

A PRAGMATIC INTERPRETATION OF CORRUPTION- INFESTED NIGERIAN SOCIETY IN IKE CHUKWUEMEKA’S *OUR CHILDREN ARE COMING*

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Abstract

The study x-rays the Nigerian society by looking at the confessional statements of the different characters in Ike Chukwuemeka’s *Our Children Are Coming!* The novelist critically examined Nigerian society, especially through the prism of the political and the elite members of the society who are either leaders today or would-be leaders of tomorrow. The objectives of the study are to highlight the rot in the society perpetrated through corruption and moral decadence by the elite members of the society. This study aims to address societal ills by analyzing monologues and dialogues conversations in the novel in order to make the Nigerian society a better place for living. The methodology for this study involved extracting the monologues or self-confessional statements of the characters as well as the open confessions of the adults who appeared before: The Presidential Commission on Juvenile below Twenty-one Years and the young characters who appeared before: The National Commission on Parents Over Twenty-one Years. These statements were extracted and numbered appropriately for ease of analyses of their Implicature for good governance and corruption-free society. The theoretical framework of analysis is Grice’s (1975) Conventional and Conversational Implicature of the statements. The findings revealed the extent of the rot in Nigerian society and the consequences on good governance and national development in Nigeria. The study has also shown that high level intellectualism does not guaranty high moral probity and corruption-free individuals. The study recommends the need for a national reorientation and rebirth for the elite youths and adults in the Nigerian society.

Keywords: pragmatics, corruption, governance, Implicature, leadership

Introduction

Ike Chukwuemeka’s *Our Children Are Coming* is a fascinating novel which x-rays the Nigerian society through a fictitious narration in book length by presenting characters and actions with some degree of realism. It is an extended work of narrative fiction usually written in prose and published as a book in 1990. According to Prah, A. (2019), a novel is a narrative work of prose fiction that tells a story about specific human experiences over a considerable length or word count.

Ike Chukwuemeka’s *Our Children Are Coming* mirrors the Nigerian society, especially the elite

class represented by the political and administrative office holders and their children represented by the juveniles below twenty-one years old or the educated young adults in the society. The novel is an advocacy against corruption and moral decadence being perpetrated by these sets of people mentioned above. The implications of the actions of these set of people in leadership positions today and the young adults who will take over leadership positions tomorrow, often referred to as “leaders of tomorrow” are highlighted in the novel. The ills of corruption and moral decadence so exposed in the novel showed that “The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born.”

Every facet of the society is guilty in one way or the other of the menace of corruption which is defined in various ways by different scholars. Gatung et al (2013) see corruption as “the use of public office for the purpose of personal gain” similarly, Hira et al (2016) see corruption as “...any breach of trust, malfeasance of intended duty, or failure to deliver in both practice and spirit for any agreement when the purpose is the gain of just one of the parties.” Also, the United Nation Convention on corruption says that corruption represents a threat “...to the stability and security of societies, undermining the institution of democracy, ethical values and justice and jeopardizing sustainable development and the rule of law.” This study is therefore motivated by the desire to expose these ills in the society by exploring pragmatics meaning to the statements resulting from the dialogues between the chairmen of the two commissions of inquiry and the witnesses who testify before them (that is, The Presidential Commission of Inquiry on Juveniles under Twenty-one Years and The Commission of Inquiry on Parents Over Twenty-one Years) as well as the press conference made by the President and 1st National Vice President of National Association of Students (NAS).

The study employed a pragmatic meaning because Yule (1996) sees Pragmatics as the study of “speaker’s meaning”. He further defines Pragmatics as the study of “invisible meaning or how we recognize what is meant even when it is not actually said or written”. This means that meanings are derived from utterances or statements through shared assumptions between the speaker and the hearer. Leech (1983) sees Pragmatics as “the study of how utterances have meaning in situation”. This implies that the speaker has the best way to accomplish his/her conversational aim through his/her use of language. In other words, Leech presents a complementarist view of pragmatics within an overall programme of studying language as a communication system. This means, studying the use of language as distinct from, but complementary to, the language itself seen as a formal system (Leech 1983:6).

