Interpreting Political Discourse: A Transitivity Analysis of Nigeria's President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Inaugural Speech

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Abstract

This study conducts a transitivity analysis of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's inaugural speech delivered on May 29, 2023. The research utilizes the Systemic Functional Linguistics framework to uncover the underlying rhetorical and communicative strategies of the President's speech by examining the types of processes, participant roles, and syntactic patterns present in the speech. The speech is transcribed and segmented for detailed examination, with manual coding and quantitative analysis of the frequency and distribution of various transitivity features. Through the searchlight of the transitivity model, the analysis reveals how President Tinubu constructs his political narrative and communicates power relations, agency, and semantic roles. The findings reveal a predominant use of material processes, emphasizing physical actions and tangible events, followed by relational and verbal processes, highlighting relationships and communication. The analysis also shows a strategic balance of complex and simple sentences, aiming to convey detailed information while ensuring clarity. The analysis provides insights into President Tinubu's rhetorical choices, revealing his intent to inform, engage, and motivate his audience effectively through a nuanced and structured communicative approach.

Keywords: Inaugural Speech, Political Narratives, Discourse Analysis, Systemic Functional Grammar, Transitivity Analysis.

Introduction

An inaugural speech is a formal address delivered by an individual who is assuming a position of office or leadership following an election or appointment. In the context of politics, the most common type of inaugural speech is the one given by a newly elected or appointed head of state, such as a President, Prime Minister, Governor, etc. The purpose of an inaugural speech is to outline the leader's vision, goals, and priorities for their term in office. Key features of an inaugural speech include expressions of gratitude, acknowledgment of the challenges and responsibilities ahead, and a presentation of the leader's policy agenda. These speeches often emphasize unity, national identity, and a call to collective action. Inaugural speeches are significant public events and are considered crucial moments in the political calendar, setting the tone for the leader's administration.

Chief Bola Ahmed Adekunle Tinubu, born on March 29, 1952, is a prominent Nigerian politician currently serving as the 16th President of Nigeria. Prior to his presidency, he held the position of Governor of Lagos, in the first post-transition Lagos State gubernatorial election, where he secured a decisive victory as a member of the Alliance for Democracy and served from 1999 to 2007 and also served as a senator for Lagos West in the Third Republic, 1992. This paper lays bare the linguistic and rhetorical aspects of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's inaugural speech delivered on May 29, 2023. It focuses specifically on the application of transitivity analysis, a linguistic tool that

examines how actions, processes, and participants are represented in discourse. The study's objectives include identifying the dominant transitivity patterns, examining the distribution of different process types, and analyzing the roles and relationships of participants in the speech. Additionally, the research seeks to contextualize these linguistic findings within the broader political and social context to offer a comprehensive understanding of President Tinubu's communication strategies.

Political discourse, an essential tool in politics has gained significant attention across various disciplines due to its impact on society. Language and politics are interlinked, with language serving as a means to convey power, ideology, and influence. Powerful individuals use language to control and limit the contributions of less powerful participants, thus asserting their knowledge and ideology (Fairclough, 2020; Dijk, 2006). Political speeches, especially those delivered by presidents, play a crucial role in shaping public opinion and perpetuating ideologies (Irimiea, 2010). They are significant in political contexts like inaugurations and independence celebrations. The study of political discourse, particularly through speeches, had grown, highlighting its importance in understanding political processes and influence (Jegede, 2018; Schaffner, 2004; Joseph, 2006). Despite extensive research on political speeches there is limited analysis of the inaugural speeches of Nigerian presidents using the transitivity system.

Speeches are often crafted to make politicians appear trustworthy and to provide a sense of security to their audience. According to Ayeomoni (2001), during inaugural ceremonies, presidents deliver speeches to outline their intentions as leaders, showcasing their skillful use of language in public communications. An inaugural address, as defined by Ademilokun (2015) cited in Jegede (2020, p. 318), is "the first address given by the political office holder, especially during his inauguration". In Nigeria, politicians use these speeches to win the hearts of their people and re-emphasize their campaign promises. Inaugural addresses are ceremonial speeches delivered by individuals assuming new roles, typically heads of state, to mark the beginning of their terms. These speeches set the tone for the leader's tenure, outlining their vision, policies, and goals, and hold significant historical, rhetorical, and political importance. They have been a key part of political tradition since ancient times. In modern democracies, notable inaugural addresses are often given by presidents or prime ministers, symbolizing the start of a new administration (Jegede, 2018; Abuya, 2012).

