

A PRAGMATICS STUDY OF PRESIDENT BOLA AHMED TINUBU'S SPEECH ON HIS SECOND YEAR IN OFFICE

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Abstract

This study examines President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's second year anniversary message to the people of Nigeria through the context of pragmatic act framework. The study aims to uncover the underlying pragmatic acts, implicatures, and contextualization strategies employed in the speech. A qualitative approach is adopted, utilizing critical discourse analysis to examine the linguistic features and pragmatic functions of the speech. This study is anchored in Speech Act Theory as developed by Austin (1962) and Searle (1969), the study employs a qualitative descriptive design to identify, classify, and interpret the illocutionary forces and perlocutionary effects of speech acts in the address. The analysis demonstrates that the speech acts are not merely rhetorical but performative, shaping audience perception and reinforcing political legitimacy. The findings reveal that Tinubu's speech contains a strategic blend of assertives (to affirm national unity and resilience), directives (to urge collective action), commissives (to pledge reforms and governance commitments), expressives (to convey gratitude and solidarity), and declaratives (to assert Nigeria's democratic permanence). Moreover, it reveals that the President's speech is characterized by assertive, directive, commissive, and expressive acts, which serve to convey a sense of progress and determination. This study provides insights into the pragmatic strategies employed by political leaders to shape public opinion and promote national unity. This study concludes that pragmatic strategies in Nigerian political discourse, as exemplified in President Tinubu's second year anniversary's speech, are vital in promoting cohesion, inspiring confidence, and projecting democratic ideals.

Keywords: language and politics, pragmatic acts, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, contextualization, Nigeria politics

Introduction

Language is a fundamental instrument of human communication through which individuals express feelings, exchange ideas, construct relationships, and negotiate social realities. Beyond its basic communicative function, language operates within specific contexts that shape meaning, intention, and interpretation. In political settings, language assumes even greater significance because it becomes a strategic tool for exercising power, mobilising support, legitimising authority, and influencing public perception. As Bayram (2010) observes, politics fundamentally

concerns the struggle for power to implement political, economic, and social ideas; consequently, political activities, such as campaigns, manifestoes, debates, inaugurations, and policy addresses are largely enacted through language. Scholars such as Adedimeji (2005) and Balogun (2011) emphasise that language is both an integral aspect of human existence and a rule-governed system whose meaningful use depends on adherence to shared conventions. At the same time, language is dynamic and adaptable, enabling speakers to persuade, manipulate, or inspire audiences depending on context and purpose.

The effectiveness of language in communication therefore depends not only on grammatical correctness but also on contextual appropriateness. Meaning is often shaped by who speaks, to whom, in what situation, and for what purpose. The same utterance may convey different interpretations depending on contextual factors, social relationships, and shared background knowledge. This insight lies at the core of pragmatics, the branch of linguistics concerned with language in use. Pragmatics examines how speakers convey intentions and how listeners infer meaning beyond the literal content of words. As Adegbite (2000) explains, pragmatic analysis focuses on aspects of meaning derived from the use of utterances in particular contexts rather than solely from linguistic structures. Similarly, David Crystal (1997) defines pragmatics as the study of factors governing language choice in social interaction and the effects of those choices on interlocutors. In this sense, communication involves both informative intent (what is said) and communicative intent (what is meant), a distinction emphasised by Jacob L. Mey (2001).

Political discourse provides a fertile ground for pragmatic analysis because political speeches are designed not merely to inform but to persuade, reassure, mobilise, and legitimise authority. According to Norman Fairclough and other discourse analysts, political language shapes social realities by framing issues in ways that influence public interpretation. Political speeches, therefore, function as performative acts that can promise reforms, declare policies, express solidarity, or call citizens to action. This perspective is strongly supported by Speech Act Theory, pioneered by J. L. Austin (1962) and further developed by John Searle (1969), which posits that utterances perform actions rather than merely describe states of affairs. In political contexts, speech acts such as assertives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declaratives play crucial roles in constructing leadership identity and shaping audience response.

