

Asari Dokubo's Reaction to Insurgency in Nigeria: a Multi-Modal Pragmatic Analysis

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Abstract: Language plays an important role in the society. This is why the study of multimodality in relation to pragmatics and how language is utilized involves the use of gestures, gazes and actions and others in expressing verbal and non-verbal cues. This paper examined how one can use more than one mode or medium to communicate ideas, emotions and feelings. The study critically examined the utterances and actions of Mr. Asari Dokunbo when he was reacting to the activities of the Boko Haram insurgents and other security threats to the entire nationhood and particularly, the polity. To carry out the study, a framework for a pragmatic analysis using the principles of pragmatics and speech act was constructed by the researcher. It was discovered that every utterance that is made has a meaning which is logically different from the sentential meaning. This suggested that structural, semiotic and sociolinguistic meanings are imperative in a multi-modal analysis. Thus, a multiplicity of purview of assessing behavioral meaning in the pragmatic meaning of an utterance goes to show that meaning interpretation goes beyond the word and sentence meaning of any utterance. It is therefore safe to conclude that the meaning of an utterance can not only be gotten or deduced from just the surface but from the context and the non-verbal codes and modes with which Dokunbo communicated his emotions.

Keywords: Language, Insecurity, Insurgents, Terrorism, Boko Haram Pragmatics

I. INTRODUCTION

The term insecurity has not only succeeded in becoming an anthem in Nigeria since the general elections in 2011. Calling it a quagmire which has defied any realizable solution is also an understatement. 'Sloganeering' the register to suit the different dimensions from which the devilish acts of callousness, perpetuated by the Boko Haram sect are being perceived in Nigeria in the past few years has also become household. This status quo threatens the general peace and stability of the country from the low level civil disorder, to larger scale violence or even armed insurgency which threatens the internal security are directed at either the state citizens, or the organs and infrastructure of the state itself. So far, these untold negative activities include petty crimes, serious organized crimes, or industrial unrest, or even domestic terrorism. Speculations that foreign aid and governments have been making frantic efforts to elusively interfere in the peaceful co-existence of Nigerians can be described as ridiculous. The allegations of very prominent roles played by these faceless sponsors according to rumours flying around within Nigeria is also a threat to internal security by those who either indulge or sponsor terrorism without actually declaring war.

Since the bomb blast in Kano on the 1st of October 2010, the fear of insecurity in Nigeria has taken another rabid turn from the petty-crimes and armed robberies recorded at present to terrorism, perpetrated by aimless shooting of innocent Nigerians and bombing of residential, public and government owned property. The Niger Delta struggling and unrest which seemed to have simmered down a bit of recent, after all the hullabaloo of amnesty, Jos ethnic religious killings, boko haram insurgency, massacres and bombing in Abuja, Maiduguri and other northern states e.t.c., appears to be raising its ugly head over and over again while the Federal Government has incessantly moved to nip the attacks in the bud by equipping the military.

Indeed, Boko haram has been the major challenge to security in Nigeria. This Islamic sect, since 2010 has been accused of many attacks on the residents of the northern Nigeria and the Nigeria Federal Capital Territory. Right from the first bomb blast in Kano on the 1st of October 2010 to date as the country prepares for another general elections in February 2015, series of crimes have been committed by this sect, such as the kidnapping of children, women and killing of innocent souls. By way of reacting to these seemingly interminable abnormalities, a former minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Mr. Asari Dokunbo, and a Special Adviser to President Jonathan on the Niger Delta and the leader of Niger Delta volunteer force, gave a speech among his many other speeches about the

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security situation in Nigeria on the 7th of May 2013. He said that the main cause of the security challenges facing Nigeria was due to the fact that “the northerners were against the emergence of President Goodluck Jonathan (GEJ) and since then they have vowed to frustrate him out of office.

