UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST

COMMITMENT AND AGENCY IN THE STATE OF THE NATION

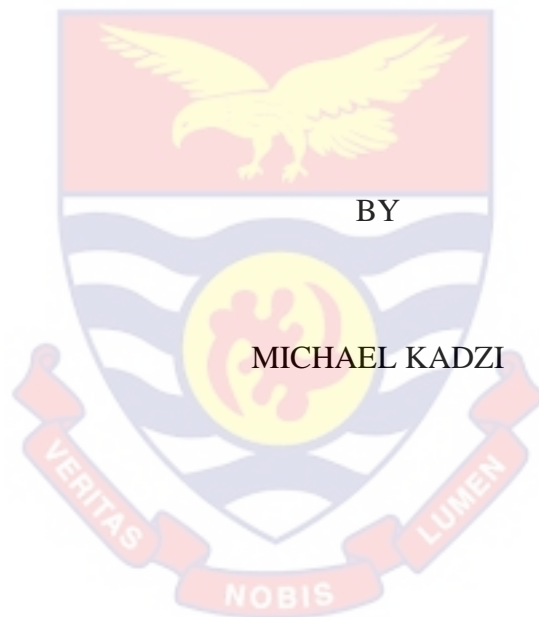ADDRESS OF TWO GHANAIAN PRESIDENTS: A MODALITY AND

ERGATIVE ANALYSIS

MICHAEL KADZI

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UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST

COMMITMENT AND AGENCY IN THE STATE OF THE NATION

ADDRESS OF TWO GHANAIAN PRESIDENTS: A MODALITY AND

ERGATIVE ANALYSIS

BY

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Thesis submitted to the Department of English of the Faculty of Arts, College

of Humanities and Legal Studies, University of Cape Coast, in partial

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in English Language

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DECLARATION

Candidate's Declaration

I hereby declare that this thesis is the result of my own original work and that no part of it has been presented for another degree in this university or elsewhere.

Candidate's Signature: ....   Date: ....

Name: Michael Kadzi

Supervisors' Declaration

I hereby declare that the preparation and presentation of the thesis were supervised in accordance with the guidelines on supervision of thesis laid down by the University of Cape Coast.

Supervisor's Signature: ....   Date: ....

Name: Dr. Isaac Mwinlaaru

ABSTRACT

Politics is one of the most fertile fields of language use in discourse studies. Discourse analysts have studied various genres of political discourse but the State of the Nation Address has received little attention especially in the Ghanaian research domain. This study employed the systemic functional linguistics frameworks of transitivity and modality to analyze the State of the Nation Address of two Ghanaian presidents (John Mahama and Akufo-Addo). Using the two presidents as a case study, the study aimed to determine the levels of agency and commitment Ghanaian presidents show through language choices. The study resorted to a qualitative content analysis where the summative and directed approaches were adopted as a research design. The data was retrieved from the official website of the Parliament of Ghana. Purposive non-probability sampling was used to sample the two State of the Nation Addresses for analysis. The modality analysis revealed that median value modal verbal operators dominated both SONAs followed high-value modal verbal operators. There was no use of low-value median operators in the data. The findings suggest that Ghanaian presidents do not often show high level of commitment through the linguistic choices they make. The transitivity analysis also revealed that certain patterns of systemic choice ascribe agency to Ghanaian presidents in the SONA while certain patterns of systemic choice allows Ghanaian presidents to escape agency. The study confirms ultimately that linguistic choices are motivated by various factors and language is a resource for making meaning. The study also has implications for Systemic Functional Linguistic theory, political discourse analysis, transitivity studies, pedagogy, professional practice and studies on the State of the Nation Address.

KEY WORDS

Agency

Commitment

Modality

Modulation

Transitivity

Ergativity

State of the Nation Address (SONA).

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DEDICATION

To my family: Joseph, Judith, Mary, Jacinta and Francisco

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

SFL   -   Systemic Functional Linguistics

SONA   -   State of the Nation Address

SONAs   -   State of the Nation Addresses

CDA   –   Critical Discourse Analysis

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background to the Study

One sphere of human life in which language is very prominent is politics. According to Chilton and Schaffner (1997), "politics cannot be conducted without language, and it is likely that the use of language in the formation of social groups amounts to a phenomenon that we call "politics" in a broad sense" (p. 206). Also, Miller (1991), believes the political process is made up of persuasion and bargaining. This line of thinking makes it necessary to reveal how language use may result in effects of authority, legitimacy, consensus, and other things that are considered as being fundamental to politics.

There is a belief that language and politics are fundamentally intertwined in the tradition of western political thinking. Here, the term "politics" refers to the fight for dominance between those who want to hold onto their power and others who want to overthrow them (Chilton, 2004). Dunmire (2012) claims that the classical Greek and Roman treatises on rhetoric are where the essential connection between language and politics may be found. Aristotle believed that the art of rhetoric was important to citizenry during the establishment of city-states in ancient Greece due to the crucial role political oratory played in the operations of the state (Aristotle, 1954). According to Cicero (1971), rhetoric is a potent tool for influencing political views and behaviour. All these views point to the fact that language is very essential when it comes to issues of politics. Chilton (2004) states that the concept of political discourse dates as far back as the Greco-Roman tradition when there was much emphasis on how public orators and nobles exercised their rhetorical qualities.

In his *Rhetoric*, Aristotle (1991) emphasizes the importance of persuasion in communication and the selection of available means of persuasion in different contexts.

However, language is not studied in isolation but rather in context. To determine the role of language in politics, we must study language in use and this calls for the study of discourse. A discourse is a socially acceptable relationship between methods of thinking, feeling, believing, valuing, and doing that can be used to signify (that one is playing) a socially important role or identify oneself as a member of a group or social network (Gee, 1999). Similarly, Fairclough (1992) defines discourse as a socially constructed way of thinking or talking about certain topics, which shapes and is shaped by social, cultural and political contexts.

According to Gee (2014), 'discourse analysis is the study of language use' (p. 8). According to McCarthy (1991), it is regarded as the study of language within the context of its use. Discourse Analysis (DA) is used in research and descriptions of the spoken and written verbal exchanges people engage in every day, including newspaper articles, letters, stories, recipes, instructions, announcements, and comic books. It includes all varieties of written texts as well as spoken data, ranging from casual speech to highly institutionalized forms of speech (McCarthy, 2005, p. 8). There are various fields of discourse analysis, one of which is political discourse analysis (PDA). Political discourse, according to Kamp (2015, p. 3), is "talk and text produced regarding concrete political issues" (language in politics) or "through the actual language use of institutional political actors, even in the discussion of non-political issues" (the language of politicians).Van Dijk (1997) is of the view that

political discourse is capable of being identified by its authors and actors; in most political communications, the actors are politicians. The vast field of political discourse studies, according to Van Dijk (1997), is structured to examine the writing and speech of professional politicians or political institutions, such as presidents and prime ministers and other members of the executive branch, the legislature, or political parties, at the local, national, and international levels. According to him, politicians in this sense are a group of persons who are elected, appointed, or self-designated and who receive compensation for their political actions. Additionally, when the interpersonal relationships are stressed, political discourse analysis also includes the recipients of political messages, such as the public, the people, citizens, and the masses (p. 14).

Li, Lui, and Fung (2020) claim that PDA examines how political ideologies are ingrained in political discourse as well as the relationship between linguistic forms and language use and political action and interaction. PDA is closely related to CDA in the field of linguistics, which is connected to Halliday's (1978, 1994, 2004) social semiotic and SFL framework. PDA is a critical approach to the discourse analysis of political texts, speeches, and other semiotic resources as political acts.

A lot of research has been done on or about the language of political communication (Fraser, 2010; Maks and Vossen, 2010; Bista, 2009; Benoit & Sheafer, 2006; Mihas, 2005; Van Dijk, 1993). Researchers have used varied theoretical frameworks in conducting studies in political discourse. A theoretical framework that has been used by many researchers in recent times for political discourse analysis is the systemic functional linguistic framework

(Mushtaq, Saleem, Afzal & Saleem, 2020; Yujie & Fengjie, 2018; Setiawan, Laksana, Mahyuni & Udayana, 2018; Nuraisiah, 2017; Nartey & Yankson, 2014; Pengsun and Fengfeng, 2013). These researchers focused their research on sub-political genres such as inaugural addresses where the systemic grammar frameworks of modality (Nuraisiah, 2017) and transitivity (Yujie & Fengjie, 2018) were employed to investigate the linguistic choices that are used to communicate ranges of meanings in the sub-genre.

