

A STYLISTIC ANALYSIS OF LEXICAL COLLOCATION AND RELATION IN THE SELECTED PRESS RELEASES OF COMRADE EMMA POWERFUL

Emmanuel Jolaolu Adegbenro,
Oluwakemi Titilola Olayemi
&
Christianah Taiwo Obarotimi

Abstract

This work considered a stylistic analysis of lexical collocation and relation in selected Press Releases of Comrade Emma Powerful, who is the Media Publicity Secretary of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) group. It also examined the deployment of language in pressing for the group's demands. Three of Comrade Emma Powerful's Press Releases were randomly selected as data for the research, and were textually interrogated by identifying, categorising, and analysing the lexical collocation patterns that characterise them. Both quantitative and qualitative methods were utilised through the eye-lenses of Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistic framework to underpin meaning dissemination devices in the Press Releases. It was discovered, amongst others, that Emma Powerful deliberately engaged both adjective-noun and adverb-verb collocations to paint a positive picture of the IPOB and a negative picture of the Nigerian government. Furthermore, sematic repetitions, hyponymy and synonymy became effective means for achieving this positive self-portrayal of the group and negative Nigerian government portrayal, as well as internal connectivity and emphasis within the texts. The study recommended that spokes persons of the agitating groups should be more polite, constructive, objective in their lexical choices to win public sympathy.

Key words: Comrade Emma Powerful, lexical collocation, lexical relation, press release, stylistic analysis.

Introduction

Comrade Emma Powerful is the media publicity secretary of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB). He is one of the arrow heads of the IPOB. Specifically as the media and publicity secretary, he can be said to be the mouth piece and the face of the IPOB. Invariably, whatever he says, IPOB says. The Indigenous People of Biafra headed by Mazi Nnamdi Kanu is one of the contemporary agitating groups for Biafra Republic. The Republic of Biafra refers to the Eastern part of Nigeria where the Igbo ethnic group dominates. The Igbos are one of the major tribes in Nigeria. For the past five decades, the Igbo has been on a quest for the sovereignty of the Republic of Biafra for some reasons. In view of this decades' quest or agitation, speeches and press releases have been adopted as one of the means to drive home their agitation for the sovereignty of the Biafra Republic also called the Indigenous People of Biafra. Such press releases like that of Comrade Emma Powerful have been delivered to instigate, trigger, motivate, mobilise, manipulate, persuade the intended audience into their pre-planned actions.

In such press releases, the authors/writers adopt the use of language as a powerful element to manipulate the perception of reality of the proposed audience. In support of this opinion, Gosharian (1986) believed that words have the power of shaping somebody else's judgement of a subject. As a result of this, language is mostly adopted by agitators in their quest to keep the target audience updated and influenced. However, such language use has its peculiar features which makes it distinct from other language use in other fields or disciplines. These peculiar features make such language use by agitators such as Comrade Emma Powerful quite unique, propagandistic and rhetorical.

It is on this view that this work would leverage on to carry out a stylistic analysis of the lexical collocation and relation of three press releases of Comrade Emma Powerful. These press releases were randomly selected from Comrade Emma Powerful's briefings of 2019, 2020, and 2021 consecutively. The main objective is to identify how

lexical items are collocated and related in the press releases to communicate intended meanings to the target audience.

Researchers, such as Omozuwa and Ezejideaku (2009); Anderson (2014); Balogun (2015); Bolarinwa (2016); Akinwotu (2018) have carried out a stylistic analysis of different political texts with focus on literary features, speeches, newspapers, inaugural speeches, memoranda and so on. However, insufficient or no attention has been given to the stylistic study of press releases of Emma Powerful of IPOB. It is for this reason that this work attempts to investigate lexical collocation and relation in comrade Emma Powerful's Press Releases. This work would be of advantage to government, politicians, media personnel, agitators and Igbos at large. It is believed that the finding will reveal the patterns of choice of lexical collocation and relation employed in the press releases and how they are used to achieve his intended objectives

Literature Review

Stylistics is a word that is derived from style. It simply means the study or analysis of style in a text or literary work. Osoba (2001:186), quoting Turner, defines stylistics as that "part of linguistics which concentrates on variation in the use of language often but not exclusively with special attention to the most conscious and complex uses of language". So, stylistics makes the meaning of a text more explicit by critically studying the language used. It is to elucidate how one's understanding of textual content is achieved by investigating the point of interest in the linguistic organisation of the text and how a reader/listener should interact with such text in order to make meaning of it.

