

## **AN EXAMINATION OF MOOD STRUCTURE IN SELECTED SPEECHES OF GOVERNOR DARIUS DICKSON ISHAKU OF TARABA STATE**

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### **Abstract**

This research seeks to examine the choices and structural elements in selected speeches of Governor Ishaku Darius of Taraba State. This is done with a view to ascertaining the degree to which the sentences contained in the speeches are structurally related. The research adopted Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammatical approach as a basis through which the collected data were analysed. Through purposive random sampling approach, the data were collected, classified and analysed. The analysis revealed that Governor Darius Ishaku's speeches are replete with two forms of mood structures – declarative and imperative. The declarative mood structures were carefully structured in the speeches examined in such a way that the listeners/readers will be able to see through what the speaker has done or declare to do. The imperative mood structures, on the other hand, help us to see through the mind of the speaker as to what needs to be attended to urgently.

Keywords: Mood, Imperative and Declarative

## **Introduction**

The basic object of study in linguistics is language which is a term that covers different concepts that need to be carefully distinguished. The word 'language' can be described from different points of view, which suggests that there are many definitions attached to it. Thus, according to Bloch and Trager (5), "is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols by means of which a social group co-operates". What is striking about this view is that it makes no appeal, except indirectly and by implication, to the communicative function of language. Indeed, it puts all the emphasis upon its social function pointing out that it is used arbitrarily.

To Dawning and Locke (206), the basic meaning is in an independent clause and each clause has three strands of meaning. These three strands of meaning are ideational, interpersonal and textual. In this work, the researcher is going to focus on the interpersonal meaning of language, which deals with exchange between interlocutors. It is assumed that when somebody speaks, he assigns a role to another interlocutor in a dialogue, and the role can be that either of a giver or a receiver of information. This depends largely on what the speaker intends to do with his/her proposition. The grammatical aspect that determines a particular proposition is Mood.

Mood, as used in grammar, is derived from 'mode', but at some stage the vowel changed by association with the completely different word 'mood', meaning a state of mind (e.g. a good/bad mood). Also, Mood, from the perspective of Systemic Functional Grammar, is a grammatical entity that conveys the interpersonal meaning of language at the clausal unit of language. Elements of independent clause that constitute the 13 structure of mood are verb (finite) and subject. Having this in mind, the researcher will attempts to analyze how moods have been structured in some selected speeches of Darius Dickson Ishaku. The stylish placement of subjects and verbs in the

structures of clauses by the speaker is assumed a problem that could lead the readers astray from understanding the interpersonal meaning the speech convey. This is because subject and verb are fundamental elements of Mood system that convey the interpersonal function of language. Mood system does not constitute just a word but the arrangement of words (syntax) that is, the subject and verb in a particular way to indicate whether the writer/speaker is making a proposition or proposal. Proposition denotes a clause that the writer/speaker makes in order to give information or request. While proposal is made by the writer/speaker to demand an action in the listener. The English Mood System has been studied by some scholars such as Wale Osisanwo, Wale Ojo, Dawnings and Locke, Halliday etc, and they all agree that grammatical mood is not just an alternative word for modality but a grammatical system that has its own structure, and this structure is not embedded only in verbs as it has been captured in Traditional Grammar. They see the subject and verb as elements of clause that realize the structure of mood.

Therefore, this paper seeks to examine the various mood structure as contained in some of the speeches of Governor Darius Dickson Ishaku with a view to seeing how the speeches are structured such that the intention(s) behind them can be deciphered by the listeners.

### **Brief Profile of Darius Dickson Ishaku**

Darius Dickson Ishaku was born on July 30<sup>th</sup> 1954 to Mr. Istifanus Ishaku and Mrs. Naomi Ishaku at Lupwe in Ussa Local Government Area of Taraba State. He is the fifth child out of a family of ten children. He began his early education at St. Bartholomew's primary school, Wusasa, Zaria in 1961 and obtained his first school leaving certificate in 1967. Darius Ishaku then proceeded for his secondary education at St. Paul's college Kufena, Zaria where he obtained his West African Examination Certificate in 1972. He also went to the

school of basic studies and passed out in 1974 after which he gained admission into the school of Architecture, Ahmadu Bello University Zaria and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Architecture in 1977. Darius did not stop there, but went further to obtain a Masters Degrees 1979. As a young Architect, he worked with inter design partnership in 1980, but however left to work with Bestarc International Association where he rose to the position of director in 1983. Through hard work and courage, he set out on his own by registering his own Architectural firm called Excelare Partners where he became the Managing Director with head office at Kaduna and branch offices at Yola, Abuja and Jos. Darius Ishaku was the past Minister of State for Niger Delta Affairs before he resigned in order to participate in the 2015 gubernatorial polls. He however emerged as the governor of Taraba state after a re-run election. He is currently the governor of the state for the second tenure.