Statement of the Research Problem

Researches are by nature, designed to solve

problems or help to reduce a raging incidence to its barest minimum. The Nigerian society is bedeviled with issues of corruption and moral decadence in almost all the facet of its life making one to wonder whether there is any array of hope in curbing the phenomenon. These problems have become so notorious in the Nigerian society such that the hopes of their eradication have become gloomy by each passing day. A lot of people have lost hope of curbing corruptive tendencies and moral decadence among the elite members of the society. There is a general apathy and disillusionment to campaigns against these dry-headed monsters called “corruption and moral decadence” in the society which have become so endemic either as a result of lack of political will to fight them or because of the general believe that everybody is involved. This study therefore, is aimed at bridging that gap by utilizing the rich resources of anti-corruption and moral decadence in Ike Chukwuemeka’s *Our Children Are Coming* which have not been fully explored in campaigning against corruption-infested Nigerian society. The paper is a clarion call to draw the minds of the society back to the common enemies plaguing our society through exploring a pragmatic interpretation of the statements in the dialogic conversations in the novel thereby showcasing the bad effects of corruption and moral decadence in Nigerian society. It is hoped that the leaders of today and those of tomorrow will x-ray themselves by this study and shone corruption in all its ramifications for the good of the society.

Objectives of the Study

This study is aimed at highlighting corruption and moral decadence in the Nigerian society as satirized in the novel through the following objectives:

1. Highlight the corruptive activities perpetrated by the adult elites in the society, especially those occupying political and administrative leadership position in Ike Chukwuemeka’s *Our Children Are Coming*!
2. Highlight the moral decadence perpetrated by the young elite members of the society also known as the juveniles below twenty-one years who are expected to be “leaders of tomorrow” as portrayed in Ike

Chukwuemeka's *Our Children Are Coming!*

3. Interpret the Implicature of the utterances/statements against the adults and the juveniles in the Nigerian society as portrayed in Ike Chukwuemeka's *Our Children Are Coming!*

Significance of the Study

This research is very significant in the sense that it is tailored towards solving some of the major problems in the society by highlighting corruption as a cankerworm eating deep into the fabric of the Nigerian society and the moral rectitude among the youths. There is a nexus between corruption and bad governance and a corruption-free society and good governance. This study therefore is showcasing the bad effects of corruptive activities of both the young and the adult elite members of the Nigerian society with the aim of drawing consciousness to these bad activities for possible eradication or reduction for the survival of the society. There is a general lukewarm attitude to reading novels by a large percentage of the Nigerian society, despite the rich resources and messages inherent in novels. Some persons read novels just for pleasure and entertainment without thinking deeply about the didactic lessons to be learnt from them. This study therefore becomes very significant in that it exposes corruption perpetrated by "the leaders of today" and the moral decadence among "the leaders of tomorrow". This study presents Ike Chukwuemeka's *Our Children Are Coming* as a lens through which the elites – political and administrative leaders or office holders could see themselves and reflect on their activities as either good or bad for the society. The study therefore is a campaign against corruption and moral decadence in the society and hopes to draw peoples' consciousness to these ills plaguing the Nigerian society, so that conscious efforts or measures can be taken to correcting or ameliorating the problems, which will in turn, help entrench a better society full of development for the good of all, instead of the good of an individual and his/her immediate family.

Literature Review

This paper reviewed linguistics studies on corruption with the view to show that linguists are concerned with the problems of corruption and

moral decadence in the society. While some linguists advocate for waging war against corruption, others simply highlight the language of corruption without advocating for any action(s) against it.

Adegoju, A. (2003). Conducted a study entitled, "Corruption of Language and Nigeria's Debased Value System." He analyses what he calls "...language (ab)use evident in the Lexico-semantic constructions that are tactically deployed to configure and ...to conceal Nigeria's debased system." The study acknowledges the fact that the depravity of Nigeria's social order is alarming and unhealthy for national development and thinks that the linguistic options that Nigerians use to code all kinds of unacceptable behaviours are as threatening to the cause of national development as the practices themselves. The study proposes that "...any crusade that is geared towards sanitizing the Nigerian society should not be directed only at the manifestations of the country's perverse world-view but also at the linguistic expressions that serve as their 'life support' system." Adegoju's study is similar to the current study in many respects. The studies advocate for a crusade to sanitize the Nigerian society in order to achieve the desired national development; the studies also believe that corruption in every facet of the Nigerian society is alarming and disturbing, therefore, conscious efforts must be made to address them. The only point of divergence is that the earlier study did not say anything about moral decadence amongst the Nigerian youths.

