

Pragmatic Analyses of President Goodluck Jonathan's and President Barack Obama's Inaugural Addresses

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Abstract

This paper investigates the first inaugural addresses of two presidents: Nigeria's Goodluck Ebele Jonathan (2011) and America's Barack Obama (2009). These speeches have been selected because they come from speakers and leaders who are products of two conspicuous socio-political regions. Working within the Speech Acts Theory, the study considers the illocutionary forces in the speeches as well as the face-threatening and face-saving acts respectively, with the aim of identifying the similarities and differences in the speeches. The result shows that the speeches are relatively alike because each speaker speaks for his entire nation, regardless of his political party, and both speeches show a preponderance of 'representatives' and 'commissives'. However, while President Jonathan's commissives show predominance in the use of modal verbs to express intention, President Obama's commissives consist of modal verbs and infinitive clauses to project volition and intention.

Key Words: Nigeria, America, presidents, inaugural addresses, Speech Acts Theory, pragmatic analyses

1.0 Introduction

In every speech community, there is bound to be a speaker and the hearers, as everybody would not be doing the speaking at the same time in any occasion. For this reason, there is the need for every community to have a leader, and leaders most often than not, communicate with their subjects through speeches. To be able to derive meaning from any speech in a more appropriate way, there is the need to use the pragmatic approach of meaning analysis. The term "pragmatics" has been defined by various scholars, but for this paper, we will take the definition by Mey (2001:6). According to the source, "Pragmatics studies the use of language in human communication as determined by the conditions of society." This assertion shows that pragmatics helps the speakers or writers to communicate effectively with the members of society.

Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan was sworn in as the first south-south elected president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the 29th day of May, 2011 after emerging as the winner in the 2011 April general elections on the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) platform. On the other hand, Senator Barack Hussein Obama was also sworn-in as the first Black (African-American) President of the United State of America (U.S.A.) on January 20, 2009 after emerging as the winner in the 2008 November election on the Democrats platform. The emergence of Dr. Goodluck Jonathan and Senator Barack Obama as the first Southern Nigerian and the first Black American presidents respectively is a dream come true to both the Southerners in Nigeria and the Blacks in America.

Specifically, in their inaugural addresses, these leaders express appreciation to the people and vow to be committed to the course of transforming and taking responsibility for their nations respectively. The study employs Speech Acts Theory in the analysis of the speeches, to show the implications of utterances on the hearers.

1.2 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are:

- (i) to analyze the speech act types, the sentence structure and the politeness principles of Face Acts employed by the speakers.

- (ii) to examine the effect of culture on the two speeches.
- (iii) to show the level of leadership commitment as demonstrated by the speakers in their speeches.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

After the Nigeria's independence in October 1, 1960, and subsequently after a successful handing over of governance from military to civilian rule on May 29, 1999, it was a common fact that every tribe has the freedom to contest for the presidential seat and be voted for. Unfortunately, the people in the southern part of Nigeria were later denied of this civic right, until the long awaited dream came true in Dr. Jonathan during the April 2011 general elections.

On the other hand, after the abolition of slavery in America in 1888 by the Abolitionist Movement, millions of Blacks were liberated from servitude. But for fear that the now free Blacks might take over from and revenge the evils of their former masters, brought about racial segregation, which affirms Emenyi's statement in *Social Determinism in Early African American Literature*, that "... race, color and descent provide bases for the oppression of African American" (2004:21). This therefore denied the Black Americans the right to vote and be voted for, until miraculously, the prophecy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. came to fulfillment in Senator Obama during the November 2008 elections.

Therefore, the concern of this study is to show the determination of these two August leaders in their bid to transform their nation for the new era.

1.4 Theoretical Framework

This analysis is anchored on the Speech Act Theory, and the Politeness Principles of Face Acts. On this note, Osisanwo (2003:60) defines Speech Acts as:

... a process in which a person uses an utterance to perform an act 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.

He further identifies three types of Speech Act: (i) locutionary act, (ii) illocutionary act, and (iii) perlocutionary act.

Philosophers who have played very important roles in the development of Pragmatics include: Wittgenstein, Charles Morris, Carnap, John Austin, John Searle, Levinson, Geoffrey Leech, Pierce, Paul Grice, among others. In the 1970s' period of development, Pragmatics became an independent discipline with the following schools; (i) British and American school which traditionally centres on studying the sentence structure and grammar as deictic expressions, conversational implicatures, presupposition, speech and conversational structure which belong to micro-pragmatics, and so on. (ii) European school, which was further divided into France school, Prague school and Copenhagen school, restricted to conversational analysis, cultural anthropology, social linguistics and psycholinguistics during inter-communication which belong to macro-pragmatics. However, we will limit our concern in this study to the contributions of John Austin, John Searle and Paul Grice.

The British philosopher, John Langshaw Austin (1911-1960) was interested in the way we can use words to do different things. In other words, whether one asserts or suggests, promises or indicates an intention, persuades or argues, depends not only on the literal meaning of one's words, but on what one intends to do with them and the institutional and social setting in which the linguistic activity occurs. He strongly emphasized the importance of social fact and conventions in doing things with words, particularly with respect to the class of Speech Acts known as Illocutionary Acts. In doing this, Austin began by distinguishing between what he called "constatives", which is simply saying that something is true or false, and "performatives", which is doing something by speaking. However, constatives are true or false depending on their correspondence with the facts, while performatives are actions and as such, are not true or false, but "felicitous" or "infelicitous" depending on whether or not they successfully perform the action in question.

Again, based on the essential conditions and attending to the minimal purpose or intention of the speaker in performing an illocutionary act, Searle further proposes a taxonomy of illocutionary acts into five mutually exclusive and jointly exhaustive classes. They are:

- (i) **Representatives or Assertives:** Here, the speaker becomes committed to the truth of the propositional content. Examples include assertion, claim, description, hypothesis, conclusion, report, suggestion, prediction, as well as making statement of facts.
- (ii) **Directive:** Here, the speaker tries to get the hearer to act in such a way as to fulfill what is represented by the content of the proposition. Examples include questioning, commanding, requesting, pleading, inviting, etc.
- (iii) **Commissive:** Here, the speaker becomes committed to act in the way represented by the propositional content. Example includes promising, threatening, offering, guaranteeing, vowing, warning, betting, challenging, etc.
- (iv) **Expressive:** Here the speaker expresses the sincerity and condition of the illocutionary act. Examples include apologizing, congratulating, thanking, appreciating, complaining, condoling, greeting, scolding, etc.
- (v) **Declarative:** Here, the speaker performs an action just representing him/herself as performing that action. Examples include baptizing, passing sentence, arresting, marrying, etc. (*Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* and Ndimele 1997: 127-149).

Herbert Paul Grice (1913-1988), on the other hand, emphasized the distinction between the meanings of words: what the speaker literally says when using the words and what the speaker means or intends to communicate by using those words. Therefore, Grice' theory of conversation starts with a sharp distinction between what someone says and what someone "implicates" by uttering a sentence.

According to Yule (2004 132-134), the relevant concept in linguistic politeness is "face", because in pragmatics it is referred to as one's public self-image. This represents the emotional and social sense of self that every person possesses and expects others to recognize. Therefore, "politeness" is showing awareness of another person's face". There are two kinds of Face Acts, namely; (i) Face-Threatening Act (FTA), representing those utterances that threaten another person's self image; and, (ii) Face-Saving Act (FSA), representing those utterances that lessen the possible threat to another person's self-image, which could be negative or positive depending on the situation. However, a Negative Face-Saving Act shows "the need to be independent and to have freedom from imposition". A Positive Face-Saving Act shows the need to be connected, belong, as well as be a member of a group.