In his utterances, Asari Dokunbo said one of the main causes of insurgency in Nigeria is the fight for the presidential seat by the northerners. After making this utterance, Asari Dokunbo was arrested for making inciting comments about the 2015 general election by the Department of State Services. The All Progressives Congress (APC) had demanded that the Department of State Service (DSS) arrest Mujahedeen Asari Dokunbo and described as reckless, irresponsible and totally condemnable the alleged threat by Mujahedeen Asari Dokunbo and described as reckless, irresponsible and totally condemnable the alleged threat by Mujahedeen Asari Dokunbo to levy war against Nigeria, if President Goodluck Jonathan is defeated even in a free and fair election in 2015. He was later released on the 9th of May 2013 by the Department of State Security Service (SSS).

We have chosen Asari Dokunbo’s utterances for a multimodal pragmatic analysis because his utterances are not only scenic but replete with violence unleashed. Asari’s words of thunder do not merely send cold shivers down the spine of the opposition party but occasions a trans-cortical bewilderment which is contributing in no small measure to the heat in the polity as the situation stands. Asari uses different tempos in communicating his feelings, emotions and his message using his gestures, gazes, actions and also his speech. The venom he spits vivaciously is ominous and is best analyzed using the multimodality theory. This refers to using more than one mode or medium of communication and therefore related to different semiotic resources.

Dokunbo’s utterances contain certain pragmatic elements such as Speech Act. The Illocutionary Acts refer to certain performative elements in the utterances made by a person. The Illocutionary Act refers to the main purpose of the utterance made while the Perlocutionary act refers to the intended reaction of the speaker or the hearer. Also, these elements can be found in the utterances which he made to create a warning signal to the northerners and also to acquaint the general public with the antecedents of the previous insightful statements that have been made by one of the past Heads of State, and some of the northern governors about making Nigeria ungovernable for President Goodluck Jonathan.

This research work is aimed at analyzing Asari Dokunbo’s speech that was made in response to the insurgency in Nigeria and also to identify the features present in his utterances by interpreting meaning from actions and utterances. To the best of our knowledge no linguistic analysis has been done from a multi-modal perspective to analyse Asari Dokunbo’s speech. The effort is with exception to the counter speeches made by Governor Rotimi Amaechi, the governor of Rivers state who belongs to the opposition party whose presidential flag-bearer is the same personality being verbally attacked by Asari Dokunbo. The study is aimed at tackling the pragmatic and multimodal features present in Asari Dokunbo’s multiple acts. This study will therefore be useful as our own contribution to political murky waters in Nigeria.

II. METHODOLOGY

The method used in the gathering of data in this research is by surfing the internet and use of search engines such as Google, YouTube, ask.com and also Face book. The data were also gathered from newspapers such as the Punch and The Vanguard. The main method of data analysis used in this research is by breaking the utterances made by Asari Dokunbo into sentences for ease of analysis. The sentences were picked for pragmatic analyses. The different speech acts and their implications for meaning interpretation in the context of insecurity were identified.

III. MULTIMODAL THEORY

Multimodal text analysis has become a crucial part of research teaching and practice for a wide range of academic and practical disciplines. Multimodal analysis includes the analysis of communication in all its forms, but is particularly concerned with texts which contain the interaction and integration of two or more semiotic resources or modes of communication in order to achieve the communication function of the text. Such resources include aspects of speech such as intonation and other vocal characteristics, the semiotics of their bodily resources such as that of human technology gestures (face, hand and body) and proximities, as well as products of human technology such as craving, painting, writing, architecture, image and sound recording and in more contemporary times, interactive computing resource (digital media hardware and software).

Different semiotic resources bring with them their own concessions and constraints, both individually and in combination as well as analytical challenges in terms of the nature of the media, the detail and scope of analysis and the complexities arising from the integration of semiotic resource across media. While it has long been understood

that human meaning in the world involves more than simply the written language studied by the early linguist (cf. Saussure's observation on the need for semiological science (1916/1974) that studies the life of signs within society, practical and theoretical challenges have meant that it is only in recent decades that a distinct field of multimodal studies have begun to emerge and many issues remain unresolved within this field, particularly with respect to text analysis.