Within the context of Nigeria, presidential speeches occupy a particularly influential position because the president, as head of state and government, serves as the primary voice of

national policy and direction. Anniversary addresses, in particular, are significant political events that combine ceremonial reflection with pragmatic communication aimed at evaluating achievements, reinforcing legitimacy, and projecting future intentions. The second-year anniversary speech of Bola Ahmed Tinubu, delivered to the National Assembly and the Nigerian populace, represents a critical moment in political discourse as it seeks to frame governmental performance, reassure citizens, and mobilise continued support under the theme “We Have Made Undeniable Progress.” Such speeches are rarely neutral; they are carefully crafted rhetorical performances intended to influence public opinion, foster national unity, and consolidate political authority.

Given the centrality of language to political action, it is essential to examine how leaders deploy pragmatic strategies to achieve communicative goals. This study therefore investigates President Tinubu’s second-year anniversary address through the lens of the pragmatic act framework and Speech Act Theory. By analysing the illocutionary forces and perlocutionary effects embedded in the speech, the research seeks to uncover how linguistic choices function to construct meaning, project leadership, and shape audience perception. Ultimately, understanding the pragmatic dimensions of presidential discourse provides deeper insight into how political leaders in Nigeria use language not only to communicate policies but also to perform governance, negotiate legitimacy, and promote national cohesion.

Objectives

The aim of this study is to carry out a pragmatic study of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu’s Second year anniversary’s speech, and this is backed up by the following objectives:

- i. identify and classify the speech acts used in the address,
- ii. examine the functions of the illocutionary acts within the political context,
- iii. evaluate the perlocutionary effects intended by the speaker.

Theoretical Framework

Speech Act Theory provides the foundational framework for pragmatic analyses of political discourse. J. L. Austin (1962) introduced the distinction between locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts, arguing that utterances do not merely convey information but perform actions (e.g., promising, ordering, declaring). Searle (1969) refined this approach by classifying speech acts into categories such as assertives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declaratives, and by explicating conditions for their felicity and force. These classical formulations remain central to pragmatic analyses that seek to link linguistic form to speaker intent and social effect (Austin, 1962; Searle, 1969).

Levinson's (1983) broader account of pragmatics, which situates utterance meaning in context and implicature further complements speech act theory by showing how inference, presupposition, and context shape how political messages are received. The Speech Act Theory provides a directly applicable framework for analyzing President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's second-year anniversary speech because it allows the study to go beyond the literal content of the speech to examine the performative functions of language in political discourse. The theory allows the study to link linguistic form to political function, showing how Tinubu's speech performs actions, shapes perceptions, mobilizes audiences, and reinforces authority. It provides both the conceptual lens and the analytical tools needed to examine the pragmatic strategies employed in the speech, demonstrating its critical relevance to understanding political communication in Nigeria.

Literature review

Communication constitutes the foundation of human interaction and functions as the driving force behind social, political, and cultural processes within any society. It enables individuals to exchange ideas, negotiate meanings, and coordinate actions, thereby sustaining social cohesion and institutional functioning. However, communication is inherently complex and context-dependent, capable of producing both constructive and destructive outcomes. As Adedimeji and Omolabi (2025) observe, the social intent underlying language use may generate ambiguity

and manipulation, requiring careful interpretation based on speakers' intentions and contextual cues. In political and religious domains, language is often deployed not merely to inform but to persuade, mobilise, or even deceive. Within the context of Nigeria, political communication frequently operates through symbolic expressions disseminated via print and broadcast media, particularly during campaigns, interviews, and other public engagements, where the goal may be to shape public opinion and influence electoral behaviour.

