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Structural pattern and meaning mechanism of metaphors in president Bola Tinubu's inaugural speech

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Abstract

This study investigates structural pattern and meaning mechanism of metaphors in President Tinubu's inaugural speech. Relationship of lexical elements in the structure of metaphors contributes towards communicative import and meaning-making process of the metaphors. The study adopts interaction theory of metaphor in both structural and semantic analyses of the selected texts in the speech. In addition to interaction theory, prosaic and discourse approaches to metaphor study are also used in the analyses. Media monitoring approach is employed to identify and download the speech on the internet. The structural analysis is done by identification of 'topic and vehicle domains', and within the vehicle domain, 'frame and focus' in each of the selected texts bringing out the incongruity between them which leads to construction of a new meaning in each of the selected texts. The semantic analysis is done by identification of metaphor in each of the texts and explanation of the meaning potential of the identified metaphor. The findings of the study show that the structure of metaphor contains topic/tenor and vehicle domains. Semantic import of the metaphor enhances its communicative ability. Metaphor is a useful language tool, especially to politicians, in everyday communication.

Keywords: meaning mechanism, structural pattern, presidential inaugural speech, metaphor analysis, Nigerian political discourse

Introduction

Language is a means by which social views and all activities are represented. It is a resource from which members of a speech community draw their appropriate patterns or models for sharing and exchanging information of all kinds: written, spoken, gesture, facial expression, body movement and so on. The usefulness of any language is not in its rigidity of structures and functions but its susceptibility to manipulation so as to suit diverse communicative purposes. The main essence of communication is dissemination of

information, and understanding of the information between the interlocutors in communication process (Malik, 2018; Onipede, 2019). Babatunde (2007) asserts that communication is not just giving information but giving understandable information, and receiving and understanding the message. Some information requires deep meaning processing beyond literal level. Such processing is metaphorical. Metaphor can be used to connect the mind of a speaker and a listener which can, in turn, help to achieve effective communication. So, metaphor can be described as a product of language manipulation aimed at achieving effective communication among the people of a speech community.

Ogundipe (2020) asseverates that 'every speech community has natural order of thoughts which are usually expressed by order of words' (10). A natural order of thoughts refers to the human's organised perception in the mental faculty. An order of words denotes the organisation or logical arrangement of words, which is claimed to be a means by which the order of thoughts is expressed. Halliday (1996), a structural and functional linguist, also recognises the inseparable intimacy between structure and meaning. He expresses his view by stating that a purely extrinsic theory of language functions does not account for the fact that the multiplicity of functions is likely to be reflected somewhere in the internal organisation of language itself. The 'multiplicity of functions' and the 'internal organisation of language' refer to meaning and structure respectively.

Metaphor, as a tool in language use, is one of the information-packaging devices in communication, spoken or written, formal or informal. Faloju and Sobola (2022) remark that metaphors are meaning-making mechanism on communicative and contextual constructs. This implies that metaphors, with some societal models and beliefs shared in a particular speech community, are used to construe different kinds of meanings of linguistic structures. According to Cameron (2003) and Kövecses (2020), metaphor is not just the property of poets as they claim it to be, but it is an area of interest to applied linguists and discourse analysts. It was used during the Aristotle's era as an ornament to language of poetry, and it was also used in rhetoric. It, however, gained its universal recognition and prominence when applied linguists and other language analysts observed that metaphor is fundamental to structuring and restructuring of thoughts, ideas and messages in communication (Cameron, 2003; Kövecses, 2020).

In political discourse, metaphor is a crucial communicative tool that political actors use to drive their intended messages to the populace. Inaugural speech is a kind of political speech under the mainstream political discourse. An inaugural speech is a speech delivered by a new political leader, who has

just occupied a new political office, during his or her ceremonial induction. It is aimed at informing the populace the policy outlines written down in the planned programmes for the new administration (Fowobaje, Mashood, Ekholuenetale & Ibidoja, 2022).