Oboko, C. (2023). Conducted a study on "Contextualizing Language as a Tool of Value Degeneration: A Sociolinguistics Study of Language of Corruption in Nigeria." The study adopted a qualitative research design and a random sampling technique in selecting a total of one hundred respondents across the five south-eastern States (Anambra, Imo, Enugu, Ebonyi and Abia) in Nigeria. The paper anchored its analyses on the conceptual framework of Sapir-Whorfian Hypothesis which posits that our world-view is shaped by our languages. The analyses were done using interpretive textual analysis model to analyse the data collected from eight notable online newspapers such as The Vanguard, The Punch, The Guardian, This Day, The Premium,

The Sahara Reporters, Naira Land and others published between 2015 and 2021. The findings reveal that the use of words, phrases and expressions which are reflected in coinages, code-mixing, reduplication, metonymy, metaphor, slang, borrowing, pidginisation, lexical reversal and creative usages mask corruption and these have far-reaching effects on national development. The paper recommends that the fight against corruption should pay attention to linguistic embellishments that act as lifeline for the negative practice to trend. The two studies have common ground on fighting corruption in the society for national development to thrive. However, the studies differ in their methodologies and approaches to the menace. While the reviewed study sees the use of language embellishment as an act that promotes corruption, the current study views corruption from both actions and language use of the adult members of the society in Ike Chukwuemeka's *Our Children Are Coming!* The current study also views moral decadence by the youths who are supposedly the "leaders of tomorrow" as a worrisome development which must be tackled today for the survival of tomorrow.

Bodomo., A. (2021). Examined "The Language and Literature of Corruption in West Africa." The researcher looked at some theoretical approaches to corruption and discussed in details "The Rational Choice Theory and Cognitive Science" explanation on corruption based on notions from Psychology, Political Psychology and Behavioural Economics. The study submits that the approach adopted does not involve waging war on corruption but to highlight the expressions used in Transactional Linguistic Cues on Corruption (TLCC) to promote corruption among some languages in West Africa. Some selected expressions are exemplified below:

West African English: "put weight on top"

Yoruba: "se owo kunduru si mi" translated as "hand something to me discreetly".

Ibo: "megharia ahu" translated as "shake/adjust body"

Akan: "ye biribi or hu yen kakra" translated as "do something or see us small"

Dagaare: "tung kore n ba" translated as "dip into your pocket"

Swahili: "toa ki ku kidogo" translated as "remove something small"

Hausa: "kasa yay i karfi, sheik a yi wani abu" translated as "the land is hard, you have to do something"

The study suggests that linguists and literary scholars can contribute to anti-corruption campaigns by identifying potential cases of corruption through the analysis of texts and using the methods to train anti-corruption staff. The current study is in agreement with the earlier study because we are using a literary text to analyse corruption in Nigerian society and using the text as a campaign or advocacy to reducing corruption in Nigerian society in order to pave way for national development.

Theoretical Framework

This study is based on the theoretical framework of Grice's (1975) concepts of conventional and conversational Implicature. The term Implicature is generally used by Grice (ibid) to account for what a speaker can imply, suggest, or mean, as distinct from what the speaker literally says. According to Grice (1975, p 44, in Awobi 2009, p 56), there are two types of Implicature:

A) The Conventional Implicature, which arguably refers to plenty of linguistic and semantic aspects of language. It consists of a sort of specific literal meanings, which slightly differ from the conversational implicature. It is determined by the conventional meaning of the words used. For example, "He is an Igboman, he is therefore industrious." The speaker does not directly assert that one property, "being industrious" follows from another property "being an Igboman", but the form of expression used conventionally implicates that such relation does hold (Awobi 2009, p 56).

B) The Conversational Implicature: this is derived from a general principle of conversation plus a number of maxims which speakers will normally obey if they do not want to be seen to flout, violate or infringe in conversation. The Conversational Implicature propounded by Grice (1975), suggests that we often convey information beyond that which we

say and that the additional meaning is inferred and predictable. The conversational maxims outlined by Grice are maxims of quantity, quality, relation, and manner. Although, this study is not exploring these maxims in details, the maxim of quality which has to do with telling a lie is mentioned where applicable in determining the type of Implicature employed to arrive at the finding of the study. The principles of conventional and conversational Implicatures are the pragmatic tenets of the linguistic study of Ike Chukwuemeka's *Our Children Are Coming!*

The Methodology of the Study

This study is a qualitative research in which the data for analyses are obtained from Ike Chukwuemeka's *Our Children Are Coming!* The method or procedure for data collection is done by identifying the speaker, the communicative

situation or context, the direct and indirect utterances which were assigned serial number and the interpretation of the utterances derived through conventional and conversational interpretations. The Implicature of the utterances/statements is discussed in the findings. The data presentation and analyses were done in line with the objectives of the study starting from the corruption and moral rectitude of the adult elites who are occupying various political and administrative positions as leaders, as testified by the youths to the National Commission of Inquiry on Adult above Twenty-one Years. And the moral decadence exhibited by the young persons as testified to the National Commission of Inquiry on Juveniles under Twenty-one Years by their parents. The Implicature of the utterances was done through the conventional and conversational Implicature model of Grice (1975) which were applied to the bulk statements of the testifiers to derive the interpretations.

