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Language, Societal Security and Stability: A Study of the Expressive Forms used by Influential People on Television Programmes in Nigeria and the Republic of Congo[1]

Mariam ANANA
Mountain Top University
Prayer-City, Ogun State, Nigeria
meanana@mtu.edu.ng
&
Abraham NGALOUO-ANTSO
Université Marien Ngouabi, Congo
abrahamngalouo@gmail.com

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Abstract: This article studies the impact of the language of influential people on social security and stability in Nigeria and the Republic of Congo. It explores the scope of hate speech, the use of vulgar language, derogatory family expressions, slang and insulting words from certain authorities and their consequences in the interest of the population. The data to support the research was randomly selected and collected from the Nigerian television programme

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"Politics Today" and the Congolese national television programme. It reveals in the light of Mead's (1934) 'Symbolic Interactionalism' and Sacks' (1992) 'Conversational analysis' that the state of each society is determined by the positive or negative roles played by language. Therefore, appropriate words uttered in pleasant tones and good dispositions (in spoken, written and sign language) can help strengthen the security and stability of a society.

However, inappropriate language use is one of the potential causes of insecurity and instability. Ultimately, this study recommends that members of society, especially the most educated, learn to choose convenient words, understand the components of language, interact and make perfect communications. Furthermore, they must meticulously and judiciously convey useful messages to the relevant authorities for diligent responses. Journalists or producers of television programmes should reserve the right to make judgments when presenting their programmes. In doing so, they will avoid negatively influencing viewers so that the security and stability of society can be maintained.

Keywords: Language, interactions, communication, colloquialisms, tones, security, stability

Langue, sécurité et stabilité sociétales : une étude de la Formes expressives utilisées par des personnes influentes dans les programmes télévisés au Nigéria et en République du Congo

Résumé : Le présent article étudie l'impact de la langue de personnes influentes sur la sécurité sociale et la stabilité au Nigeria et en République du Congo. Il explore portée des discours de haine, l'emploi d'un langage vulgaire, des expressions familières désobligeantes, de l'argot et des mots injurieux de certaines d'autorités et leurs conséquences dans l'intérêt des populations. Les données pour étayer la recherche ont été sélectionnées au hasard et recueillies à partir du programme de la télévision Nigériane « Politics Today » et du programme de la télévision nationale Congolaise. Il ressort des approches Symbolic Interactionalism de Mead (1934) et de l'analyse conversationnelle de Sacks (1992) que l'état de chaque société est déterminé par les rôles positifs ou négatifs joués par la langue. Par conséquent, des mots appropriés articulés dans des tons agréables et de bonnes dispositions (en langue parlée, écrite et en langue des signes) peuvent contribuer à renforcer la sécurité et la stabilité d'une société.

Cependant, l'usage de la langue inappropriée est l'une des causes potentielles d'insécurité et d'instabilité. En fin de compte, cette étude recommande que les membres de la société, en particulier les plus instruits, apprennent à choisir les mots convenables, comprendre les composantes du langage, interagir et faire

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des communications parfaites. En outre, ils doivent transmettre méticuleusement et judicieusement les messages utiles aux autorités compétentes pour des réponses diligentes. Les journalistes ou les réalisateurs des programmes télévisés devraient se réserver le droit de porter un jugement lors de la présentation de leurs programmes. Ce faisant, ils éviteront d'influencer négativement les téléspectateurs afin que la sécurité et la stabilité de la société puissent être maintenues.

Mots-clés : langage, interactions, communication, expressions familières, tons, sécurité, stabilité

Introduction

Language is man's potential tool in ensuring a harmonious society through security and stability. Security is a polymorphous term. Following S. Paul (2023, p.2), security *is a condition where the essential factors such as employment, shelter, food, health, clothing, etc. relating to the individual are secured, and in that situation, survival constitutes the essential part*. It includes but not limited to personal security, food security, physical security, cybersecurity, financial security and national security. To have a secured and stable society where, various security tools have failed, language is highly recommended. Language can only do this when it is used appropriately to bring about security and stability in the society. It is worth noting that harmony cannot be achieved if people talk and communicate carelessly and improperly.

According to F. A. Okeke (2012), improper use of language causes conflict. No society is secure and stable where there is no individual, collective, group, mass and global security. Therefore, to ensure that security and stability are established in every society, language must be used effectively.