Thus, metaphor is seen as a means of making the speech have effect on the audience. The artful use of language is idiosyncratic to politics, and the political language has attracted considerable interest among scholars of political communication and rhetoric. To present themselves to the populace, politicians use language in a more subtle way to capture enough votes during elections or to convince the populace about any political ideology they may intend to introduce. They also use language to make citizens believe that they are doing the right things and that their administration is the best among other administrations, particularly against the opposition parties. Language performs a significant role; every political action is prepared, influenced and controlled by language. Therefore, political speech, with an appropriate manipulation of language has the power to persuade and elicit actions (Susilowati & Ulkhasanah, 2021).

This study aims at contribute to the understanding of metaphors through their structure and meaning. Several studies have been carried out on the use of metaphor. For example, Cameron (2003) carries out a study on metaphors in educational discourse; Falolu and Sobola (2022) carry out a study on metaphors on women in Russian and Yoruba languages; Sobola (2020) investigates metaphorical texts in President Muhammadu Buhari's inaugural speech using lexical concept and cognitive model theory to examine cognitive model mapping in the metaphors in the speech. However, the studies that deal with the use of metaphors in political speech are still relatively few. Hence, this study is concerned with an inquiry into the use of metaphors in political speech, with detailed discussions on the structure of metaphors in the inaugural speech, and their semantic imports in political and social communication.

The study is guided by the following objectives: the metaphors are used in President Tinubu's inaugural speech for socio-political interaction; the structures of the identified metaphors in the speech contain tenor and vehicle; the meaning mechanism of the metaphors in the speech enhances its communicative import.

Metaphor Study

Metaphor has been an area of interest in research among the applied linguists for about four decades. Several studies have been carried out on metaphor. Some of these studies are Cameron (2003) which investigates

metaphor in educational discourse. Kövecses (2020) work preoccupies itself with conceptual metaphor, that is, it focuses how metaphor aids human's mind in understanding some concepts in everyday activities. Sobola (2019) studies meaning in metaphors used in Nollywood films. Kamalu and Iniworikabo (2016) investigate metaphors in selected political speeches of Nigerian Democratic Presidents and so on. While all the above studies, apart from Kamalu and Iniworikabo (2016), are centred on metaphor of educational discourse, cognition, grammar, films and so on, this current study is different as it focuses on structural pattern and meaning mechanism in metaphors in political speech.

Metaphor has a wide range of uses. According to Kövecses (2020), it is perceived as a "multimodal phenomenon" as it is viewed to be part of the conceptual system. In the light of this, it can occur in other language modes such as gestures, visual representation – cartoons, visual arts – painting but not exactly similar to everyday language. In addition, Gibbs (2008) says that there is also relevant research indicating the prominence of metaphor in many areas of abstract thoughts and people's emotional experiences. In consonance with Kövecses, Gibbs postulates that perceiving metaphor as a natural outcome of language results in new ways in which metaphor is related to a variety of other linguistic forms and cognitive activities. To this end, metaphor is regarded as a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary concept in language because of its wide application to various areas of study such as music, teaching, law, business and more (Gibbs, 2008).

Political Speech

Political speech is an aspect of political discourse. It denotes the speech relating to the state, government, body of politics or public administration as it relates to governmental policy-making. The term, political speech, refers to speech made by government officials or candidates for a political office and any discussion on social activity. Matić (2012) posits that politics as a social activity could denote struggle for power between those who are in power and those who are not. In the course of the struggle, political speech plays vital roles such as gaining the attention of the electorate during campaigns and introducing new policies after winning an election. It is used to get the corresponding effect through persuading the masses. Political speeches are seen as essential activities that connect different parts of society together and allow them to be in unity. They help to promote leader-led relationship.

The essence of political speech is the capability of the political actors to use language and symbols that stir up concealed tendencies among the populace. Their intention is to increase people's interest and to strengthen

their reputation by convincing people to share their opinions, agree with their ideas and inform general public of their ideologies and messages. Therefore, political leaders see speech as a crucial tool that they can use to convince or gain the populace support. Matić (2012) defines politics as a set of cooperation strategies implemented by some social institutions with a view to solving social conflicts. The particularities of politics are a clash of interests, persuasion and manipulation of opinions to impose, inform, instruct and convince the common people in the society. Speech is a fundamental tool to achieve this intention aiming at informing the masses of their political ideologies.