For the purpose of this paper, our analyses are based on the Speech Act theory according to Searle's Taxonomy of Illocutionary Act and Politeness Principles of Face Acts, according to Yule's contribution.

1.3 Review of Related Literature

Various linguists and scholars have created excellent scholarship to promote pragmatics, especially when it is applied to our use of language in daily communication. Udofot (1998:127), assert that:

... knowledge of pragmatics, for instance, enables one to interpret not only the literal meaning of an utterance but also the meanings that derive from the norms of formality and politeness that exist in the society where the language is used as well as the shared meanings that derive from the shared previous knowledge of the speaker and hearer and the situation in which the utterances are used.

The source cited here also adds that the three factors in pragmatics that are essential in the discovery of meaning in any given expression are; (i) the situation in which the utterance is produced; (ii) the shared previous knowledge or common cultural background of the speaker and the hearer and, (iii) the linguistic context in which a particular utterance occurs (Udofot, 1998:128). On this note, pragmatic analysis of an utterance can be successfully completed with the help of Speech Act theory, as well as the identification of some Politeness Principles.

Osisanwo (2003:60), on the other hand, sees Speech Act as any form of utterance that is uttered by a person. He further identifies "performative verbs and constative verbs", as the verbs that play noticeable roles in Speech Acts, where the performative verbs can be explicit or implicit and the constative verbs descriptive, ascriptive, retractive, assertive, disputative, responsive and suggestive, depending on the context. Osisanwo (2003) finally identifies three main types of Speech Act as the *locutionary act*, the *illocutionary act* (which can "be felicitous or infelicitous depending on how such an act meets the felicity conditions..."), and the *perlocutionary act* (Osisanwo, 2003:62-65).

Finegan (2008:283-284) refers to Speech Act as “actions that are carried out through language”. He classifies speech acts into six categories, namely, representatives, commissives, directives, declarations, expressives and verdictives.

2.0 Data Presentation and Analysis

This study employs two approaches for its analysis: quantitative and qualitative approaches. First, it adopts the descriptive statistical method because the content of the data collected are described based on the situation, shared previous knowledge and context. Second, it attempts to analyze the speeches by using the principles of the Speech Acts Theory.

2.1 Data Presentation

The data for this study are published speeches from the print and electronic media: internet and Punch newspaper. The speeches have been produced according to the number of sentences as seen in the publications before analysis (see *Appendices*). The categorization of the utterances into speech act type of illocutionary force follows Searle’s (1975) *Taxonomy of Illocutionary Acts*. The analysis of sentence structure in speech is carried out according to Eka (2000:46), which states that “a simple sentence has one main clause and no subordinate clause. A compound sentence has two main clauses and no subordinate clause. A complex sentence has one main clause and at least one subordinate clause. A multiple sentence has at least three main clauses and no subordinate clause. A compound complex sentence has two main clauses and at least one subordinate clause”. The analysis on Face Acts is carried out according to Yule (2004). At this point, we will present a breakdown of the analysis using a simple computation of frequencies and percentages technique.

2.2 Data Analysis

This section presents a further analysis of the Speech Acts, Sentence Structure and Politeness Principles for more clarifications. The tables and figures used for the analyses are presented in Appendix C.

3.0 Discussion and Findings

At this point, we shall discuss the Speech Act types, sentence structure and the politeness interactions in the speeches as they are presented in the analyses above.

3.1 Speech Act Types in the Two Speeches

Table 1 and Figures 1(a) and (b), shows excessive use of Representatives in the two speeches with 41.5 and 54.8 percent respectively. Directives occurred at only 9.6 and 5.3 percent respectively. Commissives, on the other hand, came up to 28.1 and 27.4 percent respectively. Expressive Speech Acts also appeared at 16.3 and 12.4 percent respectively. Finally, the declaratives appears to be the most avoided Speech Acts in which only 4.4 percent is used by Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, while Senator Barack Obama used none in his speech.

The Speech Act type with the highest frequency is “Representatives” with 56 out of 135 sentences in Dr. Jonathan’s speech and 62 out of 113 in Senator Obama’s speech, accounting for 41.5 and 54.8 percent respectively. The “Representatives” in the speeches comprise of assertions/claims, conclusions, reports, suggestions, predictions and statements of fact. The following sentence is one the examples of “Representatives” in the two speeches:

Speech 1: Dr. Goodluck Jonathan

A decade ago, it would have been a mere daydream to think that a citizen from a minority ethnic group could galvanize national support, on an unprecedented scale, to discard ancient prejudices, and win the people’s mandate as President of our beloved country.

Speech 2: Senator Barrack Obama

We are shaped by every language and culture, drawn from every end of this Earth; and because we have tasted the bitter swill of civil war and segregation, and emerged from that dark chapter stronger and more united, we cannot help but believe that the old hatreds shall someday pass This is the meaning of our liberty and our creed, why men and women and children of every race and every faith can join in celebration across this magnificent mall; and why a man whose father less than 60 years ago might not have been served in a local restaurant can now stand before you to take a most sacred oath.

In the above sentences, we notice that sentence 35 in Dr. Jonathan's speech and 78; 101 in Senator Obama's speech are statements of fact, respectively (*see appendices A and B for sentence numbers accordingly*).

Here, we find out that the speakers bluntly established the fact that racism was practiced. They also solicit for a reunion to be able to rebuild their nation.

"Directives" follows with 13 out of 135 sentences in Dr. Jonathan's speech and 6 out of 113 sentences in Senator Obama's speech, accounting for 9.6 and 5.3 percent respectively. The Directives in the speeches comprise: questions, commands, requests, pleadings and invitations. The following sentences are some examples of "Directives" in the two speeches:

Speech 1: Dr. Goodluck Jonathan

I therefore call on the good people of Nigeria, to enlist as agents of this great transformation.

Speech 2: Senator Barrack Obama

To the Muslim world, we seek a new way forward, based on mutual interest and mutual respect.

In the sentences above, we notice that, in sentence 58, Dr. Jonathan gives a modest invitation to all Nigerians to join him in the transformation of the country. On the other hand, Obama requests that the Muslim sect should accept the new way of taking responsibility in sentence 79. Our findings here, shows that the speakers invites their citizens to come together as a team to rebuild their nation for the new era.

"Commissives" follow with 38 out of 135 sentence in President Jonathan's speech and 31 out of 113 in President Obama's speech, amounting to a total of 28.1 and 27.4 percent respectively. The Commissives in the speeches comprise promises/vows, threats, guarantees, warnings, betting and challenges. The following sentences contain some examples of "Commissives" in the two speeches:

Speech 1: Dr. Goodluck Jonathan

I want to assure you, that I will do my utmost at all times, to continue to deserve your trust. In the days ahead, those of us that you have elected to serve must show that we are men and women with the patriotism and passion, to match the hopes and aspirations of you the great people of this country.

Speech 2: Senator Barrack Obama

Starting today, we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and begin again the work of remaking America. We will not apologize for our way of life, nor will we waver in its defense.

