

A discourse analysis of Jega's speeches in the Nigeria's 2015 general elections

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Abstract

Election is one of the democratic processes of ushering in a new government. In the conduct of election in Nigeria, the Electoral Management Body (EMB) responsible is the Independent National Electoral Commission headed by a chairman. In the last Nigeria's general elections in 2015, the INEC chairman, Professor Attahiru Jega made some speeches. By adopting the descriptive survey research design, this paper analyses the speeches of Jega during the 2015 general elections in order to discover the structural patterns of the speeches and their outcomes. The paper adopts the Grice's cooperative principle and critical discourse analysis as its frameworks. From the study, the paper discovers that the structuring of the two speeches under study has four sections which include: greetings and introduction, situations at hand, problems encountered and the solutions put in place, conclusion with messages of hope and faith. It was observed that in section A that Jega fulfilled the maxim of quality in speech A but flouted this maxim in speech B thereby committing a conversational implicature. Also, the research finds out that this section fails to fulfil the maxim of manner because it fails to be brief. The paper also discovers that the outcomes of the speeches and discovers that the outcomes are positively based than negatively based.

Keywords: *election, democratic process, conversational implicature, cooperative principle*

Introduction

In the Nigerian presidential system of government, there are three tiers: the federal, state and local governments. The federal government is controlled by the president who is the Commander-in Chief of Armed Forces and one who has the highest authority. The governors are in charge of states and owe allegiance to the president at the federal level while local governments are controlled by chairmen. The emergence of the president, governor or chairman can only be possible through the process of election. The president or the governors are brought to power by the electorates through the electoral processes. Election is one of the characteristics of a good democracy.

Similarly, Bratton and Walle (1997) posit that elections are fundamental elements for installing democratic governance and general democratic consolidation. They further note that elections form a core element of citizen's fundamental right in a democracy. Continuing, Eminue (2001) asserts that a democratic election is one which allows the electorates to freely elect their leader without intimidation or coercion. In any democratic country, election is conducted by an Election Management Body (EMB).

Nigeria as a country, conducts its general elections every four years. The conduct of this election is made possible by an EMB known as Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). Iwara (2010) posits that election management connotes the organization and conduct of elections to public office by an electoral body for a specific number of years as enshrined in the constitution. He further remarks that election management comprises structure and process. Structure, according to him, means the bureaucracy that is set up to organize the election while process consists of the rules and procedures that govern the electoral processes. In the same vein, Jinadu (1997) describes the importance and function of election management as having to do with the indeterminacy of elections, that is, the possibility of erstwhile winners becoming losers and erstwhile losers becoming winners. This, according to him, is a function of an impartial election management. In Nigeria, INEC is in charge for the conduct of election.

Kurfi (2005:10) asserts, "Following the proposal by the military government of General Abdusallami Abubakar to relinquish power to a democratically elected

government in 1999, INEC was established as an institutionalized government body through the instrumentality of law to manage the electoral process in Nigeria.” He further demonstrates that the establishment of INEC marked the sixth in the series of Election Management Bodies in the annals of Nigeria’s quest for democracy. The previous EMBs according to him include: Electoral Commission of Nigeria (ECN), Federal Electoral Commission (FEC), Federal Electoral Commission (FEDECO), National Electoral Commission (NEC) and National Electoral Commission of Nigeria (NECON). Jinadu (2011) demonstrates that the change of name of these EMBs is to ensure that the weaknesses and flaws of the old will not creep into the new. INEC, since its inception, has successfully conducted five elections (1999, 2003, 2007, 2011, and 2015). Since its inception as well, the leadership of INEC has undergone series of changes with the appointment of Justice Ephraim Ayo Apata in 1998-2000, Dr. Abel Guobadia 2000-2005, Prof. Maurice Iwu 2005-2010, Prof. Attahiru Jega 2010-June 2015, Acting Chairman, Mrs. Amina Bala Zakari and presently, Professor Mahmud Yakubu.