Theoretical Framework

Two theoretical constructs are applied in the analysis of data: Interaction Theory of Metaphor, and Prosaic and Discourse Approaches to Metaphor.

Interaction Theory of Metaphor

The data collected are analysed within the framework of metaphor theories, preferably the interaction theory of metaphor (ITM). For this study, ITM was preferred because it values context in metaphors in any given structure. ITM holds the view that for an actual meaning to be construed from a structure of language, one needs to resort to context which entails the analyst's personal experience, culturally shared knowledge and beliefs within the community; the complexes of which interact with the mental process to produce a new meaning which is not equivalent to literal meaning of the structure (Goatly, 1997; Kuniavsky, 2020). This view of metaphor corroborates Cameron's (2003) opinion that "applied linguists in their obsession for language in use ought to recognise and deal with situatedness of discourse; context has to be taken account of both in theory and analysis (4)". Cameron further says that "... we can think of language use as embedded in nested series of contextual frames that radiate outwards from any specific use of language" (4). I. Richard was the pioneer of ITM in 1930s but later developed by Black (1979). Richard identifies two metaphor terms which are similar to Cameron's identified components of metaphor. These are 'tenor' and 'vehicle'.

Tenor is the subject of a communicative unit which is given a new attribute while vehicle is the object whose attribute is borrowed. According to the description of the two terms, 'tenor' in Richard (1930) and 'topic' in Cameron (2003) are synonymous. Unlike Richard that emphasises the transition that occurs as a result of the similarity between tenor and vehicle domains otherwise called 'the original object' and 'the new one' in the first

type of metaphor he identified as 'sense-metaphor, and transition in the second type called 'emotive-metaphor'; transition of which results from the similarity between the 'feelings of the new situation and the normal situation', Black (1979) argues that we do not need to know the similarity between 'tenor/topic' and 'vehicle' domains to construe meaning of a metaphorical structure, but the similarity could be created through the interaction between complexes or interaction between the two domains (Cameron, 2003). So, ITM was later built upon by Max Black.

The key development of ITM was the notion that 'Tenor' and 'Vehicle' are systems of ideas, knowledge and beliefs that interact, rather than just names or features of concepts that are transferred (Cameron, 2003). According to Forceville (1996), despite minor shortcomings of the theory, ITM is still regarded as one of the most satisfactory theories of metaphor. The reasons given for this are: 'metaphors are cultural; different cultures have different conceptual frameworks, especially on abstract ideas like time, love, wisdom and so on. Another point made is that metaphors are contextual: the context in which metaphor is used is crucial to construing actual meaning of metaphor in a structure. The affirmation of this is seen in Cameron's identification of three criteria for metaphoricity which are 'etymology, individual processing and discourse norm'. Cameron argues that etymology which states that the meaning of metaphor can be traced to the origin of the word under study might fail because not all analysts or interpreters are familiar with the origin of words of a language. Individual processing is also frowned at because it is susceptible to personal judgements or subjectivity. The satisfactory and acceptable one out of the three is 'discourse norm' because it emphasises the current use of words in contexts (Cameron, 2003).

The preference of ITM punctuated over other grammatical and cognitive approaches to metaphor studies because ITM does not only look into linguistic composition of metaphorical expressions in construing meanings but also looks into the extralinguistic context by looking into the questions 'in which society is the metaphor used? What are the ideologies and cultures shared in that society? And, at what occasion is the metaphorical expression used?

Prosaic and Discourse Approaches to Metaphor

In addition to ITM, the study adopts prosaic and discourse approaches out of the approaches to metaphor study. Prosaic approach would be used to analyse any metaphorical structure in the form of a phrase, clause or sentence while discourse approach would be used to analyse the structure in the form of a discourse unit comprising two or more clauses or

sentences. Cameron (2003) identifies three approaches to metaphor study; these are 'poetic, prosaic and discourse approaches'. The poetic approach was used during Aristotle's time for the analysis of poetry and rhetoric, and the approach sees metaphor as just an ornament to language of poetry. This approach is seen as being narrow in scope.