The effective application of language entails that the participants understand language as a veritable tool in maintaining, sustaining and restoring societal stability and security. They also need to understand language as a social activity used in positive interactions with members of the society and thereby, they are expected to create, maintain and sustain social, economic, political, religious, etc. relationships through language use.

Every member of the society should learn how to use basic language and communication skills and appropriately apply them for possible societal security and stability.

The right use and application of language imply proper choice of words, utterances, statements, expressions, paralinguistic and nonverbal cues in interactions and communications in suitable contexts. It also includes the recognition and respect for status in communication and recognition of the impacts of culture in communication.

In relation with this, the study aims to explore the language of influential people on television programmes in Nigeria and the Republic of Congo. It is prompted by the belief that the application of ineffective language use is one of the potential causes of insecurity instability. In this line of thought we will

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discuss the issues including the words, genres and the attitudes of the interactants, as well as their influence on the viewers. Besides, mention will also be made of the broadcast director's impartiality during the performance. The approaches to this research are Mead (1934)'s Symbolic Interactionalism (SI) and Sack's (1992) Conversation Analysis Theory (CA). Both merge and complement to one another at varying degrees in the analysis of communicative events**.**

1. Review of Literature

This section reviews the scholarly works produced in the area of language, social security and stability in the one hand, and their relevance to the present research in the other hand. Observing the damaging effects of insecurity, B. Chukwunonso Nwokocha (2023) assumes that insecurity has threatened the existence of Nigeria as a nation. A. G. Eneji and E.M. Agri (2020) maintain that living in Nigeria is a nightmare due to insecurity and instability. Bothering on the high level of insecurity, M.D. Igbini (2022, p. 53) states that "Nigeria has remained a violent-ridden nation in the psycho-political map of the world for a number of decades" . Similarly, A. I. Omoloso and A. Abdulrauf-Salau (2015) observe that insecurity is an impediment to a nation's developmental efforts.

Likewise, now that this investigation is being carried out, the Republic of Congo is going through a serious social and institutional crisis with contestation movements and strikes in the big cities like Brazzaville and Pointe-noire. Worse enough, the populations are threatened by the increasing rate of the acts of violence perpetrated in streets as well as schools by the youngsters organised in criminal gangs called ' Arabs', ' Americans' and ' kuluna'.

Having been established that insecurity and instability are deadly tools in every level of development (personal, group, mass, state, issues-related and national), this research therefore becomes imperative with a view to providing a source where suggested language choices and use may act as a panacea in curbing incessant cases of insecurity and instability in Nigeria and the Republic of Congo.

Language plays multifaceted roles in ensuring that all forms of securities are maintained. As investigated by L. Achieng (2016), language performs various functions in societies and its relevance cannot be ignored. This suggests language is used to carry out almost all activities by human beings and where language is not involved at all, there is bound to be great level of confusions and misinterpretations (G. Bamgbose, 2022). With this in mind, F.B. Adamson (2006) considers language the most salient symbol for national cohesion in the United States. Sharing the same opinion, B. Deen and W. Romans (2018) mention that language is not only used to uphold values but for European security and stability. In this connection, the pieces of media conversations

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under investigation relate to social security and stability in Nigeria and the Republic of Congo.

Besides, language serves many functions in many other areas including cybersecurity, Border securities, counterterrorism and metalanguage. For D. T. Moore and L. Krizan, 2003, p.116, true success is obtained only if analysts are 'proficient in languages' in matter of border securities. Furthermore, A. Kaleem (2022) assumes that counterterrorism is avoided where language is properly used in monitoring and assessing people or groups associated with terrorism. Ultimately, (R.T. Graig, 2016) stresses the metalinguistic function of language in translation that is, using one language to transmit a piece of information into another language.

In a nutshell, without good application of language, there cannot be social stability. Social cohesion, good governance and overall well-being of the nation depend solely on language use. A government that is harsh in communication will only produce people who feel cheated and bullied hence, overloaded with revenge tendencies which may explode any moment they are triggered. In other words, in communication and social cohesion, governance and public administration, education and literary, media and publicity, conflict and conflict resolutions, social harmony and economic stability hinge on language use. Having reviewed the relevant literature to this research, we turn now to methodology.