The last election in Nigeria was conducted in the months of March and April 2015. During the pre- and post-electoral processes, the INEC chairman who was in charge for the conduct of the elections to ensure credibility and fairness made some speeches and these speeches are what this research tends to analyze. There is always the need of one especially the INEC chairman to talk to a group of people (technically called the electorates) just as there is equally the need to listen to a group of people (the public). The content of these speeches may be to clear confusion or to enlighten the masses on the situation on ground. Obitube (2014) asserts that a speech is measured by its relevance or value. He further notes that every speech is delivered with an aim and, so, when the aim of a speech is achieved, speech is said to be effective and vice versa. Consequently, Chambers (2003) in his own observation remarks that whenever we speak; we reveal not only some personality traits and certain sensitivity to the contextual style but also a whole configuration of characteristics that we, by and large, share with everyone who resembles us socially. Similarly, Agbede (2015) avers that social factors such as class, sex, age, occupation, region etc. affect the way we speak.

However, Obitube (2014) demonstrates that the value of speech can be viewed from two angles. The first angle according to him is the angle of the speaker. Here, he notes that a delivered speech should be able to convey the thoughts and ideas which the speaker possesses in his mind. He further notes that any other message(s) conveyed by the speech falls short of these thoughts and ideas of the speaker cannot, in any way, be adjudged to have served its purpose. The second angle consists of the hearer/audience. He posits that if the speech evokes from the hearer, the kind of response anticipated by the speaker, the speech is said to possess value. Similarly, these kinds of response can be integrated with other channels of communication such as gesture, head movements, posture, interpersonal proximity, eye contact, gaze direction and facial expression.

Therefore, it is pertinent to critically analyze and discuss the language and speech patterns of the past INEC chairman, Professor Attahiru Jega during the 2015 Nigeria’s general elections which reflects his motive to ensuring that elections were successful and lives were not tampered with. All consider his motives as to efforts to maintain the territorial integration of Nigeria as a democratic/political entity. Election in Nigeria has been adjudged to be bloody and painstaking. Kwaghga (2012) asserts that election processes in Nigeria are characterized by several underage voters, ballot bag snatching, state intimidation via armed forces and Para-military agencies. The extent Jega used language to communicate information; reduced the volatile and tensed situation in order to ensure a free, fair and credible election are the major pre-occupation of this research which

will be done under the area of sociolinguistics which studies language influence on the society. Language is not used in isolation but in social context so that its meaning will be fully interpreted. This research, therefore, looks into the speeches of Jega with the intention of dissecting the structural patterns and the outcomes of the speeches.

The population of this study comprises two electoral speeches of Jega. These speeches include his speech on timetable poll delivered on Saturday, February 7, 2015 and his speech on conduct of polls delivered on Sunday, March 29, 2015. The findings of this research will be useful to linguists, political scientists and to the general masses.

An overview of Critical Discourse Analysis and Cooperative Principle

Fairclough (2006) opines that campaign language is capable of weaving visions and imaginaries which can change realities, obfuscate realities and construe them ideologically. To unfold the realities and outcomes underlying speeches, this paper shall employ Critical Discourse Analysis henceforth, (CDA) to analyse two speeches of Jega in the 2015 general elections.

In an attempt to provide a pattern to adopt when using CDA, Huckins (1997) provided a framework. He divides his method into two stages; analysis of non-linguistic textual features and analysis of linguistic features. He remarks that in the first part, the analyst will look at a text in a clear manner to have an idea of the content which, in turn, will suggest its context. Then after, he will go through the text again. This time, pays attention to how details are framed, how headlines and keywords are used to explain certain concepts. The second part of analysis is on the observed linguistic concepts. Here, the analyst focuses on the following items: Topicalisation– what and how the speaker is focusing; Mood system– the subject/object relationship in the utterances; Active/passive voice– how and why does s/he switch to either of the voices; Sentence presupposition– the semantic presupposition that is noticeable; Connotation– what and how a speaker implies a meaning; Modality– what tone and style is the text made of and he summarized that pronouns like 1st person to indicate truth or objectivity and 3rd person to indicate falsehood or subjectivity.