Cameron (2003) postulates that metaphorical expressions contain two dimensions of metaphor. The first one is the metaphorical structure itself – a metaphorical word, phrase, clause, sentence, etc. – and metaphorical description which concerns the description of 'what is implied' (meaning) in the metaphorical structure. Also, there are two pairs of metaphor components: 'frame and focus', 'topic and vehicle'. On the one hand, topic can simply be defined as the speaker's or writer's discourse theme or what s/he is talking about within a discourse structure. On the other hand, vehicle is a group of words usually following or preceding the topic, from which a clue can be drawn by the hearer or reader about the speaker's intended message about the topic of discourse. Topic is otherwise called 'target' while vehicle is called 'source'. For frames and focus of metaphor, they are subcomponents of vehicle. Focus is a word of which its use with other words which belong not to the same domain creates incongruity thereby resulting in the construction of a new meaning for the topic. Frame refers to words around the focus of metaphor. To illustrate this explanation, one of the data gathered by Cameron (2003) can be used 'the atmosphere is the blanket of gases'. The word 'atmosphere' is the topic while 'the blanket of gases' is the vehicle to the speaker's intended message about 'atmosphere'. Within the vehicle, the word 'blanket' is the focus which is used with other words that do not belong to the same class of its kind within the vehicle and topic domains. Frame of the focus refers to words after the focus, for example, 'of gases'.

In addition, frame of metaphor may not follow the focus but precede it. A single word can also be the topic and focus of metaphor especially if what is said is not in form of a sentence but a phrase. For example, in Balogun's poem, "A Fool at Fifty" of which the first line is 'fifty-year foolish child', the word 'child' is the topic and as well as the focus while frame is 'fifty-year foolish'. Cameron asserts that a discourse unit, specifically an oral speech, might not contain a frame but only the focus. This is commonly observed in idioms and proverbs where the whole unit would be taken together as the focus. For instance, in a dispute between two people over money, one said to the other, 'if you don't pay me my money today, you will *'lick your mother's pepper'*. 'Lick your mother's pepper' will be taken as the focus while 'failure to pay the money' will be the topic. Cameron (2003) terms this kind of situation 'default frame'.

Another point to note regarding the incongruity resulting from the mapping of the two domains is that the incongruity could emerge from both 'topic' and 'vehicle' domains or only within the vehicle domain. The examples below will be used to buttress this argument, one of which is cited in Cameron (2003) and the other two given here.

- a. The atmosphere is the blanket of gases.

Topic Vehicle

- b. The man is a cold hope for Nigeria.

Topic Vehicle

- c. This is the man with a cold hope.

Topic Vehicle

In the first two examples, the incongruity emerges from both topic and vehicle domains because the words 'atmosphere' and 'blanket of gases' do not belong to the same semantic field. Likewise, within the vehicle domain, 'blanket' and 'gases' do not belong to the same semantic field. In the same vein, the word 'man' in the second example does not collocate with the word 'hope' because 'hope' is an abstract concept: the word 'man' is not really the hope but 'a source of hope' on which other people can rely. Also, within the vehicle domain, the adjective 'cold' does not collocate with the noun 'hope'. Hence, structural mismatches emerge from the two domains in the first two examples. But in the case of the third example, the incongruity arises within the words in the vehicle domain – 'cold hope'. This is because 'hope' does not have temperature that can be measured to see whether it is cold or hot. Nevertheless, the incongruity would be weak if we claim that there is incongruity between 'the man' and 'with a cold hope' in the third example. Furthermore, unlike in the clause structure that the 'topic domain' precedes the 'vehicle domain', vehicle domain can come before the topic domain in a discourse unit comprising two or more clauses, and also the frame in the vehicle domain may be separated: some words of the frame coming before the focus and some after the focus. This is because frame could be best described as the context around the focus of metaphor in the metaphorical structure, that is, words that surround the focus of metaphor.

The two theoretical tools are employed in the analysis and interpretation of the data. Interactive metaphor theory is applied to account for meaning in the structure of metaphors through the context in which the language is used. Interaction of tenor and vehicle domains, and frame and focus of metaphor is used as a meaning-making process in the structure of metaphors. Prosaic and discourse approaches to metaphor would be employed to account for accuracy of new meaning derived from mapping of the two dissimilar domains in the structure of metaphor. The two analytical

tools would play a vital role in accounting for structural pattern and meaning mechanism of metaphors in a political speech.

