

EXPLORING THE ROLES OF ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS IN COMMUNICATION: A STUDY OF GOVERNOR CHARLES SOLUDO INAUGURAL SPEECH IN ANAMBRA STATE

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ABSTRACT

This paper investigated the role of illocutionary acts in communication with particular reference to the inaugural speech of His Excellency, Governor Charles Chukwuma Soludo to the citizens of Anambra State on 17th March, 2022 at the Government House Agu -Awka, Anambra State. The study employed Searle's (1969) Taxonomy of illocutionary acts and Grice Cooperative Principles to unravel the underlying meaning of the illocutionary acts embedded in the speech. The objectives of the study are to identify the illocutionary acts used in the speech, to explain the meaning of the illocutionary acts used by the governor in his speech and to ascertain whether the governor's speech obeyed Grice Cooperative Principles. Findings reveal that the five illocutionary acts postulated by Searle were manifest in the speech viz... Expressive 12%, Assertive 19%, Directive 27%, Declaratives 6%, with Commissives ranking the highest with the frequency of 62 and 36%. The findings, among other things, show that the governor deployed language tactically and strategically to effectively enlighten, persuade, admonish, encourage, appeal, reassure, inspire, persuade, express his psychological state and to convince the people to accept his propositions.

Keywords: Illocutionary acts, Communication, Governor Charles Soludo, Political speech, cooperative principle, Anambra State.

Introduction:

Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that studies how language is used and how situational variables are used for specific purposes to convey specific messages. Crystal (1987:120) defines “Pragmatics as the study of the factors that govern our choices of language in social interaction and the effects of our choices on others” According to Mey (2001:6) “Pragmatics studies the use of language in human communication as determined by the conditions of society. This buttresses the fact that people’s use of language is constrained by the societal rules. Wattson and Hill (1993) also describes pragmatics as the study of language from the view point of the user especially the choices, the constraints he meets through the use of the language and effects the use has on the communication situation. To Brown and Yule (1983) Pragmatics is concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker (or writer) and interpreted by a listener (or reader). Thus, pragmatics is the study of the relations between language and context that are basic to an account of language understanding.

Speech acts as basic to all research in pragmatics is categorically classified by Austin (1962) into three classes which are locutionary, illocutionary and perlocutionary acts. A locutionary act is an act of saying something: that is, the act of producing an utterance. Dada (2004) submits that illocutionary acts are the core of any theory of speech acts. Perlocutionary acts could be inspiring, persuading, consoling etc. It brings about an effect upon the beliefs, attitudes or behaviours of the addressee. It is inconsonance with this that Levenson (1980) describes perlocutionary act as the intended or unintended consequences of the speaker’s utterance (Adeyanju,2009). Searle (1969) improves on Austin’s speech acts theory by distinguishing between two types of speech acts: Direct and indirect speech acts. The study of the roles of illocutionary acts in communication is meant to provide an inroad into the study of Governor Charles Soludo’s inaugural speech

in Anambra State on 17th March, 2022. Political speeches emanate from political forums and events, thus, they are as varied as the different occasions that produce them. Of all these forms of political speeches, presidential speeches, inaugural speeches and campaign speeches are prevalent (Ezekulie & Anosike, 2020).

Language performs numerous functions in politics as Beard (2002) rightly opines “Looking at the language of politics as an occupation is important because it helps to understand how language is used by those who wish to gain power, those who wish to receive power and those who wish to keep power. Language performs the most important function of communication in politics. Communication involves the sharing of ideas, information, of emotions, of hopes and fear and it is part of every human activity, Boyden (1985 p.156). Communication is a central or the mediating factor facilitating band contributing to collective change process, Sarveaes & Liu (2007). Effective communication will help in the move of people from individual centered deficit model of learning, behavior development and change to a collective model of participation, appreciation and equity.

Communication is a process that occurs in variety of situations or contexts. It takes place between participants – speaker/hearer at some specified time and place, under specified circumstances or mood, Brown & Yule (1996 pg.50). In all communication, there is a general; agreement of cooperation between the speaker and a hearer to be called the cooperative principle. Under this general heading, a number of general maxims can be isolated which specify the convention which participants in a conversation should and normally do obey. Thus, cooperation is required to be enhanced in order to achieve mutual conversational goals.