Osoba (2001:186), in his further attempts to describe stylistics, has it from ample authors thus: the analysis of style (Lyon, 1977), the application of linguistics to the study of literature (Berry year); the common frontier between the study of language and the study of literature (Oladeji year); the bridge between language and literature (Leech, 1985). Inferably, stylistics dissects a text with the intention to

identify unique features at all stylistic levels in the text, whether linguistics or literature, with the ultimate intention to investigate or appropriate meaning. Inference from the description reveals that stylistics as a linguistic tool is dichotomous involving both linguistic and literary texts. Carter (1988:161) buttressing this view agrees that stylistics is a significant bridge field between linguistics and literature. Literary stylistics is focused on the explication of the linguistic devices in a literary text and how the author adapts them to pass across the intended message. On one hand, literary stylistics is an aspect of stylistics but which is concerned with literature text. Leech (1969) defines it simply as the “study of literary style or to make the matter even more explicit, the study of the use of language in literature”. In this view, one can say that literary stylistics is the study of the text that and language used, not grammar. Literary stylistics is concerned with literary appreciation by examining the linguistic organization to establish the meaning of the literary text. It is concerned with language and how it is used in the context not how it should be used. The focus of literary stylistics is to identify the unusual and uncommon use of language by the user. This is what stylistics tagged as ‘deviant, abnormal and prominent feature’ and special language. With stylistics as a surgical knife in the hand of a surgeon, these devices are identified, appreciated, investigated and interpreted. Thus, it is “a systematic analysis of the linguistic strategy of a given literature” (Osoba 2001:186). It also demystifies how language approach, merged with aesthetics, conveys a message by the author.

On the other hand, linguistic stylistics involves the study of the description of the internal features or characteristics of the style in a text. It is the methodical study of style in a text. It deals with the counts of words, sentences, choice of words and sentences making in a text. Osoba (2001:186) asserts that “stylistics is a linguistically oriented approach which studies, in as much detail as possible, the varieties of language and the formal linguistic feature that characterize them.” However, scholars such as Widdowson (1975:3), Carter (1988:161), Simpson (2004:2), Leech (1969:2), all believe and assert that the

difference between literary and linguistic stylistics is finite decimal and narrowly inseparable. Their claim assent that the two has no autonomous domain of their own. It is assumed that both overlap because language is a channel of literature and style plays important role in contributing to meaning. What stylistics does either to linguistic or literature text is to investigate personal idiosyncrasy which identifies each writer as distinctive with the primary motive to ascertain the message they intend to convey. It is therefore clear that stylistics serves as a mechanism to decode and interpret the unique method in which a linguistic or literary authors convey their ideas, messages, opinions, and intentions through their writing.

Theoretical Framework

This study relied on M.A.K. Halliday's (1994) Systemic Functional Linguistic (SFL) theory which focuses on the idea that language is a system of choices. SFL examines how words combine to form meaningful patterns and relations. And for any text to be cohesive is simply a function of the co-occurrence of lexical items. This unity of the text is achieved by collocation. This is because "each occurrence of a lexical item carries with it its own textual history, a particular collocation environment that has been built up in the course of creation of the text and that will provide the context within which the item will be incarnated on this particular occasion" (Halliday, 1994: 289). McCarthy et. al (2005: 4) further corroborate this by agreeing that collocation is "... a natural combination of words; it refers to the way English words are closely associated with each other". What this highlights is that words are not isolated entities but choices from a system of possibilities. The choice of one word influences the meaning of surrounding words. This study therefore adopts Halliday's textual meta-function which is concern with how language is organized in the text. It helps to pattern the intended information, making the message coherent and ascertaining that the coherent message fits into the whole context of communication.