Methodology

The purpose of this study is to explore the structure and meaning of metaphors in President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's 2023 inaugural speech. Political speech serves as the source of data for this study. The preference of political speech as source of data is based on the belief that metaphor is often used in political discourse by political actors, as a means of persuading the populace to support them and to accept any of their programmes while in the office. Media monitoring technique was employed to identify the speech on the internet. The speech was downloaded from the internet. Then a critical and painstaking reading of the speech was done to identify the metaphors used in it. This study preferably adopts interaction theory of metaphor because the theory relates the study of metaphor to contexts in language use. In the same vein, prosaic discourse approaches are adopted for the analysis of data because they are approaches to metaphor that can be used to achieve precision and accuracy in the construction of a new meaning based on the mapping of two dissimilar domains. The data obtained, after the intensive reading of the speech, were analysed. First, the collected data are presented; then, structural analysis is done followed by a discussion. Second, the semantic analysis is done, where the meaning potential of each identified metaphor structure is explained.

Data Presentation

Metaphors in President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Inaugural Speech

Text 1: I stand before you honoured to assume the *sacred mandate* you have *given me*. My love for this nation is abiding. My confidence in its people, unwavering. And my faith in God Almighty, absolute. I know that His hand shall provide the needed moral strength and clarity of purpose in those instances when we seem *to have reached the limits of our human capacity*.

Text 2: Here, permit me to say a few words to my predecessor, President Muhammadu Buhari. ...you have been an honest patriotic leader who has done his best for the nation you love. On a more personal note, you are a worthy partner and friend. *May History be kind to you*.

Text 3: For many years, Nigeria's critics *have trafficked the rumour* that our nation will break apart, even perish.

Text 4: Yet here we are. *We have stumbled at times, but our resilience and diversity have kept us going.*

Text 5: Our burdens *may make us bend at times, but they shall never break us.*

Text 6: Instead, we stand forth as Africa's most populous and *as the best hope and strongest champion of the Black Race.*

Text 7: Today, *Fate and Destiny join together to place torch of human progress in our very hands.* We dare not let it slip.

Text 8: We lift high *this torch so that it might shine on every household and in every heart that calls itself Nigerian.* We hold this beam aloft because *it lights our path with compassion, brotherhood, and peace.* May this great light never EXTINGUISH.

Text 9: My supporters, I thank you. To those who voted otherwise, *I extend my hand across the political divide.* I ask you to grasp it in national affinity and brotherhood. For me, *political coloration has faded away.* All I see are Nigerians.

Text 10: Our constitution and laws *give usa nation on paper.* We must work harder *at bringing these noble documents to life* by strengthening the bonds of economic collaboration, social cohesion, and cultural understanding...

Structural and Semantic Analyses of Metaphors Used in President Tinubu's Inaugural Speech

Text 1: I stand before you honoured to assume the *sacred mandate you have given me.* My love for this nation is abiding. My confidence in its people, unwavering. And my faith in God Almighty, absolute. I know that His hand shall provide the needed moral strength and clarity of purpose in those instances when we seem *to have reached the limits of our human capacity.*

Structural Analysis of Text 1 A

Topic/Tenor	President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's resumption of presidency
Vehicle	<u>sacred mandate you have given me</u>
	frame focus frame

Text 1 A, as seen in the table above, contains incongruity between the topic and vehicle domains in a certain sense. The presidency that Mr. Bola Ahmed Tinubu just occupied then was termed by him 'sacred mandate' as if it is a kind of responsibility relating to religion and the implementation of religious activities that he was being given. The presidency is ascribed the sanctity of a religious sanctuary.

Semantic Analysis of Text 1 A

Metaphor	Meaning
...sacred mandate you have given me.	This means that the speaker's (Mr. Bola Ahmed Tinubu's) presidency was mainly won through the votes of the Nigerian citizens and a purely organised electoral process. The word 'sacred' expresses a sense of sanctity and based on this context, it implies that President Tinubu won the office without any dubious means.