The present study significantly seeks to explore the roles of illocutionary acts in communication with particular reference to the

inaugural speech presented by Governor Charles Soludo on the day of inauguration as the newly elected executive governor of Anambra State under the auspices of All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA). The study seeks to unravel the embedded meanings and intentions of the governor as depicted in his use of illocutionary acts as well as find out how he succeeds as a politician and as a communicator in his speech. The objectives of the study are to identify the illocutionary acts that are manifest in Governor Soludo's speech; to explain the meaning of the illocutionary acts used by the governor in his speech and to ascertain whether the governor's speech obeyed Grice's cooperative principles. Pursuant to these objectives, the following Research Questions are formulated: What are the illocutionary acts that are manifest in Governor Soludo's speech? What are the meaning of the illocutionary acts used by the governor in his speech? To what extent did the governor's speech obey Grice's cooperative principles?

Review of Previous Studies:

A lot of relevant studies have been conducted on pragmatics on political speeches. Ubong and Sifonde (2012) conducted a pragmatic analysis of President Goodluck Jonathan's and President Barack Obama's inaugural addresses. Working with the speech acts theory, the study considers the illocutionary forces in the speeches as well as face-threatening and face saving acts respectively with aid 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 preponderance in the use of modal verbs to express intention, President Obama's commissives consist of modal verbs and infinitive clauses to project volition and intentions.

Agbedo (2008) embarked on a speech act analysis of political discourse in Nigeria print media. He subjected the utterances of two journalists, Bayo Onanuga and MrYakubu Mohammed, to a speech act analysis using Austin's (1962) felicity condition, and Grice (1975) co-operative principles. He examined the illocutionary force of the speech act in the of their particular types of journalism practice as evidence in the news Magazines. His finding shows the illocutionary acts deriving from their individual speech acts fail to meet Austin's felicity condition. Their infelicitous speech acts equally fail to meet Grice's cooperative principles which participants in any communicative events are expected to adhere to. Consequently, the maxims of quality, quantity, manner and relevant are equally violated thus giving rise to conversational implicature. Agbedo paid attention to the study of speech acts analysis of political discourse in Nigerian print media while the present study is an exploration of the roles illocutionary acts in communication with regards to Governor Soludo's inaugural speech.

Moyi (2018) did a pragmatic analysis of President Goodluck Jonathan's democracy day speech 2012. The speech was selected to examine the use of language by some political class in Nigeria to win the confidence of their electorate. The analysis used speech acts and politeness theories and explored the various illocutionary forces that were used by the speaker. Out of 71 paragraphs of the whole speech, 30 paragraphs were selected. Ten paragraphs were selected at the beginning, middle and end of the speech. The study found out that the speech was marked by the preponderance use of representatives acts at the beginning; represntatives and commissives acts at the middle while at the end, commissives and directives were seen. The study made use of speech acts and politeness theories while the present work did not use politeness theory.

Uduma (2012) investigated the semantic and pragmatic meanings of modals in President Goodluck Jonathan's speech during

Nigeria's 50th independence jubilee. The paper employed speech acts theory to identify the impact of the speech on the Nigeria populace, also to identify the meaning of the semantic clues (of modal auxiliaries) as used in the speech. The president used the modal auxiliaries, will (intention), must (obligation), can (ability) more in his speech to prove his good intentions for the wellbeing of Nigerians, the obligation before him and Nigerians to build a virile nation, and the ability of Nigerians to do things right. The paper concluded that the President's speech is not just a congratulatory message but one intended to encourage and stir up Nigeria to work together towards building a nation where future generations would live in peace and unity.

From the previous studies reviewed, no work has explored the roles of illocutionary acts in communication with particular reference to Governor Charles Soludo's inaugural day speech using Searle's speech act theory and Grice cooperative principles. This therefore is the justification for the present study.