Data Presentation and Analysis

S. N	Speaker	Communicative Context	Summary of statements of the speaker on activities of the accused.	Interpretation
1	Witness : 001	Testifying to the National Commission on Parents Over Twenty-one Years p.203	Witness 001 is a female who alleges that her father, a Nigerian Professor, impregnated her mother (a white American) out of wedlock but became furious that she (the daughter) became pregnant for her boyfriend out of wedlock. She stressed that her father was responsible for the circumstances that led to the pregnancy owing to his rigid stands on discipline. The father had instructed that she must not stay outside beyond 7.30 p.m. however, on that fateful day, she came home by 8.14 p.m, just by 44 minutes late and the father refused to open the gate for her to enter the house. This made her go over to sleep with the boyfriend in a guesthouse and they had sex for the first time which resulted in the pregnancy. Witness 001 henceforth Wt:001 testified that the father of her boyfriend (BF) is of the same ethnic group and a professional colleague with her father and they are both professors serving in two different universities in the United Kingdom but are sworn enemies due to a long animosity between the two professors over the fight they had over an English nursing sister. Wt: 001 also testified that her father treated the mother in a	The attitude of 001's father portrays high handedness, immorality, bitterness against fellow professional colleagues, lies, deceits and selfishness. Some professors on our campuses are so proud to admit failure, fallibility and are so rigid by handing out heartless punishment to others.

			dishonourable manner “my illustrious father had had financial problems during his undergraduate days in the US. My mother, who was also an undergraduate in the same university, gave up her own studies to take a job and finance his education. Things went well. Daddy achieved his MD, and I was born the year after. Then mummy went back to the university, to complete her studies. One day, unknown to mummy, daddy ran away to England, taking me along...” she claimed that the father exploited the mother and ditched her. The father used a friend to call her mother and lied that they (father and Daughter) are dead in an accident and the friend cut the call in order to conceal further detailed information she might want to get.	
2	Witness 002	Testifying to the National Commission on Parents Over Twenty-one Years	This is a male witness who said so many things about his father. His father is a charming and person admired by people especially, by the opposite sex. He was awarded two honorary PhDs and a knighthood in the Catholic church for exemplary life as a Christian leader. However, he does not eat his wife’s food nor sleep on the same bed with her. He is a rigid moralist and disciplinarian. But, he took a girl in form 5 about the age mate of his daughter on a trip for eight days. The principal of the college suspended the girl for absenteeism. But, the principal was harassed by the police to squash the suspension order and recall the girl back to school with immediate effect because she had gone to serve as a protocol officer in the entourage to Wt: 002’s father who went on an official tour of three European countries. At each trip of tour, a new beautiful university student willing to place her resources at the disposal of Wt: 002’s father is hired. The recurrent budget of his office took care of the expenses involved, including the generous payoff at the end of the tour. The father is also a ritual killer who commits heinous crimes of murder, sex maniac and stealing in order to achieve his greatness in life.	The father of witness 002 is a replica of wastefulness of government resources on menial and pecuniary things at the expense of good governance by top politicians and beaurocrates. The father is a ritualist, a reminiscent of present day politician and high office holders who commit heinous crimes in order to achieve greatness. Hence, the Nigerian society is plagued with incessant cases of kidnapping, banditry, terrorism and ritual killings attributable to highly placed elite members of the Nigerian society.
3	Witness 005	Testifying to the National Commission on Parents	She is a tall girl, another England or diaspora brought- up who is ready to testify to save other young people from going through the hell she went through in the hands of her parents. Her parents are by national standards at least, well to do, and they always provide generously for her needs. She was	The attitudes by these parents showed excessive parental influence and dictatorship. Most parents do not