The term "multimodality" has a wide range of definitions and multimodal composition can be assigned in a variety of classes. In contending with the term, Lauer(2009)writes that multimodality was the term coined by the new London group in 2000 in order to talk about how "communication is not limited to one mode or "realized through one medium" the transition from composition for a page on a page to the "more fluid medium of a screen" opens up a world if possible, but also the use of a simplified definition for multimodal writings that effectively lodge it from the theories of semiotics and put it in the hands of teachers by simply defining it as anything that moves beyond the alphabets. The abstract of the article, "helping teachers to explore multimodal texts" by Ansley, Michelle and Geoff bull (2010) for the journal of curriculum leadership also offers a succinct definition of multimodal compositions.

A text may be defined as multimodal when it combines two or more semiotic systems. There are five semiotic systems in total.

1. Linguistic: comprising aspects such as vocabulary, generic structure and the grammar or oral and written language.
2. Visual: comprising aspects such as color (sic), vectors and viewpoints in still and moving images.
3. Audios: comprising aspects such as volume, pitch and rhythms of music and sounds.
4. Gestural: comprising such as movement, speed and stillness in facial expression and body language.
5. Spatial: comprising aspects such as proximity, direction, position of layout and organization of object in space .

When we communicate with other people in everyday life, we use different channels to make our message as understandable as possible for our communication partner. If someone asks for directions, we can describe the route with words, pointing in the direction. We can also describe the route with words, pointing in the direction, or drawing a map. During this interaction, we constantly evaluate how our message is coming across and adapting our partner's understanding. As this example shows, in everyday communication we use different modalities. A modality can be defined as a specific type of information tied to human information processing including vision, audition, olfaction, touch and taste(cf. May and Webster 1998).

In summary multimodality is a system which involves several system and modes of communication. A multimodal text analysis is therefore the analysis that deals with analysis of data based on two or more semiotic resources or modes of communications .

IV. SPEECHACT

We use the term speech to describe actions such as requesting, commanding, questioning or informing. A speech act is a minimal functional unit in human communication. According to Austin (1962) "in every utterance a person performs acts such as stating a fact, stating an opinion, confirming or denying something, making a prediction or a request, asking a question, issuing an order, giving a permission, giving a piece of advice, making an offer, making a promise, thanking somebody or condoling somebody.

Speech act theory attempts to explain how speakers use language to accomplish intended meaning. Speech act studies are considered a sub-discipline of cross-cultural pragmatics; they actually take their origin in the philosophy of language. According to Austin's theory (1962), what is said has three kinds of meaning?

1. Propositional meaning locutionary meaning: The literal meaning of what is said
2. Illocutionary meaning: The social function of what is said.
3. Perlocutionary meaning: The effect of what is said.

Based on Austin's (1962) and Searle's (1969) theories, Cohen (1996) identifies five categories of speech act based on the functions assigned to them.

- Representative- assertion, claims, reports
- Directive – suggestions, requests, commands.
- Expressive – apologies, complaints, thanks
- Commissives- promise, threats, offer.
- Declarative- decrees, declarations

Philosophers like Austin (1962), Grice (1975) and Searle (1965, 1969, 1975) offer basic insights into this popular theory of linguistics especially among contemporary linguists. The theory holds that communication is based on the assumption that the minimal units of human communication are not linguistic expression, but rather the performance of certain kinds of acts, such as making statements, asking, questioning, directing, apologizing, thanking and so on (cf. Blum –Kulka, House and Kasper, (1989). Austin (1962) defines the performance of uttering words with a consequential purpose as words. It is the performance of a locution, and the study of locutions or of the full units of speech (p.69). These units of speeches are not tokens of the symbols or words or sentences but rather units of linguistic communication (Searle, 1965).

According to Austin’s theory these functional units of communication have prepositions or locutionary meaning (the literal meaning of the utterance) illocutionary meaning (the social function of the utterance) and perlocutionary force (the effect produced by the utterance in a given context). The three main types common to most of them are locutionary acts, illocutionary act and elocutionary act. When a speaker makes an utterance, that utterance is a locutionary act indicating the definite intention in the mind of the speaker which is the actual illocutionary act. What effect does the utterance have on the hearer? This effect is called a Perlocutionary act. From the various definitions from different scholars we can say that speech act takes place in every utterance that we make because every utterance carries the three kinds of act which are the locutionary act, the illocutionary act and the perlocutionary act.