Political language possesses distinctive features that set it apart from everyday communication. It typically relies on rhetoric, propaganda, emotional appeal, and persuasive strategies designed to secure support or legitimacy. Politicians deploy carefully crafted linguistic devices to influence voters, frame issues, and construct favourable public images. Remi and Ojukwu (2013) describe political language as a lexicon of conflict, persuasion, and dramatic expression capable of valorising allies while discrediting opponents. Such discourse often appeals to both logic and emotion, using inductive and deductive reasoning to produce conviction among audiences. Consequently, political language functions not only as a vehicle for information but also as an instrument of power capable of reshaping attitudes and behaviours.

Recent scholarship on Nigerian political discourse has examined specific rhetorical constructions associated with contemporary politics. Studies of the slogan "Emi Lokan," popularised during the 2023 electoral cycle by Bola Ahmed Tinubu, demonstrate how lexical choices can construct political identity, assert entitlement to leadership, and mobilise supporters. Researchers such as Ayodabo and Ayinuola (2025) and Popoola and Ajayi (2025) analyse the phrase as a rhetorical device that encapsulates power claims and ideological positioning. Similarly, discourse-analytic investigations of presidential campaign speeches have identified strategies such as rhetorical questioning, parallelism, figurative language, and intertextual references as tools for persuasion and audience engagement. Studies by Kamalu and Iniworikabo

(2016), for instance, reveal the extensive use of metaphors drawn from domains such as war, journey, disease, and sports in speeches by former Nigerian presidents including Olusegun Obasanjo, Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, and Goodluck Ebele Jonathan to represent socio-political realities. Despite these contributions, relatively little attention has been paid to the pragmatic mechanisms through which contemporary presidential speeches, particularly those delivered in formal institutional settings, negotiate authority and legitimacy.

Language also plays a central role in governance within Nigeria's multilingual environment, where over 500 indigenous languages coexist alongside English as the official language. English serves as the primary medium for governmental communication, policy articulation, and national administration, yet linguistic diversity can hinder effective message dissemination among populations with limited proficiency in the official language. Adedimeji (2010) identifies several functions of language in politics, including communication, persuasion, identity construction, symbolic representation, and the exercise of power. For political actors to communicate effectively across diverse linguistic communities, sensitivity to cultural nuances and language differences is essential. Failure to account for these factors may weaken the impact of political messages or alienate segments of the population.

Pragmatic approaches have therefore become increasingly influential in the analysis of political discourse because they focus on language as social action. According to Paul Chilton (2004), politics depends on language to legitimise authority, mobilise supporters, negotiate conflict, and frame policy debates. Pragmatics enables scholars to examine not only what political actors say but what their utterances accomplish—such as creating obligations, building trust, or delegitimising opponents. Key pragmatic devices include presupposition, implicature, metaphor, deixis, and modality, all of which contribute to ideological meaning-making. In African contexts, pragma-stylistic studies have shown how modal verbs (e.g., *will*, *must*, *can*) convey intention,

obligation, and possibility in presidential speeches. For example, analyses of independence anniversary address by Goodluck Ebele Jonathan demonstrate how modality can frame leadership commitment while simultaneously distributing responsibility among citizens.

Presidential addresses constitute a distinctive genre of political communication because they combine ceremonial functions with agenda-setting and legitimacy-building roles (Utah, 2017). Speech Act Theory, developed by J. L. Austin (1962) and John Searle (1969), has been widely applied to this genre to identify how leaders perform actions through language. Studies of inaugural speeches and national addresses reveal recurring patterns of commissives (promises), directives (calls to action), expressives (gratitude and reconciliation), assertives (statements of policy or ideology), and declaratives (institutional pronouncements). Research on the 2015 inaugural address of Muhammadu Buhari highlights the predominance of commissive acts aimed at binding the administration to future reforms, while other analyses identify appeals, acknowledgements, and solidarity-building strategies as central to presidential rhetoric. Complementary approaches such as Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) further demonstrate how grammatical choices particularly pronoun use, modality, and transitivity construct interpersonal relationships and power dynamics. Comparative studies of speeches by Olusegun Obasanjo and Shehu Shagari show how shifts between singular (“I”) and plural (“we”) pronouns serve to balance authority with solidarity.