Similarly, other sub-political genres such as political news (Shayegh, 2012), presidential debates (Setiawan, Laksana, Mahyuni & Udayana, 2018; Zhang, 2017), manifestos (Nartey & Yankson, 2014; Maks & Vossen, 2010), United Nation General Assembly speeches (Mushtaq, Saleem, Afzal & Saleem, 2020; Sharififar & Rahimi, 2015) and election speeches (Pengsun & Fengfeng, 2013) were investigated employing systemic grammar frameworks (modality and transitivity) to determine linguistic choices and their implications on meaning making in the political domain. These studies have proved that the systemic functional grammar frameworks are capable of revealing meanings that are put across through linguistic choices. This study seeks to add knowledge to the literature in this field by investigating a political sub-genre (State of the Nation Address) using functional grammar frameworks.

Statement of the Problem

Political discourse analysis has been the concern of discourse analysts and political analysts for a long time. Several studies have been conducted on political campaign speeches such as manifestoes (Chaney, 2015; Nartey & Yankson, 2014; Edwards, 2012; Aman, 2009), presidential rhetoric (Mensah, Sarfo-Adu & Afful, 2018; Campbell & Jamieson, 1990), state of the nation

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address (Calonge, 2016; Adjei, Ewusi-Mensah & Okoh, 2015), inaugural addresses (Weber, 2011) and presidential debates (Benoit & Sheafer, 2006; Benoit & Airne, 2005). In Ghana, discourse analysis of Ghanaian political discourse has been done on the state of the nation address (Adjei, Ewusi-Mensah & Okoh, 2015), inaugural address (Boakye, 2014), political manifesto (Kyerewaa-Owusu, 2017; Ehineni, 2014; Nartey & Yankson, 2014), and other political speeches (Afful & Gyasi, 2020; Sarfo-Kantankah, 2019; Sarfo-Kantankah & Arko, 2019; Gyampo, 2009).

The State of the Nation Address (SONA), a very important and prominent political genre has received little attention from political discourse analysts. It is evident from the literature on discourse analysis in Ghanaian political discourse that theories in functional linguistics have not been popular theoretical frameworks for discourse analysts. Adjei, Ewusi-Mensah & Okoh (2015) employ transitivity (a functional linguistic framework) to study the 2009 state of the nation address in Ghana. Apart from this study, the State of the Nation Address seems to have received little or no attention on the Ghanaian research scene. It has been established that political leaders can influence the mental models, knowledge, attitudes and ideologies of people (Van Djik, 1993). This is mainly done through language. This then necessitates scrutiny of language use in political discourse. Because the SONA has received little attention in political discourse analysis, there is little knowledge of how language is used in this important political genre. Ultimately, this prevents the populace from determining the ideologies, attitudes and intentions of political leaders that are expressed through linguistic elements. Since the State of the Nation Addresses is a vital and prominent political genre, it needs to be

scrutinized by discourse analysts. It would be a worthwhile quest to use functional linguistic frameworks to analyze some State of the Nation Addresses on the Ghanaian political scene to determine how language is used in them.

Functional grammar theories focus on meaning-making through language. These meanings reside in systems or patterns of choice that are found within languages. Using functional frameworks as means of investigating SONAs will reveal various systems or patterns of choice and diverse ranges of meaning. As noted earlier, several studies have used the functional frameworks of transitivity and modality to investigate political discourse, thereby authenticating their usage as frameworks for investigating political discourse. Though transitivity has been used by several scholars, its usage has been limited to just one part of the framework- the transitive model. This research, however, extends the usage of the framework by employing the ergative model of the transitivity system which has been underused to investigate choices related to a specific meaning- agency. This is done in combination with modality which is also tailored towards investigating choices that relate to another specific meaning- commitment. As such, this study will reveal the choices made in the SONAs in relation to these two systems.

Purpose of the Study

This study seeks to investigate how language is used in the State of the Nation Address (which is an understudied sub-political genre). This is done by means of two specific objectives. The first objective is using the grammatical system of modality in the systemic functional linguistic framework to examine commitment in the State of the Nation Addresses of two Ghanaian presidents. The second objective is using the grammatical system of transitivity in the

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systemic functional linguistic framework to examine agency in the State of the Nation Addresses of two Ghanaian presidents. The study takes into consideration the choices made in these systems to communicate patterns of meaning. Generally, the study aims to investigate (through functional grammar theories) how some Ghanaian presidents use language to project or escape commitment and agency.

Research Questions

1. How do modality choices in the State of the Nation Addresses of John Mahama and Akufo-Addo show high or low levels of commitment?

2. How do transitivity choices in the State of the Nation Addresses of John Mahama and Akufo-Addo enact agency?

Significance of the Study

This study is necessary due to the relevance it has in relation to research, theory and pedagogy. A significance of this study is the contribution it makes to scholarship on the State of the Nation Address. As stated earlier, the State of the Nation Address is one of the most important political genres on the political scene of the world but little scholarly attention has been paid to it. As an important political genre which occurs every year and has an impact on the lives of the populace, it deserves more scholarly attention. On the Ghanaian political scene to be precise, Adjei, Ewusi-Mensah & Okoh (2015) are the only researchers who set out to study this political genre. They looked at the manipulation of language through the transitive model of transitivity. However, no study has set out to investigate "agency" and "commitment" in SONAs using a combination of the ergative model of transitivity and modality as this study sets out to do. By doing this, the study provides insight into how agency and

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commitment are foregrounded or backgrounded through linguistic choices. Thus, the study adds a different perspective on SONAs (which differs from that of previous studies) to the literature and also provides a wider range of understanding of SONAs.

Over the years, research in political discourse to be precise has been done mainly through the transitive model of transitivity (Mushtaq, Saleem, Afzal & Saleem, 2020; Yujie & Fengjie, 2018; Setiawan, Laksana, Mahyuni & Udayana, 2018; Zhang 2017; Adjei, Ewusi-Mensah & Okoh, 2015). The present study employs the ergative model of transitivity to investigate a genre of political discourse. By doing this, the study will extend the usage and coverage of the transitivity framework and also prove that the ergative model of transitivity can also be used to analyze text in political discourse.

The literature also suggests that the ergative model of transitivity has not been employed together with modality to conduct research which might be due to the low usage of the ergative system. First of all, this study shows that just like the combination of the transitive model and modality is a viable option for investigating political discourse, the combination of the ergative model of transitivity and modality is also a fertile combination for studying political discourse. Also, this combination is relevant because it equips a researcher with better explanatory power. A researcher, with a combination of this sort, is able to properly describe, examine and explain phenomena because the combination of the two theories provides a more complete understanding of phenomena.

This study also has significance concerning pedagogy, specifically in political science and political communication. In terms of pedagogy, it will serve as a guide for instructors or teachers of political science in teaching how

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to analyze political discourse using Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), especially the ergative model of transitivity and modality. The study widens the range of resource materials for teachers and students of political communication in Ghana and the world at large. It provides more insight into political communication on the Ghanaian political scene especially concerning presidential addresses or communication.

Delimitation

The study will scrutinize the State of the Nation Addresses given by the presidents of Ghana. A State of the Nation Address is an annual address given by the president to lay forth the status of the nation and the agenda of the government for the coming year. Though there are many State of the Nation Addresses due to their annual occurrence, the study will focus on two State of the Nation Addresses. These are the 2013 State of the Nation Address given by John Mahama and the 2017 State of the Nation Address given by Nana Akufo-Addo.

Due to the voluminous nature of the State of the Nation Addresses and time constraints, the researcher will analyze parts of the two State of the Nation Addresses that will be selected through purposive sampling. The parts of the addresses that will be selected for analysis are in two folds. Firstly, for purposes of transitivity analysis, parts of the addresses that outline developmental plans, actions and accomplishments will be selected. These parts of the addresses will be selected because they will enable the researcher to determine whether the speakers display or avoid agency. Secondly, for purposes of modality analysis, only parts of the addresses that contain modality will be chosen. These parts

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will be selected because they have linguistic elements that will allow the researcher to investigate the commitment levels of the speakers.

Organization

There are five chapters in the study. The research's background and an overview are provided in the first chapter, which also serves as the introduction. It establishes the problem of the study, the significance of the study and the research questions. The study is contextualized in this chapter.

A review of the relevant literature is presented in Chapter Two. The theoretical stances supporting the investigation are initially covered in the chapter. Major concepts employed in the study are also mentioned while considering the theoretical perspective. The final section of the chapter reviews earlier research that used the transitivity and modality frameworks to examine text. The gap for the research is established in this section of the paper.

Chapter Three consists of a thorough discussion of the methodology employed in the research. The research design for the study is discussed, and the methods and processes used in analyzing the text are outlined and discussed.