Rhetoric is both the science and art of using language effectively to persuade others (Suciati & Ambarini, 2018). Fleming (1998) describes it as the use of linguistic devices to optimize persuasive efforts by speakers or writers. Aristotle, as cited in Alo (2012) and quoted by Katamba (2022, p. 74) "rhetoric is the faculty of finding persuasive tools of using language to cause an effect on the audience". It involves communication tactics to deliver messages convincingly and achieve specific goals, relying on the speaker's or writer's ability to persuade others of their ideology. Traditionally, rhetoric consists of three main components: logos (logical reasoning), ethos (credibility), and pathos (emotional appeal) (Howe Center for Writing Excellence, 2024). Effective rhetoric blends these elements to persuade and impact behaviour. Political leaders use rhetoric to align their speeches with their ideological goals, aiming to influence their audience emotionally and intellectually (Alo, 2012).

Politicians need to be persuasive, as many have succeeded through effective speaking. Good character and skillful use of rhetorical devices enhance one's ability to persuade (Suciati & Ambarini, 2018). The more politicians use rhetorical tactics to gain trust, the more democratic their societies become (DiMaggio, 2015; Suciati & Ambarini, 2018). Unlike ordinary communication, rhetorical language is powerful enough to change minds and influence decision-making in societies. Language, politics, and rhetoric are interconnected, shaping people's understanding of politicians and the political environment (Dadugblor, 2016).

Halliday's concept of transitivity extends beyond traditional grammar, categorizing processes in language (material, mental, relational, behavioral, verbal, existential), involving participants and circumstances to construct a coherent reality. Transitivity affects not just verbs but the entire clause, reflecting the multifaceted nature of language (Halliday, 2014). This system provides a nuanced understanding of how language constructs reality by examining processes, participants, and circumstances in texts.

Traditionally, transitivity focused on verbs being transitive or intransitive, but Halliday redefined it as a property of clauses. This expanded view includes the process, participants, and circumstances, systematically denoting relationships between participants in actions or events (Kridalaksana, 2008). Texts can be segmented into smaller units based on these elements, revealing how individuals make sense of their experiences and interactions. Transitivity analysis is integral to Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), as it helps interpret texts and speeches systematically (Dijk, 2008). The *clause* serves as the fundamental unit for illustrating actions and processes (Wang, 2010). This study applies transitivity theory to analyze Tinubu's speech, examining processes, participants, and circumstances, reflecting both inner and outer experiences.. Kress (1990) limits transitivity to language processes, while Simpson (1993) in Zhao & Zhang (2017, p. 53) and Hasan (1988) cited in Garifullina et al. (2021, p. 232) highlight its role in representing meaning in clauses. Bloor and Bloor (2004) explain that "process" in SFL has a technical meaning, referring to the entire clause and the verbal group's proposition.

Transitivity analysis is a powerful tool for uncovering hidden meanings in texts, traditionally used in literary analysis but increasingly applied to political discourse, news discourse, and inaugural addresses (Zhao & Zhang, 2017 as cited in Zhang, 2017).

Review of Related Literature

Many studies have analyzed inaugural speeches through discourse and transitivity analysis. For example, Amir (2022) examines President Joe Biden's inaugural address using Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) to uncover persuasive strategies and ideological themes, focusing on rhetorical devices and references to America's heroic past to promote unity and traditional values. In contrast, the present study on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's 2023 inaugural speech aims to use transitivity analysis, based on Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics, to explore how actions and participants are represented in the speech, revealing underlying power structures and agency. The gap between this study and that of Amir lies in their methodological approaches, theoretical frameworks, and analytical focuses, with Amir's study emphasizing ideological content and rhetorical strategies, while the present study will analyze linguistic structures to understand social realities constructed in Tinubu's speech.