V. A FRAMEWORK OF A MULTI-MODAL PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS

The approach employed for the analyses of Asari Dokubo’s speech in this research work is multimodal. The primary tool adopted for the analyses is Pragmatics, whereas theories, such as Semantics, Semiotics and Sociolinguistics have been savoured to complement the aspects of pragmatics which have been used to discuss the overt and implicit intentions of Asari Dokubo as he spat fire and his eyes were red in fury against the antics of northern Nigerian politicians and power tussle between the northern and southern Nigeria. The theories mentioned in this wok have been reviewed earlier above. In the meantime the approaches and theories have been synthesized in a framework purposely constructed for the present analyses. The schema is presented below

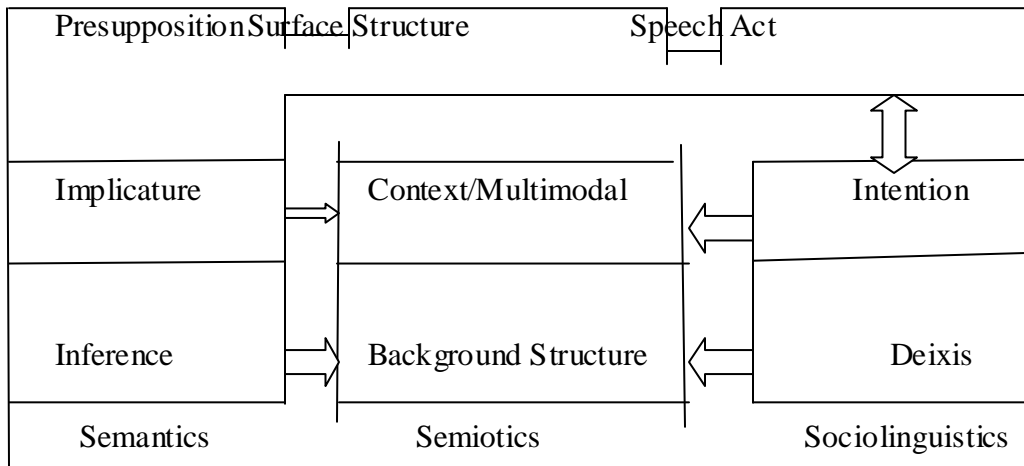


Fig1. A Multimodal Framework of a Pragmatic Analysis

From the schema above, it is clear that all the meaning-bearing fields are represented in the chart. A synthesis of the tools which have been used in the analysis of various meanings is experimented to critically analyze the utterances of Asari Dokubo without employing the Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). Every utterance contains speech acts which brings interpreters to the intention of the speaker, with the different modes he uses while communicating his ideas. It also shows the influence the utterance has on the hearer and the society at large and what the utterance implies and presupposes. The schema also implies that any utterance that is made contains pragmatic features which make the understanding of an utterance to be more meaningful to the hearer. The network also implies that a speaker can make his intentions known without just using words alone but other means of communication. The adoption of multiple instruments for the analysis of verbal and non-verbal cues can be referred to as multi-modality which in auspicious terms means the use of manifold communication media. The schema above has been used for analysis in the next section.

VI. DATA ANALYSIS

➤ Datum one

From the schema above the elements identified as rudiments of a multi-modal pragmatics have been itemized for cursory headcount. This is imperative in order that we note the appearances of the acts sought for, in the selected data, which have been labelled datum one to twenty. Asari Dokubo opens his speech thus: “I wish to say that I stand by the statement I have made and want to further say the following”.

Implicature: The utterance implies that Asari has been talking before and wishes to continue.

Presupposition: The statement above presupposes that the speaker is vocal and could say anything. Also, he is a very bold man who accepts responsibility for what he had said earlier without any fear.