Agbedo (2015) notes that it is obvious that critical discourse analysis (CDA) as an aspect of discourse analysis, deals with the relationship between discourse and power. Similarly, Idiagbon (2010:33) opines thus:

CDA is not solely about politics; it goes beyond it. It analyses a discourse from ideological, social and historical undertones which may not be apparent to the hearer or reader. Thus, every text has some “hidden” meaning. CDA analysts therefore advocate a critical reading of or listening to texts with a view to uncovering the ‘hidden’ messages. This they do by paying attention to linguistic and extra-linguistic features of discourse in relation to the user and society. CDA is applicable to any discourse that involves the use of language – politics, media practice, advertorial, legal issues, and education, even to domestic matters.

The aspect of the tenets of CDA which this paper will adopt is the use of speech for political discourse. On the other hand, the theory of cooperative principle was put forward by Paul Grice in 1975. Drawing extensively from Goffman’s face theory, the erudite scholar avers that there are rules which he called ‘maxims’ interlocutors must abide by if they want their communication to be cooperative. Grice (1975:45) maintains that the overriding principle in conversation is one he calls the cooperative principle: “Make your conversational contribution such as is required, at the stage at which it occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange in which you are engaged.”

He further categorized these maxims into four: the maxim of quality, quantity, relation and manner. The maxim of quantity states that a speaker should make his contribution as informative as is required (for the current purposes of the exchange) and should not make his contribution more informative than is required. The maxim of quality avers that a speaker should always say the truth. He should not say what he believes to be false and should not say that for which he lacks adequate evidence. The maxim of manner stipulates that a speaker should express his speech clearly, transparent, brief and easy to understand. Lastly, the maxim of relevance states that a speaker must be relevant in his speech and that the content of the speech, that is the message, must be in line with the topic of discussion and issue at hand.

Therefore, it is by adopting these two theories that this paper focuses on the speeches on Jega. The cooperative principle will be used to analyse the structural patterns of the speech while CDA will be used for the analysis of the outcomes of the speeches.

Analysis of the structural patterns of Jega's speeches

Here, the speeches (speech on timetable for 2015 general elections and speech on conduct of polls) are looked into in order to discover the structural pattern of the speeches. Henceforth, the former will be regarded as speech A while the latter will be regarded as speech B. In doing this, the cooperative principle will be used to account for this structure. This is imperative because it will help us to know whether this structure fulfils the four maxims of the cooperative principle. The structure of the speeches consists of four (4) sections. These sections include:

SECTION A: Greetings and introduction

SECTION B: Situations at hand

SECTION C: Problems encountered and the solution put in place

SECTION D: Conclusion with messages of hope and faith

In analysing the first section, the maxim of quantity which avers that a speaker should make his contribution as informative as is required (for the current purposes of the exchange) and should not make his contribution more informative than is required was fulfilled. In a simple greeting, he made the statement: 'Ladies and Gentlemen' before giving the audience the purpose of their gathering which he represented in the statement:

...we invited you here today to make known the position of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) on the timetable for the 2015 general elections.

He further gives the information of collective venture in achieving a success in the election. In speech B, he simply gave a greeting of commendations to all Nigerians for their resilience throughout the election period. Therefore, from the analysis thus far, Jega fulfilled the maxim of quantity in the section A of his speeches.

For the maxim of quality, the section A of Jega's speeches fulfilled this maxim in speech A because it is to make known the position of INEC on the election timetable that the conference was organised. But he flouted this maxim in speech B. In speech B, he made the statement:

INEC wishes to commend Nigerians for their large turnout and peaceful conduct during the elections.

