

## ASSESSING THE AESTHETICITY OR ETHICALITY OF THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK IN LINGUISTICS RESEARCHES

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### Abstract

Use of theoretical framework is one of the building blocks of scientific investigations mostly in students' projects, dissertation or thesis or other academic researches like journal or conference. It serves as both theoretical and in another instance practical tool for a more empirical investigation. There are often arguments as to whether there must be the manifestation of the theoretical framework in such investigations or not especially in the linguistics related researches. Whether this argument proves positive or negative, linguistic researchers capitulate to it, and this gives them a notional rational in discovering the strength of their works. Based on this argument, this work stresses on assessing how theoretical framework as a concept is salient and how it guarantees unity among research variables like, general introduction, statement of the research problems, objectives delineation, review of literature, methodology of the research and possible findings. In doing that, the researcher will thus select twelve from each of research theses, journals, dissertations and students' projects as the source of the data, and this will ensure how the study will appear more objective and captivating. The outcome, here, discloses that research work that used TF tend to be coherent in terms of basic components, and the findings emerge adequately relevant and satiable. But those researches with irrelevant or zero reference with TF prove to be incoherent and their research findings become virtually paltry and less informative, thus render them less scientific.

**Keywords:** theoretical framework, linguistics, language, scientific research, theories

### Introduction

Writing a paper or students' terminal writings like theses or dissertations involves not only mastering grammaticalness of language or having in-depth knowledge on the research areas but operationalizing and possessing a mercenary of the formal doctrine of that paper. This however ensures that every act of research work has uniqueness in the way it exhibits its scope or pattern. On this trend, Swales and Fear (2012:1) clarify that,

as students, you face a variety of writing tasks throughout your degree programs. Naturally, these tasks will vary from one degree to another. They are however, similar in two respects. First, the tasks become progressively more complex and demanding the farther you go in the program. Second, in general they need to be written 'academically', although certain assigned writing in some field may require personal reflection and thus may have somewhat more informal.

We can deduce from above clarification key words

like writing tasks, complex, academically, informal and degree. These words however, bring our understanding of the does and don'ts of academic writing. The containment of these refined components inextricably qualifies academic writing be scientific and empirical. Thus, every academic writing is a writing, every academic writing must be highly formal in use of language and other formal or contextual features. Every academic writing thus requires to be authorized through heterogeneous tasks or processes. This latter part of the writing renders it most exclusively complex and first-hand. And one of the determinant tools revealing the complex nature of writing is theoretical framework (TF). It often enables students or researchers' access or interact with scholars' views with regards to a particular issue and conform to the scientific doctrine of writing.

### Scientificity Nature of Research

One of the most plausible features of research is empiricism or scientificity. This is

undoubtedly essential in any research particularly in linguistics which requires organizational investigative principles. Because research is known for finding out to a problem, there is basically a purposeful activity aimed at searching for something which will ultimately constitute the solution to real problem. What is discernibly needed here is to unveil the inextricable relationship between research and scientific features and all features associated to that in realizing solution to a magnitude of the problem. The duo as summarized by Ateyobi (2012:17-21) must have met development of generalization, observable experience or empirical evidence, accurate observation and description, accumulation of refined data, symmetric/logical sequence of procedure, quest for answer, recording and reporting of finding and results.