In Chapter Four, the text is examined, interpreted, and discussed in light of the two research issues. There are two sections to the discussion: one for Agency and one for Commitment.

The research is completed in Chapter Five. A summary of the methodologies and conclusions from the study are included in this chapter. The chapter also summarizes its findings and discusses the consequences of its conclusions. The chapter concludes with suggestions for additional research.

Summary of Chapter

The study's introduction and the study's setting have both been established in this chapter. The discussion of the study's context was followed by an explanation of the research problem. The research questions, the goal, the significance, the delimitation, and the structure of the study are then discussed.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

Introduction

This chapter consists of a review of literature on relevant topics concerning the subject of enquiry. This section gives an overview of the theoretical framework that informs this study. Specifically, critical discourse analysis and the grammatical systems of transitivity and modality are discussed. Other key concepts like modal commitment and agency are also discussed. Also, studies that employed CDA, transitivity and modality in analyzing discourse are also reviewed. This review seeks to show how the current study is similar to and at the same time unique from previous research.

Theoretical Perspective

The study is generally grounded in the domain of critical discourse analysis (CDA) and systemic functional linguistics (SFL). As a branch of critical linguistics, CDA considers language to be rooted in its sociolinguistic environment and as a result, looks at the grammatical or lexical choices made to convey social processes and occurrences (Nartey & Mwinlaaru, 2019; Fairclough, 2010).

According to Fairclough (2013), a CDA is a discourse analysis that incorporates a transdisciplinary, systematic examination of the connections between discourse and other facets of the social process. It also contains some type of systematic study of texts that is both normative and descriptive. The foundation of CDA is the assumption that language use has a purpose, whether discursive decisions are made consciously or unconsciously. Fairclough (2001) claims that CDA is an approach "which is in a dialogical relationship with other

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social theories and methods, which should engage with them in a transdisciplinary rather than just interdisciplinary way" (p. 121). There are several approaches to research in CDA. This study takes into consideration Fairclough's socio-semiotic approach. The three dimensions of Fairclough's approach are text (the object of analysis; this can include verbal, visual, or verbal and visual texts), discourse practice (the processes by which the object is produced and received by human subjects; these include writing, speaking, designing, and reading, listening, and viewing), and sociocultural practice (the socio-historical conditions that govern these processes). Description of the text, interpretation of the connection between text and interaction, and justification of the connection between interaction and social context are the three main phases of analysis (Fairclough, 2001). In textual analysis, there is the need to choose a grammatical resource to facilitate analysis. Fairclough points to the preference of systemic linguistics and its advantages for CDA.

Also, the study is based on systemic functional grammar where linguistic forms are studied in relation to the meanings they express. In systemic functional grammar, language is seen as a system of choice for making meaning. Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) define language as a resource for making meaning. According to Thompson (2014), thinking in terms of choice is necessary if we wish to understand what a piece of language is meant to do (i.e., its function). According to Thompson (2014), the goal of functional grammar is to investigate the range of pertinent options for the meanings (or functions) we may wish to communicate as well as the wordings we can use to convey those meanings, and then to match these two sets of options. To emphasize his belief that lexis and grammar comprise a continuum of linguistic resources for the

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presentation of meaning, with lexis being the most sensitive set of options and grammar the most comprehensive, Halliday coined the word "lexicogrammar." Finding meaning entails examining the meanings that each linguistic choice represents as well as the context and linguistic alternatives (i.e., the lexical and structural possibilities that the language system gives for usage). In investigating meaning, it becomes necessary to consider language in terms of "text" and "system". When humans speak or write, Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) contend, they produce text, which readers and listeners interact with and interpret. Any instance of language, in any medium, that is understandable to a speaker of the language is referred to as "text." Text can be defined as language that is used in context. (Halliday, 2010; Halliday & Hasan, 1976). Text is a method for producing meaning in context since language is first and foremost a resource for meaning-creation.

A system is a collection of linguistic components that contrast with one another in a way that gives language users options for possible meaning-making resources. A system is typically shown diagrammatically as consisting of a "entry condition" and a collection of two or more "signs," each of which offers the language user a potential choice (Eggins, 2004, p. 194). A system network, which is a sequence of ordered linguistic elements, so reflects a class of linguistic options open to the language user and explains how these options are realized (Eggins, 2004, p. 192). 'Choice' is the basic organising concept of a system. Every system in a system network represents a decision-making point. The initial selection made from the system is referred to as the least delicate selection and it is made from the system at the very left-hand side of the system network (Eggins, 2004). It is the decision that needs to be taken first in terms of

logical precedence. The network gets more delicate as it moves to the right, and the very last system, which is at the far right of the network, is thought to be the most sensitive system and where the most delicate decisions are made (Eggins, 2004). The scale of delicacy illustrates how choices are logically prioritized and how they influence one another. The central thesis of the systemic theory is that "meaning resides in systemic patterns of choice" and that "a language is a resource for making meaning" (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004, p. 23).

As Thompson (2014) notes, there are numerous sets of options available to language users in lexicogrammar, and they can be divided into three primary categories. There is a variety of interactions between the selections within each group, but there is comparatively little interaction between the groupings. Halliday (1994) established three categories in systemic functional linguistics that serve as a starting point for examining how meanings are produced and comprehended. These categories—also known as meta-functions or macro-functions—are thought of as the fundamental uses of language.

To distinguish the three general functions from the language's distinctive or unique functions, the word "metafunction" is used to describe them. The names of the three meta-functions-experiential (using language to talk about the world), interpersonal (using language to engage with others), and textual (ordering language to fit in its context)-are all straightforward. This three-strand approach is reflected in the grammar, which is the description of the precise matches between function and phrasing. It is made up of three parts, each of which corresponds to a different metafunction. Each component has its own systems of choice, and a structure is the product of a sequence of decisions made from any system. (Thompson, 2014). The frameworks used for this study are

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taken from the experiential (transitivity) and interpersonal (modality) meta-functions.

The two frameworks being used for this study, Systemic functional linguistics and Critical discourse analysis, address different aspects of the research questions. The systemic functional linguistics perspective addresses the issue of linguistic choice. The two research questions of this study are all aimed at revealing linguistic choices in the State of the Nation Address. As explained earlier, language is a system of choice for making meaning in systemic functional grammar. In this research, the linguistic choices being investigated are in relation to agency and commitment. The systemic functional framework of transitivity provides a system that gives a range of linguistic choices available to a language user in relation to agency and the system of modality provides a range of choices available to the language user in terms of commitment. Through these systemic functional grammar frameworks, the researcher is able to identify the choices available to the speakers and the choices they actually make in the data and the meaning those choices communicate. This is to say that, in a system, there are a range of choices that can be made hence the choices that are made and those not made all communicate meanings in the use of language.

Critical discourse analysis in this study looks at the implications of the linguistic choices in the State of the Nation Address in relation to social context. CDA, as noted earlier looks at language from a sociolinguistic point of view where the linguistic choices all relate to social phenomena. This study employs CDA because it is an approach that goes beyond studying language in use to consider critical issues that permeate language use. Since this study goes beyond

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just mere language use to consider the critical issues of commitment and agency, CDA serves as an appropriate approach. Also, both SFL and CDA focus on the relationship between language and society, so combining them would help enhance the understanding of how discourse shapes and is shaped by social practices. In this study, SFL (transitivity and modality) serves as the analytical framework and CDA serves as the theoretical framework.

Key Concepts

Modality

Modality is defined in systemic functional linguistics as the intermediate degrees between the positive and negative poles (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014; Thompson, 2014). The zone of uncertainty between "yes" and "no" is what the modality system establishes, claim Halliday and Matthiessen (2014). They insist that there are multiple ways to get from one to the other for both propositions and proposals. For propositions, the relative probabilities of "it must be," "it will be," and "it may be" are situated between the certainties of "it is" and "it isn't." Similar to proposals, there are discretionary alternatives such as "you must do," "you should do," and "you may do" in between the absolutes of "do" and "don't." Thus, the meaning of the range between "yes" and "no" differs for propositions and proposals (p. 302). Thompson (2014) terms the space between the positive and negative poles as the "modal space".

Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) believe that the intermediate possibilities between the positive and negative poles are different in relation to propositions and proposals. There are two different types of intermediate possibilities for propositions: degrees of probability, such as "possibly/probably/certainly," and degrees of usuality, such as "sometimes/usually/always." The same three

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techniques can be used to indicate likelihood and regularity: That'll probably be John, he'll usually sit there all day, for example, can be expressed in one of three ways: by a finite modal operator in the verbal group; by a modal adjectival phrase expressing probability or regularity; or by combining both of these. On the other hand, depending on speech function, proposals also have two intermediate options. There are three levels of duty in commands: "allowed to," "supposed to," and "required." There are different levels of Inclination in offers: "willing to," "anxious to," and "determined to." Again, there are two ways to communicate both obligation and inclination, though not in this instance by both at once: by a finite modal operator, such as "you should know that, I'll help them," etc.; by an extension of the Predicator by verbal group complexing, such as "you're supposed to know that," "I'm eager to help them" (p. 304).