The concept of collocation refers to the tendency of words to co-occur, not randomly but regularly and meaningfully, to reveal underlying semantic relationship. Accordingly, several types of semantic relations between words were identified by the theory, which include synonymy (similar meaning), antonymy (opposite meaning), hyponymy (meaning inclusion or entailment), metonymy (part-whole meaning relationship), and collocation (regular co-occurrence). For Halliday, language is a network of choices, where words are connected through various relationships. And it is this network which underlies the structure of language. By examining a stylistic analysis of collocation patterns and semantic relations in the selected press releases of Comrade Emma Powerful, it is hoped that the underlying structure of language use by agitators and how it shapes their intended meanings will be unravelled.

Methodology

Three press releases of Comrade Emma Powerful, the Media and Publicity Secretary of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) were randomly collected online as the data for this analysis. The selected press releases are those of October 4, 2019, April 22, 2020 and July 27, 2021 respectively. The compelling justification for the selection of these press releases out of Emma Powerful's so many press releases is that the selected press releases project the concepts of the peaceful and unarmed IPOB, which he speaks for and represents. The analysis is carried out under close reading, identification, tabulation and categorisation of the lexical collocation and relation. The implication of the identified lexical features as it relates to the intended messages of the selected press releases are then discussed. Both qualitative and quantitative analyses were adopted by the study. The research relied on MAK Halliday's (1994) Systemic Functional Linguistic framework (SFL), especially the aspect of lexical collocation and relation as the bases of this analysis.

Data Analysis

Lexical Collocation

Collocation is two or more lexes closely combine. Usually adjectives and adverbs carefully combine with noun and verbs respectively. Comrade Emma Powerful carefully chose adjectives/noun and adverbs/verbs as collocates respectively to portray the personality and actions of both Nigerian and Biafrans and what they entails. The lexical collocations were either to depict Biafra and all it entails in positive lights or to present Nigeria and all she entails in negative lights. These lexical collocations have been presented on different tables for ease of analysis.

Table 1: Adjective-Noun Collocation for Negative Representations in the Press Release (PR)

PR	Adjective Collocation	Noun	Representation in the Press Releases
1	Deplorable attack		Nigerian government
	Insensitive visit		Major Gen Muhammadu Buhari
	Sudanese impostor		Jubril All-Sudan (alleged paraded as deceased Nigerian President)
	unprovoked brutality	Police	Nigerian Police force
	Unique brand		State barbarism of the President
	State barbarism		Abba Kyari and the President (Jubril)
	Terror groups		Nigerian government leaders
2	Rampant harassment		Nigerian security operatives (of the IPOB)
	Incessant harassment		Nigerian security operatives (of the IPOB)
	barbaric killings		Nigerian security operatives (of the IPOB)
	Critical condition		Stabbed IPOBs

	Reckless abandon	Nigerian Police and Army personnel (attacked on IPOB)
	Deceptive attitude	Nigerian government
	Secret operation	Nigerian security agents (of searching for IPOB members)
3	Seek and hide attitude	Department of State Services (DSS)
	Systematic delay	the failure of the DSS to Produce Kanu
	Wicked plot	the failure of the DSS to Produce Kanu
	Foul play	the failure of the DSS to Produce Kanu
	Deteriorating health	IPOB leader (Nnamdi Kanu)