From the above assertion, the term 'peaceful' used made this statement to be false. This is so because the 2015 general elections were characterized with different chaos and problems. Jega even contradicted his statement subsequently when he said that:

We received reports of a Boko haram attack and a few ad-hoc staff of INEC lost their lives. We have reached out to the family of the bereaved and it is an unfortunate event.

Therefore, the above statement nullified the peacefulness of Nigerians during the election as stated by Jega in the section A of his Speeches. To this effect, the section A of speech B of Jega's speeches flouted the maxim of quality.

However, in the Section A of Jega's speeches, some sentences fulfil the maxim of manner like where he gave the full meaning of the acronyms given such as Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and Election Management Body (EMB). But, some aspects of the Section fail to fulfil this maxim.

From the above data, it will be observed the Jega flouted the maxim of quantity in the first section of his speeches especially in speech A because he repeated many things which should have been represented in a single sentence. For instance, he says:

The conduct of elections in a country like Nigeria is invariably a collective venture that involves not just the Election Management Body (EMB), but also a diverse range of stakeholders, notably security agencies....

The above statement is a repetition in thought of the statement below:

To guarantee successful conduct of elections, there are things that are wholly the responsibility of the EMB. But there are other things critical for the success of elections, which fall outside the control of the EMB.

The above statements were saying the same thing which is that the successful conduct of election is collective venture. Therefore, he fails to be brief.

In the section B which captures the situation at hand, Jega revealed to the masses the present situation at hand. That is the current incidences that are occurring. From the data obtained, the section B of Jega's speeches fulfil the maxim of quantity because it gives the information required in the perfect quantity which explained to the masses in general and the electorates in particular the readiness of INEC towards the conduction of election in speech A, and how elections have been conducted in different states in speech B as seen in the statements below:

Speech A

INEC is also at a comfort level in its readiness for the general elections as scheduled (see the presentation to the Council of State). The Commission's preparations are not yet perfect or fully accomplished. But our level of preparedness, despite a few challenges, is sufficient to conduct free, fair and credible elections as scheduled on February 14th and February 28th.

Speech B

Osun, Kebbi, Ekiti, Adamawa, Borno, Jigawa, Anambra, Akwa Ibom and Ebonyi state reported manual accreditation in some PUs. As a result of these difficulties, elections could not be concluded yesterday in a few PUs and voting in underway today.

Continuing, the section B of these speeches fulfilled the maxim of quality to an extent. The information on card readers failing to function properly in some Polling Units (PUs) is true and that of adopting manual accreditation. But there are some statements in

this section that one can question the validity of the information it provided. In speech A, the assertion:

Compared with 2011 when, within a short time, we conducted general elections that were universally adjudged free, fair and credible and the best in Nigeria's recent electoral history....

is not true. This is so because, an election cannot be universally adjudged to be free and fair. This statement lacks quality. The United States Institute of Peace (2011) commented on the 2011 general elections by saying that Nigeria's 2011 general election received high praise for being well-managed but post-election violence claimed 800 lives over three days in northern Nigeria and displaced 65,000 people, making the elections the most violent in Nigeria's history. The same can be observed in the expression in speech A below:

...our processes are today better refined, more robust and therefore capable of delivering even better elections.

The validity of above statement cannot be verified. This is so because the content of the statement is futuristic. The efficiency of the processes cannot be ascertained unless it is put into work. Therefore, the section B of Jegas' speeches is characterized with the fulfilment and the flouting of the maxim of quality.

On the other hand, the section B of these speeches have statements and assertions which fail to fulfil the maxim of manner because of its contradictory nature and its lack of transparency. Example of such is seen in the below assertion in speech A:

As at 5th February 2015, the total number of PVCs collected was 45, 829, 808, representing 66.58% of the total number of registered voters.

In the above statement, the figure is not clear and the percentage does not reflect transparency. How he arrived at the percentage was not made clear to the electorates because the figure of the total number of registered voters should have been given so that how the percentage was got will be made clearer. Normally, a percentage as a figure is got by multiplying a unit of the total figure by hundred and dividing the outcome of the multiplication by the total figure. Jega failed to provide this total figure thereby making the process of arriving at the percentage obscure.