Illocutionary act: The illocutionary act present in the utterance above shows that the speaker declares that he wants to continue based on the previous statement he had made.

Inference: The inference brings us to the intention of the speaker. The speaker intends to inform the public that he had said something earlier on and he wishes to stand on his previous statement.

➤ Datum Two

“If any more attacks are carried out that affect our people or we perceived that an attack is going to be carried out we will carry out prerogative action and disproportionate reaction to any attacks that is being planned that is going to be carried out”

Implicature: The statement above implies that attacks have been carried out earlier and the speaker knows that more attacks will still be carried out. Therefore he warns the attackers about carrying out any more attacks.

Presupposition: The utterance presupposes that the speaker knows that attacks have been carried out and still assumes that more attacks are still going to be carried out by some attackers.

Illocutionary acts: The indirect illocutionary act of informing and sending warning signals to the hearers involved in the nefarious acts of attacks have been performed with this utterance.

Inference: Drawing inference from the utterance leads us to the intention of the speaker. The intention of the speaker is to signal disaffection, hate and imminent war if further attacks are carried out. Thus he describes a counter action as “an equal reaction”.

➤ Datum Three

“It is quite unfortunate that the oligarchy in the north presented by the feudal Fulani that invaded our land from Foutajalon have continued to have disregard and disrespect for the owner of the country they came into and people have tolerated them for a very long time but that will no longer continue”

Implicature: The utterance above implies that there is a place called Fouta Djallon and that there are invaders who come from Fouta Djallon who are resident in the northern part of the country. These people have on several occasions demonstrated their acute disregard and disrespect for the people of Nigeria.

Presupposition: The speaker assumes that his audience is not oblivious of the people caught in rebellion.

Illocutionaryact: The speaker informs us that the feudal Fulani groups who are rebellious to the incumbent president are those who invaded the country and now have total disregard for the authority of the president.

➤ **DatumFour**

“I wish to refresh your memory on the 5th of Oct 2010 that a Fulani known as Lawal Keita, former governor of old Kaduna state said anything shot of a northern president is tantamount to stealing our presidency”.

Implicature: This utterance implies that there is a man called Lawal Keita who is a former governor and that the north owns the seat of the president and if a northerner is not elected president that means the seat has been stolen from them.

Presupposition: It presupposes that the former president assumes that if a northerner is not elected the president which is their rightful position, it is equal to stealing away their position as the president.

Illocutionaryact: The speaker uses indirect illocutionary act to inform the general public about what has been said by the past governor and to declare the intention of the governor.

Inference:-The inference drawn from the statement is that the speaker allows us know what the former governor of Kaduna state, Lawal Keita has in mind if a northerner does not emerge as president.

➤ **DatumFive**

“Jonathan has to go and he must go”

Implicature: The above utterance implies that Jonathan has been asked to leave the seat of the president and that he must obey.

Presupposition: The speaker assumes that the public know that there is a person called Jonathan who is the president of the country and who has been asked to leave the present position.

Illocutionaryact: With the utterance he makes use of indirect illocutionary act. This means that the speaker declares his utterances by saying “Jonathan has to go and he must go”

Inference: The inference of the above utterance brings us to the intention of the speaker .The speaker makes it known that the man Jonathan had to leave the presidency..

➤ **DatumSix.**

“Even if he uses the incumbency power to get his nomination of the platform of the PDP he would be frustrated over”

Implicature: The utterance implies that there is a political party called “PDP” in which the person referred to happens to be a member. The speaker therefore implies that even though he is elected through the political party he would be thrown out.

Presupposition: The speaker presupposes that the hearers know the party called PDP and the person he is referring to and how he would be frustrated out of office.

Illocutionaryact: The speaker informs the hearers that even if the referred is elected on the platform of the PDP he would be frustrated out.

Inference: The intention of the speaker is to make it known that even if the referred is elected on the platform of the PDP he would be frustrated out.

➤ **DatumSeven**

“The northerner is determined if that happen to make the country ungovernable for President Good luck Jonathan or any other southerner who finds his way to the seat of the president on the platform of the PDP against the principle of the party zoning party.”

