called "metalanguage''. However, the "descriptive studies" focus on the metalanguage of a certain language. He also added some parts of biology, psychology, and sociology to pragmatics because these subjects occur within and can perform and operate in the functioning of signs recognised as the "biotic aspect of semiosis" (Morris, 1938; Niu, 2020). The wide usage of pragmatics by Morris had been held back for a long time, and this also gives details of the usage of terms in fields like analytical philosophy, communication, sociolinguistics, and psycholinguistics.

Carnap (1991), a philosopher and logician also added his view to the field of pragmatics. His work gained popularity, because of his effort to narrow down the scope of pragmatics (Niu, 2020). He differentiated semiotics into three dimensions which are:

(1) The discipline of pragmatics is when a language user is clearly and categorically made mention of during an enquiry.

(2) The discipline of semantics is when a language user is excluded and solely the expressions and their designata are examined.

(3) The discipline of (logical) syntax is when the designata are excluded and solely examine the relations within the expressions.

Carnap (1991) upheld Morris's notion of pragmatics as an enquiry, in which the language used is clearly and categorically made mention of, and also linked pragmatics with descriptive semiotics (the study of meanings). He differentiated pure and descriptive studies as Morris did, linking pragmatics to the latter, and in 1960, because of his definition which made mention of the language users, it was accepted within Linguistics, in particular within the movement named ''Generative Semantics'' (Carnap, 1991; Kuby, 2018).

Pragmatics also examines the facet of denotation that is obtained from how communication occurs and in what ways that communication is linked to the linguistic setting in which they were communicated, which is not from the formal essential attribute of words (Leech & Short, 1981, p. 290; Niu, 2020).

In conformity with Levinson (1983, p. 9), pragmatics examines the facets of connection within language and context that are pertinent and applicable to the writing of grammars. Yule (2003) in his definition likewise observes that pragmatics deals with denotation as conveyed and transmitted by an utterer of a language, and which is translated by the listener.

Speech Act Theory

Pragmatic theories are principles and rules laid down in the study of pragmatics. This study uses the speech act theory, which is one of the theories in pragmatics, in analysing speech. Speech act theory clarifies how an utterer of a language uses the language to attain proposed activities, and by what means the listeners understand and derive the proposed connotations of what the utterer said (Unubi, 2016).

In his definition, Osisanwo (2003, p. 60) states that speech act is a procedure that requires an individual to carry out an act such as expressing the reality of the information, affirming or disclaiming an unspecified thing, establishing a guess, questioning, giving out an instruction, granting an approval, making a proposal, providing useful information, appreciating an individual and so on. Speech act theory endeavours to elucidate the way the utterers of a language use the language to attain the meant actions, and how the listeners derive and understand the deliberate meaning form of the views expressed.

Philosophers like Austin (1962), Grice (1957), and Searle (1969, 1975) provide straightforward understanding into the modern theory of verbal interaction that was established on the hypothesis that verbal communication is not the least identity element of human interaction, but instead, the functioning of definite types of acts, such as making statements, asking questions, giving directions, apologising, thanking, and so on (Blum-Kulka, House, & Kasper, 1989, p. 2).

However, Austin (1962) classifies speech acts into three categories which are the locutionary, illocutionary and perlocutionary acts (Siddiqui, 2018).

    (1)   The locutionary acts are the operational elements of interaction, that is, the genuine sense of the statement.

    (2)   The illocutionary acts deal with the societal use of the statement and according to Dada (2004), he accedes that illocutionary acts carry the essence of all speech act theory.

    (3)   The perlocutionary acts are the consequence of the statements made by the utterer in a certain linguistic setting.

Nevertheless, Searles (1969) further expands the classification of the illocutionary act into five categories, and he also differentiated the two kinds of speech acts as: direct and indirect speech acts.

Searle's five classes of Illocutionary Acts (Searle, 1969)
The five classes of Searle's illocutionary acts are

1. Assertives or Representatives: the intention of the utterances of the speaker accounts for the current situation of mankind and the universe which is about facts that could be true or false. For example, the assertive/representative illocutionary acts suggest, insist, tell, describe, and as well make claims.

2. Directive: the utterer intends to make the listener do something by conforming to a certain act, such as challenging, ordering, defying, and commanding.