In essence, there are two different types of modality: modalization, which is related to propositions and refers to a clause that serves an information-exchange function, and modulation, which is related to proposals and refers to a clause that serves an exchange function for "goods and services" rather than information. Modality, as established, involves degrees and scales. High, median, and low are the three fundamental values or points of modality established by Halliday and Matthiessen (2014). These modality scale points are crucial in establishing a speaker's commitment, or the degree to which the speaker believes that what is being said is true (Thompson, 2014).

Modal Commitment

Commitment is defined by the English dictionary as a promise or agreement to do something in the future. The degree to which a speaker commits himself or herself to the truth of what he or she is stating is known as modal

commitment. According to Thompson (2014), a speaker may, for instance, convey a greater or lesser degree of conviction about the veracity of a claim or a greater or lesser degree of pressure on the listener to comply with a demand. This can be somewhat formalized by defining three fundamental values, or scale points, as high, median, and low (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014: 180). In this research, modal commitment will be focused on the promises of the political personalities under scrutiny to determine their levels of dedication and allegiance towards what they utter. Through the system of modality and the linguistic choices available in this system, commitment levels can be determined in text.
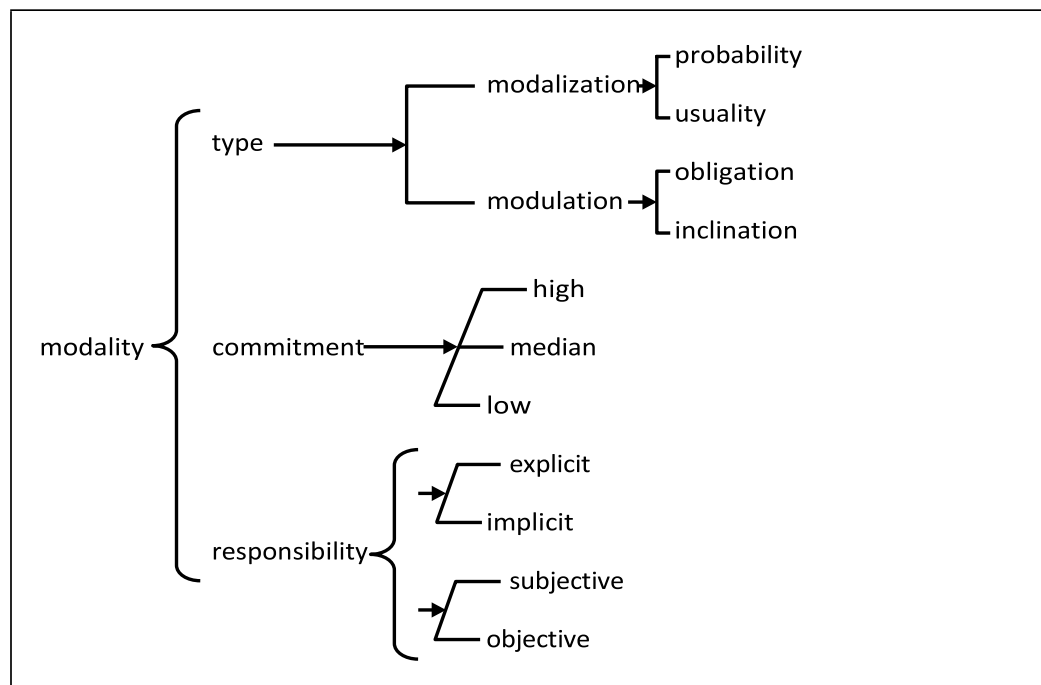
Figure 1: Modality System
(Source: Thompson, 2014, p. 83).

Transitivity

According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), the clause is a reflectional mode that imposes linguistic order on our perception of the unending variety and flow of occurrences. This is accomplished via the

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transitivity grammatical system. The transitivity system provides the lexico-grammatical resources for constructing a figure—a combination of elements centered on a process—that represents a quantum of change in the flow of events. Processes are broken down into a reasonable number of process types, and each type represents a unique model or schema for interpreting a specific domain of experience as a figure of a specific sort.

There are six process types in the system of transitivity. Three of these six are major process types and three are minor process types. Material, Mental and Relational processes are the major process types while Verbal, Behavioural and Existential are minor process types. The minor process types are on the borders of the major processes, such that, each minor process type shares the features of two major process types and thereby acquires a distinct feature of its own. Material processes represent the outer aspects of our experience. They are the process types that involve physical actions and they are the most salient type of process. There are often two participants in this process type, known as the Actor and the Goal. While the Goal is the entity that receives or is impacted by the action, the Actor in a material process is the entity that is accountable for the action or the doer of the action. Every material process has an actor, even though the actor might not always be acknowledged in the clause. According to Thompson (2014), there are numerous recommendations for how to sub-categorize material processes at more nuanced levels, making them the broadest and most diversified category in transitivity. One crucial division differentiates processes that "do to" existing Goals (transformative) from those that are responsible for newly created Goals (creative).

I just made the sandwich. (creative)

Goerge does not eat the sandwiches. (transformative)

According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), the Goal is inherent in only transitive material clauses, whereas The Actor is inherent in both intransitive and transitive material clauses. The roles of Scope, Recipient, Client, and (less significantly) Attribute are some other participant roles that may be included in the process of a "material" clause in addition to the two roles of Actor and Goal. The Scope either defines the area in which the process occurs or defines the process itself, either broadly or precisely. The two roles of recipient and client are similar in that they both conjure up beneficiary roles; they stand in for participants who stand to gain from the execution of the process, whether in the form of products or services. Goods are supplied to the Recipient, and services are performed for the Client.

The interior parts of our experience are represented by mental processes. They are the activities that take place in the mind's internal environment. The experience of the world of our own consciousness is the focus of "mental" clauses. This process of perceiving can be thought of as either emanating from or pressing against a person's consciousness, but it is not thought of as a physical act. Mental processes are divided into four subcategories: perceptive (hearing, seeing, etc.); emotive, or reactive (feeling processes); cognitive (decision-making, knowing, comprehending, etc.); and desiderative (a specialized term for "wanting").

Relational clauses create a connection between two entities by characterizing, identifying, and defining them. Relational processes could take one of two different forms. The first is the attributive relational process, in which the attribute and its carrier, or the entity that "carries," both participate.

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In this case, an attribute is given to an entity. The identifying relational process is the second type. The Identified in this instance, who is defined in reference to the Identifier, consists of the two participants. This kind of identification technique compares one entity to another.

The minor process types are intermediate process types between pairs of major process types. Thus, they occur on boundaries and share the features of the pair they occur between. Behavioural processes occur between the material and mental processes. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), behavioral processes are the outward expressions of inner workings, the acting out of conscious processes (for example, people laughing) and physiological states (for example, they were asleep). These are physiological and psychological behaviors that are characteristically human, such as breathing, coughing, smiling, dreaming, and looking.

Verbal processes lie on the dividing line between relational and mental processes. Verbal processes refer to symbolic interactions that humans develop in their minds and perform through language, such as saying and meaning (for example, the "verbal" phrase we use to introduce a report of what was said: that every fourth African is a Nigerian). In any verbal procedure, just one person is involved—the Sayer. The Receiver, the party to whom the expression is directed, is a potential additional participant who may be involved and who is typically a human being.