Another instance where this section fails to fulfil the maxim of manner is in the contradictory statements below:

In the delivery and deployment of electoral materials, INEC is also at a comfort level in its readiness for the general elections as scheduled (see the presentation to the Council of State). The Commission's preparations are not yet perfect or fully accomplished. But our level of preparedness, despite a few challenges, is sufficient to conduct free, fair and credible elections as scheduled on February 14th and February 28th.

From the above excerpt, instances of contradiction are observed. The phrases 'comfort level,' in line one, and 'not yet perfect' in lines 2-3 make these statements to be ambiguous. The question that will arise will be how can someone who is at the comfort level in its readiness to conduct election now says that the preparations are not fully accomplished or not yet perfect? Being at comfort level means that one can do anything

with ease but the aspect of the preparations not being perfect flouted the maxim of manner which states that a speaker must avoid ambiguity and obscurity of expression. Similarly, in speech B, the assertion:

Osun, Kebbi, Ekiti, Adamawa, Borno, Jigawa, Anambra, Akwa Ibom and Ebonyi state reported manual accreditation in some PUs. As a result of these difficulties, elections could not be concluded yesterday in a few PUs and voting is underway today.

fails to fulfil the maxim of manner because of the use of ‘these’ to refer to a single identified problem which is the failure of card readers. This obscurity of expression will confuse a reader or hearer because ‘these’ as a demonstrative adjective is used for plurality while ‘this’ is for singular. Therefore, this section fails to fulfil the maxim of manner.

Furthermore, the section C of the speeches captures the challenges faced by INEC and the different mechanisms put in place to solve the challenges. Section C of these speeches fulfilled the maxim of quantity. Jega gave the information in this section as required as reflected in the expressions below:

INEC not being a security agency that could by itself guarantee protection for personnel and materials, as well as voters during elections, the Commission cannot lightly wave off the advice by the nation’s Security Chiefs. Consequently, the Commission has decided to reschedule the 2015 general elections thus: the national elections (i.e. Presidential and National Assembly) are now to hold on March 28th, 2015; while the state elections (Governorship and State Assembly) are to hold on April 11th, 2015.

The above expressions provided information as required in the sense that the elections were shifted based on the advice given by the security officials. The new dates of the elections were also given because he is addressing people on the timetable poll. Therefore, the shifting of election date and the reason behind it were required. Also, the shifting of the date was employed to tackle the problem of insecurity of lives and property which was the major challenge of INEC and the security agencies.

Similarly, in speech B, the information was given as required with the issue at hand such as the problem of underage voting from Taraba and the investigation ongoing; as well as the challenge of Boko haram attack and the reaching out to the family of the bereaved for consolation. Therefore, for giving the information required based on the section at hand, section C of Jega’s speeches fulfilled the maxim of quantity.

Some expressions in this section fulfill the maxim of quality while the veracity of some expressions cannot be verified because of its futuristic actions. Some of these expressions which are true include the expressions below:

INEC not being a security agency that could by itself guarantee protection for personnel and materials, as well as voters during elections, the Commission cannot lightly wave off the advice by the nation’s Security Chiefs. No matter the extent of INEC’s preparedness, therefore, if the security of personnel, voters, election observers and election materials cannot be guaranteed, the life of innocent young men and women as well the prospects of free, fair, credible and peaceful elections would be greatly jeopardized. We received reports of a Boko haram attack and a few ad-hoc staff of INEC lost their lives. We have reached out to the family of the bereaved and it is an unfortunate event. We received reports of underage voting from Taraba and we have instructed

that the PO involved be identified. Underage voting is against the law; we are investigating reports and will take measures once this is established.