3. Commisive: the illocutionary acts of the commisive commit the utterers to do something in the form of threatening, vowing, intending, promising, and desisting from doing something.

4. Expressive: deals with expressing the intellectual state and the seriousness of utterer's illocutionary acts. This includes welcoming, deploring, condoling, congratulating, appreciating and so on.

5. Declarative: these utterances bring into reality the current situation to which it is a concern or make reference to. For example, passing judgment, bidding farewell, cursing, blessing, declaring a state of emergency, and so on.

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Methodology
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This study investigates the speech in response to the foremost military seizure of power in Nigeria – January, 1966. The source of the speech was the internet, and this article achieves its ends through textual analysis. The models used in the analysis of the speech are functional classification, structural classification, speech act theory, and context theory.

The study is separated into two sections. The first section is the numbering of the sentences and the second section is the classification of the sentences, analysis of the sentences, and ultimately the discussion. Conclusively, the study used the descriptive-analytical method.

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Data Analysis
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First Section: Numbering of the sentences

1. ''Force has never been a tool employed by ourselves, as the Nigerian Republic founding fathers, to address political matters'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).

2. ''In the British practice, we conversed the Imperialist Office towards accepting our problems for the disadvantages and advantages in our cause toward self-government'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).

3. ''Following six lawful conventions of 1953, 1954, 1957, 1958, 1959, and 1960, Great Britain permitted us the freedom to declare our self-government starting from 1st October 1960'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).

4. ''Hardly any political parties in Nigeria once embraced forceful way means to get political independence, also we are glad to attest that no drop of Nigerian or British blood was spilt throughout our nationwide effort for our place in the sun'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).

5. ''This historic reality allowed me to publicly declare in Nigeria that the Government of Her Majesty's has on a platter of gold given us the self-government'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).

6. ''Obviously, my age group criticised me, but the historical facts are undeniable'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).

7. ''I consider it highly regrettable that our 'Young Turks' resolved to establish the composition of desperate coup into Nigerian politics'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).

8. ''No matter how they and our general public might have been provoked by adamant and possibly greedy politicians, it is an imprudent strategy'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).

9. ''I have communicated with General Aguiyi-Ironsi, General Officer Commanding the Nigerian armed forces, who, I believe, has now assumed the reins of the Federal Government'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).

10. ''I presented my services for any peace advances to prevent more bloodshed, to appease mutinous officers, and to reestablish law and order'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).

11. ''Immediately I hear from him, I shall make plans to come back home'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).

12. ''From my point of view, I consider the killings of our army and political leaders as a nationwide calamity'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).

Second Section: Classification of Sentences and Discussion
The sentences are classified into structural sentences, functional sentences, and illocutionary acts.

Structural Classification
The structural classification of the sentences below consists of simple, compound, complex, multiple, and compound-complex sentences.

Sentence 1 is complex
Sentence 2 is simple
Sentence 3 is simple
Sentence 4 is compound-complex
Sentence 5 is complex
Sentence 6 is compound
Sentence 7 is complex
Sentence 8 is compound-complex
Sentence 9 is complex

Sentence 10 is multiple
Sentence 11 is complex
Sentence 12 is complex

Table 1
Structural Classification of Sentences

STRUCTURAL CLASSIFICATION	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE %
Simple Sentences	2	16.66%
Compound Sentence	1	8.33%
Complex Sentences	6	49.99%
Multiple Sentence	1	8.33%
Compound-Complex Sentences	2	16.66%
TOTAL	12	100%

The simple sentences occurred twice out of the 12 structural classifications of sentences identified, accounting for 16.66% of the total structural classification. A simple sentence contains one independent clause and has no subordinate clause. A subordinate clause may have a subject and verb, but cannot stand on its own.

Sentences 2 and 3 are examples of simple sentences.

Sentence 2: ''In the British practice, we conversed the Imperialist Office towards accepting our problems for the disadvantages and advantages in our cause toward self-government'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).

Sentence 3: ''Following six lawful conventions of 1953, 1954, 1957, 1958, 1959, and 1960, Great Britain permitted us the freedom to declare our self-government starting from 1st October 1960'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).