Existential processes fall in the middle of relational and material processes. This process type is focused on existence, the existential, through which phenomena of all types are merely acknowledged to 'be' — to exist, or to occur (for instance,

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there is turmoil in the world). It states an entity's bare existence without assuming anything else about it.
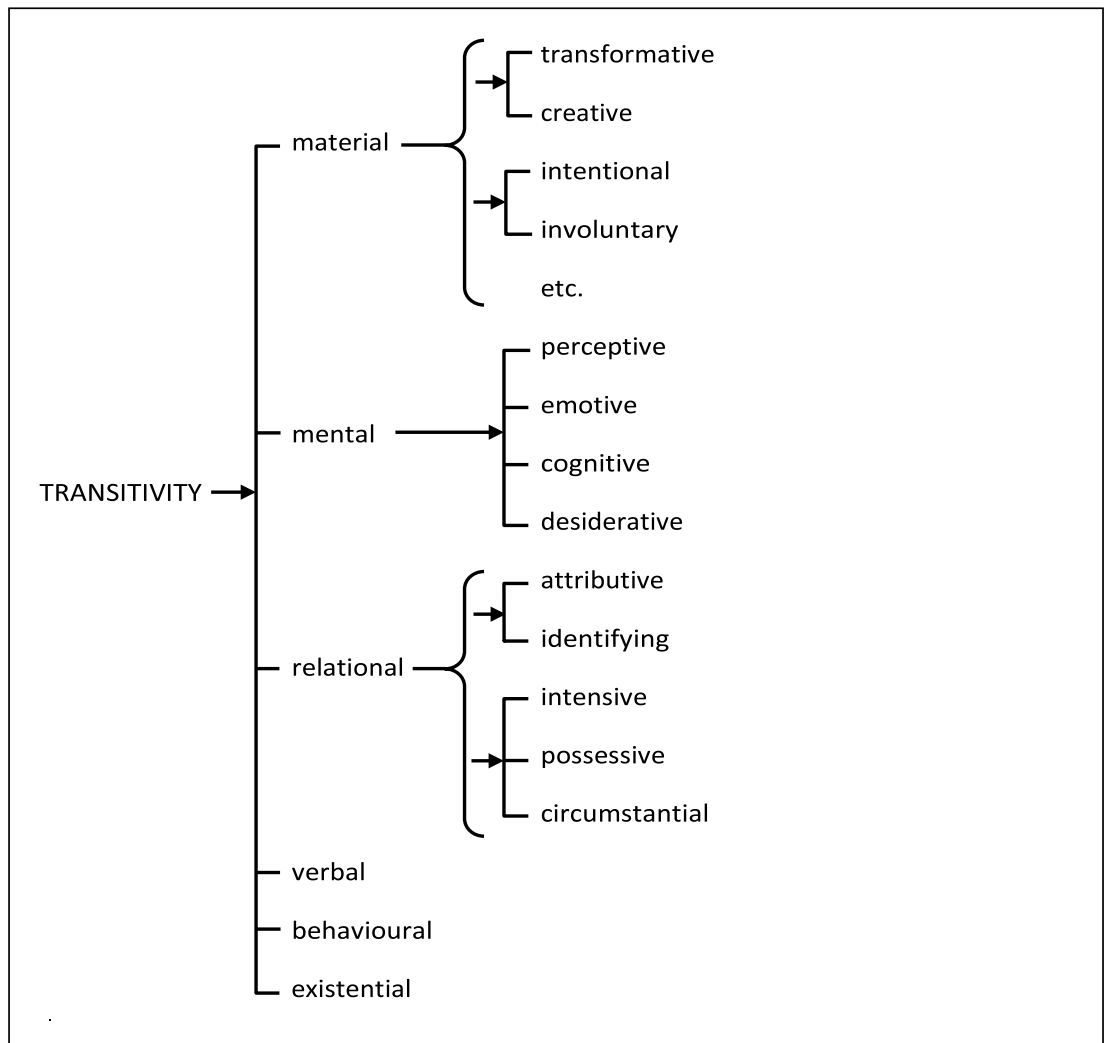
Figure 2: Transitivity Processes and Their Types.
Source: Thompson (2014, p. 123).

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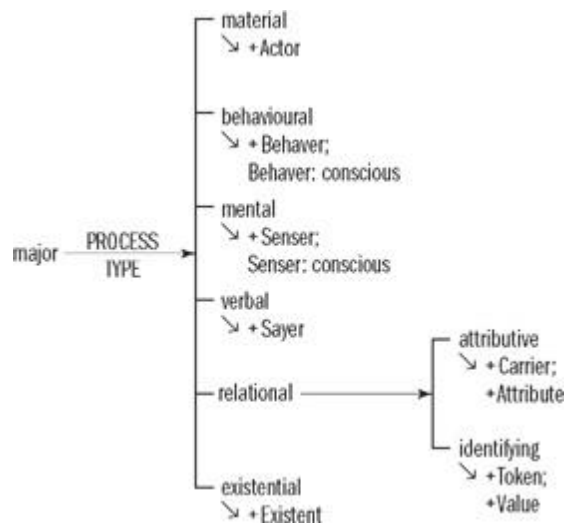
Figure 3: Transitivity Represented as a System Network
(Source: Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014, p. 365)

Agency

The main aim of the transitivity analysis in this study is to investigate agency in the data that will be subjected to analysis. Investigating agency in the data is tailored towards identifying the causes of the processes in the text. To facilitate the investigation of agency, the system of ergativity will be used in conjunction with transitivity for the analysis. The ergative model, which together with the transitive model makes up the general system of transitivity, is now completely systemic in English, according to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014). This means that it is no longer bound to specific registers and has been gaining ground over the last 500 years. The two models work in tandem and are thus variously highlighted across registers since they represent various generalizations about the flux of experience and resonate with various situational types.

Every process has an important participant through which the process is realized. Without this participant, there would not be a process. Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) call this element the Medium since it is the entity through which the process comes into existence. In addition to the process, the Medium is the other element that is mandatory. These two elements (the Process and the Medium) make up the nucleus of an English clause. The ergative perspective views processes from the point of view that, they may be caused to happen or happen by themselves. In talking about processes, we have those that are represented as self-generated and those that are portrayed as being caused by external participants. This external cause is known as the Agent. Where there is an external cause, it is the Agent. This participant is not a member of the Process

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+ Medium fusion. It is the Actor in a material process, given that the process has a goal; if not, it might be present as the process initiator. It is the phenomenon in a mental process, as long as the process is encoded from phenomenon to awareness and not the other way around. A relational process can also involve the Agent. The function that causes the attribution in the attributive type, such as "the heat in the heat turned the milk sour," is unique and is equivalent to the material initiator. The Attributor is regarded as this cause. To (which is Tom) Tom is (serves as) the leader corresponds an agentive such as they elected Tom the leader; and, with second-order Agent, they got Tom elected the leader. It is typically possible to add an agency feature (an Assigner) to the identifying type provided the clause is operative (Token as Subject) (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014, p 552).

We can also look at a clause from the perspective of voice. Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) are of the view that any clause that lacks the element of agency cannot be classified as active or passive but rather middle. Any clause with the agency element is non-middle or effective. They continue to say that an effective clause can be either operative or receptive in voice. An operative clause has the Agent serving as the Subject and an active verbal group actualizing the Process while the receptive clause has the Medium as the Subject and a passive verbal group actualizing the Process. Since this might be left implicit, as in the sentence "The glass was broken," an effective clause technically possesses the feature "agency" rather than the structural function "Agent." The distinction between a pair of clauses like the glass broke and the glass was (or got) shattered is actually the presence of a "agency" characteristic;

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the latter embodies the feature of agency so that one can inquire "who by?" but the former only allows for one participant (p. 554).

Empirical Review

This section of the work reviews some previous studies on the State of the Nation Address and studies that apply CDA and the systemic functional theories of transitivity and modality to discourse. The first section reviews CDA studies on political genres and the second section reviews studies that employ modality and transitivity in studying political discourse.

Previous Studies on Political Discourse

In the sphere of political discourse, CDA and systemic functional linguistics have been used to investigate various sub-genres. Political press conferences (Bhatia, 2006), campaign discourse (Javadi & Mohammadi, 2019; Sotillo & Starace, 1999) and governmental discourse (Macdonald & Hunter, 2013; Mulderrig, 2011) have been studied using critical discourse analysis.

Taking a critical discourse analysis (CDA) perspective, Bhatia (2006) analyses textual data from press conferences involving former Chinese President Jiang Zemin and the US President George W. Bush, who come from different ideological backgrounds, also sharing differences in other dimensions such as age, experience, economic status, socio-political influence and political objectives. The findings reveal three major themes: positivity for the reinforcement of mutual trust, respect and progress; influence and power for subtle persuasion; and evasion to hedge or avoid responses to probing and inconvenient questions from the media.

It is also possible to study campaign discourse using CDA. A study investigated the campaign discourse of Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump

(Javadi & Mohammadi, 2019) while another investigated the campaign discourse of candidates running for office in a town (Sotillo & Starace, 1999). According to Javadi and Mohammadi (2019), Clinton and Trump applied synonymy, hyponymy and antonymy to convey ideological significant meaning relations. They tried to show their dominance (power) by using very simple sentences in which the agent is explicitly clear. How they used nominalization in active sentences, and how they applied inclusive and exclusive pronouns. There are a lot of linguistic traces that highlight ideology and power in both speeches. Scrutinizing the texts critically depicted how they used positive sentences for foregrounding and negative sentences for backgrounding.