In the above sentences, Jonathan promised to do his best to always earn the trust of all Nigerians with the use of "will", and also challenged other elected leaders to match their words with actions using the word "must" as an indicator. On the other hand, Obama challenged the Americans to join in "re-making America", but in sentence 74, he poses a threat to all antagonistic nations around America. Here, we find out that the speakers promise and challenge their hearers to show that they are committed to the task of rebuilding their nation.

"Expressives" follow with 22 out of 135 sentences in Dr. Jonathan's speech and 14 out of 113 sentences in Senator Obama's speech, accounting for 16.3 and 12.4 percent respectively. The Expressives in the speeches comprise congratulations, thanks, appreciations, complaint, condolences, greetings and scolding. The following sentences exemplify some of the "Expressives" in the two speeches:

Speech 1: Dr. Goodluck Jonathan

I thank you all, fellow citizens, for the trust and confidence, which you have demonstrated through the power of your vote...At this juncture, let me acknowledge and salute my friend and brother, Vice-President Namadi Sambo; and my dear wife, Patience, who has been a strong pillar of support. I thank her for galvanizing and mobilizing Nigerian women for the cause of democracy. In the same vein, I owe a debt of gratitude to my mother and late father.

Speech 2: Senator Barrack Obama

I thank President Bush for his service to our nation as well as the generosity and cooperation he has shown throughout this transition.

In the above sentences, we notice that the speakers unconsciously uphold their culture in terms of greeting, appreciating, thanking and congratulating. According to our analyses, it is shown that the preliminary part of Jonathan's speech consists of greetings ranging from the entire nation to his family, which projects the fact that African culture in general belief in the extended family system, while the opposite is the case in the American culture as it is seen in Obama's speech, where he expresses thanks only to his predecessor, President Bush and then moves on with his speech (*see appendices A and B for sentence numbers accordingly*).

Our findings reveal the fact that the speakers' culture influenced the introductory part of their speeches despite their individual education attainment. This therefore, shows that in every speech utterance, there must be an evidence of the speakers' cultural influence.

Finally, the "Declaratives" come next with 6 out of 135 sentences accounting for 4.4 percent in President Jonathan's speech and none in President Obama's speech. The "Declaratives" in the speech is that of passing sentence, for instance, sentence 30: "The March is on". This statement shows that all that the speaker is trying to communicate to his audience is to let them know that the transformation process of renewing the country is on.

3.2 Sentence Structure in the Two Speeches

According to Table 2 and Figures 2(a) and (b), it is shown that the speakers make use of the five kinds of sentences with great differences. President Goodluck Jonathan's speech contains one hundred and thirty five (135) sentences as published by *Punch Newspaper* and *Vanguardngr.com*, where the data was taken, while President Barack Obama's speech contains one hundred and thirteen sentences as published by *www.whitehouse.gov*, where the data was taken.

The Simple Sentence which usually forms part of individual's daily speech is found to be use excessively by Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, while Senator Barack Obama chose to be economical with its use, with this component accounting for 32.5 and 18.5 percent for each of the speeches respectively. Compound sentences sum up to 15.5 and 14.2 percent respectively. Instances indicating complex sentences came up to 21.5 and 29.2 percent respectively. Compound complex sentences in the two speeches stood at 16.3 and 18.5 percent respectively. Multiple sentences are also noted at 14.1 and 19.5 percent respectively.

According to the analysis, we find out that the Simple sentence structure carries the highest number of frequency with 44 out of 135 sentences accounting for 32.5 percent in President Goodluck Jonathan's speech, while the Simple sentence structure carries almost lowest number of frequency with 21 out of 113 sentences accounting for 18.5 percent in President Barack Obama's speech. The Compound sentence structure follows with 21 out of 135 sentences accounting for 15.5 percent, in Jonathan's speech, while the Compound sentence structure in Obama's speech appears with the lowest frequency of 16 out 113 sentences with 14.2 percent. The Complex sentence structure closely follows the simple structure with 29 out of 135 sentences accounting for 21.5 percent in Dr. Goodluck Jonathan's speech, while the Complex sentence structure carries the highest number of frequency of 33 out of 113 sentences with 29.2 percent in Senator Obama's speech. Compound-complex sentence structure has 16.3 percent of 22 out of 135 sentences in Jonathan's speech and 18.5 percent of 21 out of 113 sentences in Obama's speech. Finally, the multiple sentence structure has 14.1 percent of 19 out of 135 sentences and 19.5 percent of 22 out of 113 sentences respectively.

On the whole, we observe that even though few sentences like sentence 37-43 in President Goodluck Jonathan's speech and sentence 74 in President Barack Obama's speech are uncalled-for, the speakers' choice of words and their deliberate emphasis contributed to the clarity and the achievement of objective (*see appendices A and B for sentence numbers accordingly*).

3.3 Face Threatening Acts and Face Saving Acts in the Two Speeches

Table 3 and Figures 3(a) and (b), shows the Frequency Distribution of FTA and FSA in the speeches. It also reveals the fact that Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, unlike Senator Obama, was mindful of the feelings of his audience with regards to FTA, which are at 2.2 and 47.8 percent respectively. The Negative FSA records 53.3 and 11.5 percent respectively. The Positive FSA on the other hand, records 44.4 and 40.7 percent respectively. We observe that there is evidence of some face threatening acts in the two speeches, though the frequency in President Jonathan's speech is low, while that of President Obama has the highest frequency.

The analysis, therefore, shows that only 3 out of 135 sentences accounting for 2.2 percent of FTA are evidence in President Goodluck Jonathan's speech, while 54 out of 113 sentences, accounting for 47.8 percent of FTA are seen in President Barack Obama's speech. Sentences 31, in Jonathan's speech and sentences 10-11, 52 and 74 in Obama's speech (*see appendices A and B*) are examples of FTA in the speeches. The sentences read:

Speech 1: Dr. Goodluck Jonathan

We will not allow anyone exploit differences in creed or tongue, to set us one against another.

Speech 2: Senator Barrack Obama

Now, there are some who question the scale of our ambitions, who suggest that our system cannot tolerate too many big plans. Their memories are short, for they have forgotten what this country has already done... What the cynics fail to understand is that the ground has shifted beneath them, that the stale political arguments that have consumed us for so long no longer apply. We will not apologize for our way of life, nor will we waver in its defense.

These acts, according to our findings, feature in the two speeches in sections where the discourse borders on unity and power in the case of Nigeria; and on issues involving the growth, state of economy and the security of Americans in the case of the United States of America.

Apart from the FTA, there are also in greater frequency sentences that are not threatening, in other words, performing the Face-Saving Act. This, usually occur in speech both as a negative and a positive face. In President Goodluck Jonathan's speech, we notice that the negative face-saving act has the highest frequency with 72 out of 135 sentences, accounting for 53.3 percent, while the negative face-saving acts in President Obama's speech has the lowest frequency of 13 out of 113 sentences with 11.5 percent. Sentences 33 in Jonathan's speech and sentence 83 in Obama's speech are examples of Negative FSA. The sentences read:

Speech 1: Dr. Goodluck Jonathan

I am mindful that I represent the shared aspiration of all our people to forge a United Nigeria: a land of justice, opportunity and plenty.

Speech 2: Senator Barrack Obama

And to those nations like ours that enjoy relative plenty, we say we can no longer afford indifference to the suffering outside our borders, nor can we consume the world's resources without regard to effect.