In table 1 above, Comrade Emma Powerful in his press releases deployed adjective-noun collocation preponderantly to negatively represent, present, name call, label, describe and portray Nigeria and all it stands for; the government, president, security agency, states, acts, State Security Service (SSS) in a bad light. Negative adjectives were carefully selected to collocate with noun words to write-off the Nigerian government and disabuse the mind of the people towards them. As shown in the table above, examples such as ‘deplorable’ attack, ‘insensitive’ visit, ‘Sudanese’ impostor, ‘unprovoked’ police brutality, ‘incessant’ harassment, ‘unique’ brand, ‘state’ barbarism, ‘Terror’ groups, ‘barbaric’ killings, ‘wicked’ plot, ‘reckless’ abandon, ‘deceptive’ attitude, ‘systematic’ delay, ‘wicked’ plot, ‘deteriorating’ health and many more were all deployed as emotive constructions to mooch-off people’s sympathy towards their predicaments. The negative constructions were also to actually demonize Nigerian government and its agencies. The word “deplorable” means terrible, “insensitive” gives the impression of an act without human feelings, “Sudanese” is deliberately used to dismiss the personality or identity of the sitting President as fake, impersonating and deceptive especially when the

collocate ‘impostor’ is reckoned with. Likewise, ‘unprovoked’ in the action of the Police that had already been described as mere ‘brutality’ is used to mean senseless. ‘Incessant’ depicts the frequency of harassment/attacks, ‘unique’ in ‘unique brand’ is sarcastically used to lampoon the action of the sitting President. The failure of the government to release Kanu has also been described as ‘systematic’, ‘wicked’ and ‘foul’ especially as his health that has been ‘deteriorating’. The choice of these negative adjectives were stylistically deployed to castigate the government and its organs/agencies.

Table 2: Adjective-Noun Collocation for Positive Presentations in the Press Release

PR	Adjective Noun Collocation	Representation in the Press Releases
1	Unarmed protesters	Biafrans
	Peaceful protesters	Biafrans
2	Economic backbone	Biafrans: South South and South East regions
	Power force	Biafrans
3	Great leader	Mazi Nnamdi Kanu
	Unconditional release	Arrested Biafrans

On the other hand, the above table presents examples of adjective-noun collocations which were deployed to represent a positive view of the IPOB. ‘Unarmed’ presents the protesting Biafrans as innocent, peaceful, harmless people that should not have been tampered with. This is reiterated in ‘peaceful protesters’. ‘Economic backbone’ emphasizes the economic advantage and position of the Regions in the South-South and South-West. ‘Great’ in ‘great leader’ deliberately extol the leadership quality of Mazi Nnamdi Kanu. The aim of the above uses of collocation is to create a propaganda effects with the primary intention of incurring empathy from their target audience in what can

be called ‘glittering generality’. This is intended to praise Biafrans, IPOB, their leadership and volunteers to be accepted as innocent, peaceful, courageous, global, unarmed and by so doing get their agitation for Biafra Republic to be approved by their target national, international and global audience as acceptable, good, great, civil, inalienable, immutable, right, commendable, reasonable quest. These choice of adjective-noun collocations also make the Comrade Emma Powerful press releases abusive towards and about Nigerian leaders, government, agencies, and supporters. This abusive words also according to Richard, Platt and Platt (1992) is a tool to create propaganda effect in agitation (political) discourse.

Table 3: Adverb-Verb Collocation for Positive/Negative Presentations in the Press Release

PR	Adverb-Verb Collocation	Representation in the Press Releases
1	Fraudulently paraded	Nigeria
	Legitimately demanding	Biafrans
2	Unequivocally condemn	Biafrans
3	Heartily commend	Biafrans

The type of collocation on display in table 3 is that of adverb-verb pairs to either discredit the Nigerian government or to commend the IPOB. The manner of Nigerian action to the IPOB is negatively expressed in the adverbs as in ‘fraudulently paraded’, that is dishonestly, while the IPOB actions are positively represented as ‘legitimately demanding’ and “heartily commend”, meaning legally and genuinely. The above is another instance of ‘glittering generalities’. This is a tool for creating propaganda effect to present IPOB as a positive and commendable group. Another subtle intention of IPOB leaders in doing this is to stylishly appeal to different authorities and stakeholders; local, national, international, global audience and individuals or groups for approval, empathy and support for their agitation. Meanwhile, there

are other adverb-verb collocations replete in the sampled press releases which the IPOB employed to negatively present the manner of the Nigerian government's actions and treatment towards them, such as, 'already killed', "openly sponsored", 'openly perpetrated', 'unlawfully killed', 'forcibly taken', 'forcibly expel', 'publicly disenfranchised'. These adverb-verb collocations present an ideology of positivity in the representation of the IPOB leaders and negativity in the representation of the Nigerian government. The IPOB leaders employed the use of negative lexical choice to demean the Nigerian government as fraudulent, while presenting his group as legitimate. The intention is to play the victim and blackmail the Nigerian government as the aggressor, even though what is eventually by this idea is that the IPOB is indirectly made to sound aggressive, abusive, bias, and confrontational about and to Nigerian government.