Sotillo and Starace (1999) investigated the discourse of Letters to the Editor (LEs) written by candidates for political office, their supporters, and their opponents. The results of the study indicate that letter writers used four specific forms of argumentation and selectively addressed issues; LEs furnished a convenient platform for political campaigning but did not provide an effective medium for constructive dialogue leading to action and social change; tax increases, ratables, the environment, and morality in education emerged as major topics; and gender and class differences were salient in the discourse of LEs. An underlying discourse of disaffection, perceived as a loss of social cohesion, emerged from the linguistic choices, content, tone, and structure of the letters. Reader-writers feel powerless at their inability to effect social change in their own communities.

General governmental discourse has also been a subject of enquiry for critical discourse analysts (Macdonald & Hunter, 2013; Mulderrig, 2011). Macdonald and Hunter (2013) analyse a corpus of policy documents which sets

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out the policy for UK national security. The analysis uncovered distinctive ways in which the three aspects of governmentality proposed by Foucault (2007) – regulation, knowledge and population - are realized throughout the analysis of a sizeable corpus of UK counter-terrorism documents. What is commonly regarded as the 'state' no longer appears as a unitary, substantive phenomenon but rather as a de-essentialised, plethoric network of lines of engagement which is realized through the discursive practice of governmentality, within which evidence would suggest security remains central. Mulderrig (2011) on the other hand investigated a corpus of UK education policy discourse. There was a discursive enactment of a more subtle or 'soft' coercive force in contemporary governance. They do so by constructing a more indirect form of agency, recasting the government as an 'enabling' force, which assigns greater autonomy and direct agency to a diverse range of actors, while at the same time specifying desired outcomes and in some cases securing compliance by *assuming volition* on the part of managed actors. The managerialist form that governance takes under New Labour, while at the same time highlighting the subtle hegemony underlying this new 'enabling' technique of governance, which works by assuming, rather than winning compliance.

Using systemic functional linguistic theories, researchers have studied discourse in political sub-genres such as Inaugural addresses (Yujie & Fengjie, 2018; Nuraisiah, 2017; Koussouhon & Dossoumou, 2015), election/campaign speeches (Pensung & Fenfeng, 2013), presidential debates (Setiawan, Laksana, Mahyuni & Udayana, 2018; Zhang, 2017; Cheng, 2016), manifestoes (Nartey & Yankson, 2014; Ehineni, 2014; Maks & Vossen, 2010), general political speeches (Hadi & Guo, 2020; Hamdache, 2016, Sinaga, Kandagasari &

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Winarto, 2014; Alo, 2012; Wang, 2010), United Nation General Assembly speeches (Mushtaq, Saleem, Afzal & Saleem, 2020; Takal, 2019; Sharififar & Rahimi, 2015), political speech construction (Fundell, 2008), political news and media texts (Asad, Noor & Jaes, 2019; Shayegh & Nabifar, 2012; Isti'anah, 2012) and State of the Nation Address (Adjei, Ewusi-Mensah & Okoh, 2015).

In studying inaugural addresses some researchers used modality (Nuraisiah, 2017; Koussouhon & Dossoumou, 2015) as a framework while others employed transitivity (Yujie and Fengjie, 2018). Some of the studies were conducted in the American context (Yujie and Fengjie, 2018; Nuraisiah, 2017) while others were done in the African context (Koussouhon & Dossoumou, 2015). In the African context, the inaugural address of Buhari, the Nigerian president, was studied while in the American context, the inaugural address of Trump, the American president at the time was studied. In using modality as a framework, researchers investigate the attitude of speakers through modal choices between deontic and epistemic modality (Nuraisiah, 2017). In the American context, the inaugural address is dominated by the median level of modality, followed by high-level and low-level modality. Modal attitudes such as inclination, probability, obligation and usuality are expressed through various orientations of modality namely: subjective implicit, as the most frequent orientation, objective implicit, subjective explicit and objective explicit. In the African context, high and median auxiliaries profusely dominate the modal choices (must, have to, shall, should, and will) in the address. Such linguistic choices convey a sense of moral obligation, accountability, and responsibility (Koussouhon & Dossoumou, 2015). In terms of transitivity, Trump's speech was investigated to reveal the most dominant

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process types and what they signify. The findings of the study revealed that the material process was the most frequently used. Moreover, the relational process and the mental process are in the second and the third respectively. The presence of these process types conveys the aim of political discourse which is usually to choose more objective and more persuasive processes to reach goals (Yujie and Fengjie, 2018).

Researchers also studied presidential debates using functional theories; transitivity (Setiawan, Laksana, Mahyuni & Udayana, 2018; Zhang 2017) and modality (Cheng, 2016). Transitivity was used to describe the various aspects of the exposure system of the linguistic experiences of two presidential candidates in a debate and also to investigate the process types that dominate two debaters' speeches. The two presidential contenders' exposure to language experience has different patterns and ranges of transitivity. Both contenders presented a separate scheme of participants' level in their scheme and range of realization. That is, one candidate portrayed himself as more "existent," while the other portrayed himself as a "behaver" (Setiawan, Laksana, Mahyuni & Udayana, 2018).

The first television debate between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump was also studied using transitivity (Zhang, 2017). The study revealed that material processes, relational processes and mental processes dominate in both candidates' speeches however, Trump tends to use more existential processes as compared to his opponent. This is a feature of political discourse, where the speakers choose their words with caution to interact with people, make promises, express their attitudes and judgments, and influence the viewpoints and behaviour of the audience. In the sphere of modality, there was the quest to

elucidate and provide evidence on the discursive strategies of the candidates in the two presidential debates, regarding how they framed their arguments to gain compliance on contentious issues, and how they pledged and convinced the electorate with strategic modality (Cheng, 2016). The incumbent outflanked his opponents with his deft manipulation of median and low-value modality. His conciliatory approach to his opponents through modality worked well as a persuasion tool to calm the electorate's fears and gain support, particularly from the median voters.

Another political genre that has been investigated by the use of SFL theories is election manifestoes (Nartey & Yankson, 2014; Ehineni, 2014; Maks and Vossen, 2010). Most researchers employ modality in studying manifestoes. Some researchers carried out a discourse analysis of modals in manifestoes (Ehineni, 2014), some also investigated the semantic underpinnings of modal auxiliary verbs in manifestoes (Nartey & Yankson, 2014) while others studied the saliency of deontic constructions in manifestoes (Maks & Vossen, 2010). Modals are deployed in the manifestos to indicate political will and commitment, promises, pledging and persuasion, political obligation and manipulation, personal conviction, possibility and appeal. Politicians often use modals to reinforce their political ideologies, communicate their political ideas and elicit public support. Also, modals are more than just linguistic elements in political discourses; they are also political devices and ideological tools (Ehineni, 2014). Furthermore, modal auxiliary verbs have the propensity to reveal very subtly and nuanced meanings of the nature of political discourse. Political rhetoric is conditioned by specific aims and exact themes (Nartey & Yankson, 2014). Moreover, election manifestos have a predominant use of

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deontic constructions that seem to fit very well the expression of principles, behaviour and policies as advocated in manifestos. The principles and policy measures captured in a manifesto are often linguistically realized with deontic structures of modal verbs and adjectives. This is because the message of a political manifesto is intended to be reassuring. Hence, the use of deontic modals seems appropriate since such verbs echo a certain level of commitment, zeal and enthusiasm by the political party (Maks & Vossen, 2010).

United Nations Assembly addresses have also been studied using systemic functional grammar theories. Researchers combined transitivity and modality (Takal, 2019; Sharififar & Rahimi, 2015) and others employed only transitivity (Mushtaq, Saleem, Afzal & Saleem, 2020). The transitivity analysis of Hamid Karzai's (Former president of Afghanistan) speech revealed that material process dominated the speech. The high usage of material clauses suggested that the speaker was concerned with current events such as violence, bombings, assassinations, and destruction. Relational processes were the second dominant process type where the speaker described and illustrated situations in terms of positivism and negativism. The modality analysis showed that the modals used in the address demonstrated the importance and urgency of the issues and themes covered throughout the assembly and also demonstrated that the speaker had many plans and pledges to keep (Takal, 2019). The transitivity analysis of Obama and Rouhani's speeches showed that material processes were used more than other processes in both addressers' speeches as a process of 'doing' and 'happening.' This process was in relation to the activities of the president and his government. The employment of modal verbs by presidents demonstrates their solid intention to complete tasks and make their language as

simple as possible while also shortening the distance between them and the audience (Sharififar & Rahimi, 2015). The transitivity analysis of Imran Khan's speech reveals that the material process can be observed as dominating and most influentially used to transfer messages and information. In the material process, there are intransitive, monotransitive, ergative, and ditransitive verbs. Among these types, the most dominating type is the monotransitive verb. These findings may help the reader to understand how political leaders perceive realities and represent them in their own versatile style. Leaders use language as a functional unit, and by using language as a tool they make ideologies and present them to the audience (Mushtaq, Saleem, Afzal & Saleem, 2020).