Here, we find out that the speakers show their personal determination to restore sanity in the socio-political environment of their nation.

Our analysis has also shown that there is also evidence of Positive Face Saving Act in the speeches. In President Goodluck Jonathan's speech, we notice that the positive face saving act is high with 60 out of 135 sentences accounting for 44.4 percent, as against that of President Obama which has only 44 frequencies out of 113 sentences with 40.7 percent. Sentence 118 and 130 in Jonathan's speech and sentence 102 and 108 in Obama's speech are examples of positive FSA in the speeches. The sentences read:

Speech 1: Dr. Goodluck Jonathan

Join me now as we begin the journey of transforming Nigeria. What you see in your dreams, we can achieve together.

Speech 2: Senator Barrack Obama

So let us mark this day with remembrance of who we are and how far we have traveled. America: In the face of our common dangers, in this winter of our hardship, let us remember these timeless words.

Our finding shows the speakers' determination to collectively rebuild their nation by walking with the same zeal of transformation that was found in some of their past selfless leaders.

4.0 Conclusion

Pragmatics remains very important and useful as long as human beings communicate or interact in any occasion. The paper has been able to show the possible interpretation that accompanies Speech Acts depending on their context, situation and the shared previous knowledge of both the speaker and the hearer. For instance, we find out that the socio-cultural and the socio-political differences of the speakers are displayed in their speech act.

In addition, this paper projects that the perlocutionary effect of the speakers' face acts range from sobriety, determination to change, optimism, adamant attitude, and vengefulness to show the charismatic quality the speakers will display in leadership.

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APPENDIX A

President Goodluck Jonathan's Inaugural Address

1. Mr. Dear Compatriots, I stand in humble gratitude to you, this day, having just sworn to the oath of office as President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of our great nation.
2. I thank you all, fellow citizens, for the trust and confidence, which you have demonstrated through the power of your vote.
3. I want to assure you, that I will do my utmost at all times, to continue to deserve your trust.
4. I would like to specially acknowledge the presence in our midst today, of Brother Heads of State and Government, who have come to share this joyous moment with us.
5. Your Excellencies, I thank you for your solidarity.
6. I also wish to express my gratitude, to the Representatives of Heads of State and Government who are here with us.
7. My appreciation also goes to the chairperson of the African Union and other world leaders, our development partners, and all our distinguished guests.
8. I want to specially thank all Nigerians for staying the course in our collective commitment to build a democratic nation.
9. To members of the PDP family and members of other political parties, who have demonstrated faith in our democratic enterprise, I salute you.
10. At this juncture, let me acknowledge and salute my friend and brother, Vice-President Namadi Sambo; and my dear wife, Patience, who has been a strong pillar of support.
11. I thank her for galvanizing and mobilizing Nigerian women for the cause of democracy.

12. In the same vein, I owe a debt of gratitude to my mother and late father.
13. I cannot thank them enough.
14. I cannot but pay tribute to our Late President, Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, with whom we won the Presidential election four years ago, when I contested as his running mate.
15. May God bless his soul.
16. I also wish to pay tribute to our founding fathers, whose enduring sacrifices and abiding faith in the unity and greatness of our country, laid the foundation for the nation.
17. We take enormous pride in their contributions.
18. The pivotal task of this generation is to lift our fatherland to the summit of greatness.
19. Your Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, earlier this year, over seventy-three million eligible Nigerians endured all manner of inconvenience just to secure their voters cards, in order to exercise the right to choose those that will govern them.
20. At the polls, we saw the most dramatic expressions of the hunger for democracy.
21. Stories of courage and patriotism were repeated in many ways, including how fellow citizens helped physically challenged voters into polling stations to enable them exercise their franchise.
22. The inspiring story of the one hundred and three year-old man, and many like him across the country, who struggled against the physical limitations of age to cast their vote, is noteworthy.
23. Such determination derives from the typical Nigerian spirit of resilience in the face of the greatest of odds.
24. That spirit has, over the years, stirred our hopes, doused our fears, and encouraged us to gather ourselves to build a strong nation even when others doubted our capacity.
25. Today, our unity is firm, and our purpose is strong.
26. Our determination unshakable.
27. Together, we will unite our nation and improve the living standards of all our peoples whether in the North or in the South; in the East or in the West.
28. Our decade of development has begun.
29. The March is on.
30. The day of transformation begins today.
31. We will not allow anyone exploit differences in creed or tongue, to set us one against another.
32. Let me at this point congratulate the elected Governors, Senators, members of the House of Representatives and those of the States Houses of Assembly for their victories at the polls.
33. I am mindful that I represent the shared aspiration of all our people to forge a United Nigeria: a land of justice, opportunity and plenty.
34. Confident that a people that are truly committed to a noble ideal, cannot be denied the realization of their vision, I assure you that this dream of Nigeria, that is so deeply felt by millions, will indeed come to reality.
35. A decade ago, it would have been a mere daydream to think that a citizen from a minority ethnic group could galvanize national support, on an unprecedented scale, to discard ancient prejudices, and win the people's mandate as President of our beloved country.
36. That result emanated from the toil and sacrifice of innumerable individuals and institutions, many of whom may never get to public appreciation for their effort.
37. Only a couple of days ago, I received an entry on my Facebook page.
38. It was sent by Mr. Babajide Orevba.
39. He wrote to inform me that I had lost a great fan.
40. That fan was his father, Mr. Emmanuel Bamidele Orevba.
41. The deceased, the son told me, was no politician, but had campaigned enthusiastically for my ticket.
42. Tragically, overwhelmed by the joy of our victory, he collapsed, and passed on three days later.
43. I pray God Almighty on grant his soul eternal rest.
44. The success of the 2011 elections and the widespread acclaim which the exercise received was due to the uncommon patriotism and diligence exhibited by many Nigerians, including members of the Armed Forces, National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) and others.
45. Unfortunately, despite the free, fair and transparent manner the elections were conducted, a senseless wave of violence in some parts of the country led to the death of ten members of the NYSC and others.
46. These brave men and women paid the supreme sacrifice in the service of our fatherland.