Katamba (2022) analyses President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's inaugural speech using rhetorical discourse analysis to understand how she persuaded the Liberian people about her political, social, and economic policies. The study employs both Neo-Aristotelian and feminist rhetorical analysis methods to quantitatively examine her use of rhetorical devices, appeals, and tactics, concluding that these strategies effectively helped her consolidate power and achieve her objectives as a speaker. In contrast, the current study on "Transitivity Analysis of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's 29th May 2023 Inaugural Speech" employs transitivity analysis, a linguistic approach based on Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics, to examine the grammatical representation of actions and participants in Tinubu's speech. The gap between the two studies lies in their methodologies and analytical focus: Katamba's study uses rhetorical analysis to explore persuasive strategies and rhetorical effectiveness, while the current study uses transitivity analysis to uncover the distribution of agency and power dynamics in Tinubu's speech. This reflects differing perspectives on how language constructs political reality and persuasion.

Ellah (2022) studies the intertextual references in President Mohammadu Buhari's 2015 presidential inaugural speech using discourse-pragmatic analysis and the concept of intertextuality. The study reveals that Buhari skillfully combined political discourse with religious, literary, and historical references, demonstrating manifest intertextuality and interdiscursivity. This blend highlights Buhari's positivist, liberalist, and religious ideological orientation, supporting the conclusion that texts are composed of various other texts reflecting the producer's ideology. In contrast, the current study uses transitivity analysis from Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics to explore how actions and participants are represented in Tinubu's speech. The gap between the present study and that of Ellah lies in their methodological focus: Ellah's study analyzes intertextuality to uncover the ideological orientation through mixed discourses, while the present study uses transitivity analysis to examine the distribution of actions and power dynamics in Tinubu's speech, providing insights into how language structures political messages and constructs social realities from a grammatical perspective.

Boussaid (2022) analyses the use of conceptual metaphors as persuasive tools in the inaugural speeches of Joseph Biden and George Washington, employing Conceptual Metaphor Theory and a source-based approach to highlight diachronic differences and the rhetorical importance of metaphors in political discourse. In contrast, this study focuses on examining transitivity patterns within the framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics to understand how processes, participants, and circumstances are represented to reflect Tinubu's ideological stance. The gap between the studies is their theoretical frameworks and analytical focuses, with Boussaid centering on metaphor usage in American political speeches and the current study analyzing transitivity in a Nigerian political context.

Renaldo (2021) investigates President Joe Biden's ideology in his inaugural speech using Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) with a focus on presupposition, as proposed by Dijk, at the microstructure level. The study identifies three types of presupposition—lexical, existential, and factive—with lexical presupposition being the most frequent. These presuppositions reveal Biden's ideological stance on immigrants, healthcare, racism, democracy, and climate change. In contrast, the present study utilizes transitivity analysis, a linguistic approach from Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics, to examine how actions and participants are represented in Tinubu's speech.

The gap between these studies lies in their methodological focus: Renaldo's study uses CDA to analyze presuppositions and uncover ideological themes, while this study uses transitivity analysis to explore the distribution of actions and power dynamics in Tinubu's speech, reflecting different aspects of language use and ideological construction in political discourse.

Jegede (2020) examines the syntactic devices in Donald Trump's inaugural speech, using both quantitative and qualitative methods to analyze the frequency and function of syntactic elements such as sentence types, modality, conjunctions, adverbials, and pronouns. The study finds that Trump predominantly used simple sentences for succinctness and various syntactic devices to achieve conciseness, logicality, accuracy, and effectiveness, contributing to the cohesion of his speech and effectively conveying his motives, plans, feelings, and expectations. In contrast, the present study employs transitivity analysis from Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics to explore how actions and participants are represented in Tinubu's speech. The gap between these studies lies in their methodological approaches and focus: Jegede's study analyzes syntactic devices to understand how they contribute to the cohesion and interpretation of Trump's speech, while the present study uses transitivity analysis to examine the distribution of elements and power dynamics in Tinubu's speech, offering a different perspective on how language structures political messages and constructs social realities.

Overall, the present study aims to use transitivity analysis to explore linguistic structures in President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's 2023 inaugural speech, revealing underlying ideologies and power dynamics.

Research Design

For the research design, the study employs both qualitative and quantitative approaches to explore how processes and participants are represented in the discourse. The study focuses on understanding how power relations, actions, and the semantic roles of participants are communicated. Using the entire speech as the data source, the speech is transcribed and segmented into manageable units for detailed examination. The analysis involves identifying process types, participant roles, and circumstantial elements within the speech using the transitivity system of Systemic Functional Linguistics. Manual coding is used to categorize these elements, and their frequencies are calculated to provide quantitative insights. The findings are interpreted within the framework of systemic functional linguistic theory, ensuring consistency and reliability through multiple coders and triangulation with established linguistic theories. Expert validation further enhances the study's credibility.