#### **Review of Literatures**

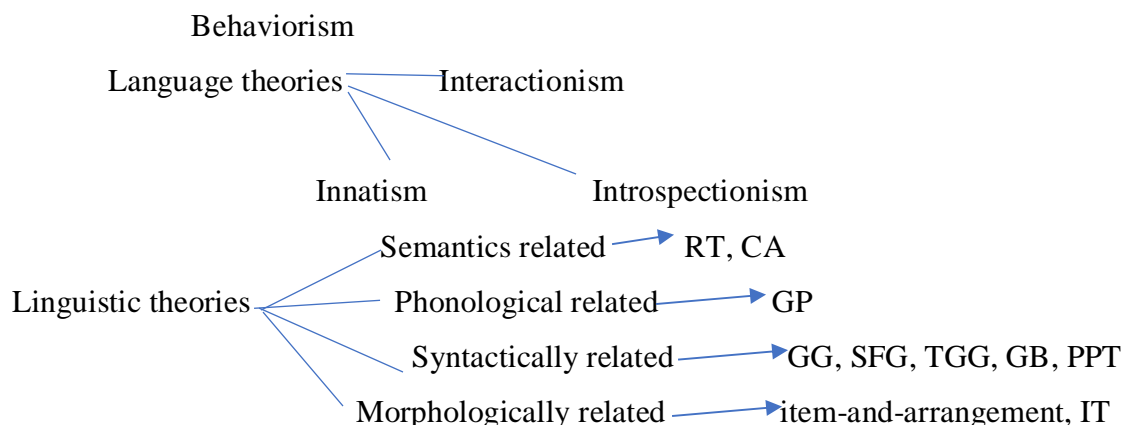
Most of the definitions of theoretical framework capture on conceptualization and its existential power. Thorough that, there is absolute ranges of how the definitions incline to phenomenological and theoretical linguistic reference. As the name implies, theoretical framework denotes the instrumentalisation of theories in handling an investigation or a research work. Jumare (2017:64) stresses on the conditional nature of theoretical framework in research. He adds that what is essentially needed of researchers is identifying relevant theory, takes it elements, relates and argues its application in the field of study. Evidently, there is no any research scope that necessitates the applicability of the theoretical framework. But what is important is that researches find it needful to relate to certain theories as this will give them proper room to come up with substantive agreement of findings and research questions or objectives. It also offers students or researcher to interact with views of scholars and critically argues on key points. This highlights why TF is mostly associated with literature review on the fact that it goes with the literature argument on ideas, processes, result and finding. Besides that, TF is closely linked with analytical aspect of a study. Every analysis in linguistics or language research is expected to go through relevant TF, and this will unequivocally facilitate first-hand outcome.

Different disciplines have varied notion with regards to whether or not theories must be used in research. For instance, in the social sciences research, theoretical framework proves to be less noticeable, instead they use models. This is unlike in educational or humanities researches, where emphasis is put on theoretical framework. To these research enterprises, TF offers serviceable role and emerges as a toolkit in manning scientific rubrics of research. Kendal adds that,

If the task of a research paper was to explain in detail an incredibly complex theory then you would need to really understand that incredibly complex theory. However, the purpose of a research paper is not to explain the subject but to discuss and evaluate the research process therefore to write a research paper does not require an in-depth knowledge of the specific subject. What it does require is a basic knowledge of a sound scientific research process. Kendal (2015:27)

#### **Theoretical Perspective of Language and Linguistics**

Some people who are novice in the fields of language and linguistics might finding challenges to mark a sharp distinguishing posture between what language and linguistics are. This also creates further confusion in assigning the theoretical conception of each field of study. Linguistics theories are in so many ways different susceptibly from language theories. Their orientations, functions and procedures also differ from language theories. It is possible to create awareness that theoretical domains can share some commonplace features. Language theories have in their core target features indicating how language is acquired or learned, and how factors like ages, interest, attitude, aptitude and environment become catalysts in gaining that. On the other hand, linguistics theories are mainly focused on how language is seen as a system or how language works and an indication of its scientific outlook. There is no way understanding of how language works unless it is seen on mastery of the language. This impression can serve as a basis in comprehending the interdependence of linguistics on language.



It is not surprising that most theories have their origins from the above core distribution. For example, in the sphere of linguistics, we have other theories like signification, relevance, componential analysis, ethno-methodological and phenomenological theories. Altogether, they are further grouped into their functional representation or on the ground of structural labelling. These functional and structural theoretical classifications of linguistics theories mark off the system of language as against how they are acquired or learned.

**Identification and Situating Research Problem and Influx of TF**

As it is stated sporadically, any research particularly academic aims at finding solution to a problem. What we need to know here is which between research problem and solution is the most needful. The answer to this is directional and straightforward, on the fact that the former leads to the presence of the latter. There is no realistic and justifiable solution unless there is a problematized situation, and there is no meaningful solution to a problem unless it is weight on the TF mappings. Different researchers have put common agreement on the bedeviling problem with research problem. For instance, Ayetobi (2012:23) sees that one of the major issues facing the graduate is identifying a research problem. Problem may take their origin from real-world settings or be generated from theoretical frameworks. This juncture brings close interest to this investigation as to how theoretical formwork occupies space in research. At whatever

the problem is related to TF, and can be a sufficient umbrella through which features like viability, workability, practical value, theoretical value relevance and interest can be ameliorated. The interwoven network of relationship can situate the importance of theoretical framework in designating topic or finding research topic. Because we have established solid background on the fact that TF has close link with how the problem is contextualized, it also has similar role capacity with how the topic is crafted. Solution of research problem is by critically evaluating the research, comparing the theories and considering the application of the theory.