Theoretical Framework

This study adopts Searle's speech acts theory and Grice cooperative principles. Speech act theory is a theory of language formulated by J. L. Austin (1962) in his book 'How to Do Things with Words' Austin explains that every utterance made is a speech act. The speech act explains the roles utterances play in shaping the attitude of participants in interpersonal communication. It reflects the intentions of the speaker and the effects the speaker's expressions have on the hearer. Speech acts are central to pragmatic studies because they deal with specific social acts performed in making utterances. The main thrust of speech acts is that utterances are not just made but to perform actions, (Austin 1962; Searle 1969; Adegbija 1982). Austin classified utterances into constantives and performatives. Constantives are statements which describe situations, events and states of affairs as

“having the property of being either true or false”. Performatives are utterances which have no truth-value. He proposes five classes of performatives: verdictive, commissive, behabitives and expositives. Fraser buttresses the fact that the impression or meaning of words spoken, ability of the hearer/ reader of the utterance with its referent in the world and the language pattern employed by the speaker (clear or ambiguous) assist in meaning negotiation. An illocutionary act is performed by means of saying something i.e. Promising, advising, sentencing, greeting, judging, commanding, nominating, threatening, condemning etc.

However, Searle (1969) criticizes Austin’s 1963 classification for being too overlapping, thus, he proposes the following five categories of illocutionary acts:

Directives: This refers to the speech acts such as commanding, ordering, requesting, advising, recommending, which are aimed at producing some effect on the hearer.

Commissives: commit the speaker to some future actions like promising, vowing, offering etc.

Expressives: show the speaker’s psychological attitude towards a situation. Such illocutions include: thanking, congratulating, pardoning, blaming, praising and condoling.

Assertives: includes stating, suggesting, boasting, complaining, claiming, reporting etc., commit the speaker to the truth of the proposition made.

Declaratives: are christening, naming, resigning, dismissing, appointing, sentencing, excommunicating etc.

This study adopts Searle’s classification in the analysis due to its clarity and his recognition of illocutionary acts of utterances vis a vis certain

contextual conditions vital for effective performance of speech acts by interlocutors.

The study will also adopt the cooperative principle developed by Paul Grice (1975). The concept of cooperative principle justifies how interlocutors act cooperatively to accept one another in order to effectively communicate in a context. Being cooperative means speakers use such language that can be understood by the hearer without creating problem to his /her culture, psychology and physiology etc. Grice affirms that the basic assumptions in any discourse, whether written or spoken is a joint effort in which both the speaker and the listener are required to adhere to certain pragmatic, semantic and syntactic rules in order to communicate effectively. The cooperative principles are regarded as maxims. These maxims according to Grice (1975) are:

1. Maxim of quantity: give the right amount of information. That is, (a) make your contribution as informative as required. (b) do not make your contribution more informative than required.
2. Maxim of quality: try to make your contribution one that is true. That is, (a) do not say what you believe to be false. (b) do not say that for you lack adequate evidence.
3. Maxim of relevance: be relevant.
4. Maxim of manner: be perspicuous (a) avoid obscurity of expression. (b) avoid ambiguity. (c) be brief (d) be orderly.

Methodology

Both quantitative and qualitative research designs were adopted in this study. The speech was purposively chosen because it was the first official broadcast speech on the day of inauguration by the Governor of Anambra State, His Excellency Governor Charles Soludo in 17th March, 2022. So, it was significantly based on the assumption that the speech will embody a lot of speech acts. This speech was harnessed from theeditor[at]punchng.com. Relevant excerpts were purposively selected out of a total of one hundred and seventy - two well- constructed

sentences and subjected to speech acts analysis using Austin's speech acts theory with special reference to Searle (1976) taxonomy of illocutionary act and Grice (1975) cooperative principle. These excerpts are numbered for easy cross reference in the analysis.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

The findings concerning the illocutionary acts in Governor Soludo's speech revealed that the following illocutionary acts were found namely: Assertives, Directives, Commissives, Expressives and Declaratives.

Table 1: Illocutionary acts in Governor Soludo's speech.

Illocutionary acts	Frequency	Percentage %
Commissives	62	36
Assertives	33	19
Directives	48	27
Expressives	21	12
Declaratives	8	6
Total	172	100

From the above table, the distribution of the illocutionary acts that are manifest in the Governor's speech are as follows: Commissives have the highest frequency of 62 (36%), followed by Directives 48 (27%), Assertives 33 (19%), Expressives 21 (12%) and Declaratives 8 (6%).