### **Mood in English Grammar**

Mood is the system that organizes the various interpretational relationships among participants in any given environment. The clause or sentence in this respect is used to approve or disapprove, to express belief or doubt, to ask questions or give answers, to greet or to command, to include within the social group or to exclude from it. Since it is the major clause that makes these choices all verbal groups are involved in the options. The forms the verbal groups take often indicate the realizations of the various deep grammatical options in the surface grammar.

According to Young (34), mood is the name given to those grammatical systems that express the speaker's relation to a proposition, but this kind of meaning does not concern only the speaker and proposition. Speakers take up attitudes towards what they are saying for the sake of communicating with other people;

addressees are necessarily involved, and the speaker may input to the addressee some relationship to the proposition.

In the opinion of Ajiboye (26), mood is one of the characteristics of the verb. This, to him means that mood can only be analyzed at verbal group unit. Aliyu (206) also has a similar view. Consider his explanation of mood below:

This [mood] refers to the grammatical distinction in the verb forms that are used by the speaker or a writer to express some attitude. The moods of statements are generally revealed through the use of inflections and auxiliaries. Some moods like the imperative the air of certainty may be expressed with the same auxiliary 'will'. The intonation or context of the statement will indicate the intention of the user.

Furthermore, Bybee (22), cited in Kreoger (163) defines mood as an indication of 'what the speaker wants to do with the proposition in a particular discourse context'. In other words, mood is a grammatical reflection of the speaker's purpose in speaking. Jespersen (247) championed that moods are best analyzed at the level of sentence, as forms with certain conventional communicative functions. Akmajian, Demers, Famer & Harnish (582) state in agreement to Jespersen's idea that mood is a sentential form associated with a specific communicative function. According to Eka (98) mood refers to a set of syntactic and semantic contrasts signaled by certain forms of a verb. Such contrasts could show the indicative mood (generally unmarked) and the imperative mood may be declarative. It is important to note that those that believe that the mood belongs to verbal group only, are yet to separate modality from mood; and they are adherents of Traditional Grammar. Mood is not the same as modality, which is a system whose environment is the verbal group or

adverbial, and whose features are realized by modal verbs (Muir, 93). Modality refers to the speaker's judgment on the status of what is being said (Halliday and Matthiessen, 143), construing the region of uncertainty that lies between 'yes' and 'no'. (Halliday and Matthiessen, 147). Though the two belong to the interpersonal function of language, mood is realized at clausal unit.

According to Muir (93), mood is a system realized at the clause rank, with its features assigned to a form of the verb. A clause containing such a verbal form is said to express a statement, question, command according to which form of the verb occurs.... Muir also holds the view that there are two main forms of mood system, which are indicative and imperative. He further says that indicative subdivides into interrogative and declarative. Similarly, Berry (181) is of the same view with Muir because he also confirms all that Muir has identified. Nevertheless, he splits interrogative mood into open and closed. He further expands imperative mood by splitting it into exclusive imperative and inclusive imperative. Meanwhile, Afolayan (1977) takes another dimension in expanding interrogative and imperative moods. First, he divides interrogative into polar and non-polar. By implication, closed interrogative is what Afolayan refers to as polar; while open interrogative, as nonpolar. More so, he splits imperative mood into jussive and non-jussive. He further states that jussive can be inclusive or exclusive; it can be with tag or without tag. Non-jussive, he divides into volitive and optative.

Therefore, mood is not just the element of a verb but a structure that can be realized at the clausal unit of grammar. It is this structure that gives the listener/reader the clue to what the speaker/writer is saying.

### **Mood in Functional Linguistics**

Functionalist ideas have had an effect on many areas of linguistics including the study of mood. In 1992, a symposium on

Mood and Modality was held at the University of New Mexico with the goal of bringing together linguists who had in common that they wanted to explore mood from many different perspectives in functional linguistics.

Although, mood and modality are undoubtedly related, they do not operate in the same environment. All verbal groups make a choice within the mood system but only those that are finite choose within the system of modality. Thus, the options that are available are simply the positive or negative choice of modality, that is, expression of aspects of interpersonal relationships such as permission, ability, possibility, politeness and obligation.