2. Methodology

This qualitative research relies on statements and expressions used by influential people in Nigeria and the Republic of Congo. The excerpts from television programmes can lead to either harmony or insecurity in Nigerian and Congolese societies. For the sake of this investigation, Excerpts from five (5) rebroadcast Channel Television programmes (*Politics Today)* in 2024 anchored by Seun Okinbaloye (a politic journalist) and excerpts from three (3) rebroadcast B.N. and C.N. networks originally produced by TV-Congo, the national television channel of the Republic of Congo between 2021 and 2024 were selected, gathered and analysed.

The approaches to the investigation are Mead (1934)'s Symbolic Interactionalism (SI) and Sack's (1992) Conversation Analysis Theory (CA). Symbolic Interactionalism is a sociological theory focusing on how individuals create and interpret meaning through social interactions. The key components of SI are symbols (objects, actions or sounds) that represent something else and have specific meaning in culture. Symbols are considered the basis of human communication. Another major term is the self (I and me). The "I" represents the impulsive, spontaneous self while the "me" represents the internalized social norms and expectations of a people. Self is developed through social interaction. There is also the concept of role-taking, social interaction, definition of situation, looking glass self (individual developed self concepts based on views of others) and dramaturgical approach.

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However, Conversation Analysis is another complementary theory adopted in this research. CA was propounded by Harvey Sacks in 1992. This theory is best defined in terms of what it does; how it enables us to view the social world and to analyse social interactions, (I, Hutchby and R. Wooffitt, 2008). Its basic components are turn-taking, (Turn constructional units-TCUs - this is complete once there is enough point for another speaker to take a turn); and Transition Relevance Place (TRPs- an natural place to either continue or end a turn), adjacency pairs; first pair part (FPP-greeting, question or request) and second Pair Part (SPP -the response to FPP is expected and obligated as in answer, return to greeting or compliance). Sequence organization (SO), repair mechanism (RM), action formation (AF). Action ascription (AA), institutional talks (IT) and multimodality (M). The approaches serve as a stepping-stone to the analysis of the expressive forms used by influential people on television programmes of Nigeria and the Republic of Congo.

4. Data Presentation and Analysis

The excerpts from the Nigerian Channel TV are first presented and analysed before the ones from the Republic of Congo. The discussion includes the text, content and function. The names of the interactants are first mentioned and afterward, the first two letters of their first and surnames are used in data presentations and analysis. For example, Seun Okinbaloye is Seok; this is applicable to the interactants used in this research.

Five influential people (randomly selected) were Dele Momudu, Ibrahim Shakarau, Nyesom Wike, Senator Orji Uzo Kalu and Peter Obi. Dele Momudu (is a Nigerian journalist/publisher, businessman, and motivational speaker. He is the CEO and publisher of *Ovation International*, a celebrity magazine)**.** Ibraham Shakarau was a former Nigerian minister of education and two-term Governor of Kano State (April 2003 and April 2007). Nyesom Wike was a former governor of Rivers State and a lawyer. He is a minster of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). Senator Orji Uzo Kalu is a politician and businessman. He was a senator who represented Aba North Senatorial District between May 1999 to May 2007. Peter Obi is a politician and businessman, a former governor of Anambra State from March 2006 to 2010. He was re-elected as the member of the Labour party since 2022. He was the presidential candidate in the 2023 Nigerian presidential election.

Excerpt 1: Seun Okinbaloye' (Seok) interactions with Chief Dele Momudu (Demo) on Tinubu's unreadiness to chance

Seok : *Some of the words you used might have angered some supporters or followers of the Bola Tinubu School of government. For example, when you say that this economy had virtually collapsed there are those who will say that you were not fair to this government and there are some who will say that in one of your Pendullum Writings, you have made reference to the effort of Bola Saraki. The president has said that the state of the nation will be as the pain of child bearing and after*

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sometimes it will be fruit .According to the followers of the APC the say that you are not speaking the truth.

Demo: *Who are these followers of APC and when did they become followers of APC that's another matter; but I will answer you directly and frontally, that when you talk about economics and economy, they are two different things. Economics is the theoretical aspect of the economy. The economy is the practical side of the economics. No matter the high fabulous theories you bring from IMF from World Bank as long as it does not reflect on the lives of Nigerians, you are just blowing grammar. Is all about semantics. I am telling you sir, that there is no country if you look at crisis from Benezuala to everywhere, even Brazil, go and read their tragedy. You will see that IMF is always a problem. During the Babangida era, they told us SAP was where SAP of 1989 riot led Nigeria. SAP will lead us to heaven and paradise. Why a leader should be sworn in May29. 2023 and the first thing he will do is to give bad news to Nigerian. You did not even wait a second.*

The doctor gave an injection which killed Nigerians instantly. We have not discovered, just one injection Nigerians went into.