Quite a number of scholarly works come up with a view that to undertake a research is to get rid of theoretical framework. This view remains exclusively influential in many research works and the result proves inelastic. On the other hands, some scholars maintain that any academic research that proves the iota of empericity and scientificity must adherently go by use of theoretical framework. This view further reveals the valid influence of theory in determining the primacy of effective and fecundity investigation, it thus vindicates that TF serves as funnel through which events, processes and findings are executed.

**Methodology and Data of the Study**

This study is explorative and theoretical by the fact that it targets to examine how certain research works are carried out vis-a-vis to the compliance of some research conventions mostly by the use of

theoretical framework. The data is gathered from different sources i.e. from undergraduate projects, postgraduate theses/dissertations and from paper works like journal and conference papers. This triad sources offer us with scintillating content that vindicates variations in execution of write ups. Altogether they denote sixty sources; twenty from postgraduate works, twenty-five undergraduate students' projects and fifteen journal papers. Each source represents in itself a data, thus amounting to sixty sources by extension sixty data. In the analysis, only few of the data will reflect in the analytic content. The remaining data will be represented in the discussion and findings of the study. The analysis of each data is reflected with

the answers to the following questions which they serve as filters or tunnels through which analytical scope lodges, and this will give breaking ground to how the aim/objectives of this investigations bear confluence. The questions are:

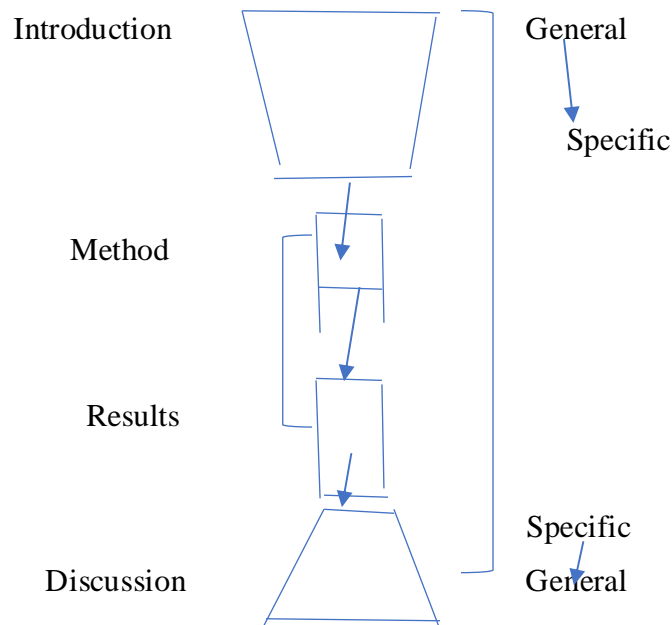
to what extent do the research units' have relationship?

what are the influential impact(s) of theoretical framework in research task?

what are the structural and functional network of TF?

when do we need TF in research?

To respond to these questions so effective, the researcher selects the following model of research paper analysis:



Adapted from Swales J. M. & Feak C. B. (2012:285)

#### Collective Research Topics Used as Data

- a. Mediating Meaning across Codes: A Linguistic Study of Some Translated Texts
- b. Examination of Words Formations Process in Fulfulde
- c. Intertextuality and Context: a Functional Linguistic Study of Intra Authorial Texts
- d. A Study of Phonological Interference in the Speech of L2 Speakers of English
- e. A Study of Linguistic Issues in the Stylistic Use of Language in Editorial Reportages
- f. Investigation of Verbal Group in Punch Newspaper
- g. A Study of Idiosyncratic Use of Creoles in the Speech of Language of Traders
- h. An Investigation of the Semantic Space of Preposition
- i. A Syntactic Study of the Language of Literary Texts.

- j. An Examination of the Powerfulness of Audiolingualism in Teaching of Plosive Voiceless to Hausa Speakers of English Language
- k. Intratextuality: A Product of Cohesion or Style
- l. A Study of lexical Binarism in Popular Poetry

From these series of research topics, there are dramatic artistic features; some converge while other diverge in the way the research components are coherently put. Not all the topics are viably captivating by the fact that every linguistic topic requires in its domain social and linguistic variables. This is unarguably needful. In (a), there is remarkable representation of both variables, but what is most distinguishable is appropriateness of TFs. Because the study involves the use of two research domains-translation and linguistics, the study succumbs to an amalgam of theoretical backgrounds, i.e. Halliday's SFG and Nida's EQ. the former tackles linguistic aspects of the study while the latter ensures how text A meaning is maintained or mediated in text B. Each of them bears strengths. For instance, SFG is effective and powerful in depicting the scientificity of language as system and resource for meaning making. Also, it assures how triad of relationships-textual ideational and interpersonal are noticed. If all these are valid with regards to SFG, then having effective research finding is possible. The same patterns of SFG is used in (c), (f), (i) and (k).