Mood in the functional linguistics is indicated with the interpersonal meanings of the text. The central aspect of the grammar of exchange is mood (Matthiessen, 391). Similarly, Eggins (152) states that the mood structure of the clauses refers to the organization of the set of functional constituents including constituent subject. The mood system at the clause encodes the relationship between the participants in an interaction as well as the speaker's or writer's attitude and comment. Included here, for example, are indicative, imperative and interrogative instructions. The mood system also includes choices in modality, such as expression of probability and organization.

### **Theoretical Framework**

This research adopts Michael Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar to analyse the mood structures in some selected speeches of Darius Dickson Ishaku. This will be done in order to examine both structure (grammar) and words (lexis). Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) is a form of grammatical description originated by Michael Halliday. It is part of a social 'semiotic' approach to language called 'systemic functional linguistics'. In these two terms, 'systemic' refers to the view of language as 'a network of

systems, or interrelated sets of options for making meaning'; 'functional' refers to Halliday's view that language is as it is because of what it has evolved to do. Thus, what he refers to as the 'multidimensional architecture of language' reflects the multidimensional nature of human experience and interpersonal relations.

Halliday describes his grammar as built on the work of Saussure, Louis Hjelmslev, Malinowski, J. R. Firth, and the Prague school linguists. In addition, he drew on the work of the American anthropological linguists Boas, Sapir and Whorf. However, his main inspiration was Firth, to whom he owes, among other things, the notion of language as system. Some interrelated key terms underpin Halliday's approach to grammar, which forms part of his account of how language works. These concepts are: system, (meta) function and rank and another key term is lexicogrammar. Analysis of the grammar is taken from a three different levels. Thus, to look at lexicogrammar, we can analyze it from two more levels 'above' (semantics) and 'below' (phonology). This grammar gives emphasis to the view from above. For Halliday, grammar is described as systems not as rules, on the basis that every grammatical structure involves a choice from a describable set of options. Thus, language is meaning potential. In addition, grammarians in systemic functional tradition use 'system networks' to map the available options in a language. To English, Halliday has described systems such as mood, agency, theme, etc. and also describes grammatical systems as closed, i.e. having a finite set of options. In contrast, lexical sets are open systems since new words come into a language all the time. It is important to note that these grammatical systems play a role in the construal of meanings of different kinds and this forms the basis of Halliday's claim that language is 'metafunctionally' organized. He further argued that the central concern of language is meaning in social life. Thus, all



languages have resources for construing experience (the ideational component), resources for enacting humans' diverse and complex social relations (the interpersonal component) and resources for enabling these two kinds of meanings to come together in coherent text (the textual function). Also, each of the grammatical systems proposed by Halliday is related to these metafunctions. For instance, the grammatical system of 'mood' is considered to be centrally related to the expression of interpersonal meanings, 'process type' to the expression of experiential meanings and 'theme' to the expression of textual meanings.

Traditionally, the 'choices' are viewed in terms of either the content or the structure of the language used. In Systemic Functional Grammar, language is analyzed in three ways: semantics, phonology and lexico-grammar. Therefore, Systemic Functional Grammar presents a view of language in terms of both structure (grammar) and words (lexis). The term 'lexicogrammar' describes this combined approach.

### **Research Methodology**

A purposive sampling was adopted in collecting the data. The independent clauses (simple sentences) were identified in the selected speeches and were grouped into imperatives and indicatives. This selection was done in order to have an in-depth view of the mood system as used in the speeches. The collected data were analyzed with the help of Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar by isolating and classifying the raw data into their various mood structures in order to examine the interpersonal relationships that exist between the listeners and the speaker.

### **Data Presentation and Analysis**

The collected, isolated and classified data were analysed under the following sub-headings:

## **Declarative Moods**

The collected data were replete with declarative mood structures. These can be seen in the following:

### **Excerpt One:**

*On behalf of the good people of Taraba State, I wish to state that we have looked forward to this visit for a long time, considering the security challenges that have come about in a substantial part of Taraba State in the last one year; therefore, it is with great **expectations** that we receive you today in Taraba State.* (Speech Delivered by Gov. Darius Ishaku on the occasion of the visit of IGP Ibrahim Idris on 9th April, 2018, p.2).

The above excerpt shows how the Governor had been expecting the IGP in the State hence he (the Governor) could not hide his feelings and/or excitements that the IGP had finally visited the State. These feelings were aptly expressed using declarative mood structures; through which he was able to make known to the IGP and indeed the general public that the visit was long overdue. Interestingly, the above excerpt does not only make declaration of the speaker's mood but goes further to point out to the IGP and indeed the listeners/readers that apart from anxiously waiting for the IGP's visit, the long overdue visit made by the IGP to the State went with a lot of expectations. The use of the declarative sentence "it is with great expectations that we receive you today in Taraba State" helps in unraveling the yearnings and aspirations of the people which in turn may appear "imperative" on the listeners especially the IGP.