Content and function

Seok's introductory expression is indirect as it acts both as a representative as well as an elicitation. Looking at it in either way, it is quite inciting, creating a transition relevance place (TRP) naturally for the respondent to fit in seamlessly. This enables Demon's easiness to take his turn and explains succinctly, first the state of Nigeria's economy, the so-called SAP introduced by Babangida which he observed as a flop. Demo went further to completely condemn President Bola Tinubu's government whom he epitomised as a bad doctor who instead of stabilizing the health of a patient on emergency, ordered such a patient to be injected to death.

Demon's explanations are capable of demoralising Nigerians who may not have hope in the government of Ahmed Bola Tinubu. The selection of expressions such as 'I am telling you sir, that there is no country' and ' The doctor gave an injection which killed Nigerians', and words such as ' tragedy,' 'Problem' and ' riot' are capable of destroying Nigerians hope of existence in Nigeria. They are also words are expressions that can engender insecurity and instability.

Excerpt 2

Seok with Chief Ibrahim Shakarau (Ibsh) on the state of security–fighting banditry Ending insurgency in Borno.

Seok: *insurgency took everything out from …Is there anything that can be done on the borders (Boso) that are unprotecte?*

Ibsh: *This place was not displaced, there are still intact. It is only because of the crisis in Niger. What I am appealing to Nigerian army is to strengthen their army. Honesty speaking, they are doing their best and I believe..*

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Seok: A big question is that whether we are learning a lesson from this insurgency? Are we?
Ibsh: You are correct! Yes we are. The root causes of all these are poverty, literacy. We have learnt our lessons.

Content and function

The responses to Seok questions are replete with calmness and believability in the state of the insecurity in Borno State. Whether what Ibsh is saying is correct or not but his careful choice of statements such as, "The place was not displaced", "I am appealing to Nigerian army" and "Honesty speaking they are doing their best" are appropriate expressions that can result in stability and security.

Excerpt 3

Seok on one-on-one with Nyesom Wike (Nywi) on Rivers State political crisis

Seok: What got my attention today was when they were talking about the governing zoning a governorship election in Rivers State.

Nywi: The Agoni and the Oyigbo are the largest. The Ijaws have been clamouring, you think that you are the only vocal people; you think that you are smartest; you think that you can intimidate people. You think that you are the only people who can frighten people and that you have the monopoly of chief. If you are a bad man you are a bad man. It is only politics that exposes us. You call the minority of the minority to produce a governor. People like Edwin Clark, they say, octogenarian, elder statesman.

Seok: of course that is who he is.
Nywi: the elder statesman is not by age
Seok: He is the leader of the Ijaws.

Nywi: I don't know; I am not an Ijaw man so, I don't know. I was not there when they appointed who should be an Ijaw leader. So, I don't want to comment on that. So, he is an Ijaw leader. I have no problem with that. Ask Edwin Clark, has he ever produced a governor, in Delta state? Never! Never one day, never one day. Octogenerian, elder statesman, the most intelligent man in Niger Delta, the man who knows it all. He is from Delta State, he is an Ijaw man. Has he fought for an Ijaw man?

Content and function

Nywi's response to Seok's interrogative is replete with seemingly unconnected utterances which may be a replica of the minister style of speaking and who he is. One is forced to believe that his preoccupations are reflective of his incoherence statements. As shown in the presentation, his explanations to the questions seem to be diverted from the main thrust of the question, the rift in Rivers' politics, to his reserved negative expressions on two key Ijaw leaders whom he feels are the ones who misled others to cause problems in the State.

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His shift from the politics itself to attack two leaders; especially, one of one of them, Edwin Clark suggests his inability to focus on problems but people. Focusing on people's weakness rather than problems is a major setback and a bane to societal development and progress. His conspicuous sarcastically expressed and repetitive negative words, phrases, clauses such as "octogenerian, the minority of the minority, elder statesman is not by age, Has he ever produced a governor , " the most intelligent man The man who knows it all" are all disrespectful and conflict indued expressions.

Nywi's verbal attack on Edwin Clark and the minority groups in Rivers State are potential missiles that are capable of fueling discords, disunity, conflict and instability and war from many supporters of Edwin Clark who is indeed the leader of the Ijaw people(as confirmed by Seok's affirmation, "of course that is who he is" .