Analysis

Table 1: Frequency of the Use of Structural Sentence Types

Types	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Complex	57	44.5
Compound	15	11.7
Compound Complex	5	3.9
Simple	51	39.8
Total	**128**	**100.0**

The table presents a quantitative analysis of the sentence structures used by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu in his inaugural speech, highlighting his rhetorical and syntactical strategies. Complex sentences, appearing 57 times (44.5%), dominated the speech, suggesting a preference for detailed and nuanced expression to convey intricate ideas. Simple sentences followed closely with 51 instances (39.8%), indicating a balance between complexity and accessibility to ensure the audience's understanding. Compound sentences, used 15 times (11.7%), show an effort to link related ideas and emphasize connections, while the least frequent, compound-complex sentences, appearing 5 times (3.9%), reflect occasional use of sophisticated structures for complex ideas. Overall, this syntactic analysis reveals President Tinubu's strategic use of varied sentence structures to provide depth and clarity, enhancing the coherence and impact of his inaugural address.

Table 2: Frequency of the Use of Functional Sentence Types

Types	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Declarative	116	90.6
Exclamatory	2	1.6
Imperative	10	7.8
Total	128	100.0

The functional analysis of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's inaugural speech highlights his strategic use of sentence types to achieve specific rhetorical goals. The predominant use of declarative sentences (116 instances, 90.6%) indicates his focus on providing clear and direct information about his policies and plans, establishing a solid understanding among his audience. Imperative sentences, used 10 times (7.8%), suggest a call to action, aiming to motivate and engage the audience to support his initiatives. The minimal use of exclamatory sentences (2 instances, 1.6%) reflects a composed delivery with occasional emotional emphasis on significant points. Overall, this analysis reveals a deliberate balance between informing, motivating, and evoking emotion, enhancing the speech's effectiveness and impact.

Table 3: Summary of Process Types Used in the Speech

Types	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Behavioural	1	0.8
Existential	2	1.5
Material	78	58.6
Mental	5	3.8
Relational	34	25.6
Verbal	13	9.8
Total	133	100.0

The table indicates that the majority of observed behaviors, actions, and states in the data fall into the Material category, comprising 58.6% of the total, highlighting a predominant focus on physical activities and tangible events. Relational processes are the second most frequent at 25.6%, emphasizing relationships and states of being. Verbal processes account for 9.8%, indicating a notable presence of communication-related activities. Mental processes make up 3.8%, suggesting some focus on cognitive activities, while Existential and Behavioural processes are the least represented at 1.5% and 0.8%, respectively, showing minimal emphasis on existence or presence and

observable behaviours. Overall, the data suggests a primary concern with physical actions, relationships, and communication, with less attention given to mental, existential, and behavioral aspects.

Material Process

In Halliday's transitivity system, the material process, a process of doing, usually describes concrete and tangible actions. The process expresses the notion that a participant, the Actor, "does" something—which may be done "to" some other participant, the Goal. The distribution of the elements in material process are as follows:

Table 4: Frequency of the Use of Verbs in Material Process

Verbal Group	Frequency	Verbal Group	Frequency
Allow	1	shall continue	1
Bless	2	shall depend	1
Commend	1	shall earn	1
dare let slip	1	shall ensure	1
Develop	1	shall get	1
does render	2	shall govern	1
Extend	1	shall honour	1
Extinguish	1	shall invest	1
Gave	1	shall provide	1
Give	1	shall re-channel	1
has been shaped	1	shall reach out	1
has faded	1	shall reform	1
has held	1	shall remodel	1
have brought	1	shall retool	1
have endured	1	shall review	1
have established	1	shall rule	1
have kept going	1	shall serve	1
have shouldered	1	shall work	2
have taken	1	should double	1
have trafficked	1	Stand	1
Hold	1	Symbolizes	1
Improved	1	Take	1
join together	1	Target	1
Justify	1	uphold	1
lift high	1	will be created	1
make bend	1	will be governed	1
must create	1	will be instituted	1
must work	1	will be introduced	1
Needs	1	will be undertaken	1
put down	1	will detail	1
Recommit	1	will direct	1
Reduced	1	will encourage	1
Reflected	1	will give	1
Reviewed	1	will take	1
Seek	1	will treat	2
shall be made	1	will utilize	1
shall be secured	1	Work	1
		Total	**78**