The compound sentences occurred once out of the 12 structural classifications of sentences identified, accounting for 8.33% of the total structural classification. A compound sentence consists of two simple sentences joined together by a comma and a joining word (coordinating conjunction). There are seven coordinating conjunctions which are (and, but, so, or, for, nor, yet).

Sentence 6 above is an example of a compound sentence.

Sentence 6: ''Obviously, my age group criticised me, but the historical facts are undeniable'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).

The complex sentences occurred 5 times out of 12 structural classifications of sentences identified, accounting for 41.66% of the total. A complex sentence contains one independent clause and at least one subordinate clause. It usually has commas, and the subordinate clause provides more information about the independent clause.

Sentences 1, 5, 7, 9, 11, and 12 above are examples of complex sentences.

Sentence 1: ''Force has never been a tool employed by ourselves, as the Nigerian Republic founding fathers, to address political matters'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).

Sentence 5: ''This historic reality allowed me to publicly declare in Nigeria that the Government of Her Majesty's has on a platter of gold given us the self-government'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).

Sentence 7: ''I consider it highly regrettable that our 'Young Turks' resolved to establish the composition of desperate coup into Nigerian politics'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).

Sentence 9: ''I have communicated with General Aguiyi-Ironsi, General Officer Commanding the Nigerian armed forces, who, I believe, has now assumed the reins of the Federal Government'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).

Sentence 11: ''Immediately I hear from him, I shall make plans to come back home'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).

Sentence 12: ''From my point of view, I consider the killings of our army and political leaders as a nationwide calamity'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).

The multiple sentences occurred once out of 12 structural classifications of sentences identified, accounting for 8.33% of the total. Multiple sentences are communal words employed in the description of sentences comprising two or more clauses. There are two types of multiple sentences: Compound sentences, in which the clauses are grammatically independent of each other. In these sentences, the clauses are called coordinate clauses and these are usually linked by the coordinating conjunctions ''*and*'' and ''*but*''. Sentence 10 above is an example of multiple sentences.

Sentence 10 above is an example of multiple sentences

Sentence 10: ''I presented my services for any peace advances to prevent more bloodshed, to appease mutinous officers, and to reestablish law and order'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).

The compound-complex sentences occurred twice out of 12 structural classifications of sentences identified, accounting for 16.66% of the total structural classification. A compound-complex sentence is made from two independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses.

Sentences 4 and 8 above are examples of compound-complex sentences.

Sentence 4: ''Hardly any political parties in Nigeria once embraced forceful way means to get political independence, also we are glad to attest that no drop of Nigerian or British blood was spilt throughout our nationwide effort for our place in the sun'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).

Sentence 8: ''No matter how they and our general public might have been provoked by adamant and possibly greedy politicians, it is an imprudent strategy'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).

Functional Classification
The functional classification in the table below has only one declarative sentence. All the sentences from 1 to 12 are declarative.

Table 2
Functional Classification of Sentences

FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE %
Declarative Sentences	12	100%
TOTAL	12	100%

Illocutionary Acts
For this study, 6 types of illocutionary acts are identified and their various occurrences are shown in the table below.

The 6 illocutionary acts in the sentences are as follows:

Sentence 1: is informing
Sentence 2: is informing
Sentence 3: is informing
Sentence 4: is informing and assertive
Sentence 5: is informing
Sentence 6: is judging

Sentence 7: is regretting and informing
Sentence 8: is regretting
Sentence 9: is confirming
Sentence 10: is reassuring
Sentence 11: is reassuring and informing
Sentence 12: is judging

Table 3
Illocutionary Acts

S.No.	ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE %
1.	Assertive	1	6.66%
2.	Confirming	1	6.66%
3.	Informing	7	46.6%
4.	Judging	2	13.3%
5.	Reassuring	2	13.3%
6.	Regretting	2	13.3%
	Total	15	100%

The assertive illocutionary act which occurs once translates into 6.66% of the assertive act category.
Sentence 4 is an example of the assertive illocutionary act where President Nnamdi Azikiwe stresses that ''hardly any political parties in Nigeria once embraced forceful way means to get political independence'', as a result, ''no drop of Nigerian or British blood was spilt throughout our nationwide effort for our place in the sun'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).