Lexical Relation

A Lexical relation is about the way words are linked together systematically and interdependently. This is achieved through lexical relationship such as lexical and semantic repetition - synonyms, antonyms, hyponyms and hyponyms. Lexical relations have to do with "the internal organisation of the linguistic system" (Ayodele and Adeniyi 1999). They are used to form cohesion which enhances the meaning. IPOB spokespersons employed these linguistic means not only to achieve internal link of their press releases but also to create emphasis and to arouse intended emotion in their fellow Biafrans. Two types are mainly deployed in the sampled press releases; lexical and morphological repetitions, respectively.

Table 4: Lexical and Morphological Repetition in the Press Releases

Lexical Items	PR1	PR2	PR3	Total	Freq.
Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB)	14	24	9	47	3/3
Nigerian Govt.	2	10	2	14	3/3
General Buhari	1	0	0	1	1/3

Kanu	0	2	1	3	2/3
Total	17	36	12	65	

In the above example, lexical repetition is employed to establish the significance of the repeated words. Examples depict the significant personalities/participants in the press releases. IPOB is the most repeatedly used by Comrade Emma Powerful in the press releases. Forty-seven (47) times in the three press releases. This is because it is the entity that the spokesperson is trying to project to the world. It is the nucleus of the press releases. This is followed by Nigeria (government) which is repeated in all the three (3) press releases for fourteen (14) times. It is the second most prominent because it is the oppositional object of the political agitation. Nnamdi Kanu is the third most repeatedly used lexical item in the press releases. It is also used in two (2) out of the three (3) press releases for three (3) times. 'Kanu' is the most repeatedly used individual all through the selected press releases because he is the movement object of love, admiration and the political agitation of the IPOB, the group comrade Emma Powerful is speaking for. Though it appears in two (2) out of the three (3) press releases, it was repeated three (3) times.

General Buhari is the least repeatedly used lexical item, it is used in just one (1) out of the three (3) press releases. This could be an indication that the target, protest and agitation of the IPOB as represented by Comrade Emma Powerful is not targeted at an individual entity as General Buhari but Nigeria as an entity. However, General Buhari is used in the press releases because he is seen as a figure representing Nigeria as the President of Nigeria. He symbolises all that they claim Nigeria represents - oppressor, impostor, murderer, killer and so on - to the Biafrans. In addition, historically, he represents the Northern monarchy who the Media and Publicity secretary of the IPOB think stands on their way to freedom and actualisation of Biafra independence. Lexical relations are also used in the press releases to achieve semantic repetition for cohesive tie and cohesion.

Table 5: Semantic Repetitions in the Press Releases

	Hyponymy	Death	Human	Crime
PR 1	Hyponymy		people, family, police, protesters, agitations, collaborators, terrorist, group	attack, apartheid, brutality
PR 2	Hyponymy	killing, killings, killed, murdered, massacring, slaughtering, kill	family, people, liberator, citizens, army, police, perpetrators, soldier, security personnel, military, killer, man, police, army, world, population, father, mother, youth, terrorists, supporters, ruler politicians, stakeholders, community	harassment, humiliation, cruelty, intimidation
PR 3	Hyponymy	kill, die	family, people, leader, lawyer, physicians, friend	torturing, abduction, kidnapped