Structural Analysis of Text 1 B

Topic/Tenor	those instances
Vehicle	...reached the limits of our human capacity
	default frame

In text 1 B, the topic 'those instances' is given the feature of either a vertical or horizontal distance whose limits have been set or marked for all human beings.

Semantic Analysis of Text 1 B

Metaphor	Meaning
...reached the limits of our human capacity	The instances connote the issues and social episodes relating to administration which are beyond human's ability or the problems that human beings cannot solve with their power.

Text 2: Here, permit me to say a few words to my predecessor, President Muhammadu Buhari. ...you have been an honest patriotic leader who has done his best for the nation you love. On a more personal note, you are a worthy partner and friend. *May History be kind to you.*

Structural Analysis

Topic/Tenor	history
	...be <u>kind to you</u>
Vehicle	focus frame

The topic 'history' in text 9 cannot be 'kind' as the word 'kind' is a human attributive adjective use to qualify a noun, that is, only human in any context where it performs that function.

Semantic Analysis

Metaphor	Meaning
...be kind to you	This means that President Buhari would be rewarded for his good governance during his administration through the good records he left.

Text 3: For many years, Nigeria's critics *have trafficked the rumour* that our nation will break apart, even perish.

Structural Analysis

Topic/Tenor	Nigeria's critics
	<u>traffickedthe rumour...</u>
Vehicle	frame focus

In text 3, Nigeria's critics turned a rumour to a load of goods or passengers which can be carried from one place to another by cars, buses, trucks, etc.

Semantic Analysis

Metaphor	Meaning
Trafficked the rumour.	The Nigeria's critics have spread the rumour infinitely, that is, it is widely spread.

Text 4: Yet here we are. *We have stumbled at times, but our resilience anddiversity have kept us going.*

Structural Analysis

Topic/Tenor	The present state of Nigeria which is contrary to the Nigeria critics' thought
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Vehicle	We have stumbled at times, but our resilience and diversity have kept us going
	default frame

Before President Tinubu and his other political colleagues found themselves in the present state they are, they have stumbled sometimes, but their resilience and diversity have kept them going. The words 'resilience, diversity' and the clause 'we have stumbled at times' are structurally dissimilar to the topic in text 4 above. This is because it is as if there was a journey in space which involved 'walking' that President Tinubu and others embarked on and fell at times before getting to their current destination.

Semantic Analysis

Metaphor	Meaning
We have stumbled at times, but our resilience and diversity have kept us going.	It means that before they got to the present state, they have got it wrong or made mistakes many times. However, their persistence and the adoption of various administrative strategies have made them progress in the administration.

Text 5: Our burdens *may make us bend at times, but they shall never break us.*

Structural Analysis

Topic/Tenor	our burdens
Vehicle	... <u>may make us bend at times but they (burdens) shall never break us</u>
	frame focus frame

Admittedly, burdens in text 5 can make one bend, but they do not have the power to break human beings that carry them.

Metaphor	Meaning
...may make us bend at times but they shall never break us.	President Tinubu means here that obstacles and difficulties may cause delays in the implementation of governmental activities but they cannot cease the fulfilment of the achievement of their political goals.

Structural Analysis

Topic/Tenor	the resistance to the effect of the burdens (we stand forth)
Vehicle	...as <u>the best hope and strongest championof the Black Race</u>
	focus frame

Semantic Analysis

Metaphor	Meaning
...as the best hope and strongest champion of the Black Race	It means that the resistance to the effect of the burdens would make our nation be the best on which other nations can rely, and it would make our nation to be on the top among other African countries.

Text 7: Today, *Fate and Destiny join together to place torch of human progress in our very hands.* We dare not let it slip.

Structural Analysis

Topic/Tenor	Today or that day (i.e. the day of his resumption of presidency)
Vehicles	a) <u>Fate and Destiny</u> join together focus frame
	b) ...place <u>torch of human progress in our very hands</u> focus frame

On the day of President Tinubu's resumption of presidency in text 7, certain events occurred which led to incongruity in the structure. For instance, 'Fate and Destiny joined together' and the two concepts are to 'place torch of human progress in our very hands'. It is as if the two concepts consciously or deliberately joined together like the action or habit of humans on the one hand, and they later place a kind of torch termed 'torch of human progress', in our hands in the second vehicle of the text on the other hand.