Explanation of the illocutionary acts used in the speech

Commissives: The commissives acts ranked highest in the frequency of illocutionary acts adopted by Governor Charles Soludo in this inaugural speech. In this act the governor however commits himself to future acts like promising, vowing, offering etc. Some of the commissives speech acts are shown below:

Excerpt 1: *As I repeatedly promised, I will work hard every day never to disappoint you.*

Excerpt 2: *We will seek active collaboration with the federal government, our neighbouring and other states as well as the international community to provide our state truly people-centred government.*

Excerpt 3: *We will consolidate on the progress made under our predecessors to continue Anambra's upward Trajectory.*

Excerpt 4: *I will engage all parties to the breakdown of peace and order in Anambra from a point of determination to solve problems and resolve disagreements with openness, integrity, equity and justice.*

Excerpt 5: *I will absolutely invest my political capital within our state, our South East and with the presidency, Federal Government and its establishment as a matter of topmost priority.*

In excerpt 1, the governor promised assured the people of his willingness and readiness to work hard and not to disappoint them. The use of the verb phrases - *will seek, will consolidate, will engage, will absolutely invest* in excerpts 2 - 5 have future implications. There was the need for a change with regards to the economic situation in Anambra state and the security of lives and properties as against the existing prevalent security challenges in the state. Governor Soludo promised to fight insecurity at every level which has been the bane of South Eastern states problem especially Anambra State. It remains a challenge in our international outlook which has denied Anambra state a credible image globally. The use of 'we' in excerpts 2 and 3 is to show common

institutional identity, to create a sense of responsibility, collectiveness and inclusiveness in decision making. In excerpt 3, the governor promised that *'we will consolidate the progress made under our predecessors'*... The use of the first person plural pronoun *we* and the possessive form *'our'* in this excerpt are used to represent the governor and his executives while the *"our"* in excerpt 2 represents the governor, his executive and the people of Anambra state. The elements of prediction are in the use of the verb phrases *ie will consolidate, will seek* etc. The modal auxiliary *will* in the above excerpts capture the futurity of the speaker's action or intention. The use of the deictic pronoun *'I'* in excerpts 1, 4 and 5 was tactically used to show positive self-reference. It portrays the speaker as a good politician, an authority that is capable of making good decisions on his own without having to consult anybody. The preponderance use of the modal auxiliary *'will'* is considered strategically and intentionally envisioned to convince his audience to believe him. To gain maximum support, acceptance, cooperation and to create a feeling of hopefulness, happiness and excitement.

Directives: The frequency of directives in Governor Soludo's inaugural speech is 48(27%). It ranked second in the frequency of illocutionary acts used by the governor. According to Mey (pg.120), As the name says, directives embody an effort on the part of the speaker to get the hearer to do something, to *'direct'* him or her towards some goal of the speaker's, mostly. It includes the act of requesting, commanding, advising, condemning, warning, disagreeing etc. Below are examples of directive speech acts made by Governor Charles Soludo.

Excerpt 6: *Let us get around the table and talk. Let the elites in the closet come out, and let's debate our future and forge a consensus.*

Excerpt 7: *Let those in the forests come out, surrender their guns and let's work together to rehabilitate and empower you to contribute positively to the peace and prosperity of our homeland.*

Excerpt 8: *Our Lord Christ admonished in Mathew 26:52 "Put your sword in its sheath, for all who live by the sword will die by the sword"*

Excerpt 9: *NO. we refuse to turn our homeland into a crime scene and all manner of criminality. No group has ever succeeded in any struggle in history by turning the sword against themselves.*

Excerpt 10: *Umunnem Ndi Anambra, this agenda is premised upon your irresponsible and communal spirit. It is you – the people – that will make it happen. On your part, we need a new chapter of active and responsive citizenship, imbued with civic responsibilities and participation.*