The confirming illocutionary act also occurs once out of the total number of 15 the frequency of the illocutionary acts, which means 6.66% of the confirming act category.
In Adeniyi (2016, p. 1), *sentence 9* is an example of this act, which confirms the President had communicated with the ''General Officer Commanding the Nigerian armed forces, General Aguiyi-Ironsi, who had assumed the reins of the Federal Government''.

The informing illocutionary act occurs 7 times out of the total number of the 15 illocutionary acts, which is 46.6% of the informing illocutionary act.
Sentences 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 11 are all examples of the informing illocutionary act.
Sentence 1: ''Force has never been a tool employed by ourselves, as the Nigerian Republic founding fathers, to address political matters'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).
Sentence 2: ''In the British practice, we conversed the Imperialist Office towards accepting our problems for the disadvantages and advantages in our cause toward self-government'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).
Sentence 3: ''Following six lawful conventions of 1953, 1954, 1957, 1958, 1959, and 1960, Great Britain permitted us the freedom to declare our self-government starting from 1st October 1960'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).
Sentence 4: ''Hardly any political parties in Nigeria once embraced forceful way means to get political independence, also we are glad to attest that no drop of Nigerian or British blood was spilt throughout our nationwide effort for our place in the sun'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).
Sentence 5: ''This historic reality allowed me to publicly declare in Nigeria that the Government of Her Majesty's has on a platter of gold given us the self-government'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).
Sentence 7: ''I consider it highly regrettable that our 'Young Turks' resolved to establish the composition of desperate coup into Nigerian politics'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).

Sentence 11: ''Immediately I hear from him, I shall make plans to come back home'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).

The judging illocutionary act occurs twice out of the total number of 15 frequency of the illocutionary acts, which indicates 13.3% of the judging illocutionary act category. The president passes judgment on his age group who criticised him.

Sentences 6 and 12 are examples of the illocutionary acts

Sentence 6: ''Obviously, my age group criticised me, but the historical facts are undeniable'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).

Sentence 12:   ''From my point of view, I consider the killings of our army and political leaders as a nationwide calamity'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).

The reassuring illocutionary act occurs 2 times out of the 15 frequencies of the illocutionary acts, which means 13.3% of the reassuring illocutionary act category. President Nnamdi Azikiwe reassures Nigerians that he offered himself for the services of the peace of the country, to prevent more bloodshed and to reestablish law and order. He also reassures Nigerians that as soon as he heard from General Aguiyi-Ironsi, who took over the affairs of the country, (President Nnamdi Azikiwe) shall make arrangements to come home.

Sentences 10 and 11 are examples of the reassuring illocutionary act.

Sentence 10: ''I presented my services for any peace advances to prevent more bloodshed, to appease mutinous officers, and to reestablish law and order'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).

Sentence 11: ''Immediately I hear from him, I shall make plans to come back home'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).

The regretting illocutionary act occurs 2 times out of the 15 frequencies of illocutionary acts, making 13.3% of the regretting act category. The president regrets that the military introduced a violent revolution into the Nigerian political system; he took their decision as unwise irrespective of how they might have been annoyed by greedy politicians.

Sentences 7 and 8 are examples of regretting illocutionary acts.

Sentence 7: ''I consider it highly regrettable that our 'Young Turks' resolved to establish the composition of desperate coup into Nigerian politics'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).

Sentence 8: ''No matter how they and our general public might have been provoked by adamant and possibly greedy politicians, it is an imprudent strategy'' (Adeniyi, 2016, p. 1).

Conclusions

This paper analyzed the pragmatic effects of President Nnamdi Azikiwe's speech against the foremost military seizure of power in Nigeria which happened on January 16, 1966. It focused on the speech act theory and systemic functional models. The President's speech was directed against the violent way the military took over the government. He was not happy with a military coercive act of hijacking the affairs of the nation from politicians and he, therefore, condemned their approach irrespective of the claim that he was corrupt. He condemned this act, stressing that Nigeria's democracy was too young to be exposed to such a callous act. He also condemned the killings of Nigerians and politicians in the process of the coup, promised to offer his services for peace in the land, stopped further bloodshed, and restored law and order. Finally, various occurrences such as the functional, structural patterns of sentences and the presence of lots of illocutionary acts were observed and identified.

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