47. They are heroes of our democracy.
48. We offer our heartfelt prayers and condolences in respect of all those who lost their lives.
49. In the days ahead, those of us that you have elected to serve must show that we are men and women with the patriotism and passion, to match the hopes and aspirations of you, the great people of this country.
50. We must demonstrate the leadership, statesmanship, vision, capacity and sacrifice, to transform our nation.
51. We must strengthen common grounds, develop new areas of understanding and collaboration, and seek fresh ideas, that will enrich our national consensus.
52. It is the supreme task of this generation to give hope to the hopeless, strength to the weak and protection to the defenceless.
53. Fellow citizens, the leadership we have pledged is decidedly transformative.
54. The transformation will be achieved in all the critical sectors, by harnessing the creative energies of our people.
55. We must grow the economy, create jobs, and generate enduring happiness for our people.
56. I have great confidence in the ability of Nigerians to transform this country.
57. The urgent task of my administration is to provide a suitable environment, for productive activities of flourish.
58. I therefore call on the good people of Nigeria, to enlist as agents of this great transformation.
59. My dear countrymen and women, being a Nigerian is a blessing.
60. It is also a great responsibility.
61. We must make a vow that, together, we will make the Nigerian Enterprise thrive.
62. The leadership and the followership must strive to convert our vast human and natural resources into the force that leads to a greater Nigeria.
63. The Nigeria of our dreams must be built on hard work and not on short cuts.
64. Let me salute the Nigerian workers who build our communities, cities and country.
65. They deserve fair rewards, and so do the women that raise our children, and the rural dwellers that grow our food.
66. The moment is right.
67. The signs are heart-warming.
68. We are ready to be taken off on the path of sustained growth and economic development.
69. In our economic strategy, there will be appropriate policy support to the real sector of the economy, so that Small and Medium Enterprises may thrive.
70. Nigeria is blessed with enormous natural wealth, and my Administration will continue to encourage locally owned enterprises to take advantage of our resources in growing the domestic economy.
71. A robust private sector is vital to providing jobs for our rapidly expanding population.
72. But this must be a collaborative effort.
73. We must form technical and financial partnerships with global businesses and organizations.
74. We live in an age where no country can survive on its own; countries depend on each other for economic well-being.
75. Nigeria is no different.
76. Returns on investment in Nigeria remain among the highest in the world.
77. We will continue to welcome sustainable investment in our economy.
78. We will push programs and policies that will benefit both local and foreign businesses, but we must emphasize mutual benefits and win-win relationships.
79. The overall ongoing reforms in the banking and financial sectors are there designed to support the real sector of the economy.
80. To drive our overall economic vision, the power sector reform is at the heart of our industrialization strategy.
81. I call on stakeholders, to cooperate with my administration, to ensure the success of the reforms.
82. Over the next four years, attention will be focused on rebuilding our infrastructure.
83. We will create greater access to quality education and improved health care delivery.
84. We will pay special attention to the agricultural sector, to enable it play its role of ensuring food security and massive job creation for our people.

85. The creation of the Nigerian Sovereign Investment Authority will immensely contribute to strengthening our fiscal framework, by institutionalizing savings of our commodity-related revenues.
86. With this mechanism in place, we will avoid the boom and bust cycles, and mitigate our exposure to oil price volatility.
87. The lesson we have learnt is that the resolution of the Niger Delta issue is crucial for the health of the nation's economy.
88. In the interest of justice, equity and national unity, we shall actively promote the development of the region.
89. I believe that peace is a necessary condition for development.
90. Fellow citizens, in every decision, I shall always place the common good before all else.
91. The bane of corruption shall be met by the overwhelming force of our collective determination, to rid our nation of this scourge.
92. The flight against corruption is a war in which we must all enlist, so that the limited resources of this nation will be used for the growth of our commonwealth.
93. I am confident that we have every reason to look to the future with hope.
94. We owe ourselves and posterity the duty of making this country respectable in the comity of nation.
95. Nigeria, as a responsible member of the international community, will remain committed to the maintenance of global peace and security.
96. We will continue to play an active role in the United Nations.
97. Our role in the African Union, ECOWAS, and the Gulf of Guinea will be enhanced to ensure greater human and energy security.
98. Your Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, this is a new dawn for Africa.
99. We fought for decolonization.
100. We will now fight for democratization.
101. Nigeria, in partnership with the African Union, will lead the process for democracy and development in Africa.
102. In particular, we will support the consolidation of democracy, good governance and human rights in the continent.
103. Africa must develop its vast resources to tackle poverty and under- development.
104. Conscious of the negative effect of insecurity on growth and development, my Administration will seek collaboration at bilateral and multilateral levels, to improve our capability in combating trans-border crimes.
105. In this regard, we will intensify our advocacy against the illicit trades in small arms and light weapons, which have become the catalyst for conflicts on the African continent.
106. All Nigerian diplomatic missions abroad are to accord this vision of defending the dignity of humanity the highest the highest priority.
107. My fellow countrymen and women, Nigeria is not just a land of promise; it shall be a nation where positive change will continue to take place, for the good of our people.
108. The time for lamentation is over.
109. This is the era of transformation.
110. This is the time for action.
111. But Nigerian can only be transformed if we all play our parts with commitment and sincerity.
112. Cynicism and skepticism will not help our journey to greatness.
113. Let us all believe in a new Nigeria.
114. Let us work together to build a great country that we will all be proud of.
115. This is our hour.
116. Fellow Compatriots, lift your gaze towards the horizon.
117. Look ahead and you will see a great future that we can secure with unity, hard work and collective sacrifice.
118. Join me now as we begin the journey of transforming Nigeria.
119. I will continue to fight, for your future, because I am one of you.
120. I will continue to fight, for improved medical care for all our citizens.
121. I will continue to fight for all citizens to have access to first class education.
122. I will continue to fight for electricity to be available to all our citizens.

123. I will continue to fight for an efficient and affordable public transport system for all people.
124. I will continue to fight for jobs to be created through productive partnerships.
125. You have trusted me with your mandate, and I will never, never let you down.
126. I know your pain, because I have been there.
127. Look beyond the hardship you have endured.
128. See a new beginning; a new direction; a new spirit.
129. Nigerians, I want you to start to dream again.
130. What you see in you dreams, we can achieve together.
131. I call upon all the Presidential candidates who contested with me to join hands with us as we begin the transformation of our country.
132. Let us work together; let us build together; let us bequeath a greater Nigeria to the generations to come.
133. I thank you!
134. God bless you all!
135. And God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

APPENDIX B

President Barack Hussein Obama's Inaugural Address

1. My fellow citizens: I stand here today humbled by the task before us, grateful for the trust you've bestowed, mindful of the sacrifices borne by our ancestors.
2. I thank President Bush for his service to our nation as well as the generosity and cooperation he has shown throughout this transition.
3. Forty-four Americans has now taken the Presidential oath.
4. The words have been spoken during rising tides of prosperity and the still waters of peace.
5. Yet, every so often, the oath is taken a midst gathering clouds and raging storms.
6. At these moments, America has carried on not simply because of the skill or vision of those in high office, but because we, the people have remained faithful to the ideals of own forebears and true to our founding documents.
7. So it has been; so it must be with this generation of Americans.
8. That we are in the midst of crisis is now well understood.
9. Our nation is at war against a far-reaching network of violence and hatred.
10. Our economy is badly weakened, a consequences of greed and irresponsibility on the part of some, but also our collective failure to make hard choices and prepare the nation for a new age.
11. Homes have been lost, jobs shed, business shuttered.
12. Our health care is too costly, our schools fail too many and each day brings further evidence that the ways we use energy strengthen our adversaries and threaten our planet.
13. These are the indicators of crisis, subject to data and statistics.
14. Less measurable, but no less profound, is a sapping of confidence across our land; a nagging fear that America's decline is inevitable, that the next generation must lower its sights.
15. Today I say to you that the challenges we face are real.
16. They are serious and they are many.
17. They will not be met easily or in a short span of time.
18. But know this America: They will be met.
19. On this day, we gather because we have chosen hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord.
20. On this day, we come to proclaim an end to the petty grievances and false promises, the recriminations and worn-out dogmas that for far too long have strangled our politics.
21. We remain a young nation.
22. But in the words of Scripture, the time has come to set aside childish things.
23. The time has come to reaffirm our enduring spirit; to choose our better history; to carry forward that precious gift, that noble idea passed on from generation to generation: The God-given promise that all are equal, all are free and all deserve a chance to pursue their full measure of happiness.