		Over Twenty- one Years	<p>nicknamed “Aje butter” or pampered child.” while in Queen’s College because she never run out of spending money. She wanted to read law but her parents were furious about that choice of course which they believe is the science of telling lies with straight face and a stiff neck. Instead of law, they preferred that she reads medicine, which is the science of healing people. She obeyed her parents’ choice and she was taken to England to prepare for medicine. However, she was recalled back to Nigeria to study Biochemistry at the premier university by direct entry mode. The parents lied to her that she was recalled to Nigeria because they could no longer afford to pay for her school fees in the UK due to the exchange rate of the naira to foreign currencies. The real motive behind her recall was the fear that their daughter will get hooked up or married to foreign nationals against their own preference for a Nigerian man. The mother became so desperate and started scheming to get the daughter hooked-up with Bolaji for a marital relationship. The two teenagers were not really into themselves but had to play along by faking the relationship with each other. After graduation, she was offered PhD Scholarship in Biochemistry and she was very happy to toe the academic career line, but her parents thought otherwise/differently by asking “which Ekiti man would propose marriage to a Doctor of Philosophy in Biochemistry? Her husband must not only be a Nigerian, but must be an Ekiti man.” Through the conspiracy of her parents, the PhD Scholarship was withdrawn. She was offered an admission to read medicine at the premier university which she declined. She wanted to proceed for National Youth Service Scheme (NYSC) that again was blocked by her parents. She took to cigarette, alcohol and weed leading to her depression.</p>	<p>allow their children to have a say about their future regarding choice of career and relationships. Most times over protection does not bring out the best in children.</p>
4	Witness 006	Testifying to the National Commission on Parents Over Twenty- one Years	<p>This is a male testifier who deemed it fit to acknowledge the contributions of his father to his development into becoming a proper Nigerian. He said “my father has drummed it regularly into our heads that you cannot get to the top of this country unless you learn how to cheat or steal even in broad daylight without being caught. It is for this reason that he resisted all attempts by my mother to send me and my younger brother to England for our education. My mother made enough money from her frequent official overseas trips to maintain the</p>	<p>This is a typical case of academic fraud prevalent in our universities by way plagiarism. Some persons have risen to the position of professor through nepotism and quota system instead of by rigorous academic</p>

		<p>two of us in England, but my father argued that it was wicked to send children overseas to grow up as gentlemen, only to bring them back to this country later to struggle for survival alongside seasoned rogues and ruffians.” The father buttressed his point by stating his progress at the university. That he had moved at snail’s pace until he learnt to cheat like others. For example, he had wasted years at Oxford University killing himself for a D.Phil. degree and ending up with the glorified bachelor’s degree called the B.Litt., before someone whispered to him how to become a doctor without tears. He dusted off his rejected thesis, and rushed it off to a renowned university in Eastern Europe, which had rescued many academics before him. In no time, he became a doctor. Taking his cue from another veteran scholar, he hacked out ten articles from the same thesis, and published them in carefully selected learned journals. The father and his colleagues also invented ingenious methods for getting almost anything they wrote published by setting up an African or west African or Third World or Nigerian journal in their own discipline, and appoint themselves or their trusted collaborators to the editorial board. Another method was to organize seminars at least once a year, and you invite yourself to</p> <p>deliver a paper or two. They also publish anthologies of other people’s work. If all the above failed, they publish the works of their brilliant students as their own, in far-away journals where the students were unlikely to see them. Another thing the father and his colleagues did was to set up a learned society, and appoint themselves its founding fellows, with gold medals and scarlet ceremonial robes. Having done this, they laid down impossible conditions for selection to ordinary membership, conditions which none of them could have met, to enhance the status of their fellowship. By combining all these methods, his father started moving faster than a shooting star from senior lecturer, reader to professor. Head of department, Dean of Faculty, Senate Representative on the University Council, and so on.</p> <p>About himself, witness 006 said “my parents wanted me to enroll at the university staff school at the age of four. The headmistress said no, because</p>	<p>standards. The effects of these practices are seen in the fallen standards of undergraduates’ academic performance. Merit and meritocracy have been jettisoned for political patronage, god-fatherism, nepotism, tribalism and religious affiliation.</p>
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			that I was posted to my father's department for the service year, whereas my classmates were flung as far afield as Sokoto and Epe.	
5	Chief Ayodele Olabisi	Testifying to the Presidential Commission on Juveniles under Twenty-one Years	Chief Ayodele Olabisi came to testify against his only son, Ayo junior whom he flew to study in the United Kingdom, but failed woefully due to excessive life style of drinking alcohol and womanizing. He ended up impregnating an Israeli woman and this led to his leaving the United Kingdom. His academic performance was nothing to write home about as a result of his unseriousness with his studies. On his return to Nigeria, he had an accident with a car he took for cruise without the consent of the owner. Chief Olabisi had to bribe the police and the insurance company to pay for the damaged car. Eventually an admission was secured for him in one of American universities. As a reckless and spoilt child who has no respect for his father, he was caught with a wife of a serving Nigerian governor in the United States. The father had to spend huge financial resource to bail him out of the problem.	Ayo junior represents the life of most typical children from well to do homes. The excessive pampering of Ayo junior led him into all kinds of misbehaviours thereby making him to lose focus in life. Most children who are over-pampered by very rich and influential parents never make it in life
6	The very Reverend Jeremiah Chukwukadibia Obi	Testifying to the Presidential Commission on Juveniles under Twenty-one Years	Archdeacon Obi testified against his daughter, Apolonia, who was brought up with good morals but became something else in the university. She sleeps with lecturers (Profs) in exchange for grades. She sells her body to top government functionaries for material gains. She travels abroad regularly with the highest bidder of her body instead of facing her studies in the university. She bought a brand new air-conditioned Peugeot 504 saloon car for her father and lied that she made the money from the sale of jewelries she bought from the UK which she resold in Nigeria at very high rate. In actual sense, she made her money from prostitution. She is full of telling lies and manipulating her parents to believe her. By the time the parents realized the claim of being sponsored abroad for seminars was a lie, it became very shameful for them to bear.	Apolonia represents very rotten girls on Nigerian university campuses who indulge in prostitution and using the proceeds to fend for their parents and siblings. They flirt around with top government officials who steal government money at their possession and squander lavishly on university girls. Such girls do not read their books only to approach lecturers for sorting with money and sex.
7	Professor Hassan Aliyu	Testifying to the Presidential Commission on Juveniles under Twenty-one Years	Prof. Hassan Aliyu testified against his son Murtalla who prefers to study in the United Kingdom against his father's wish. The father is a Vice Chancellor of Tundu-wada University who does not believe in sending his children abroad to	This shows that moral decadence has no tribe or religious inclination as it cuts across all segments