Despite the growing body of research on Nigerian political discourse, there remains limited scholarship specifically examining the pragmatic structure of President Tinubu's formal institutional speeches, especially anniversary addresses delivered to the National Assembly and the nation at large. Such speeches are significant because they function simultaneously as performance reports, legitimacy-building exercises, and instruments for shaping national sentiment. Consequently, a pragmatic analysis of President Tinubu's second-year anniversary speech offers an

opportunity to deepen understanding of how contemporary Nigerian leaders use language to construct authority, foster unity, and project governance narratives. By focusing on the pragmatic acts embedded in the address, this study seeks to fill an important gap in the literature and contribute to broader discussions on political communication and discourse in Nigeria.

Research Methodology

This study adopts a qualitative descriptive design anchored in pragmatic analysis. The design is appropriate because the objective is not to measure numerical patterns alone but to interpret the communicative functions of speech acts as used in President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's second year anniversary speech. Qualitative description allows for a detailed account of the ways in which linguistic forms realize illocutionary forces within the socio-political context of Nigeria.

The primary data for the study is the official transcript of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's second year anniversary address, delivered on May 29, 2025, at the National Assembly, Abuja. The transcript was obtained from the official website of the Presidency of Nigeria and corroborated with verified media outlets to ensure textual accuracy. The choice of this speech is informed by its status as a landmark political discourse, setting the tone for Tinubu's administration and reflecting the socio-political priorities of Nigeria at the time.

Analytical Framework

The analysis is grounded in Speech Act Theory, as developed by Austin (1962) and refined by Searle (1969). Searle's taxonomy of speech acts—assertives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declaratives—provides the main classificatory framework. This framework has been widely used in political discourse studies (Chilton, 2004; Biria, 2012) and is particularly useful for identifying the illocutionary forces and intended perlocutionary effects embedded in political communication.

Procedure of Analysis

The analysis followed a systematic procedure:

- a. **Segmentation of the Text:** The transcript of the address was divided into clauses and

sentences that represent complete speech acts.

- b. **Identification of Speech Acts:** Each clause was coded according to Searle's five categories of speech acts. For instance, statements of fact were coded as assertives, pledges as commissives, and declarations of unity as declaratives.
- c. **Contextual Interpretation:** Each identified speech act was examined in relation to its illocutionary force (speaker's intention) and potential perlocutionary effect (intended impact on the audience).
- d. **Categorization and Analysis:** Instances of speech acts were grouped into categories, and their frequency and pragmatic functions were analyzed. Qualitative examples were extracted to illustrate how the speech acts operate within the socio-political context.
- e. **Thematic Analysis:** Beyond classification, thematic interpretation was applied to highlight broader patterns, such as the prominence of unity appeals, promises of reform, and legitimizing declarations.

Data Presentation and Analysis

Pragmatic Study of Speech Acts in PBAT'S Second Anniversary's Speech

Speech Excerpt 1: *Fellow Nigerians, as we mark the second anniversary of our administration, I salute your resilience and undoubting spirit. Two years ago, you entrusted me with the sacred responsibility to lead our nation at a time of historic challenges. Together, we have faced these headwinds with courage and determination.*