Excerpt 4: Seok on one-on- one with Senator Orji Uzo Kalu (on the state of the Economy and the plight of the people)

Seok: Know that the nation is faced with enormous pressure over the state of the economy which has caused untold hardship to the average person. It is important to discuss the way forward for the giant of African. Also, lawmakers get vehicles and each of these vehicles amount to 140 million naira. Now you go to the National Assembly, and you are not representing the average people that you say that you defend. You are getting too much. The political class looks large at the expense of the average person, and the average person in the society cannot feed because the prices of things are getting up. And they are looking to you and they hear that this is the amount of money that you are getting. You are not reflecting the people.

Uruz: No, no , no , that is not true. I am a senate, and most of these things that people say are not true. Senators were given money to buy vehicles; the vehicles are for community works and not for me, not for one person. We are elected people; if someone's child is sick, they will come to us. I can tell you, I earn 14 million in a month. i.e everything

Seok: So, you don't think that is enormous

Uruz : No: it is not enough. No, no, no, it is not enough. If anyone is sick, he will come to us. If anyone son is not going to school, they will come to us. All I know is that the committees get vehicles and none of these lawmakers get vehicles.

Content and function

The conversations between Senator Uruz and Seun have clearly shown that there are miscommunications between the political class and the common man in Nigeria. Here, the integrity and the credibility of the news are doubtful. Who actually gives authentic news? Is it the politicians or the common man? Of course, with the look out of things in Nigeria, and the outright failure of the past and present governments, no apolitical person believes any politicians because of their falsehoods.

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This disposition is reflected in Seok's observation that law-makers earn a lot at the expense of the common man. Senator Uruz debunked this, but confirmed that he earns 14 million a month; and insisted that this is not even enough for him. This shows the level of extravagant lifestyles that some Nigerian politicians live and their insensitivity and inhumanity to the plights of the downtrodden and the poor in Nigeria.

Uruz's further justification for their (politicians') exorbitant expenditures on what he concluded as care for people in his constituency is not concretise as there is no evidence to prove that anyone has ever approached him for any help.. So, if 14-million naira is not enough for him, what does he expect from the unemployed youths all over the nation? Uruz's reply seems to lack empathy for the common citizens.

***Excerpt 5*: Seok with Peter Obi on insecurity**

Seok: *Should you be the president, how will you tackle insecurity?*

Peob: *The issue of insecurity or agitation; it is to sit down and discuss with them. We are in the democratic dispensation. I will sit down and discuss with every agitator without the exception of them. I will discuss and convince them. You have to look at what is causing the agitation today, the issues of injustice, issues of unfairness, the issue of unemployment, poverty. When you start discussing, my children, everyone agitates. Engage the agitators in interaction; they are agitating for something. Even if you are jailed, I will bring you out and discuss with you. I will govern by rule of law. I will govern by sitting down and discussing with you. No matter the type of gun you carry. I must discuss with you first.*

Content and function

Peob's response to Soek question is quite pleasant; and able to evoke the hearers' trust and confidence in him. His descriptions of democratize dispensation and readiness to tackle injustices, unfairness, unemployment, poverty and agitations are capable of arousing people curiosity to give him a chance to govern so as to see whether or not these can be implemented. His emphatic repetition of sitting with the agitators to discuss, sitting down with even those who carry any type of gun and discussing; and emphasis on governing with the rule of law are enough to evoke one's acceptance of Peob's government.

***Excerpt 6*: on the external debt of the Republic of Congo**

In these excerpts collected in the Republic of Congo, the names of Countries, the city, institutions and titles are abbreviated between parentheses as follows: the Republic of Congo (COG), the People's Republic of China (PRC); Brazzaville (Brazza), the ministry of finance (MF), the minister in charge of infrastructure construction (MIC), the minister in charge of the public-private partnership (M3P)and Prime minister (PM). Furthermore, the participants' names are fictive.

The director of the broadcasting crosses three (3) view opinions around the external debt: an excerpt from the MF's claim during a press conference, the PM's assumption in the course of an interview, and a police agent's sentence in a fake scene. That confrontation of opinions has resulted in a threat of arrest.

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Scene 1.