		Juveniles under Twenty-one Years	study because of alienation from their culture. Murtalla deliberately refuses to do well in his studies by failing his O'level paper because he prefers studying abroad or wanted to be sent abroad. He devised a means by secretly selling off his father's brand new car and he used the money to travel overseas. This is stealing by concealment. Prof Aliyu, during cross examination also reveal the high standard of requirements for admission into Nigerian universities compared to universities abroad. Also, there are large number of candidates seeking for admission in Nigeria but cannot be absolved due to limited carrying capacities in Nigerian Universities.	of the country. The Implicature here is that, this scenario pushes parents and candidates to do anything possible, even by corruptive means to pass JAMB at all cost. Bribery and corruption become institutionalized and the emergence of miracle centres spring up everywhere leading to falsification of JAMB results. This also leads to admission racketeering and selling to the highest bidders against highly qualified candidates who have nobody to buy for them.
8	Comrade Yekini Falase. President of the National Association of Student (NAS).	During a press conference to set up the National Commission of Inquiry on Parents Over Twenty-one Years.	“After all the lip-service paid to the International Year of the Child declared by the United Nations, look at what the adults are doing to the youth. They say every child should go to school at the age of six. The children obey, but in place of school buildings, they find trees. Or hastily constructed structures (allegedly costing millions of naira) aimed at turning the children's toes into incubators for jiggers! Nevertheless, they turn out in their tens or hundreds of thousands, carting their desks and chairs like snails, only to find teachers do not exist in sufficient number. And, even worse, that the few available cannot be paid their monthly salaries because they are said to be too many. There is money to pay everybody else in the country. Money to cushion life for the so-called rulers. Yet, no money to pay teachers. At the end of six years, the children are pushed out, unable to even to tell time, or to handle hoe.” “At secondary school, the children who successfully scale the admissions hurdle continue	Comrade Falase's statements highlight the rot in our educational system from primary to the university level. Corruption is so entrenched in the society such that there is money to maintain the greed of the political class, but there are no funds to pay teachers and provide sufficient learning facilities from primary to the university level, thereby leading to sub-standard