Speech Act Types: Assertive

Illocutionary Function: To assert Hope, Courage and Determination

Perlocutionary Effect: The President begins his speech with greetings by establishing a good affinity with the audience, who are the Nigerians. He makes use of commemoration, as a statement of fact to remind the audience of the achievements of his administration. He shows resilience by appreciating the people as a way of admiration and gratitude. He asserts praises to himself with the words "Two years ago, you entrusted me with the

sacred responsibility to lead our nation". This is a statement of self-importance and trust. The speech assumes that the audience is aware of the current state of the nation and the challenges it faces. The use of the words: "Our administration" and "our nation" implies a sense of ownership and responsibility. Besides, the fact that he mentions the "historical challenges and headwinds" show that he assumes a shared understanding of the difficulties faced by the nation. Inferentially, the President is proud of the administration's achievements and tries to highlight them on the anniversary. The President is acknowledging the difficulties faced by the nation but wants to emphasize the resilience and determination of the people. From the speech, the President's intentions are: to boost the morale of the citizens; self-promotion; and unity among the citizenry. Contextually, the speech is within the specific occasion of the administration's anniversary and the language and tone are tailored towards suiting the audience and the occasion. The speech is a complex pragmatic act that serves multiple functions which include expressive, directive, commissive and performative functions.

Speech Excerpt 2: *The economic and general situation of the country I inherited required that we redirect the country's affairs with a bold and new vision. I immediately implemented two necessary policies to stop our country from further drifting into the precipice. It was apparent that if the federal government and the other two tiers of government must remain viable and cater to the citizens' welfare, we must do away with decades-long fuel subsidies and the corruption-ridden multiple foreign exchange windows. The two were no longer sustainable and have become a chokehold on our nation's neck, strangling our nation's future.*

Speech Act Types: This is an act of Expressive as the statement is narrative

Illocutionary Function: To express his government towards Justification, Leadership

Perlocutionary Effect: The President's message here depicts clearly from the speech that Nigeria as a nation is facing serious economic crisis, with the country facing significant challenges,

including fuel subsidies and multiple foreign exchange windows. The implication is that the previous administrations' policies were ineffective, leading to the country's economic woes. The president suggests that the new policies are germane to save the country from further economic decline. The President's intention is to justify the implementation of new policies specifically the removal of fuel subsidies and multiple foreign exchange windows. He stresses on the need to convince the populace that these policies are necessary for the country's economic survival and future prosperity. The President's speech affirms that the past administrations did not doing enough and that the new policies will bring about positive results if follow to the latter. This clearly indicates that the President is a bold and decisive leader, willing to take tough decisions to benefit the nation. The speech is full of optimism and hope for the future. The language is formal and official, reflecting his role as head of the government. The pragmatic acts employed here are: Assertive, Directive acts. The presupposition in the excerpt shows that, the audience is aware that the country is facing economic challenges and they will agree that the new policies are of necessity for the benefit of all.

Speech Excerpt 3: *When we embarked on this journey, propelled by a burst of hope and abiding faith in Nigeria's unity and progress, I made a pledge before God and fellow countrymen and women to confront Nigeria's challenges head-on by rebuilding trust, fostering prosperity, and restoring our nation's economic health. Today, I proudly affirm that our economic reforms are working. We are on course to building a greater, more economically stable nation.*

Speech Act Types: Commissive

Illocutionary Function: The President shows the Act of commissive by given out Accountability of his Leadership, Pledge to do more

Perlocutionary Effect: The President makes use of narrative tone in recalling the beginning of their journey and hopes that propelled it. He reminds the citizens of their pledges to confront Nigeria's challenges, rebuild trust, foster prosperity, and restore economic health. Thus, he asserts that the

reforms are working with the use of the phrase” I proudly affirm”. The speech is full of hope of a brighter future and he appeals to the audience’s emotions by constantly mentioning “hope” and “abiding faith” in Nigeria’s unity and progress. The speech is full of a mix reflection, assertion, and inspirations, aimed at reassuring the audience about the country’s progress and future prosperity. The tone of the speech is that of confident and assertive, reflecting a sense of determination and conviction.