24. In reaffirming the greatness of our nation we understand that greatness is never a given.
25. It must be earned.
26. Our journey has never been one of short-cuts or setting for less.
27. It has not been the path for the faint-hearted, for those that prefer leisure over work, or seek only the pleasures of riches and fame.
28. Rather, it has been the risk-takers, the doers, the makers of things some celebrated, but more often men and women obscure in their labor who have carried us up the long rugged path towards prosperity and freedom.
29. For us, they packed up their few worldly possessions and traveled across oceans in search of a new life.
30. For us, they toiled in sweatshops, and settled the West, endured the lash of the whip, and plowed the hard earth.
31. For us, they fought and died in places like Concord and Gettysburg, Normandy and the Sahn.
32. Time and again these men and women struggled and sacrificed and worked till their hands were raw so that we might live a better life.
33. They saw America as bigger than the sum of our individual ambitions, greater than all the differences of birth or wealth or faction.
34. This is the journey we continue today.
35. We remain the most prosperous, powerful nation on Earth.
36. Our workers are no less productive than when this crisis began.
37. Our minds are no less inventive, our goods and services no less needed than they were last week, or last month, or last year.
38. Our capacity remains undiminished.
39. But our time of standing pat, of protecting narrow interests and putting off unpleasant decision that time has surely passed.
40. Starting today, we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and begin again the work of remaking America.
41. For everywhere we look, there is work to be done.
42. The state of our economy calls for action, bold and swift.
43. And we will act, not only to create new jobs, but to lay a new foundation for growth.
44. We will build the roads and bridges, the electric grids and digital lines that feed our commerce and bind us together.
45. We'll restore science to its rightful place, and wield technology's wonders to raise health care's quality and lower its cost.
46. We will harness the sun and the winds, and the soil to fuel our cars and run our factories.
47. And we will transform our schools and colleges and universities to meet the demands of a new age.
48. All this we can do.
49. All this we will do.
50. Now, there are some who question the scale of our ambitions, who suggest that our system cannot tolerate too many big plans.
51. Their memories are short, for they have forgotten what this country has already done, what free men and women can achieve when imagination is joined to common purpose, and necessity to courage.
52. What the cynics fail to understand is that the ground has shifted beneath them, that the stale political arguments that have consumed us for so long no longer apply.
53. The question we ask today is not whether our government is too big or too small, but whether it works, whether it helps families find jobs at a decent wage, care they can afford, a retirement that is dignified.
54. Where the answer is yes, we intend to move forward.
55. Where the answer is no, programs will end.
56. And those of us who manage the public's dollar's will be held to account, to spend wisely, reform bad habits and do our business in the light of the day, because only then can we restore the vital trust between a people and their government.
57. Nor is the question before us whether the market is a force for good or ill.
58. Its power to generate wealth and expand freedom is unmatched.
59. But this crisis has reminded us that without a watchful eye, the market can spin out of control.
60. The nation cannot prosper long when it favors only the prosperous.

61. The success of our economy has always depended not just on the size of our gross domestic product, but on the reach of our prosperity, on the ability to extend opportunity to every willing heart not out of charity, but because it is the surest route to our common good.
62. A for our common defense, we regret as false the choice between our safety and our ideals.
63. Our Founding Fathers our Founding Fathers, faced with perils that we can scarcely imagine, drafted a charter to assure the rule of law and the rights of man a charter expanded by the blood of generations.
64. Those ideal, still light the world, and we will no give them up for expedience sake.
65. And so, to all the other peoples and government who are watching today, from the grandest capitals to the small village where my father was born, know that America is a friend of each nation, and every man, woman and child who seeks a future of peace and dignity.
66. And we are ready to lead once more.
67. Recall that earlier generations faced down fascism and communism not just with missiles and tanks, but with the sturdy alliances and enduring convictions.
68. They understood that our power alone cannot protect us, nor does it entitle us to do as we please.
69. Instead they knew that our power grows through its prudent use; our security emanates from the justness of our cause, the force of our example, the tempering qualities of humility and restraint.
70. We are the keepers of this legacy.
71. Guided by these principles once more we can meet those new threats and demand even greater effort, even greater cooperation and understanding between nations.
72. We will begin to responsibly leave Iraq to its people and forge a hard-earned peace in Afghanistan.
73. With old friends and former foes, we'll work tirelessly to lessen the nuclear threat, and roll back the specter of a warming planet.
74. We will not apologize for our way of life, nor will we waver in its defense.
75. And for those who seek to advance their aims by inducing terror and slaughtering innocents, we say to you now that our spirit is stronger and cannot be broken you cannot outlast us, and we will defeat you.
76. For we know that our patchwork heritage is a strength, not a weakness.
77. We are a nation of Christians and Muslims, Jews and Hindus, and non-believers.
78. We are shaped by every language and culture, drawn from every end of this Earth; and because we have tasked the bitter swill of civil war and segregation, and emerged from that dark chapter stronger and more united, we cannot help but believe that the old hatreds shall someday pass; that the lines of tribe shall soon dissolve; that as the world grows smaller, our common humanity shall reveal itself; and that America must play its role in ushering in a new era of peace.
79. To the Muslim world, we seek a new way forward, based on mutual interest and mutual respect.
80. To those leaders around the globe who seek to sow conflict, or blame their society's ills on the West, know that your people will judge you on what you can build, not what you destroy.
81. To those who cling to power through corruption and deceit and the silencing of dissent, know that you are on the wrong side of history, but that we will extend a hand if you are willing to unclench your fist.
82. To the people of poor nations, we pledge to work alongside you to make your farms flourish and let clean waters flow; to nourish starved bodies and feed hungry minds.
83. And to those nations like ours that enjoy relative plenty, we say we can no longer afford indifference to the suffering outside our borders, nor can we consume the world's resources without regard to effect.
84. For the world has changed, and we must change with it.
85. As we consider the role that unfolds before us, we remember with humble gratitude those brave Americans who at this very hour patrol far-off deserts and distant mountains.
86. They have something to tell as, just as the fallen heroes who lie in Arlington whisper through the ages.
87. We honor them not only because they are the guardians of our liberty, but they embody the spirit or service a willingness of find meaning in something greater than themselves.
88. And yet at this moment, a moment that will define a generation, it is precisely this spirit that must inhabit us all.
89. For as much as government can do, and must do, it is ultimately the faith and determination of the American people upon which this nation relies.
90. It is the kindness to take in a stranger when the levees break, the selflessness of workers who would rather cut their hours than see a friend lose their job which sees us through our darkest hours.