Semantic Analysis of Text 7, Vehicle 1

Metaphor	Meaning
Fate and Destiny join together.	President Tinubu used the metaphor in this text to mean that the day he assumed the post of the president of Nigeria, what God has written about Nigeria came to reality or was fully fulfilled.

Semantic Analysis of Text 7, Vehicle 2

Metaphor	Meaning
...place torch of human progress in our very hands.	The day when Fate and Destiny joined together was meant to show or give us a direction to human progress in all our endeavours.

Text 8: We lift high *this torch so that it might shine on every household and in every heart that calls itself Nigerian*. We hold this beam aloft because *it lights our path with compassion, brotherhood, and peace*. May this great light never EXTINGUISH.

Structural Analysis

Topic/Tenor	the lifting of the torch
Vehicles	a) <u>it might shine on every household and every heart that calls itself Nigerian</u>
	focus frame
	b) <u>...it lights our path with compassion, brotherhood and peace</u>
	focus frame

The lifting of the torch in text 8 is aimed at making it shine on every household; still agree with that, but shine on every heart that calls itself Nigerian is semantically illogical. Torch cannot shine on the human's heart. In the same manner, torch does not have the feature of performing the role of lightening with compassion, brotherhood and peace as seen in the second vehicle.

Semantic Analysis of Text 8, Vehicle 1

Metaphor	Meaning
...it might shine on every household and in every heart that calls itself Nigerian.	President Tinubu's intended message here is that they lift the new administration or democracy led by him, so that it might benefit every household and every Nigerian.

Semantic Analysis of Text 8, Vehicle 2

Metaphor	Meaning
It lights our path with compassion, brotherhood and peace.	The president intended to say here that they lift the new administration in order to give us directions without any form of hostility, to treat ourselves as being one, and relate to one another with mutual understanding.

Text 9: My supporters, I thank you. To those who voted otherwise, *I extend my hand across the political divide*. I ask you to grasp it in national affinity and brotherhood. For me, *political coloration has faded away*. All I see are Nigerians.

Structural Analysis

Topic/Tenor	A few words of appreciation to those who voted for him, and a message to those who did not.
Vehicles	<u>I extend my hand across the political divide...</u> <u>political colorationhas faded</u>
	default frame focus frame

After President Tinubu's appreciation to those who voted for him during the election in text 9, the message he directed to those who did not vote for him is that he 'extended his hand across the political divide' as if political divide is visible. Anything relating to politics cannot be coloured as well because it is not a concrete idea, as in the second vehicle in text 9.

Semantic Analysis

Metaphors	Meaning
1) I extend my hand across the political divide. 2) ...political coloration has faded away.	President Bola Ahmed Tinubu wanted those people, particularly from the opposition parties, who did not vote for him to know that he has nothing to do with political dichotomy, and that the issue relating to political party tagging or identification and favouritism is no more in existence in his administration.

Text 10: Our constitution and laws *give usa nation on paper*. We must work harder *at bringing these noble documents to life* by strengthening the bonds of economic collaboration, social cohesion, and cultural understanding...

Structural Analysis

Topic/Tenor	our constitution and laws
Vehicles	a) <u>give usa nationon paper</u> frame focus frame
	b) <u>...at bringing these noble documentsto life</u> frame focus frame

It is unusual in text 10 to say that Nigeria's constitution and laws give us a nation on paper'. The word 'nation' is not a mobile or visible object that one can take and put on paper. The documents referred to in the second vehicle of the topic domain in text 10 are not animate objects to which we can give life.

Semantic Analysis of Text 10, Vehicle 1

Metaphor	Meaning
...give us a nation on paper.	This means that our constitution and laws give us the orthographic indication of dos and don'ts in the country.

Semantic Analysis of Text 10, Vehicle 2

Metaphor	Meaning
...at bringing these noble documents to life.	President Bola Ahmed Tinubu urged all Nigerians, including him, to ensure that we obey all that is written in the documents in our everyday actions.