The above expressions are true because INEC cannot conduct a peaceful election without the help of the security agencies. Also, some members of the ad-hoc staff lost their lives as reported by the press. It is undisputable that underage voting is against the law.

On the other hand, the truthfulness of some expressions cannot be ascertained because of their being futuristic. Some of these expressions include:

If we find out that our staff are involved in any illegal acts, they will be investigated and penalized according to the law. Consequently, the Commission has decided to reschedule the 2015 general elections thus: the national elections (i.e. Presidential and National Assembly) are now to hold on March 28th, 2015; while the state elections (Governorship and State Assembly) are to hold on April 11th, 2015.

In the first sentence of the above excerpt, the truthfulness of penalizing defaulted staff, if found guilty, cannot be ascertained because the action is yet to take place. In the second sentence also, having the elections hold on the pronounced date cannot be verified because of its future occurrence. Therefore, some of the expressions in the section C of Jega's speeches fulfilled the maxim of quality while the truthfulness of some expressions cannot be verified because they are yet to occur.

This section, however, fulfilled the maxim of manner which states that a speaker should make his speech clear, transparent i.e. avoid obscurity and unambiguous. The reason for the postponement of the election which is inadequate security was made clear by Jega. However, the problems encountered during the election which are underage voting, Boko haram attack etc. and the mechanism put in place to curb the problems were clearly stated by Jega. These were made manifest in the assertion below:

This morning, I received a letter from APC calling for elections cancellation in Rivers, we are thoroughly investigating this. After investigation, we will brief the political parties of our findings. If we find out that our staff are involved in any illegal acts, they will be investigated and penalized according to the law.

The last section of the speech encompasses conclusion and messages of hope and faith. Here, Jega called on all Nigerians to have faith in INEC as they hope for a well conducted election. The section D of these speeches fulfilled the maxim of quantity because the section gave the information required. In speech A, Jega called on all Nigerians to have faith in them so as to deepen Nigeria's democracy which afterwards ended his speech with 'Thank you.' Similarly, in speech B, he concluded by telling the masses the time to expect the result and also to have faith in them because they cannot declare inconclusive election. All this information is in line with the topic at hand.

Jega's concluding expressions cannot be subjected to truth verification because faith demands subjectivity not objectivity. The truthfulness of the statement that their decision is for the interest of deepening democracy in our country cannot be verified. Similarly, the truthfulness of the expressions below cannot be verified because of its futuristic occurrence:

Collation of results will begin at 12pm tomorrow. We are not under any pressure to declare inconclusive elections.

Some of the expressions in this section fulfilled the maxim of manner because of their clarity, unambiguity and transparency while a few statements flouted this maxim. These expressions fulfilled this maxim include:

Finally, we wish to call on all Nigerians to accept our decision, which is taken in good faith and the best interest of deepening democracy in our country. Thank you. We will declare results when it has been collated from the states. Collation of results will begin at 12pm tomorrow. We are not under any pressure to declare inconclusive elections.

The above expressions fulfilled the maxim because they were clear and easy to understand. Someone who has listened or read the speech will understand that what Jega meant by the phrase 'our decision' is the shifting of the election date.

On the other hand, the statements in this section are unclear. Let's look at the statements below:

We will declare results when it has been collated from the states. You start counting 48 hours when substantial amount of polling units have concluded elections.

The second sentence lacks manner because of its obscurity. The phrase 'substantial amount of polling units' is confusing. The number is indefinite. Jega would have stated a definite number or given a range so as to help the masses to know the number of polling units that will conclude elections before results will be declared.

The maxim of relevance states that a speaker must be relevant in his speech and that the content of the speech, that is the message, must be in line with the topic of discussion and issue at hand. Therefore, a good speaker must always be in line with the general subject matter. In this analysis, the speeches will be looked into as a whole to discover whether the content of the speeches are in line with the topic at hand. Also, how Jega arranged the flow of his expressions will also be considered in order to discover if he fulfilled the maxim of relation or flouted it.