Table 5: Frequency of the Use of Participants in Material Process

Process Types	Actor	Freq.	Beneficiary	Freq.
Material (78)	(Our administration)	1	Monetary policy	1
	A nationwide programme	1	our administration	1
	Agricultural hubs	1	our beloved land	1
	budgetary reform	1	Rural incomes	1
	commodity exchange boards	1	the funds	1
	Farmers	1	The policy	1
	Fate and Destiny	1	us	1
	Food	1	you	2
	God	1		
	He	1		
	I	4		
	industrial policy	1		
	Interest rates	1		
	It	1		
	My administration	2		
	my team	1		
	my victory	1		
	Nigeria	1		
	Nigeria [government]	1		
	Nigeria's critics	1		
	Our administration	1		
	Our burdens	1		
	Our constitution and laws	1		
	Our founding fathers	1		
	Our government	3		
	Our resilience and diversity	1		
	political coloration	1		
	Power generation	1		
	Progress toward national networks of roads, rail and ports	1		
	Subsidy	1		
	The Central Bank	1		
	The course of our past and the promise of the future	1		
	The livestock sector	1		
	The outcome	1		
	the prayers of millions, and the collective sacrifices of us all	1		
	The South	1		
	They	1		
	This	1		
	This bill	1		

Process Types	Actor	Freq.	Beneficiary	Freq.
	this great light	1		
	This handover	1		
	transmission and distribution networks	1		
	Us	3		
	We	25		
Total		78		9

Mental Process

The mental process is a sensing-based process, including feeling, thinking, perceiving, imagining, wanting, liking, etc. And it is a considerably sensitive-built process. Two participants are included to operate within this process: Senser that does the function of sensing and Phenomenon which is the thing sensed. The distribution of the elements in mental process are as follows:

Table 6: Frequency of the Use of Verbs in Mental Process

Process Types	Verbal Group	Frequency
Mental (5)	Decided	1
	Intend	1
	Know	1
	See	2
	Total	**5**

Table 7: Frequency of the Use of Participants in Mental Process

Process Types	Senser	Frequency
Mental (5)	I	2
	The North	1
	We	2
	Total	**5**

Relational Process

Halliday (1994) defines that a relational process is the process to say that experience is modeled as *being*. It refers to the traditional notion of "copula" construction of a clause. Relational processes, or processes of being and having, serve to make characterization and identification. The distribution of the elements in relational process, are as follows:

Table 8: Frequency of the Use of Verbs in Relational Process

Process Types	Verbal Group	Frequency
Relational (34)	(is)	2
	Are	8
	Be	1
	Belongs	1
	Does	1

Fellow	2	
have been	1	
Is	8	
must be	1	
Represent	1	
shall be	2	
stand forth	1	
Was	3	
Will	1	
will become	1	
Total	34	

Table 9: Frequency of the Use of Participants in Relational Process

Process Types	Carrier	Freq.	Identifier	Freq.
Relational (34)	Electricity	1	all my people	1
		1	important constituencies and concerns that wisdom dare not ignore	1
	History			
	It	2	It [day]	1
	My	1	My	1
	My confidence in its people	1	Our mission	1
	My faith in God Almighty	1	their right and I fully defend their exercise of this right.	1
	My love for this nation	1	This [day]	1
	my primary foreign policy objective	1	this day	1
	Security	1	women and youth	1
	The crisis in Sudan and the turn from democracy by several nations in our immediate neighbourhood	1		
	the currency swap	1		
	The Nigerian ideal which I speak of	1		
	The peaceful transition from one government to another	1		

Process Types	Carrier	Freq.	Identifier	Freq.
	The principles that will guide our administration	1		
	These things	1		
	They	1		
	This	1		
	This day	1		
	We	4		
	You	2		
	you (Mr President)	1		
Total		34		9