The language is full of inspiration that aims to motivate and reassure the audience about the nation’s future. The President’s words convey a sense of patriotism and commitment to the nation’s progress and unity. However, the speech is uplifting and motivational, with a clear message of progress and hope. The leader’s confidence and conviction are likely to inspire confidence in the audience and on the other hands, the speech may be seen as overly optimistic, with little acknowledgement of challenges or criticisms. The assertion of the President that the reforms are working may be subject to interpretation and debate. In all, the speech is a call to action and a message of hope, aiming to inspire and motivate the audience about the nation’s future.

Speech Excerpt 4: *Despite the bump in the cost of living, we have made undeniable progress. Inflation has begun to ease, with rice prices and other staples declining. Inflation has begun to ease, with rice prices and other staples declining. The oil and gas sector is recovering; rig counts are up by over 400% in 2025 compared to 2021, and over \$8 billion in new investments have been committed. We have stabilized our economy and are now better positioned for growth and prepared to withstand global shocks.*

Speech Act Types: This is an act of Expressive
Illocutionary Function: The President expresses his commitment towards bringing out a better nation despite all the challenges that people are facing. He assures them of progress and resilience.
Perlocutionary Effect: the President acknowledges the challenges that appear towards the implementation of the reform like the cost of living. He in turn shows awareness of difficulties

face by citizens in meeting up with social needs and health issues. Despite these challenges, the leader claims undeniable progress in various areas like easing of inflation, declining prices of staple foods like rice, recovery of the oil and gas sector that lead to economic stabilization. Thus, he expresses confidence in the economy’s ability to grow and withstand global shocks. The language used is a balanced tone because, he makes use of the balanced approach. The language is filled with confidence in the economy’s trajectory. There is the use of assertive words in the President’s speech because of the claims that, he is emphasizing on progress. The implication here is that the leaders’ policies are responsible for the progress, and that the economy is on a stable path. The speech aims to assure Nigerians about the economy’s progress and future prospects, while acknowledging ongoing challenges. In short, the President’s speech depicts hope, courage and resilience to encourage the citizens of a brighter day ahead.

Speech Excerpt 5: *We are ending the era of wasteful and opaque tax waivers. Instead, we have introduced targeted and transparent incentives supporting high-impact manufacturing, technology, and agriculture sectors. These reforms are not just about revenue but about stimulating inclusive economic growth.*

Speech Act Types: Assertive

Illocutionary function: The speech is that of assertiveness as it pronounces the areas of reformation and transparency in the government.

Perlocutionary Effect: The President’s speech is addressing the issue of ending wasteful and opaque tax waivers, implying that these waivers are not effective or transparent. Thus, he is telling us that his government is moving towards introducing reforms that will be transparent enough and increase our revenue and stimulate inclusive economic growth. The language used suggests a sense of urgency and commitment to reform which will be much more efficient and effective in approach. The implicature here shows that the previous system was flawed and that the new approach will be more effective in promoting economic growth. The speech is a bit rhetorical because, it describes the previous system as a

negative system because of its nature of inefficiency approach to the economy. The basic idea here is that, the speech is targeting progress amidst challenges and economic stability which is expected to yield a maximum result. The tone is assertive and quite optimistic.

Speech Excerpt 6: *Our military, police, and intelligence agencies are committed to always responding to emerging security threats and new challenges because it is the patriotic duty, they owe a grateful nation. Amid the new security challenges, we can report some successes. In some areas of the northwest, hitherto under the control of bandits, our gallant armed forces have restored order, reducing and eliminating threats to lives and livelihoods. With the success achieved, farmers are back tilling the land to feed us. Highways, hitherto dangerous for travelers, have become safer. Our security agencies have succeeded many times in rescuing the abducted citizens from the hands of their tormentors. I promise you, we shall remain vigilant, as I told security chiefs during the last meeting to up their game and collaborate to end this plague of evil men. Every Nigerian deserves to live without fear.*

Speech Act Types: This is an act of commissive and Expressive

Illocutionary function: Here the President shows the act of Commitment, Patriotism, and Hope to the citizens. This is an assurance that all will be well despite the insecurities in the land by different group of evil people.