Implicature: This statement above implies that the northerners have determined to make the country ungovernable for Good luck Jonathan or any other president who is not from the north. It implies that the northerners feel that they own the seat of the president.

Inference: The inference drawn from the above utterance brings us to the intention of the utterances. The speaker infers the rheme of the insightful utterances from the northern bigwigs and therefore cries out in utter fret over the doom that may follow the subversive intentions of the northerners.

Illocutionaryacts: The speaker makes use of indirect illocutionary acts of informing to intimate the public about what the northerners have in their coven to do if a northerner is not elected as president in the 2015 general elections.

➤ **DatumEight**

“Today insurgent groups in furtherance to Keita’s call from feudal Fulani are wreaking havoc, attacking barracks and seizing weapons.”

Implicature: This implies that there is a group attacking barracks and seizing weapons in the barracks.

Presupposition: With the above utterance the speaker assumes that there is someone called Keita who is known to the public and the insurgents act upon is call.

Inference: The intention of the speaker is to declare what has been done by the insurgent group in response to Keita’s call.

➤ **DatumNine**

“Their foot soldiers in the army are planning a coup because at the top they cannot plan a coup and Good luck is just seating and watching “

Implicature: The above utterance implies that there is a group of soldiers in the army who are planning to overthrow the existing democratically elected president and president Good luck has done nothing about it.

Presupposition: The statement above presupposes that the speaker is not in support of the armies who are planning coup and therefore is threatening to react violently to any anti-Jonathan course of unrest.

Illocutionaryact: The speaker uses the direct declarative illocutionary act of declaring to emphasize that the soldiers who are planning coup will receive a reaction for every action that is taken by them.

Inference: The inference drawn from this utterance reveals the intention of the speaker .The speaker intends to make the hearers know what the soldiers are planning and also to let the soldier know that for every action they take there will be “an equal reaction”.

➤ **Datum Ten**

“We will not sit and watch for every action there will be an equal reaction and it will be disproportionate and nobody arrested or called for the arrest of the fellow invaders from Fouta Djallon who today is walking free.”

Implicature: The statement implies that the speaker will also react to any action that is taken by the offensive soldiers.

Presupposition: The above statement presupposes that the Nigerian nation is under attack by some miscreants whereas nobody has been arrested.

Illocutionary acts: The direct declarative illocutionary acts to declaring that they would no longer sit and watch the insurgents demolish our nationhood but will react violently in return.

Inference: the inference drawn from this utterance reveals to us the intention of the speaker. The speaker intends to make the hearer know that they would not sit back and watch the insurgents anymore but will violently in return.

➤ **DatumEleven**

“Another Fulani who had use our money to overthrow a democratically elected government, a corrupt Fulani General Mohammed Buhari made this statement on the 15th of May 2012.”

Implicature: The above utterance implies that there is a tribe called Fulani. That there is a man called Gen Mohammed Buhari who had used the Government money to overthrow democratically elected government and who also made a statement on the 15th of May 2012.

Presupposition: The assumption is that the hearer knows the corrupt Fulani and also knows that he had overthrown a democratically elected government in Nigeria.

Illocutionaryact: The indirect Illocutionary act is that of informing.

Inference: The intention of the speaker is to make identify the culprit.

➤ **DatumTwelve**

“God willing by 2015 something will happen. They either conduct a free and fair election or they go a disgraceful way.”

Implicature: The utterance implies that there will be an election in 2015 which must be free and fair.

Presupposition: There election in 2015 is likely to be bloody if the election is not conducted in a free and fair manner.

Inference: The intention of the speaker is to ferment trouble if a free and fair election is not conducted.

Illocutionaryact: - The illocutionary act informs and declares.

➤ **DatumThirteen**

“If what happened in 2011 should repeat itself in 2015 the dog and the baboon will be soaked in blood.”

➤ **DatumFourteen**

“He was never arrested and nobody ever called for his arrest.”

➤ **DatumFifteen**

“In the other countries former leaders, are being lined but here is a man who over thrown democratic elected Government and countries to threaten us with blood and nothing has happened.”