General political speeches have also been subjected to enquiry using systemic functional theories. Modality, transitivity and a combination of both have all been used as frameworks to study political speeches such as speeches of presidents (African presidents' [Robert Gabriel Mugabe, Thabo Mbeki, Mwai Kibaki, John Evans Atta Mills, Olusegun Obasanjo, Hosni Mubarak, Joseph Kabila and Paul Biya] speeches (Alo, 2012), American [Obama] presidential speeches (Wang, 2010), an Indonesian president's [Jokowi] speech (Sinaga, Kandagasari & Winarto, 2014), an Afghanistan president's [Ghani] speech (Hadi & Guo, 2020) and speeches of the U.S. State Department (Hamdache, 2016). Investigating Modality as a rhetorical strategy in the African political discourse revealed the modality words used by the leaders indicated their political future intention and commitment to some points they laid out regarding the social and economic problems in Africa (Alo, 2012). Obama demonstrated what the government has accomplished, is doing, and will do by means of this process. By using transitivity, Obama's speeches are attempting

to raise the American people's faith in the president and his government over the next four years. The modality analysis showed that Obama used modal verbs, tense, and first-person pronouns to make his political speeches easier to understand and accept (Wang, 2010).

Sinaga, Kandagasari and Winarto (2014) also investigated the linguistic structure of Jokowi's speech at the 2014 APEC CEO Summit in terms of transitivity. The study showed that the material process, attributive relational process, and verbal process could be used to represent identities while material processes and verbal processes are used to represent ideologies. This means transitivity reveals ideologies and identities, which is in line with the findings of Setiawan (2018). An Afghanistan president's [Ghani] speech was studied using modality. Ghani used "will" constantly to defend his desire and commitment to the future of his country, how he would be able to deal with the difficulties, and asking the world to support him. The speaker used "would" in his speech to show how to regain security and stability in the globe. In speeches, particularly in political speeches, "must" is used to show the determination between the speaker and the hearer. In this study, the speaker was trying to call on audiences to be determined in achieving the goals and objectives and to get them to move forward with a strong commitment toward their objectives (Hadi & Guo, 2020). Hamdache (2016) employed transitivity to find out to what extent the U.S. is committed to destroying ISIS. The result showed that the U.S. has an interest to destroy ISIS even if it is in the long run. This is proven in the use of material process and modality. The charts showed a high frequency of power verbs such as destroy, fight, and defeat and modal verbs such as will, can and would.

Political news/media texts can be studied using transitivity and modality. Political newspaper texts, (Asad, Noor & Jaes, 2019) election opinion texts (Isti'anah, 2012) and political interviews (Shayegh & Nabifar, 2012) have been studied through transitivity. Asad, Noor and Jaes (2019) used transitivity to explore the hidden meaning in online Malaysian newspaper texts about elections. The study revealed that independent online newspapers gave a liberal and fair representation of all social actors, in contrast; mainstream newspapers' linguistic choices were more inclined towards ruling private political interests. Independent newspapers presented a democratic voice by giving an equal share of representation to all social actors, while mainstream newspapers defended more private political interests. Isti'anah (2012) analyzed four selected opinions about Jakarta governor elections using transitivity analysis. Most opinions employed material processes to reveal what the people expected from the governor, which was reflected in Actor-Goal and Goal-Recipient relationships. The relational process actualized labelling while the verbal processes revealed the candidates' promises through the usage of Sayer-Verbiage. The mental process occurred with the country as the senser. Shayegh and Nabifar (2012) analyze selected materials to explore the workings of power in Barak Obama's interviews by means of transitivity and modality. Obama makes use of linguistic resources to create positive or negative power in his interviews. Obama uses more simple words and short sentences instead of difficult ones. His language is very easy and this shortens the distance between him and the audience. Obama shows what the government has achieved, what they are going and what they will do through material processes. Also, his speeches are trying to arouse the American people's confidence in the president and his government. Obama

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makes his audience understand and accept his political speeches by means of modal verbs, tense and first-person pronouns. This helps him persuade the public to accept and support his policies, actions and future plans.

Pensung & Fenfeng (2013) conducted a modality analysis of the election speeches of Obama and McCain. Campaign speeches can be investigated using modality and transitivity. Both Obama and McCain try to avoid being too aggressive when they express their viewpoints by employing median modal operators. The study suggests that McCain is less likely to say anything uncertain because he avoids the use of low-value modal operators and in functional grammar low-value modal operators exude feelings of uncertainty. McCain uses high-value modals more than Obama and the high usage of high-value modals in McCain's speech to some degree indicates that McCain is more willing to give orders and make commands when speaking, which make the audience feel dominated by him.

Fundell (2008) investigates whether Ideational function and Lexical Repetition were used to construct a political speech. Theorists such as Hillier (2004) and Simpson (1993) argue that the Ideational function can be used to construct a speech. The result of this study confirms the theory. The content words that come from Processes give important information about what words each president planned to emphasize and the meaning of these words give significant information about the purpose of the speech. Even though Participants were not in any particular focus for this study the ones mentioned add important information about the relationship between the people involved. One of the most interesting parts of the Ideational function is Circumstances.

Especially the Location circumstances which give extensive information about the time and place of each war situation.

Adjei, Ewusi-Mensah & Okoh (2015) used transitivity to analyze President John Evans Attah Mills' 2009 State of the Nation Address. They set out to determine how the president manipulates language by studying the major process types in his speech. The analysis showed that material processes were the major process type that was dominant in the speech while mental processes were the least used. The dominant use of material processes implies that Mills and his government are the main actors working on several concrete projects in an attempt to create a sense of developmental progression and continuity. The minimal use of the mental processes also implies that Mills gives few assurances and promises to the people, and rather tells things as they are. Generally, the address invites action rather than assurances and wishful thinking. They concluded that language structures can produce certain meanings and ideologies which are not explicit to readers.

The review has shown that CDA and the functional theories of transitivity and modality can be used to analyze text. It has also shown that CDA and these systemic functional theories are viable in the sphere of political discourse analysis. It has also shown that the SONA has received little research attention in political discourse analysis hence the need for more research in this sphere.

Relationship between Previous Studies and the Present Study

The review has shown that several studies have been done on political discourse using the SFL frameworks of transitivity and modality. Political

genres such as Inaugural address (Yujie & Fengjie, 2018; Nuraisiah, 2017), election/campaign speeches (Pensung & Fenfeng, 2013), presidential debates (Zhang, 2017), manifestoes (Nartey & Yankson, 2014; Ehineni, 2014), general political speeches (Hamdache, 2016; Alo, 2012; Wang, 2010), United Nation General Assembly speeches (Takal, 2019; Sharififar & Rahimi, 2015), political speech construction (Fundell, 2008), political news and media texts (; Asad, Noor & Jaes, 2019; Shayegh & Nabifar, 2012) and State of the Nation Address (Adjei, Ewusi-Mensah & Okoh, 2015) have all been researched using transitivity and modality. These studies employed the transitive model of transitivity singularly or in combination with modality to investigate these political genres. Adjei, Ewusi-Mensah & Okoh (2015) for instance used the transitive model of transitivity to investigate how a president manipulates language in a State of the Nation Address. They do this by focusing on the various major process types that could be found in the speech.

The present study investigates a political genre using another dimension of the transitivity system which is the ergative model of transitivity. This model of transitivity is combined with modality and critical discourse analysis to investigate a political genre. The study shows that this model of transitivity in combination with modality and critical discourse analysis is able to reveal nuanced meanings about political responsibility. Here, linguistic choices that relate to agency and commitment are studied in a socio-political context. Particular attention is paid to participants or entities that are given agency in the political text being studied (unlike studies using the transitive model which focuses on process types in the text). Also, to the best of my knowledge, the present study is one the first studies if not the first study to use the ergative

model of transitivity to investigate political discourse, especially on the African political discourse analysis scene.