Perlocutionary Effect: The excerpt shows the impact of the security in the life of the people. Since year 2000, Nigeria has been facing the problem of insecurity from the Boko Harams, Bandits, IPOBS, and Unknown Gunmen etc. The President's speech is affirming to all citizens that, the military, police, and intelligence agencies are committed to responding to emerging security threats and challenges. This commitment is framed as a patriotic duty owed to the nation. The President is assuring Nigerians of his duty to guide them in living without fear. He also tells the audience that the government is taking effective action to address security issues and ensures citizens' safety. This simply shows the acts of

commitment, patriotism and great hope for the citizens.

Speech Excerpt 7: *Once again, I acknowledge the sacrifices many Nigerians have made and continue to make as we reposition our country, not just for today but for generations yet unborn. Our journey is not over, but our direction is clear. So is our resolve to tackle emerging challenges. By the Grace of God, we are confident that the worst is behind us. The real impact of our governance objectives is beginning to take hold. The future is bright, and together, we will build a stronger, more inclusive Nigeria that we can all be proud of.*

Speech Act Types: Expressive/ Assertive

Illocutionary function: The President shows to the people that he has the foresight of taking the country to great prosperity and he gives the words of hope and courage that all will be well.

Perlocutionary Effect:: This is the concluding remark of the President's speech where he acknowledged the sacrifices made by Nigerians, and showing appreciation for their efforts. The statement emphasizes the long term vision on the importance of building a better Nigeria not just for the present but for future generations. The speech has a clear direction with a sense of determination in addressing emerging challenges. The phrase "By God's Grace" invokes a sense of divine guidance and optimism. The speech is a speech of hope from a visionary leader like the current President and this may help to build trust and confidence in the government.

Findings

Based on the pragmatic study of the President Tinubu's speech, the following findings are applicable to the study. It is observed that the President makes use of assertive statements to represent the country's progress, challenges, and future plans. He also directs the attention of the audiences to the importance of unity, patriotism, and collective effort. The study also addresses the President's commitment to tackling emerging challenges and building a stronger, more inclusive Nigeria. The speech is contextualized in Nigeria and it addresses the current challenges and future aspirations of the country at large. By implication, the speech implies that the government is

committed to addressing the country's challenges and build a better future.

The tone of the language is optimistic, inspirational, and motivational, with a focus on unity and collective effort. The findings align with Austin's (1962) and Searle's (1969) foundational view that political speeches are performative acts. They confirm Beard's (2000) assertion that political language is designed to persuade and consolidate power, and support Chilton's (2004) framework that political discourse combines persuasion with legitimization. Furthermore, Biria's (2012) observation on the importance of commissives for political credibility and The President makes use of rhetorical devices like metaphor and repetition to drive home his points based on his commitment. In the end, the message is all about hope, commitment and courage towards success in the political life of Nigeria as a nation.

Conclusion

This study provides a nuanced understanding of President Tinubu's second year anniversary message, shedding light on the intricate dynamics of language, politics and power. Through Searle's pragmatic act framework, we

gain insight into the strategic use of language in shaping public discourse and promoting national unity. The findings underscore the significance of effective communication in political leadership, highlighting the need for politicians to navigate complex linguistic and cultural landscapes.

As Nigeria continues to navigate her development trajectory, this study's insights offer valuable lessons for leaders seeking to inspire, unite, and mobilize their citizens towards a brighter future. It is expected that this study will contribute to the existing knowledge in the areas of pragmatics and language and political usage in national development. Drawing on Speech Act Theory, the analysis revealed that the speech is characterized by a rich interplay of assertives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declaratives. Each category functions strategically: assertives establish credibility and affirm Nigeria's resilience; directives mobilize citizens toward unity and national development; commissives project promises of reform and accountability; expressives cultivate solidarity and reconciliation; while declaratives legitimize authority and reinforce democratic continuity.

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