In (j) and (h), there is zero manifestation of theoretical framework in how the data is analyzed. Perhaps, the researchers found the topic less needful in using TF. This contests to the fact that **every research is TF influenced. It serves as tool or method of** analytic quality. However, in the last entry; (b), (d), (e), (g) and (l) there are TFs but the requirements of the topics have not reached agreement with TFs orientation, with that the research analyses and findings are exclusively less effective as such lack empirical integrity.

To graphically attest how each of the topic is conducted on the spheres of empirical network of a good research with regards to TF, we can use the following tables. This is done using Swales J. M. & Feak C. B. (2012:285) Model of Research Paper as graphically presented above:

Students' Projects, Dissertations, Thesis and Research Papers

S / N	Status	Introduction	Method/type	Results	Discussion	theoretical Framework/TF
a	T	General-specific	descriptive	positive	cohered	++
b	P	General-specific	explorative	positive	incohered	+
c	D	General-specific	descriptive	positive	cohered	++
d	P	General-specific	experimental	positive	cohered	+
e	D	General-specific	theoretical	negetive	incohered	+
f	P	General-specific	descriptive	positive	cohered	+
g	P	General-specific	XXXXXX	negetive	incohered	-
h	P	Specific-General	XXXXXX	negetive	incohered	-
i	D	General-specific	descriptpive	positive	cohered	+
j	P	specific - General	narrative	negetive	incohered	+
k	D	General-specific	descriptive	positive	cohered	+
l	P	General-specific	XXXXXX	negetive	incohered	-

Quality Representation of the Researches

S / N	Status	Introduction	Methods	Results	Discussion	TF
a	T	high	high	high	high	++
b	P	mid				+
c	D	high	high	high	high	++
d	P	mid	mid	mid	mid	+
e	D	mid	mid	mid	mid	+
f	P	high	high	high	high	+
g	P	low	low	low	low	-
h	P	low	low	low	low	-
i	D	high	high	high	high	+
j	P	mid	mid	mid	mid	+
k	D	high	high	high	high	+
l	P	low	low	low	low	-

**Interpretation of the Data**

Each table is made up of seven columns. The first marks the serial numbering but in letter forms. The second represents the initialization of the status of the research; D-dissertation, T-thesis, P-project, and J-journal, the last columns marks the inclusion or seclusion of theoretical framework. Where there is double plus mark inclusion it represents the use and overtness of two or a blend of theoretical frameworks or what is known as eclectic use of theoretical framework. The remaining in-between columns show the basic components or structures of a research paper.

The whole of the array information of the table one situates on how research achieves intrinsic unity of process and product. From the distribution, also, we can verify how synergetic the components are. While buttressing on the coherent relationship of the variables, Litosseliti, (2010:23), clarifies that the relevance of theoretical/analytical approach will in fact informs your topic and indeed your research questions so that when you come to analyze your data, your analytical framework is, if not exactly ‘waiting for you’, a ‘rational’ decision which is theoretically consistent with your entire research project. Thus,

accordingly increases the operationalizing the whole system through associated data, data collection methods and analytical framework. At the conclusion remark however, TF affects or shapes how the conclusion is effective or otherwise. We can act on the notional agreement of scholars in linguistics on the usefulness of conclusion which has close link with the presence and serviceable theories

In the last account, there is representation of the coherence and continuum relationship among the components. Where the theoretical framework is appropriately deployed the whole range of the components rally in shaping empirical network of the research. But where otherwise, there is disarray of mutual membership of the components and the result of the research finding becomes less traceable.

**Conclusion**

This study is unique in so many capacities; it is a meta-research. One among the uniqueness is its ability to study other researches and come up with how each of the studies adhere with basicness of empirical nature of research. The findings of this investigation include thorough understanding how some researches tagged with fulfilment of theoretical framework

orientation while others are not. There is no harm in linguistics for a research to saliently use TF in order to have first-hand result, and this is due to its efficacy in rallying up all

research components in yielding credible finding.

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