Discussion on the Structural and Semantic Analyses of Metaphors in President Tinubu's Inaugural Speech

Analysis of the structure and meaning of metaphors in President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's inaugural speech has been done based on 'topic' and 'vehicle' domains, and 'frame' and 'focus' of metaphor within the vehicle domain, followed by possible meanings of interpretation of the meanings in the structure of the metaphors. In the speech, discourse approach is used in the structural analysis of metaphors. Text 3 is analysed structurally using prosaic approach because the interpretation of metaphors in the text

can be done without the reliance on the sentence or clause before and after the sentence or clause that contains the metaphor. In the selected texts in President Tinubu's inaugural speech, there are some texts in which each topic contains two vehicles. Most of the texts usually contain only one vehicle. In addition, in each of the topics where two vehicles are identified, and they are not co-referential to the topic (not expressing the same information about the topic), the vehicles are structurally identified separately and are also semantically analysed one after the other for clarity. The texts which have one topic and two vehicles each without being co-referential to the topic are texts 7, 8 and 10 while the topic in text 9 has two vehicles which are co-referential to the topic. In conclusion, there are some vehicles with default frames in the selected texts in President Tinubu's inaugural speech. For example, texts 1B, 4 and the first vehicle of text 9 have default frames. Those vehicles are taken as idiomatic expressions whose individual words cannot be examined when dealing with components of metaphor in the vehicle domain.

Findings

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu used metaphors for socio-political interaction in the 2023 inaugural speech. The use of metaphors depicts the idiosyncrasies of the Nigerian politics.

The metaphors used in the speech delivered by the elected Nigerian president contain certain structures, and these structures are similar to the components of metaphor identified by Cameron (2003) and Kövecses (2020). For instance, all metaphors used in the speech contain topic/tenor and vehicle domains. Topics or tenors are the subjects of discussion in the speech to which new attributes are given while vehicles are the objects whose attributes are borrowed for the topics/tenors. Vehicles of the identified metaphors contain frames and focuses. Frames are the supporting linguistic elements around the focus of each of the metaphors, and focus itself is the word or phrase in the vehicle domain whose attribute is borrowed for the topic domain. Additionally, some vehicles do not have frames, therefore, they are termed 'default frames' in the selected speeches, for instance, texts 1 B, 4 and the first vehicle of text 9 in President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's inaugural speech. The only area in the structural analysis different from that of Cameron's and Kövecses' is that some topic domains contain two vehicles which are not co-referential to the topic. This is noticed in the speech, precisely, in texts 7, 8 and 10, while text 9 contains two vehicles but expressing the same information about the topic. In sum, the mapping of the topic and vehicle domains of metaphor in each of the selected texts creates incongruity in structure.

Based on the incongruity resulted from the mapping of topic and

vehicle domains of the identified metaphors, there are semantic imports in the metaphors which identify the meaning-making process. For example, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu through the use of metaphors in the selected texts of his inaugural speech commended the ceaseless efforts of his predecessor, President Buhari, towards Nigeria's development during his two terms. He also thanked those who voted for him and assured those who did not that there would be no segregation or favouritism in his administration. He assured all Nigerians that there would be growth in all ramifications during his government, but urged them to join hands together with him to achieve the above promise.

This study has proven that in the study of metaphor, meaning is crucial and that structural pattern of metaphorical expression is instrumental to meaning-making process in understanding of metaphors and communicative ability. Metaphor is a veritable tool in political speeches to communicate the intention and goal of the political actors to the target audience in a persuasive manner.

5.2 Conclusion

Based on the study of structure and meaning of metaphors in President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's inaugural speech, and the findings thereafter, it is observed that politicians, especially in Nigeria, commonly use metaphors for socio-political interaction as it is evident in the identification of metaphors in the speech. Structure of the metaphor contains topic and vehicle domains. Vehicle domain comprises 'frame and focus'. In addition, some vehicles can have default frames and also a topic domain can contain two vehicles which could be co-referential or not co-referential to such a topic. To sum it up, frame in the vehicle domain can come before or after the focus of metaphor, or some elements coming before and some after the same focus of metaphor in the vehicle domain. Metaphors can be used by political leaders to appreciate people for voting for them; to inform masses of political ideology; to urge people to carry out a certain activity; to convince or persuade the populace to accept a programme or an opinion.

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