In speech A which was delivered to give information on the timetable for 2015 general elections, Jega started with a simple greeting just as courtesy demands. And from there, he introduced the essence of the gathering which he expressed in these words:

We invited you here today to make known the position of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) on the timetable for the 2015 general elections.

Furthermore, he reiterates the fact that the information he is giving was not concluded by him alone but after series of meetings with stakeholders in the electoral process. It is on this note that he went further to elaborate on what he said by giving an example of these stakeholders which are the security agencies. After this, he gave the information on how he presented a report to the National Council of State on INEC's preparedness towards the forthcoming election.

However, he made it clear that after series of advice and consultations with other stakeholders, and also in order not to put the lives INEC staff, voters, election observers and the citizens in jeopardy, that INEC has shifted the date of the elections from its previous dates which also has constitutional backing. This can be observed in the excerpt below:

Consequently, the Commission has decided to reschedule the 2015 general elections thus: the national elections (i.e. Presidential and National Assembly) are now to hold on March 28th, 2015; while the state elections (Governorship and State Assembly) are to hold on April 11th, 2015. It should be noted that this rescheduling falls within the constitutional framework for the conduct of the elections, notably, Sections 76(2), 116(2), 132(2) and 178(2). See also Section 25 of the Electoral Act 2010 (As Amended).

After this, he called on all Nigerians, political parties, candidates and all other stakeholders to accept this decision in good faith and ensure the maintenance of peace. Having made the information known, he moves towards concluding his speech where he pleaded with all Nigerians to accept their (INEC) decision because it was taken in the best interest of deepening democracy in our country. This he said before ending his speech with ‘Thank you.’

On the other hand, speech B contains the speech of Jega on the conduct of polls; that is, how elections have fared across the federation. In this speech, Jega started with the greetings of appreciation and commendation to all Nigerians for their large turnout during the elections. Without wasting much time, he briefed the masses on how elections have been conducted; the problems encountered the mechanism(s) put in place to curb the problems. Some of these problems as indicated by him included failure of card readers in the majority of the Polling Units (PUs) which necessitated the adoption of manual accreditation of voters as well as the Boko haram bombing which took the lives of a few ad-hoc staff of INEC.

However, after making this information known and thanking the security for their dogged efforts to ensuring peace and tranquillity, he knows that what the masses is expecting will be the announcement of results and he provided them with this information in the excerpt below:

We will declare results when it has been collated from the states. You start counting 48 hours when substantial amount of polling units have concluded elections. Collation of results will begin at 12pm tomorrow. We are not under any pressure to declare inconclusive elections.

He now concluded his speech by revealing that elections will continue in some states as a result of difficulties experienced in those areas. The way in which the INEC chairman organized his speech and the way the messages or contents of the speeches were in line with the issue at hand, thus, fulfilled the maxim of relation.

Analysis of the outcomes of the speeches

The outcomes of the speeches are more positively based than negatively based. One of the outcomes of the speeches as seen in speech A is that the elections were really shifted and it finally held on the proposed dates. Electorates collected their PVCs and witnessed a free election just as Jega asserted. In reaction to the success of the election and the card reader technology, Ugonna (2015) notes that the then senate president, David Mark makes the following assertions:

For the successes of the 2015 general elections, special commendation must go to Prof Attahiru Jega and his team at INEC. The introduction of the card readers proved to be effective, efficient and result-oriented and we should embrace this technology. However, INEC must note the areas of its shortcomings and improve on them.

Also, when Jega called on all Nigerians to accept their decision (shifting of the election) in good faith and ensure the maintenance of peace, Nigerians did as they were pleaded and the elections were not characterized with much violence. This ideology of conducting a free, fair and credible election made the President Goodluck Jonathan to concede defeat to the opposition party's candidate, Muhammadu Buhari after the elections. This is the first time in the history of Nigeria's politics that an incumbent president is voted out of office and also the first time a political opponent is conceding defeat. The free, fair and credible election promised by Jega was seen in this act by the president.