			<p>to suffer. Most schools lack the basic equipment and qualified staff for the various subjects introduced under the very much heralded 6 – 3 – 3 – 4 national policy on education turning the whole thing into an exercise in self-delusion. The recent trend is to abolish boarding schools, even where the facilities already exist, and parcel every child off to his own ‘neighbourhood school’, where he sees only his fellow villagers. Nobody thinks how boarding schools aid the important task of welding the diverse ethnic and religious groups of the country together. The speed at which the universities, the armed forces, private companies, foreign government, et cetera are establishing their own ‘private’ or ‘international’ secondary schools is glaring evidence of a lack of public confidence in our educational system.”</p> <p>“The days when universities were meticulously planned prior to their establishment are long over. Nowadays, universities are established by radio. Students arrive ahead of their Professors, books and laboratories. And degrees are awarded before university senates agree on their educational objectives. The shortage of qualified staff and facilities is even more acute at this level. The older universities are bursting at the seams, groaning under grossly inadequate facilities and funds. Yet each year, as if under evil spell, they increase their student population and add new faculties and departments. All this, of course, rubs off on us, their guineapigs, making us recipients of sub-standard education.”</p>	<p>educational system. The Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) is fighting this menace thereby asking for better funding of the universities. This is always met by brick wall and deaf ears of the political elites who through corruption amass wealth and send their children to study in the U.S and UK. This has led to several incessant strikes by ASUU.</p>
9	Comrade Abubakar Bello, the 1 st national vice president of NAS p.274	Press release on the state of the nation	<p>Comrade Bello’s press release began with the state of the nation, which he described as stinking with corruption and every form of immorality. Bribery. Lobbying: the euphemism for the colossal payments in cash or kind made to legislators by state governors and other interested parties to make them vote against their conscience. Deliberate inflation of government contracts. Smuggling, through private jetties and jets, through heavily guarded government ports, boarders and airports. So lucrative that many boys’ secondary schools had closed down for lack of students, as it was only a stupid boy who would remain at school when all he needed was one successful trip to Taiwan and he would cruise around in his own well chilled Peugeot 505SR!</p> <p>Indiscriminate sexual relations, indulged by men</p>	<p>This is the extent the civilian leadership or political elites have thrown the country into as a result of corruption. The rots as you can see are so enormous cutting across every strata of the society.</p>

			and women, Muslim and Christians, archbishops and agnostics, young and old, single and married, sedately wiggled judges and rumbustious robbers. Indiscipline in every facet of our national life. With men of the 'disciplined forces' in the lead. Cheating. Fraud. Cheques and bank drafts have ceased to be accepted as legal tender even by the issuing banks because of excessive fraud, turning the country backwards to the era of trade by barter!	
10	Comrade Abubakar Bello, the 1 st national vice president of NAS. P.279	At a press conference to debunk some allegation against NAS	Comrade Bello debunking any suggestion that the students were deliberately out to cause public disenchantment with the government, to prepare the grounds for a military coup, he said the days were long past when African masses looked to the armed forces for salvation. Soldiers had proved conclusively that they were no better, man for man, than the other members of the adult society. The fact that they had guns had sharpened their greed and avarice, turning many Brigadiers or Generals into multi-millionaires.	This is an indictment on the military regime in the country. The military society and their leadership are as corrupt as the civilian society and their leadership. The military regimes are not better in curbing corruption either.

Discussion of Findings

This study applied conventional Implicature to arrive at its finding that witness 001's father, a professor and a medical scientist is corrupt and morally bankrupt by the attitudes that he exhibits-pettiness, inhumane and heartless character, irresponsible behaviour, deceitfulness, telling lies, selfish and inability to admit failure, fallibility and setting standards that he cannot fulfill p.209.

Another finding from the statements of witness 002 shows that the father is outwardly pure but inwardly rotten by his character. He is morally bankrupt as well by carrying girls about his daughter's age mate on official tour of three European countries. He is also a ritual killer, a reminiscent of today's political and administrative office holders who will stop at nothing to maintain their position. He is also a sex maniac and corrupt by squandering government resources lavishly through padded appropriation to his office. We arrived at this interpretation through the conventional Implicature of the statements/utterances of witness 002 p.214.

On serial no.3, the parents of witness 005 were full of manipulative tendencies and lies. The told their daughter that they were withdrawing her from England because of the exchange rate of the naira

to foreign currencies and so they cannot afford her school fees and maintenance in the UK. But, in reality, they were just scheming to prevent her from being married to foreign nationals because they prefer an Ekiti man to be her husband. This interpretation is done by a combination of both conventional and conversational Implicature p.227.