➤ **DatumSixteen**

“To crown it all another Fulani invader of our homeland one Adamu Aliyu said in the northern nobody has the monopoly of violence that on behalf of the people of the northern exaction that there shall be no one Nigeria if a northern is not elected president because politics is a game of number.”

➤ **DatumSeventeen**

“I am not afraid of arrest; I am saying it bold and clear without mimicking words that the consequence of my arrest Nigeria will be history.”

➤ **DatumEighteen**

“The last time I was arrested by Obasanjo my arrest reduced Nigeria oil production to 700,000 per day this time it will be reduced to zero.”

➤ **DatumNineteen**

From our data the utterance below has been chosen for analysis.

“We will match violence with, intrigues with intrigues, we are ready for them Goodluck will complete his tenure of terms whether they like it or not.”

➤ **DatumTwenty**

“I am daring them to arrest me if they cannot they are cowards and shame unto them”

Table1. A Multi-Modal Analysis of Datum 13 to 20

Utterances	Presupposition	Inference	Illocutionary Act	Implicature	Semantics	Semiotics	Sociolinguistics
DT 13	The hearer knows what happened in 2011	speaker warns against violence in 2015.	declaring	There was violence in 2011	The coming election is likely to be bloody	Blood-shed is imperative in a volatile Nigeria	Ethnic and religious politics breed violence
DT 14	The populace thought the culprit should be arrested	The person in question is above the law	Informing	The culprit enjoys immunity	The person cannot be arrested	The man is feared by all	Big guns in Nigeria enjoy immunity
DT 15	The audience recognize the opposition leader	A man exists as thorn in the flesh of the president	Informing	The government overlooks some highly placed criminals	Some criminals are highly placed	The wrath of the big wigs should be avoided	Incurring the wrath of the past presidents will not help the president
DT 16	The unity of Nigeria will end after the election	The unity of Nigeria is at risk	Declaring	Northerners will ferment trouble if they lose	Northerners want a northerner by all means	Selfish Ethnic politics is the order in Nigeria	It is a game between north and the southen Nigeria

DT 17	The speaker is brave	To create fear of disintegration in Nigerians	Declaring	speaker has no fear of outcome of speech	The speaker is ready for war	Disintegration ends the existence of Nigeria	It is treason to declare disintegration in Nigeria
DT 18	The speaker must not be arrested	His arrest will affect the economy of Nigeria	Threatening	If the speaker is arrested the economy will fall	Nigeria will suffer the brunt of his arrest	He must not be arrested for the economy to thrive	He belongs to the oil producing region
DT 19	Completion of the President's term will bring peace	To avoid war, Jonathan must remain president	Threatening	The president must have to complete his term	No one should stop Jonathan	It is the tenure/time for a southerner to rule in Nigeria	Ancoup will lead to another civil war.
DT 20	An attempt could be made to arrest the speaker	The speaker is protected by the president	threatening	The speaker is resolute	Dokubo is ready for the north	Dokubo supports disintegration of Nigeria	Nigeria is susceptible to disintegration

6.1. Frequency of Illocutionary Acts

Table one summarizes the meanings extractable from datum thirteen to twenty. This was done to manage space in this paper. However, the illocutionary acts observed in the entire utterances is presented in the bar chart below.