This is an excerpt from the press conference on COG-PRC cooperation called in 2021 by MF. Invited to the event were: the minister in charge of infrastructure construction (MIC) and the minister in charge of the public-private partnership (M3P). Both should take part to the issues related the country's socio-economic development regarding their responsibilities. The audience was composed of the nationals and foreigners.

- MF (Speaking in a very serious tone):

  Oui, la dette euh, du COG vis à vis de la PRC est de 1100 milliards, je dis bien 1100milliards en ce qui concerne la partie publique et bancaire, et 225milliards en ce qui concerne la partie privée et commerciale. Donc au total en gros 1300 milliards de francs CFA, que nous devons à notre partenaire et notre ami, la PRC, pour l'ensemble des travaux que vous voyez dans tout Brazza.

[Yes, the debt uh, of the C. towards C. is 1100 billion; I say 1100 billion with regard to the public and banking part, and 225 billion with regard to the private and commercial part. So in total roughly 1,300 billion CFA francs, which we owe to our partner and our friend, the Republic of PRC for all the work you see throughout Brazza]

However, the statement put forward above by MF gives rise to a doubt, following the PM., Head of government, one year later, as transcribed in scene 2.

Scene 2.

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the general delegation of major works in 2022, an interview is granted the PM by a journalist from a foreign television channel, in the presence of MIC.

- PM (Confident and smiling):

  Vous aurez à retenir une chose. La délégation générale des Grands travaux a réalisé toutes ces infrastructures sur fond propre du COG. Et dans la perspective des 20 prochaines années, nous voulons développer d'avantage le partenariat public-privé pour ne pas faire peser (lifting his arms imitating a balance) *toutes ces charges d'investissements sur les générations à venir*.

  [You will have to remember one thing. The general delegation of Major Works has built all these infrastructures with the COG's own funds. And with a view to the next 20 years, we want to further develop the public-private partnership so as not to impose (lifting its arms imitating a balance) all these investment burdens on future generations.]

Through an interference of a fake sequence, a high officer retorts with anger in scene 3.

Scene 3*:*

The scene takes place in an interrogation room. It involves three participants: a police high officer, his subordinate and a suspected criminal. The suspected criminal, is sitting before a desk, facing the two police agents. This fake scene

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is structured in 2 sequences. Hearing the PM's unsubstantiated claim in the first sequence, the high officer explodes with anger, waving his two arms.
- High officer (pointing the suspected criminal):

Tu ments,
(with a high pitch) : *tu ments,*
(Shouting) : *tu ments……*
[You lie,
you lie,
you lie….]

PM continues…

Scene 4 *:*
- PM

> *Si vous me donner l'occasion de dire un dernier mot pour féliciter, les cadres de la direction générale des grands travaux qui ont été à l'ouvrage depuis 2002, à commencer par celui qui est actuellement, ministre d'Etat, ministre de l'aménagement du territoire, des infrastructures et de l'entretien routier.*
>
> [If you give me the opportunity to say a final word to congratulate the executives of the general delegation of Major Works who have been at work since 2002, starting with the one who is currently, Minister of State, Minister of land planning, infrastructure and road maintenance.]

This costs him a threat of condemnation in scene 5.

Scene 5.
- High officer (pointing the suspected criminal):

> *Tais-toi; tais-toi, tais-toi. Cet homme est épuisé. Il ne peut plus suivre un raisonnement logique. Alors, nous reprendrons cet interrogatoire demain. Alors Monsieur* (ordering the subordinate) *Emmenez-le dans sa cellule.*
>
> [Shut up; shut up, shut up. This man is exhausted. He can no longer follow logical reasoning. So, we will resume this interrogation tomorrow. Now (ordering the subordinate) take him to his cell.]

Content and function

The main issue raised in this scene is one of national interest; that of knowing whether all the infrastructures built throughout the city of Brazza-- until 2021 have been financially sponsored by a friendly country and economic partner, the PRC, or self-sponsored by the COG.

MF in the presence of MIC, declares that the financing comes from an external source. But curiously, a year later, in the presence of the same minister, responsible for infrastructure construction, the PM contradicts and goes so far as to congratulate the latter.

If this debate resurfaces today, it is because it is still relevant. The director, via a fake scene, makes interfere a police officer to cut the PM down to size and

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condemn him on behalf of the viewers. The suspected criminal reflects the PM who should be the subject of a judicial investigation.
The first's entire speech is an allegation and it is sanctioned by insult.
Therefore, all influential people should avoid making allegations and using invective language so as to preserve stability and social security.