In excerpts 6 and 7, Governor Soludo gives a modest invitation with the use of the verb 'let' and the first person plural pronoun 'us' to all the Anambra people to join hands in the transformation of the state. He appealed to all and sundry to come out from their closet so everybody will contribute positively to the peace and prosperity of the state. In excerpts 8, 9 and 10 the governor attempts to get the audience to engage in certain actions. He sounded a strong note of warning, raised a strong objection with capital 'NO' categorically punctuated in excerpt 9 and insists that there must be an end to insecurity, killings and all forms of criminality. He equally admonished them by making reference to the biblical allusion of Mathew 26:52... *for he who lives by the sword dies by the sword*. Through this, he condemned entirely the incessant and unlawful killing that has been going on in the state. And modal verb 'will' contained in the biblical allusion emphasizes the punishment that awaits whoever that kills and the necessity of bringing to an end these atrocities in the state. In excerpt 10, he made use of vernacular – *umunnem ndi Anambra*... 'we' need a new.... Here the

governor presents himself as being humble and at the same time places himself at the same level with everybody by code-switching to vernacular “umunnem ndi Anambra” and referring to his audience as his siblings. He used ‘we’ to create shared sense of responsibility, solidarity and group cohesion. It means that he, together with people of Anambra have the same mission and objectives and this can only be achieved through communal spirit, cooperation and active participation. Through his appeal and total condemnation of evil, Soludo was able to persuade the audience on the authenticity of the mission they are pursuing. He also inspired them for peace, to shun all manner of violence and to have regard for sanctity of human life and dignity. Through this, he encouraged his audience to believe and have confidence in him. Thus, he provided cogent reasons that will elicit or make the audience take necessary actions so that their mission for sustainable peace in the state will be achieved.

Assertive: The assertive speech acts are shown in excerpts below:

Excerpt 11: *Today is my first day at work, I just reported for duty and will work for at least eight hours.*

Excerpt 12: *As a matter of personal philosophy and as a true progressive, I do not subscribe to using the paltry tax collected from the women selling pepper on the road side or the okada/kekedrivers on a fleeting fanfare and banquet.*

Excerpt 13: *At 8, I become the “man of the house”, with all the men at the war front.*

Excerpt 14: *This is your government. I am only your employee.*

Excerpt 15: *For 12 years since 2009 when I first indicated interest to serve you, I persevered through the turbulent politics and here we are.*

Excerpt 16: *My heart bleeds to see and hear about our youth dying in senseless circumstances.*

The assertive acts in the present study are for informing, stating, boasting, claiming, complaining etc. In excerpt 12, the deictic pronoun 'I' reveals the governor's intention to foreground his personality and present himself properly as a good politician with personal qualities, one who is empathetic and feels the sufferings of his people. He does this for adequate recognition and acceptance. In excerpt 15, the governor made a statement of fact. He uses the first person pronoun 'I' to present 'self' as normal or typical and uses 'you' in the generic sense to include all the people of Anambra state. According to Laberge and Sankoff (1980), when 'you' is used in the generic sense which implicates everyone in the action, the effect is to give more weight to the argument. In excerpt 14, is primarily intended to inform and enlighten the audience about himself especially his status as the chief servant of the state, who is ready to work hard to salvage his people and placed premium on the people as the major factor in any democratic process. This was pervasively used by him as claims to run a people oriented government. In excerpt 16, he goes emotional, feels great sadness and pity as he complains bitterly about the senseless killings in the state. And in excerpt 13, he basically informed and presented himself as a responsible leader who has gone through a lot in life to withstand the pressures and trials that comes with leadership. He therefore calls on everyone to join hands with him to harness a livable and prosperous homeland of opportunities and jobs for our youth while maximizing the benefits of a united Nigeria/Africa.

Expressives: Expressives acts depict the speaker's psychological attitude towards a situation. Such illocutions include: thanking, congratulating, pardoning, blaming, praising, condoling etc. The frequency of expressive acts in the present study is 21 (12%). Some examples are as follows:

Excerpt 17: *Let me particularly thank my friend and outgoing governor of Anambra state, HE (Sir) Willie Maduabuchukwu Obiano, for being a gentle man and leader.*

Excerpt 18: *I remember with deep sense of grief the three gallant police officers – Inspector Murtala Saudi, Sgt Mudassir Ahmed, and Sgt Samuel Ishaya- who lost their lives to the unknown gunmen who attacked us at a meeting with the youths in my village.*

Excerpt 19: *God ordained this moment and we are grateful to him and to you all for this privilege to serve you.*