### **Excerpt Two:**

*Taraba State Government, under my watch, has given more than its fair share of support to the Nigerian Police Force under the Taraba State*

*Police Command, to ensure that they have no logistic hitches or hindrances as they respond to crises situations across the state. (Speech Delivered by Gov. Darius Ishaku on the occasion of the visit of IGP Ibrahim Idris on 9th April, 2018, pp. 3-4).*

The above excerpt reveals, through declarative mood, what the Government of Taraba State has been doing to the Nigerian Police Force in Taraba State to help them combat crimes effectively. This declaration was intended to make the IGP know that his Officers and men in the state have not been left uncared. Thus, the Force's continuous cooperation and support was indirectly sought through such declarations.

**Excerpt Three:**

*I assure you that this administration will continually give substantial support to Taraba State Police Command, along with other security agencies, as it strives to secure lives and properties and to bring about lasting peace in Taraba State. (Speech Delivered by Gov. Darius Ishaku on the occasion of the visit of IGP Ibrahim Idris on 9th April, 2018, p.4).*

The above excerpt does not only make declaration, but went a step further to make commitment through the declarative statements. This falls under the category of what Eggins (214) classified as "commissive declarative mood". It is commissive because it makes commitment to continually support the Police Force and other sister security agencies in the State as they strive to combat crimes.

## **Imperative Moods**

### **Excerpt One**

*. . . Considering the alarming rate of 285,000 out of school children in Taraba State, this administration has mapped out more strategies to ensure that these children are not only back to school, but that are in school till completion.* (Speech Delivered by Governor Darius Ishaku on the occasion of the Flag-off of the State Education Programme Investment Project (SEPIP) on the 12th October, 2017, p.4).

The above excerpt depicts the urgency with which the State Government intends to revamp the educational sector through sustained efforts in forms of programmes and policies such as the SEPIP initiative. In the above, we could see the enthusiasm and the zeal in the words of the Governor which he made manifest in the form of imperative mood structures he employed in his speech. These imperative mood structures employed by him portray a sense of urgency; urgency to revive the educational sector so that children can have a conducive environment to learn and stay in school until completion.

### **Excerpt Two**

*Though the State Government spent billions of naira on the renovation of classrooms, and the procurement and distribution of instructional materials to all public schools in the State, much is still desired in terms of renovation and rehabilitation as a result of the degeneration of the school infrastructure.* (Speech Delivered by Governor Darius Ishaku on the occasion of the Flag-off of the State Education Programme

Investment Project (SEPIP) on the 12th October, 2017, pp. 4-5).

From the above excerpt, one can deduce that though the State Government had put in much into the educational sector, the Governor was still soliciting to all and sundry within the State to come together in order to better the fortune of the educational sector. The excerpt, though imperative in nature, has some touch of declaration. It can be argued that the declarative sentences employed in the excerpt were geared towards intimating the people on what the Government had done so far with the sole aim of wanting all and sundry to rise up to the challenge of ensuring that the educational sector does not suffer neglect.

### **Conclusion**

From the above data presented and analysed, it is found out that Governor Darius Ishaku's speeches are replete with two forms of mood structures – declarative and imperative. The declarative mood structures were carefully structured in the speeches examined in such a way that the listeners/readers will be able to see through what the speaker has done or declare to do. The imperative mood structures, on the other hand, help us to see through the mind of the speaker as to what needs to be attended to urgently.

It is also discovered that most of the declarative mood structures employed in the analysed speeches were commissive in nature. They are commissive because they were set out to show the Governor's commitment and/or obligation to better the lives of the people through various policies and programmes. For instance, in "*I assure you that this administration will continually give substantial support to Taraba State Police Command, along with other security agencies, as it strives to secure lives and properties and to bring about lasting peace in Taraba State*", we can see words of commitment and/or obligation of the Governor to the Police Force in

order to spur them to do more in securing the lives and properties of the people of Taraba State. The mood structures employed are declaratives but with high sense of commitment. Thus, through a careful examination of the sentences employed in the selected speeches of Governor Darius Ishaku of Taraba State, it is discovered that mood structural analysis is vital in unraveling the different strands of meanings and/or intentions of a speaker. This is important in configuring the linguistic parameters employed by a speaker with a view to understanding the dimension(s) of meaning a speaker seeks to convey.

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