Excerpts 7

The excerpt is a sequence of the senate session broadcast on Télé-Congo, the national television channel, held in 2024. It consists in a series of questions on the subjects of national interest that the senators address to the government ministers. Usually, the latter should provide the right answers in order to reassure and appease the population. The PM figures among those summoned to the senate session and he should reply to Senator Vinsie's question. The senator begins by clarifying the context of his question.

Senator :

Le salaire est une question sociale. On ne peut vivre sans salaire. Ces derniers mois, des mouvements de grève sont déclenchés par les agents évoluant dans les institutions, administrations et établissements publiques, essentiellement les mairies, l'université Marien Ngouabi et les hôpitaux suite aux retards de paiement des salaires mensuels.

[Salary is a social issue. We cannot live without a salary. In recent months, strike movements have been launched by agents working in public administrations and institutions, mainly town halls, Marien Ngouabi University and hospitals following late payment of monthly salaries.]

Senator : *Monsieur le Premier ministre, chef du gouvernement, pouvez-vous expliquer aux agents relevant des institutions, administrations, et établissement publiques les causes fondamentales de ces retards de paiements de salaire ?*
[Mr PM., Head of Government, would you please explain to the agents of public administrations and institutions, the main causes of these delays in salary payments?]

The PM, Head of Government: delivers a long speech of almost 20 minutes leading some senators in the room to follow dozily.
He recalls the acts of violence which occurred in 2018 and 2021 which would have deteriorated the country's relations with economic and financial partners; the contracted debt between 2016 and 2021 to deal with the COVID 19 crisis; and the repercussions of the Russo-Ukrainian war on the food level. Finally, he concludes:
PM :

Je suis confiant que d'ici l'année prochaine ou plus précisément dès l'année prochaine les choses devrait aller mieux.
[I am confident that by next year or more precisely from next year things would become better.]

Audience: Laughter (waking up those who are dozing).

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The senator is unsatisfied with the PM's answer and takes the floor.

Senator:

> *J'avais une autre préoccupation sur les retards des salaires. J'avoue que je n'ai pas suivi la dernière phrase du PM, Chef du gouvernement, qui a suscité un remous dans la salle. Je n'ai pas bien compris, apparemment, il me semble que le PM a dit jusqu'en décembre, jusqu'à l'année prochaine nous allons toujours connaître des retards de salaire, je ne sais pas, je n'ai pas bien suivi. S'il peut préciser ces éléments de réponses concernant cette première préoccupation.*
>
> [I had another concern about salary delays. I admit that I did not follow the last sentence of the PM, Head of Government, which caused a stir in the room. I didn't quite understand, apparently, it seems to me that the PM said until December, until next year we will always experience salary delays, I don't know, I don't quite understand follow up. If he can clarify these elements of answers concerning this first concern.]

PM :

> *On n'a pas dit qu'on attend décembre ou 2025. Non ! On a pas dit qu'il faut attendre décembre, le PM n'a pas dit ça. On continue de s'organiser pour que, d'un moment à l'autre, (souriant) nous commençons, nous reprenons avec ce qu'il faut mettre à la disposition des uns et des autres, mais que l'on comprenne que nous travaillons pour que cette pression soit apaisée, qu'elle soit résolue.*
>
> [We didn't say we're waiting for December or 2025. No! We didn't say that we have to wait until December, the PM didn't say that. We continue to organize ourselves so that, from one moment to the next, (smiling) we begin, we start again with what needs to be made available to each other, but that we understand that we Let's work so that this pressure is eased, that it is resolved.]

Finally, the PM thanks the President of the Senate and the senators.

Content and function

The issue of delays in the payment of salaries is in the news. The senator would like to know what justifies this delay in salary payments and how to remedy it?
The director put two titles in rewrite: "Follow the PM and the national emblems below", at the top of the screen, and "salary delays" at the bottom. This means the relevance of the issue on the one hand, and the impatience of the viewers, on the other.

The PM uses emphasis, recalling previous sad events that the country has experienced, which cost the lives of certain fellow citizens and the arrests of others. Some senators in the room were dozing off and far from encouraging him, others sulked at the end.
The PM declares that it was necessary to wait until the end of December or the year 2025 for salary payments to become regular. When the senator who had

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difficulty following, asks the PM to summarize his answer, he contradicts himself. The forms used in this excerpt are: contradiction and emphasis.
The style is not well appreciated by the members of the Senate and who are dissatisfied with the response given by the PM.
Imprecise and contradictory responses do not reassure the populations who are expecting their salaries to be paid regularly. Here, the role of the **broadcast director** is to show the magnitude of the issue without passing judgment. Because every citizen should enjoy freedom of opinion.