Excerpt 20: *I am grateful to all the stake holders of Anambra project – the clergy and the church, traditional rulers, Association of Anambra Town Unions (ASATU), labour, market, trade and professional unions, youth and women organization....*

Excerpt 21: *Eternal gratitude goes to President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR and the presidency for being democrats.*

Excerpt 22: *In particular, I thank my wife, Nonye Frances Soludo and my children: Ozioma, Ifeatu, Chinua, Ekene, Oduko, Zikora for their love and sacrifices.*

Excerpt 23: *God bless you all!*

In excerpt 19, governor Soludo made use of the indefinite pronoun 'you' to refer to the people of Anambra generally as well as present his beliefs and ideas as general thereby making it hard for the people to question or doubt what he said. The use of vocatives in excerpt 19 and 23 helps to create a sense of oneness and comradeship. It is also assumed that the governor performed the functions of both a spiritual and religious leader. By invoking God and making allusion to prayers for instance: Excerpt 23, God bless you all! This is chiefly used as a strategy, according to Bernard (2002), it is of the view that the political sphere of Nigeria is highly influenced by religion and that political leaders use religion as a means to mobilize the people. In excerpt 18,

Soludo uses the adverb 'deep' to express his inner state of mind as regards the gallant soldiers that lost their lives. In excerpt 21, he used the adjective 'eternal' to quantify his depth of gratitude to President Muhammadu Buhari and the presidency. He apparently projects the African cultural background and influence in terms of showing appreciation, greeting, recognition etc. Accordingly, the preliminary part of the speech consists of greetings and appreciations ranging from the entire nation to the state, different organizations, stakeholders, individuals and to his immediate family. Through these, he succeeded in eliciting both the feeling of sympathy and happiness on the audience. He inspired them and persuaded them to continue to support his administration for better governance in the state.

Declaratives: The declarative acts occurred 8 times (6%) in Governor Soludo's speech. Some examples are:

Excerpt 24: *Now is the time to work and there is no minute or kobo to waste in fanfare.*

Excerpt 25: *Once again I present to you the 'Soludo solution'*

Excerpt 26: *Today, I will sign an executive order to suspend all revenue contracts operating in the parks, markets, roads etc.*

In excerpt 26, now is the time... This statement shows that all the speaker is trying to communicate to his audience is to let them know that the transformation process of renewing the state is now and no other time is better than now. And there is no need to waste money in lavish and extravagant life style. In excerpt 25, the solution to restoring peace and safety of lives and properties in Anambra State and that of items produced in Anambra cease to be ordinary as he strategically names them "Soludo Solution" and "made in Anambra" respectively. These declarations bring about some alternation in the status of these processes solely by virtue of the fact that these declarations have been successfully performed. According to Haung (2007), declaratives rely on elaborate extralinguistic institutions for their successful performance,

they may be called institutionalized performatives. By so doing, the governor presents himself as an iroko and a consummate politician. Excerpt 26 is a fatal utterance terminating someone's means of livelihood. And the use of 'will' in this case shows strong determination. He portrays himself as someone in authority, the chief executive and a powerful politician. Thus, he is able to inspire his audience to believe in him and encouraged them to swing into action by making efforts to produce more 'made in Anambra' goods hence they have been promised a 'ready - made' market for their products.

Co-operative Principles in Governor Charles Soludo's speech:

Grice co-operative principles are incorporated in the analysis which includes: quantity, quality, relation and manner.

Maxim of quantity: The maxim of quantity requires the speaker to make contributions as informative as expected. Do not make your contributions more informative than required. Examples:

Excerpt 4: I will engage all parties to the breakdown of peace and order in Anambra from a point of determination to solve problems and resolve disagreements with openness, integrity, equity and justice.

Excerpt 2: We will seek active collaboration and cooperation with the federal government, our neighbouring and other states as well as the international community to provide our state truly people – centered government.

From the excerpts above, it is clear that Governor Soludo provided the required information without being less informative or more as to get the audience bored, He emphasized the engagement of all parties needed to make sure peace, justice and security is restored in the state. In excerpt 2, he promised his people active collaboration with the federal government, neighbouring states and even international bodies

to ensure Anambra state is carefully democratized and the needed changes achieved.