91. It is the firefighter’s courage to storm a stairway filled with smoke, but also a parent’s willingness to nurture a child that finally decides our fate.
92. Our challenges may be new.
93. The instruments with which we meet them may be new.
94. But those values upon which our success depends honesty and hard work, courage and fair play, tolerance and curiosity, loyalty and patriotism these things are old.
95. These things are true.
96. They have been the quiet force of progress throughout our history.
97. What is demanded, then, is a return to these truths.
98. All that is required of us now is a new era of responsibility a recognition on the part of every American that we have duties to ourselves, our nation and the world; duties that we do not grudgingly accept, but rather seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that there is nothing so satisfying to the spirit, so defining of our character than giving our all to a difficult task.
99. This is the price and the promise of citizenship.
100. This is the source of our confidence the knowledge that God calls on us to shape an uncertain destiny.
101. This is the meaning of our liberty and our creed, why men and women and children of every race and every faith can join in celebration across this magnificent mall; and why a man whose father less than 60 years ago might not have been served in a local restaurant can now stand before you to take a most sacred oath.
102. So let us mark this day with remembrance of who we are and how far we have traveled.
103. In the year of America’s birth, in the coldest of months, a small band of patriots huddled by dying campfires on the shores of an icy river.
104. The capital was abandoned.
105. The enemy was advancing.
106. The snow was stained with blood.
107. At the moment when the outcome of our revolution was most in doubt, the father of our nation ordered these words to be read to the people: “Let it be told to the future world... that in the depth of winter, when nothing but hope and virtue could survive... that the city and the country, alarmed at one common danger, came forth to meet [it].”
108. America: In the face of our common dangers, in this winter of our hardship, let us remember these timeless words.
109. With hope and virtue, let us brave once more the icy currents, and endure what storms may come.
110. Let it be said by our children’s children that when we were tested we refused to let this journey end, that we did not turn back nor did we falter; and with eyes fixed on the horizon and God’s grace upon us, we carried forth that great gift of freedom and delivered it safely to future generations.
111. Thank you.
112. God bless you.
113. And God bless the United States of America.

Appendix C: Tables and Figures

Table 1: Summary of Speech Acts in the Speeches Studied

Items Tested	President Goodluck Jonathan’s Speech		President Barack Obama’s Speech	
	Frequency	Percentage%	Frequency	Percentage%
Representatives	56	41.5	62	54.8
Directives	13	9.6	6	5.3
Commissives	38	28.1	31	27.4
Expressive	22	16.3	14	12.4
Declaratives	6	4.4	Nil	Nil
Total	135	99.9 ≈ 100	113	99.9 ≈ 100

Figure 1(a): President Jonathan’s Speech Studied

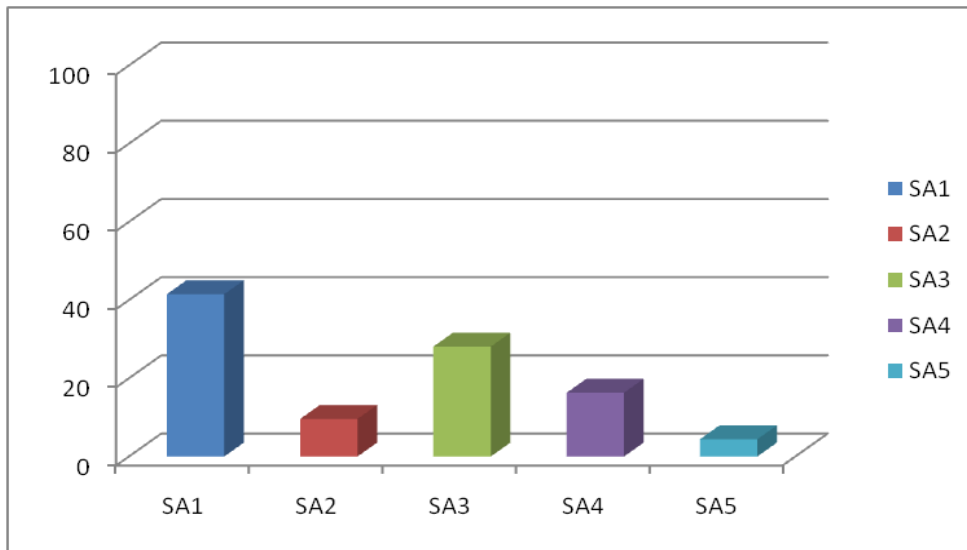


Figure1(b): President Obama’s Speech Studied

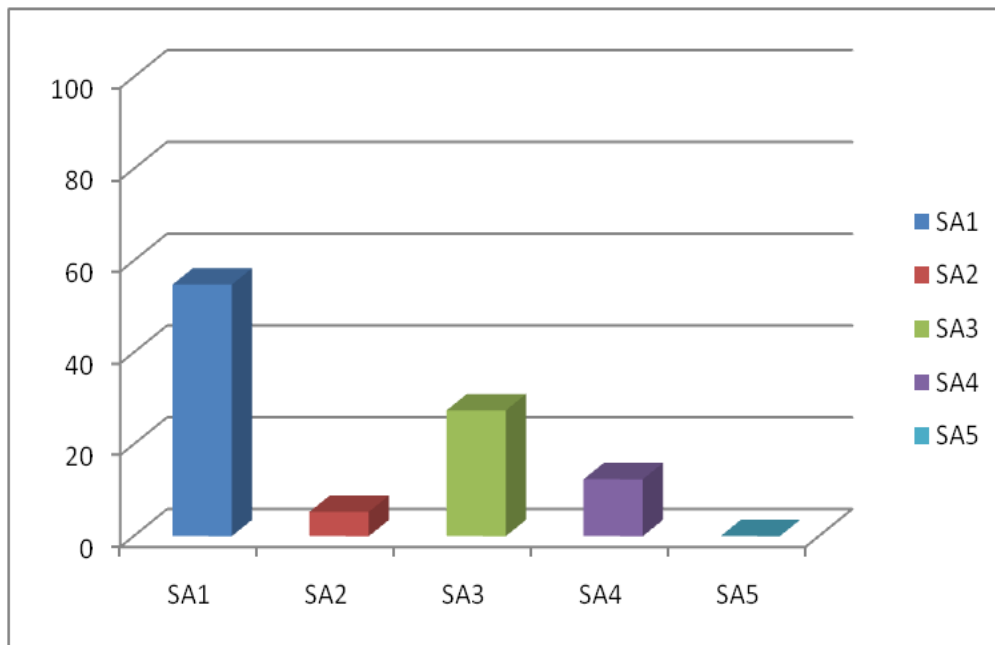


Table 2: Summary of Sentence Types in the Speeches Studied

Types of Sentences	President Goodluck Jonathan’s Speech		President Barack Obama’s Speech	
	Frequency	Percentage%	Frequency	Percentage%
Simple	44	32.5	21	18.5
Compound	21	15.5	16	14.2
Complex	29	21.5	33	29.2
Compound-complex	22	16.3	21	18.5
Multiple	19	14.4	22	19.5
Total	135	99.9 ~ 100	113	99.9 ~ 100