Another outcome of the speeches which is in line with the serenity experienced during the elections was the cooperation that existed among the stakeholders especially between INEC and the security agencies. Due to the fact that INEC considered the reasons suggested by the security agencies on why the election should be postponed and heeded to these suggestions, the security agencies tried their best to ensure that elections went peacefully to a great extent especially in the North East where Boko haram attacks were significant.

Furthermore, the predominant presence of inclusiveness as a symbol of teamwork employed in Jegas' speeches made the whole staff of INEC to work together as a team without misunderstanding and problems. To the best of our knowledge, no incidence of teamwork breach was reported among the members of staff of INEC.

Similarly, in speech B, one of the outcomes of his speech is that he made known the possible time which election results will be announced and it helped the masses to know when to expect result. Also, his comment that it is only the INEC that is empowered by law to announce results made the electorates to rely more on the information got from INEC and to debunk figures circulating the social media. Finally, the messages contained in the electoral speeches of Jega in the 2015 general elections as analyzed above yielded positive outcomes by making Nigerians to believe that a perfect free, fair, credible and non-violent elections in Nigeria can be obtainable in the nearest future. It brought messages of hope and commitment.

His orderliness in speech delivery was manifested on the day of result collation when he politeness addressed the opinions of Godsdan Orubebe which made him (Orubebe) to later apologize for his misconduct. The way Jega handled the situation help a long way in ensuring decorum and calmness.

Conclusion

This research has looked into the electoral speeches of the INEC chairman, Attahiru Jega in the 2015 general elections. The research finds out that the structuring of the two speeches under study has four sections which include: section A (greetings and introduction), section B (situations at hand), section C (problems encountered and the solutions put in place), and section D (conclusion with messages of hope and faith).

By adopting the maxims of the cooperative principle in analyzing these structures, it was observed that the whole sections fulfilled the maxim of quantity because they were informative as required with the topic at hand. However, it was observed that in section A that Jega fulfilled the maxim of quality in speech A but flouted this maxim in speech B thereby committing a conversational implicature. Also, the research finds out that this section fails to fulfil the maxim of manner because it fails to be brief.

In section B, some of the statements, as observed; are characterized with the fulfilment of the maxim of quality, flouting of this maxim as well as that the validity of

some of these statements cannot be verified because of their futuristic occurrence. The research discovers that this section fails to fulfil the maxim of manner.

On the other hand, the truthfulness of some of the statements in section C of the speeches cannot be verified because they are yet to occur. Contrarily, some statements fulfilled this maxim. In this section also, the research discovers that the statements and expressions fulfilled the maxim of manner because they are brief, unambiguous and orderly. Finally, in section D which is characterized with expressions of conclusion and messages of hope and faith, however, fulfilled the maxim of manner to an extent because some statements as observed, fulfilled this maxim while a few expressions flouted this maxim. Also, the research finds out the speeches in this section contains expressions which truthfulness cannot be subjected to verification because they are yet to occur.

Using the maxim of relation to ascertain Jega's switching of topics and if he is in line with the topic at hand that is if he is relevant, the research finds out that the way in which the INEC chairman organized his speech and the way the messages or contents of the speeches were in line with the issue at hand fulfil the maxim of relation.

Finally, the research looks at the outcomes of the speeches and discovers that the outcomes are positively based than negatively based. The research notes that the messages contained in the electoral speeches of Jega in the 2015 general elections as analyzed above yielded positive outcomes by making Nigerians to believe that a perfect free, fair, credible and non-violent elections in Nigeria can be obtainable in the nearest future. It brought messages of hope and commitment.

Scholars and researchers who researches on speech act should endeavor to look at the speeches of individuals who are not really politicians but are stakeholders to the electoral process. Electorates and the masses should not pay all their attention to manifesto and campaign speeches and look down on the speeches of an INEC chairman because his speeches contain the information on the conduct of elections.

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