Maxim of quality: Do not say what you believe to be false. Do not say that for which you lack adequate evidence. Examples:

Excerpt 14: *This your government, I am only your employ.*

Excerpt 15: *For 12 years since 2009 when I first indicated interest to serve you, I persevered through turbulent politics and here we are.*

In excerpt 14, Soludo stated categorically that the government belong to the people while he is just the chief. The truth of the matter is that in a normal democratic setting power resides with the masses. Excerpt 15 is based on the presupposition that the audience are aware of the fact that Governor Soludo indicated his interest to serve them since 12 years ago. Thus, the statement is predicated against the backdrop of what the governor assumes to be common knowledge between him and his audience. The utterances fulfil the maxim of quality since they are true rather than false claims.

Maxim of relation: This particular maxim requires the speaker to make his contribution relevant. Example:

Excerpt 26: *Today, I will sign an executive order to suspend all revenue contracts operating in the parks, markets and roads until we put in place a new system within the next few weeks. Consequently, as from tomorrow, 18th March, 2022, if anyone asks you to pay CASH to him as revenue to the government in the parks, markets and roads, such a person must be thief.*

Governor Soludo maintained logicity in his speech evident from the above excerpt. First things first, He reveals his status as the speaker as well as the chief executive of the state. He will first sign an executive order on 17th March 2022, suspending all revenue contracts and consequently ordered that no one should pay cash to anybody in the

form revenue to the government from 18th March, 2022. Based on this logical arrangement, the speech fulfilled the maxim of relation.

Maxim of manner: This requires that a speaker should be perspicuous and specific. He should avoid ambiguity, obscurity, be brief and orderly. Examples:

Excerpt 6: *Let us get around the table and talk. Let the elite in the closet come out and let's debate our future and forge a consensus.*

Excerpt 7: *Let those in the forest come out, surrender their guns and let's work together to rehabilitate and empower you to contribute positively to the peace and prosperity of our homeland.*

The above excerpts are unambiguously stated. They are explicit, brief, straight to the point and self-explanatory. He did not violate the maxim of manner. The information offered is perspicuous and could be understood by anybody. By so doing, the governor niggardly handed out the required nuggets of information in a manner that may have impressed his entire audience both old and young.

Discussion

The present study analysis a speech event that took place in a formal political gathering. An inaugural speech by His Excellency Governor Charles Soludo which took place on the day of inauguration ceremony on 17th March, 2022 at the Anambra State Government House Agu- Awka, Anambra State. The audience present on the speech event are the people of Nigeria from Anambra state and mostly members of the ruling party. All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA). The relationship between the speaker and the immediate audience certainly influenced the careful selection of diction and illocutionary acts to use in getting his political ambition achieved as well as getting his views properly communicated. Here both the speaker and the listeners are influenced by the context in the production and

interpretation of the overall message delivered because they all share common ideology and same socio-cultural background. The findings in this study show that Governor Soludo explored the various illocutionary acts as stipulated in Searle's Taxonomy of illocutionary acts. It was discovered that among all the illocutionary acts, the commissive acts ranked the highest with the frequency of 62(36%), followed by the directives 27%, Assertives 19%, Expressives 12% and Declaratives 6%.

The high percentage of commissive acts in Governor Soludo's speech is noteworthy. This is his first time as a governor of a state and his first official speech to the people of his state. The reason is not far-fetched especially in political setting, initial speeches are usually meant to appreciate, acknowledge, solicit, promise and most importantly build bridges on various rivers that run during the period of campaign and elections (Abuya,2012). Thus, he used the power of language effectively to reassure, admonish, appeal, inspire, enlighten, persuade, encourage, express his psychological state, promise and to convince the people to accept his propositions. The speech is also considered to have fulfilled Grice's cooperative principles having been delivered within the confines of the maxims of quality, quantity, relation and manner.

Conclusion

The primary aim of this research study is to explore the role of illocutionary acts in communication with particular reference to Governor Charles Soludo's inaugural speech. The analysis in the study has identified various communicative functions performed in the process of delivering a speech especially political speech. Therefore, the various interpretations alluded to the illocutionary acts identified and more interestingly, the preponderance use of commissive acts coupled with the non-violation of Grice's principles of cooperation in

communication adequately portrayed the governor as a good politician and a great communicator.

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