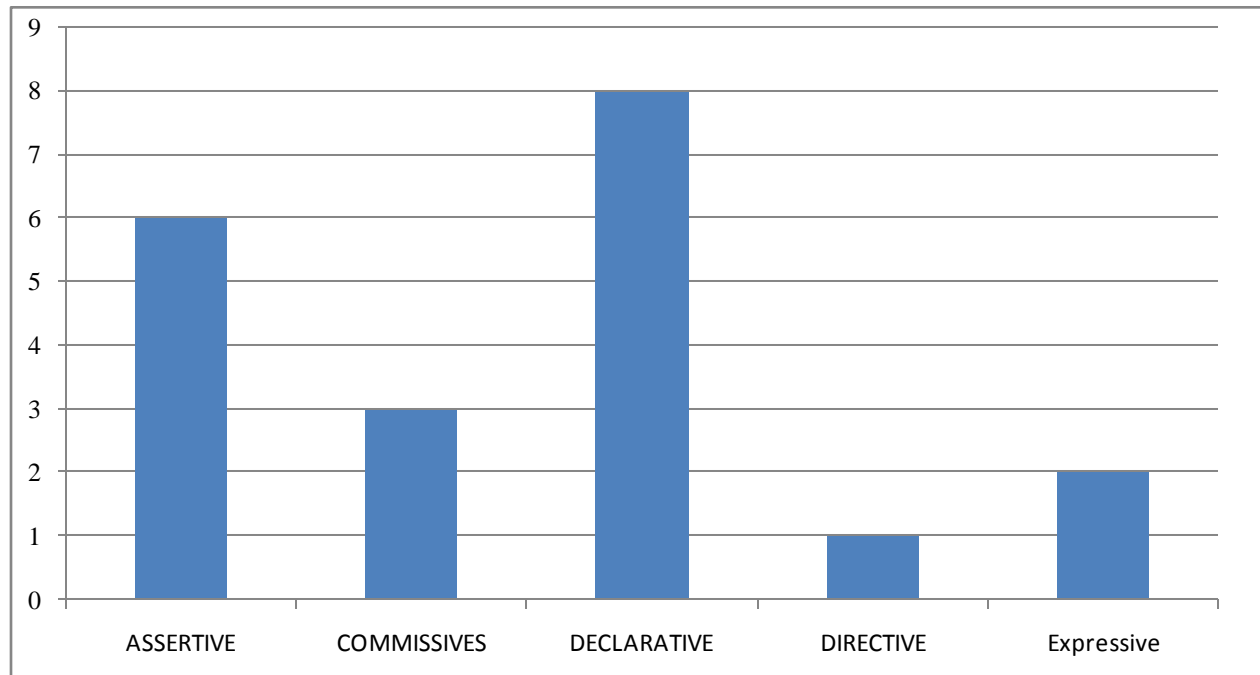


Fig2. Chart of Illocutionary Acts

Asari Dokubo did more of threatening in his declarations. Therefore, there was more of declarative acts than the assertive, co missive, directive and expressive acts. In descending order, the bar indicating the use of the declarative acts is evidently higher than that of the assertive which is also higher than the co missive act because Dokubo was not careful not to commit himself but the assertions were made with utmost fervor. The expressive acts were also

more in number than the directives because there was hardly any course for any directive. From the salient issues noted from the utterances made by Asari Dokubo, it is evident that the utterances made contained speech acts and pragmatic features which have informed the findings below.

VII. FINDINGS

From the utterances made by Asari Dokubo we find that:

- a. Asari's intention in his speech is to make it known to the public that President Good luck Jonathan rules in the midst of enemies.
- b. The speech declares war if Jonathan loses the 2015 elections.
- c. He also makes it known that whether an election is conducted or not, President Good luck is eligible to contest
- d. He also warns the insurgents against further attack.
- e. Again he makes it known to the public that the northerners are determined to make the country ungovernable if Jonathan is re-elected president.
- f. The vehemence with which Asari Dokubo makes his speech affirms his doggedness and commitment to the incumbent president.
- g. Pragmatic meaning is complete only when non-verbal cues are incorporated in the interpretation of written and spoken texts

VIII. CONCLUSION

The study was focused at analyzing the verbal and non-verbal meanings in the speech rendered by Alhaji Asari Dokubo, a onetime minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Dokubo attacked the incessant violence and criminal disposition of killing and maiming of innocent Nigerians by an Islamic sect known as Boko Haram who ferment trouble in Nigeria. Using the major linguistic theories – semantics, semiotics and sociolinguistics to braze the ambiance of Pragmatics, a multi-modal approach appeared to be all encompassing. Both the expressed and the acted messages were decoded in the study. From the analysis, it became evident that the utterances made contain speech acts and pragmatic features which go to aid successful meaning interpretation of our data.

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