On serial no.4, witness 006 through his statement conventionally implicate that some academics, notably that some Professors got to the rung of their ladder by fraudulence means of plagiarism. The father and his colleagues got rapid promotion in rank and university positions through dubious manipulation of the system. Today, our universities are full of unqualified academic staff who got in through nepotism, political patronage and quota system. we arrived at these interpretations through the conventional and conversation Implicature of witness 006's statements p.243.

On serial no.5, this is an adult testifying against the moral rectitude of his son (Ayo junior). The father, Chief Ayodele Olabisi was doing everything possible to make Ayo a responsible person, being his only male child. But, Ayo is frustrating his father's efforts

through drinking, unseriousness with his studies and womanizing. To get Ayo out of troubles, Chief Olabisi indulges in bribery and lies and other corruptive activities. This interpretation is arrived at through his own confessional statement to the Presidential Commission of Inquiry on Juveniles under Twenty-one Years. Both conventional and conversational implicatures are involved in this finding p.26..

Serial no.6, are statements by The Very Reverend Jeremiah Chukwukadibia Obi who prefers to be called Archdeacon Obi. He narrated how his daughter had sent a message that she could not come home for Christmas because of a very important school assignment. Barely a week later, she breezed in, loaded with breathtaking presents for her parents, brothers and sisters: gold trinkets, eye-catching George materials, head ties etc. when she was asked about how she got the money for the gifts she brought to the house, she lied that a friend introduced her to a raffle draw and she won. At another time, she claimed to have been selected to attend a summer school in America and she used the allowances to buy a brand Peugeot 505SR fully air-conditioned saloon car for her parents. Through the father's statements we are able to apply conventional and conversational Implicature to interpret that she was sleeping around with professors for grade because she wasn't in school studying her books, but traveling with top government functionaries to UK and America, selling her body for which she receives handsome gifts and rewards p. 35.

Serial no. 7, are the statements of Prof Hassan Aliyu who testified how his son, Murtalla became unserious with his studies deliberately because he wanted to be sent abroad against the father's wish. Murtalla stole and sold his father's brand new car and left the country. Through the conventional Implicature of Prof Hassan's statements, we are able to establish the moral rectitude of this young man who would stop at nothing to accomplish their selfish and inordinate ambition in life. This is the kind of leaders of tomorrow that would

steal and embezzle government finances and channel same into personal enrichment p.56.

Serial no. 8, are statements of the president of NAS. His statements implicate the rot in the educational system from primary to the university level. The effects of corruption on the educational system: substandard classroom building, lack of regular payment of teachers' salaries, lack of laboratories and other learning facilities at the university level and so many other neglects in the educational sector. These interpretations are arrived at through the conventional implicature of the words used by Comrade Falase p. 180 – 186.

Serial no.9 and 10, are statements of Comrade Abubakar Bello, the 1st national vice president of NAS. In serial 9, he lambasted the political leadership accusing them of outward and open corruption in all the facets of the society. The old and the young, the religious institutions, the market men and women, the leaders and the led, are all involved in the stinking corruption and different forms of immorality p. 274. In serial 10, he cast his aspersion on the military segment of the Nigerian society whom he alleges are also very corrupt. Many brigadiers and generals have become billionaires through the barrel of the guns. They stage coups in the name of curbing corruption and moral rectitude in the society but at end of the day, they become even worse because they have guns and nobody can challenge them. These findings are arrived at through the conventional and conversational statements of Comrade Abubakar Bello p. 279.

Conclusion and recommendations

The study concludes that corruption and moral decadence are not limited to young or adult but cut across all shades and ages in the Nigerian society. The study also believes that corruption is synonymous with bad governance in Nigerian society. We also conclude that high level intelligibility does not exonerate anybody from bad attitude, behaviour, crime and corruption. In other words professors are involved in bribery and corruption as well as keeping malice and hatred against each other.

The study also concludes that parents who are supposed to lead their children morally are

themselves bankrupt in moral values. For examples, parents are bribing to get their children out of jail; bribing for their children to pass national exams; and bribing for admission to the university; corruptly buying position for their children in juicy ministries and parastatals such as NNPC, FIRS, CAC, CBN et cetera are all forms of moral decadence in the society.

Recommendation

A reorientation and national rebirth is

recommended for the Nigerian society.

Parents should allow their children to have a say in decisions that concern their future in terms of career choice and marriage.

Parents should not over-pamper their children but inculcate discipline and hard work into them for their future survival.

Parents should lead as example by shunning corruption and having moral integrity.

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