The kind of repetition shown in the above table is indicated or implied in the meaning of the various in each corresponding box; lexical items which can be hyponymous, that is general and specific items; antonym (oppositeness) and synonyms (nearness). Hyponym and Hyponyms refers to a relationship between a general term and a specific term. Semantic repetitions that is a situation where meaning of two or more words overlaps, abound in the selected press releases. The lexical choices of Comrade Emma Powerful have revealed how lexical choice is made to serve the purpose of establishing ties, emphasis, and maintaining cohesion. This choice is also used to achieve social roles and looking to influence the attitude and behaviours of their target audience in the society. The word ‘death’ for example expresses the different kind of death that the Biafrans died which to Comrade Emma Powerful are not natural but murderous, massacring and slaughtering. This is targeted at arousing emotion and playing the vulnerable and endangered species, thus subtly attracting empathy and international assistance. In addition, the word ‘human’ was adopted to reveal a

different kind of participants in the press releases. The word ‘crime’ is repeated as indicated by Comrade Emma Powerful to claim that many crimes such as apartheid, kidnapping, harassment, intimidation, brutality, cruelty, humiliation, and others are committed against the Biafrans in their quest and agitation. This is a deliberate ploy to depict the wanton level of wickedness that the IPOB has suffered from the Nigerian government.

Table 6: Synonymous Lexical Relations in the Press Releases

Press Release	Lexical Item	Synonymous Lexical item
PR 1	unarmed	Peaceful
	capitulate	Surrender
	freedom	Independence
	Barbarism	Brutality
PR 2	rampant	Incessant
	innocent	Unarmed
	elimination	Killing
	Lure	Cajole

Synonyms as in the above table are also employed in Comrade Emma Powerful’s press releases as instances of semantic repetitions to achieve what Jefferies (2016) called equating and contrasting respectively. In the examples presented, the lexical items are synonymously used as equivalence of each other; unarmed/peaceful, freedom/independence, rampant/incessant, elimination/killing, lure/cajole and others. Therefore, repetition in both lexical and semantic is a deliberate attempt by Comrade Emma Powerful to further create propaganda effect called argumentum (tireless repetition) and to reiterate message to the people.

Findings

It is obvious that the language choices of Comrade Emma Powerful in his Press Releases are laced with undertone of tension and emotion. It has been discovered that the lexical choices are deliberate and mostly directed towards motivating, mobilizing, educating, and informing the target audience in order to project the group as positive despite being dubbed negative by the Nigerian government. The Press Releases were structured to propel, instigate, and request for the support of designated stakeholders in achieving its proposal or intended mission. In view of this, Comrade Emma Powerful scripted the press releases in such a stylistic way to influence the perception and the conception of the people about the Igbo and Nigerian government as positive and negative respectively. However, in an attempt to do this, IPOB's deployment of lexical choices for subterfuge indirectly became the tools for the group's negative representation as perceived by the Nigerian government.

Findings also revealed that Comrade Emma Powerful carefully combined related lexical items to express the group's intension. The lexical items in the press releases revealed that lexical collocations such as adjective-noun collocation and adverb-verb are carefully selected to contrast the acts and personalities of Biafran and Nigerian government as positive and negative respectively. In addition, findings revealed that these lexical items are collocated and related as stylistic foregrounding to create propaganda effects such as "glittering generalities", name-calling and demonizing the enemy in the Press Releases. The findings also revealed that Comrade Emma Powerful made use of lexical relation such as lexical and semantic repetition to create systematic and interdependent, interlink and emphasis.

Conclusion

Having examined the analysis of three (3) selected press releases of Comrade Emma Powerful the media and publicity secretary of the IPOB, it is concluded that he skilfully made use of lexical collocation and relation laced with propaganda techniques to convey his

information. However, he deliberately chose lexes to be aggressive, abusive, and negative laced with propaganda to communicate his impression about Nigeria as negative. It is concluded that the lexical choices are stylistically foregrounding to achieve propagandistic effect in the press releases like labelling/name-calling, negation, demonizing Nigeria as enemy of IPOB and creating glittering generalities, about IPOB as the good and victim of humiliation in Nigeria. However, the negative propagandistic collocation and relation of lexical items by Comrade Emma Powerful to represent Nigeria made them sound too aggressive, bias, judgmental, abusive, and confrontational, and this informed their been labelled as terrorist group by the Nigerian government.