Excerpt 8

The director of the CN crosses two view opinions on: the Prime Minister's promises and the reality on the ground.
PM:(Reassuring the journalist).

> *Je peux vous dire que, avec votre engagement, je veux vous garantir la bonne qualité du courant. Je vais faire en sorte que l'eau soit de bonne qualité et qu'elle arrive là où elle ne pouvait pas arriver, c'est ce qu'on a commencé à faire. Je vais vous garantir des vraies voiries urbaines.*
>
> [I can tell you that, with your commitment, I want to guarantee good power quality. I'm going to make sure that the water is of good quality and that it gets to where it couldn't get, that's what we started to do. I will guarantee you real urban roads.]

The PM appears in the centre of a rectangular frame with posters arranged as follows: on top left, a pump spouting dirty water into a white glass bottle; at the top right, the picture of the general director of the electricity company and some idle and wandering agents.
The decoration at the bottom of the tray is the national flag. In addition, the national flag in small format is to the right of the PM. There is a frame with a red background, rewritten in white capital letters "INCOMPETENTS" at the bottom middle. The item "LES" appears outside the frame. There is rubbish at the lowest point, and cars parked here and there.

Content and function

Following T. Van Leeuwen (2004:8), *speech acts should be renamed communicative acts and understood as multimodal microevents in which all the signs present combine to determine its communicative intent*. Moreover, the writer argues: image, language and typography stylistically cohere into a single communicative act. As a matter of fact, the author's belief finds a perfect illustration in the excerpt under study. The PM and the journalist communicate verbally whereas the broadcasting director gets in a word on the subject, through the images displayed on the top and the bottom of the screen and the rewriting ''INCOMPETENT'' as it appears with the capital letters, below the PM speaking.
Thanks to the communication technologies means, the broadcast director who represents the T.V viewers, points out the failure of the PM's promises on the ground. He said 6 months ago, but now the urban roads, rubbish and utilities problem are the issues which still hit the headline. Therefore, the PM's address

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is demagoguery. However, the qualifier incompetent used by the director as a rewriting is an abuse which may incite to violence. By doing so, he has exceeded beyond his liberty to inform the public opinion.
In one word, demagoguery and abuse are opposed to the values required for societal stability and security.

5. Result

The speeches of politicians in the era of democracy are not always favorable to stability and social security. The scrutinized excerpts are peppered with allegations except excerpt 1. The other seven are merely a perfect illustration of demagoguery. If some political journalists report the information to the letter, others broadcast it making judgments on behalf of viewers or public opinion. This can incite ethnic hatred, social instability and insecurity.

Conclusion

The style, words, images, gestures and typography used in the delivery of politicians' speeches have a significant impact on social stability and security.

Security and stability of Nigeria and the Republic of Congo depends mainly on the choice of language used by influential people, especially the politicians. Their choices of words are capable of either destroying or building the nation. Hate speeches are capable of dividing. However, appropriately used words are capable of cementing unity thereby leading to stability of a nation. Thus, this paper is conceived as a contribution to the previous research projects on preserving social cohesion in general and particularly, in Nigeria and the Republic of Congo.

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Biographies

Dr Abraham Ngalouo-Antso est enseignant chercheur à l’Université Marien Ngouabi , à la Faculté des Lettres, Arts et Sciences Humaines (FLASH) . Ancien Responsable du Parcours-type Langues Vivantes Etrangères (L.V.E), il est auteur de plusieurs articles et à pris part à plusieurs conférences au niveau national, sous-régional et international. De spécialité Linguistique appliquée, ses champs d’intérêt sont : La psycholinguistique, la sociopragmatique, la sociolinguistique, le folklore et la stylistique.

Dr Mariam Emmanuel Anna (PHD) est chef de Département de Langues à Mountain Top University, Prayer-City, Ogun State, en République Fédérale de Nigéria. Elle est auteure de plusieurs articles. Sa spécialité est la linguistique et ses champs d’intérêt sont : la sociolinguistique, la morphologie, la et la sémantique.