Figure 2(a): President Jonathan’s Speech Studied

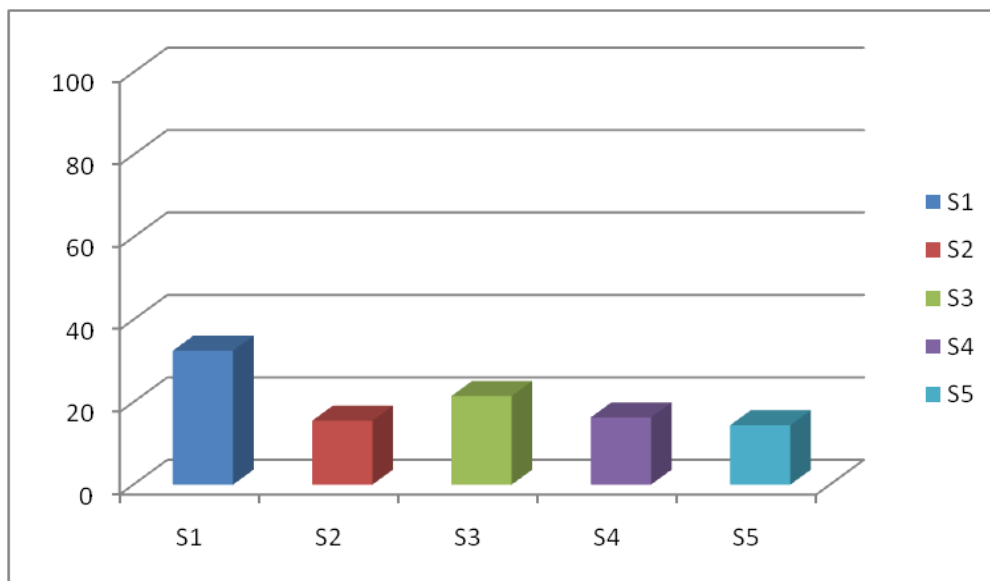


Figure 2(b): President Obama’s Speech Studied

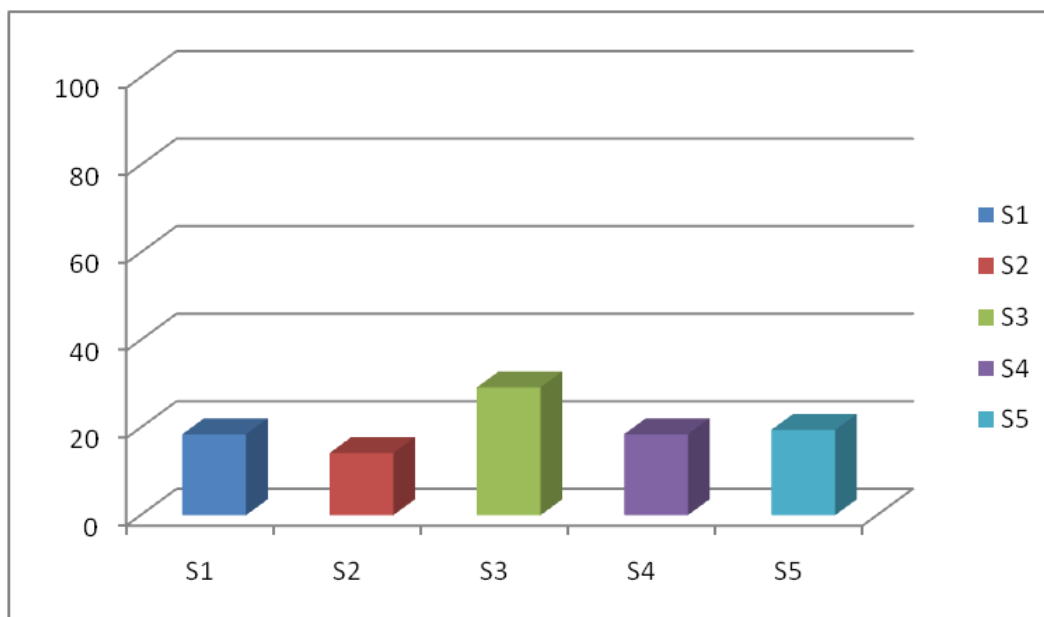


Table 3: Frequency Distribution of FTA and FSA in the Speeches Studied

Politeness Markers	President Goodluck Jonathan’s Speech		President Barack Obama’s Speech	
	Frequency	Percentage%	Frequency	Percentage%
FTA	3	2.2	54	47.8
Negative FSA	72	53.3	13	11.5
Positive FSA	60	44.4	46	40.7
Total	135	99.9 ~100	113	100

Figure 3(a): President Jonathan’s Speech Studied

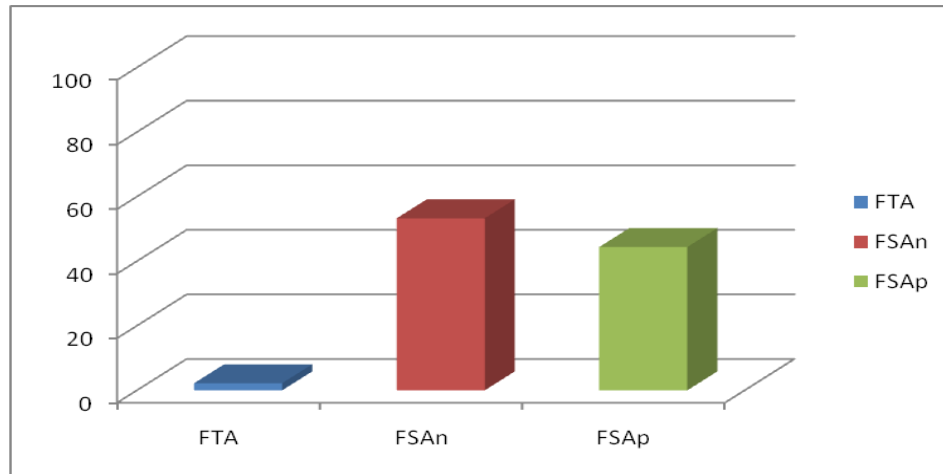
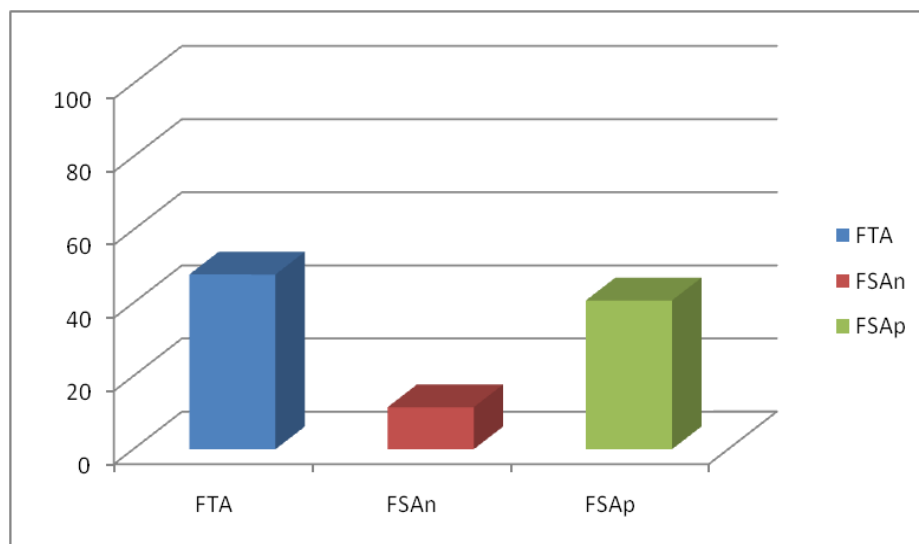


Figure 3(b): President Obama’s Speech Studied



Keys to Figures 1 – 3

- SA** - Speech Acts
 - SA1 – Representatives
 - SA2 – Directives
 - SA3 – Commissives
 - SA4 – Expressives
 - SA5 – Declaratives
- S** - Sentence
 - S1 – Simple Sentence
 - S2 – Compound Sentence
 - S3 – Complex Sentence
 - S4 – Compound Complex Sentence
 - S5 – Multiple Sentence
- FTA** - Face Threatening Acts
- FSA** - FACE SAVING ACTS
 - FSAn – Negative Face Saving Acts
 - FSAp – Positive Face Saving Acts