Verbal Process

These processes are processes of saying (of any kind), contributing to narrative creation through setting up dialogic passages. There are three potential participants in verbal processes namely, Sayer (who say), Receiver (to whom saying directed), and Verbiage (what said) (Bloor and Bloor, 2004, p. 122; Halliday, 1994). The distribution of the elements in verbal process are as follows:

Table 10: Frequency of the Use of Verbs in Verbal Process

Process Types	Verbal Group	Frequency
Verbal (13)	Affirms	1
	Ask	3
	Consult	1
	Declare	2
	Have	1
	Offer	1
	Permit	3
	Thank	1
Total		13

Table 11: Frequency of the Use of Participants in Verbal Process

Process Types	Sayer	Freq.	Beneficiary	Freq.
Verbal (13)	(you)	1	my predecessor, President Muhammadu Buhari	1
	I	6	our investors, local and foreign	1
	Me	2	Ourselves	1
	Nigeria	1	You	3
	We	3	Total	13
	Total	13		

Behavioral Process

This process described semantically as a 'half-way house' between mental and material process. It is for the reason that the meanings they realize are midway between materials

on one hand and mental on the other (Eggins 2004). The participant role in a behavioral clause is simply referred to as behavior. The distribution of the elements in material process, are as follows:

Table 12: Frequency of the Use of Verbs in Behavioral Process

Process Types	Verbal Group	Frequency
Behavioural (1)	have stumbled	1

Table 13: Frequency of the Use of Participant in Behavioral Process

Process Types	Behaver	Frequency
Behavioural (1)	We	1

Existential Process

An existential process is understood as the process of existing or happening or presence usually realized by re-construction existent: an object, event, or a human. It is considered to be the simplest process regarding its structure. The existential process is only existent in a unitary form of clause structure, with the existence of verb (Be) and subject "there" (Fontaine, 2013). The participant, here, is that one called "existent" which represents the thing existing. The distribution of the elements in existential process, are as follows:

Table 14: Frequency of the Use of Verbs in Existential Process

Process Types	Verbal Group	Frequency
Existential (2)	Is	1
	shall reside	1
	Total	2

Table 15: Frequency of the Use of Participants in Existential Process

Process Types	Existent	Frequency
Existential (2)	Nigeria	1
	one answer	1
	Total	2

Discussion and Conclusion

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's inaugural speech May 29, 2023, was analyzed for its syntactic structure and functional elements, revealing insightful details about his rhetorical choices. The speech comprised 128 sentences, predominantly complex (44.5%), indicating Tinubu's preference for detailed and nuanced expression. Simple sentences made up 39.8%, balancing complexity with clarity for better audience understanding. Compound sentences accounted for 11.7%, linking related ideas, while compound-complex sentences were the least used at 3.9%, suggesting occasional use of sophisticated structures. Functionally, 90.6% of the sentences were declarative, reflecting a focus on clear information dissemination. Imperative sentences (7.8%) aimed to motivate action, and minimal exclamatory sentences (1.6%) suggested a

composed delivery with occasional emphasis. The analysis also revealed a predominant use of material processes (58.6%), emphasizing physical actions, followed by relational (25.6%) and verbal processes (9.8%), highlighting relationships and communication. Limited use of mental, existential, and behavioural processes indicated less focus on cognitive activities, existence, and observable behaviours. Overall, Tinubu's speech strategically combined different sentence structures and processes to communicate his message effectively with depth, clarity, and engagement.

The transitivity analysis of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's inaugural speech reveals a crafted rhetorical strategy designed to convey his vision and intent with clarity and engagement. The predominant use of material processes underscores a focus on tangible actions and concrete events, reflecting Tinubu's commitment to addressing practical and immediate concerns. The balanced use of relational and verbal processes highlights the importance of relationships and communication in his administration, aiming to foster a sense of unity and collective effort. The syntactic choices in the speech, marked by a strategic blend of complex and simple sentences, demonstrate Tinubu's ability to convey detailed information while maintaining clarity for his diverse audience. The high frequency of declarative sentences emphasizes his role as an informant and leader, providing clear directives and outlining his policy agenda. The occasional use of imperative sentences serves to motivate and mobilize his audience, urging collective action towards shared goals. Ultimately, the findings provide valuable insights into the communicative strategies that underpin successful political leadership, highlighting the nuanced and structured approach employed by President Tinubu to engage and inspire his audience.

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