However, it is suggested if the media and publicity secretary of IPOB will carefully, politely, constructively, positively, objectively make lexical choices for effective communication in their press releases, they are likely to win more support and gain the sympathy of the Nigerian government or outsiders. There is the need for Comrade Emma Powerful and IPOB to avoid negative, abusive lexical choices at collocation and relational levels in their future press releases to make them more objective and acceptable. They should also avoid negative use of propaganda to avoid bias and prejudging in dissemination of information.

References

- Akinwotu, S.A. (2018) 'Language and Style in Political Inaugurals: A Study of Inaugural Speeches of Governor Olusegun Mimiko of Ondo State, Nigeria'. *British Journal Online* (5) PP 1-15. www.eajournals.org
- Anderson, J. (2014). *A Stylistic Analysis of Some Selected Political Speeches by John Evans Atta Mills*. (Unpublished M.Phil. Thesis. University of Ghana, Legion)
- Ayodele, A. and Adeniyi, H. (1999). *Language and Communication: An Introductory Text Vol. 1*. Lagos: Harade and Associates

- Balogun, S. (2015). A Stylistics Study of Parallelism in the Presidential Speeches of President Barrack Obama and Goodluck Jonathan. (Unpublished M.A. Project. Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.
- Bolarinwa, R.B. (2016). A stylistic Analysis of Language of Politics in the Acceptance Speech of President Goodluck Jonathan. *International Journal for research in Education Studies* Vol. 2 PP 37-45
- Carter, R. (1988). 'Discussions in the Teaching and Study of English Stylistics' in Short, M. (Ed), *reading, analysing and teaching Literature*. New York and UK, Longman Group
- Crystal, D. & Davy, D. (1969). *Investigative English Language and Literature*. London: Longman
- Fowler, R. (1975) (Ed.). 'Style and Structure in Literature' in *Essays in the New Stylistics*. Oxford
- Goshgarian, G. (ed.) (1986). *Exploring Language* 4th Edition, Boston: Little Brown & Company.
- Halliday, M.A.K. (1985). *An Introduction to Functional Grammar*. London: Edward Arnold.
- Jefferies, L. (2016). *Critical Stylistics*. In Sotirova, v. (ed.) *The Bloomsbury Companion to Stylistics*. New York: Bloomsbury Publishing, Plc. pp. 157-167.
- Khuzae, S. (2019). *A Multimodal Textual Analysis of Non-literary texts: A critical Stylistic Approach*. Doctoral thesis, University of Huddersfield. Pgs. 46 - 56
- Leech, G.N. (1969). *Linguistics Guide to English Poetry*. London, Longman.
- Mustafa, S. Y. & Khalil H. H. (2019). Order and Chaos in Young Adult Science Fiction: A Critical Stylistic Analysis. *Arab World English Journal*, 10 (3) 133-150. DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.24093/awej/vol10no3.9>
- Omozua, V.E. and Ezejideaku. (2009). 'A Stylistics of the Language of Political Campaigns in Nigeria: Evidence from the 2007 General Elections'. *African Journal Online* (6) PP 40-52. <https://ajol.info/52327>

- Osoba, G.A. (2001). Style and Stylistics: Definitions and Approaches pp. 185-191; In Fakoya, A.A. and Osoba, G.A. The English Compendium 1&2. Lagos: Lagos State University
- Palmer, F.R. (1971). Grammar. Harmondsworth, Penguin.
- Richard, C. Platt, J. and Platt, H. (1992). The Longman Dictionary of Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics. New Edition. London: Longman
- Simpson, P. (2004). Stylistics: a Resource Book for Student. Routledge 11 New fetter Lane, London.
- Turner, G.W. (1973). Stylistics. England, Penguin Books Ltd
- Turner, G.W. (1973). The Statistical International of Vocabulary. Cambridge, University Press
- Widdowson, H.G. (1975). Stylistics and Teaching of Literature. London Longman.