Furthermore, the review has revealed that the State of the Nation Address has received little attention from researchers in political discourse analysis, with only Adjei, Ewusi-Mensah & Okoh (2015) investigating this genre. Their study focused on the State of the Nation Address of President John Evans Attah Mills where they investigated whether he used language effectively and the communicative functions of the linguistic choices made. Though the present study also investigates the State of the Nation Address, it focuses on the addresses of John Mahama and Akufo-Addo. This study extends the range of the data from one to two addresses and also, the two addresses being investigated come from presidents belonging to two different political ideological schools. Owing to that, the study gives an expanded insight into the State of the Nation Address than the previous study. Also, while the previous study focuses generally on the communicative functions of linguistic choices and effective language use, the present study zones in on two specific communicative meanings which are agency and commitment. The study looks at how linguistic choices communicate meanings related to these two constructs and ultimately, political responsibility.

Summary of Chapter

This chapter has done a review of literature related to the present study. The first part of the chapter consists of a review of the theoretical perspective underpinning the study. Here, CDA and two theories from Systemic Functional Linguistics, namely modality and transitivity were reviewed. Under modality, commitment was discussed and transitivity catered for agency. The second and

final part of the chapter involved the review of previous studies that used CDA

and the theories of modality or transitivity to analyze text.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

Introduction

The previous chapter examined research on major ideas in relation to this study. It covered the theoretical underpinnings of the study as well as relevant earlier research. The methodologies and processes used to carry out the research are presented in this chapter. The research design, data, data collection techniques, sample methodology, and analytic methodology are all covered in this chapter.

Research Design

The study uses a qualitative research design, which is a method for discovering and comprehending the essence that different people or groups assign to social or human issues (Creswell & Creswell, 2018) along with investigating people's attitudes, behaviors, views, and interactions (Fraenkel & Wallen, 2000). This approach investigates "how people make sense of their lives, experiences, and their structures of the world" (Creswell, 1994: p. 145). According to Creswell and Creswell (2018), those who use this type of research design support an approach to thinking about research that honors an inductive style, a focus on personal meaning, and the significance of outlining the complexity of a situation.

Qualitative research is descriptive and is conducted in environments that are naturally occurring, where human behavior and events take place. Its descriptive aspect is seen in the emphasis it places on using words or images to interpret phenomena and comprehend processes. Qualitative research zooms in on the process that is happening together with the outcome or product.

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Researchers are particularly invested in interpreting the manner in which things happen (Merriam, 1988; Fraenkel & Wallen, 1990).

The study is descriptive and exploratory in nature hence the selection of the qualitative research design. As Creswell (1994) indicates, the qualitative research design is suitable for descriptive and exploratory research like the current research. To be precise, the research adopts content analysis as a qualitative research design in conducting the research. Qualitative content analysis, according to Hsieh and Shannon (2005), is "a research method for the subjective interpretation of the content of text data through the systematic classification process of coding and identifying themes or patterns" (p. 1278). Weber (1990) defined content analysis as a research technique that makes use of a group of procedures or processes to derive reliable inferences or conclusions from text. This qualitative approach is beneficial for theme-based coding and categorization of data, as well as for studying trends and patterns in a particular set of data (Stemler, 2001). In qualitative content research, the researcher looks for patterns in the data, codes the data by organising it into conceptual categories and creates themes or concepts (Jackson, 2010).

A variety of data may be employed in qualitative content analysis. For instance, data can be gathered via different types of interviews, observational methods, publications that have undergone literature reviews, diaries, websites, and medical records. (Schreier, 2012). In doing a qualitative content analysis, there are steps or processes that have to be followed. In order to undertake content analysis, there are seven stages that must be taken, according to Kaid (1989). These include developing the research questions to be addressed, selecting the sample to be examined, defining the categories to be used,

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outlining the coding process, carrying it out, determining whether the coding process is credible, and examining the results of the coding process. Coding, the process of assigning tags, lines, names, or labels to the data bits, is a key component of content analysis.

Hsieh and Shannon (2005) highlight the range of techniques under the heading of qualitative content analysis. The conventional, directed, and summative approaches are the three main categories identified. To analyse text data using a paradigm that is primarily naturalistic, all three methods are used. When there is little literature in terms of theory or research on a topic, conventional content analysis is employed to describe it and is recommended. Instead of using preconceived categories in classifying the data, the categories and their names are allowed to flow from the data. When there is an established theory or previous research on a topic that is insufficient or would benefit from more description, directed content analysis is used. A theoretical framework is conceptually improved or authenticated using a directed approach to content analysis. Making assumptions about the relevant variables or the links between the relevant variables aids in the establishment of the first coding scheme or the linkages between codes. The first step in a summative approach to qualitative content analysis is to identify and quantify specific words or sections of text in order to comprehend their contextual use. This method of analyzing qualitative data goes beyond counting words to incorporate latent content analysis, in which content is construed in reference to contextual meaning. (Holsti, 1969).

This study adopts the directed and summative approaches to qualitative content analysis. The directed content analysis was chosen because the study makes use of existing theories which have existing literature. The summative

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approach was also employed for the purposes of identifying and quantifying certain words (modal operators) and understanding their contextual use. In relation to the first research question, clauses that contained verbal modal operators were identified and isolated. The clauses were then categorized and quantified based on the usage of the verbal modal operators. The percentage distribution of recurring patterns was then calculated. This statistical data was especially used to assess the relationship between commitment and modality choices concerning the participants in the data text. In relation to the second research question, clauses and sentences were from thematic areas chosen for the research. These clauses were subsequently parsed into parts using the ergative aspect of the transitivity system. In the course of the analysis, more detailed information which had to do with ergativity was added to the coding scheme. The percentage distribution of recurring patterns was then calculated. This statistical data was specifically employed to examine the relationship between agency and transitivity choices concerning the participants in the data text.

Data Source and Sampling Procedure

The data for the study are the first State of the Nation Addresses of John Mahama (2013) and Akufo-Addo (2017). The SONA was chosen out of other available political speeches because its nature of outlining policies and agendas will enable the researcher to adequately explore the critical issues of commitment and agency. Though manifestoes also involve policies and agendas, it has received a lot of attention from discourse analyst unlike the SONA. The State of the Nation Address (SONA) is an annual event in which the President of a country reports to the legislature on the state of national

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affairs. It serves as a platform for the Head of State to present an account of government policies, achievements, challenges, and plans for the future. The address often covers key areas such as the economy, education, healthcare, security, infrastructure, governance, and social services. In Ghana, the State of the Nation Address is a constitutional requirement under Article 67 of the 1992 Constitution, which mandates the President to deliver an address at the beginning of each session of Parliament and before its dissolution. This ensures accountability and transparency in governance, as it provides citizens and parliamentarians with insights into the government's performance and its priorities for the coming year.

Though there are so many SONAs, the researcher selected the first addresses of John Mahama and Akufo-Addo because these addresses contain a lot of promises and agendas which will allow the researcher to test the commitment level and agency of these two political personalities. Typically, the first SONA of a president involves more offers and proposals than subsequent ones since they seek to outline policies and projects they would undertake. Also, because the research is directed towards investigating commitment and agency, the first SONA of each presidents which contains more proposals and offers serves as a fertile ground for such an investigation. Data for the study were retrieved from the internet, specifically, the website of the Ghana parliament. The Ghana parliament owns a website where all the speeches given on the floor of parliament are uploaded. The State of the Nation Addresses of John Mahama and Akufo-Addo were downloaded from this website.

The purposive non-probability sampling technique was used to select samples from the data for analysis. When selecting the study's units (such as

participants, cases or organizations, cases or organizations, events, or data points), the researcher must use judgment. This is known as purposive sampling, sometimes known as judgmental, selective, or subjective sampling. (Sharma, 2017). This technique was used because it enabled the researcher to use data that suits the objectives of the study and cut out data that is irrelevant to the study. For transitivity analysis, clauses were chosen from selected thematic areas in both addresses. However, for modality analysis, only clauses that express modality through modal verbal operators were chosen in both texts. This is because modal verbs have specific meanings associated with them and allow speakers to effectively communicate or express their attitudes. Due to their semantic precision, they will allow the researcher to effectively explore the modal attitudes expressed by the speakers in the addresses.

Method of Analysis

The study is generally grounded in Fairclough's model of critical discourse analysis known as the socio-semiotic approach. Critical discourse analysis (CDA) is built on a critical theory of language, which sees language use as a sort of social practice. In light of CDA's perspective that language is rooted in its sociolinguistic environment, it studies the ways in which grammatical or lexical choices are employed to convey social processes and occurrences (Fairclough, 2010) as cited in (Nartey & Mwinlaaru, 2019). For the study of language usage as a social and cultural practice, CDA employs an array of methodologies (Fairclough, 2001). The significance of the chosen procedures, techniques, and processes to the study goal is taken into consideration. (Van Dijk, 1993). Systemic functional linguistics, speech act theory, pragmatics, and other domains' analytical techniques are all used by

CDA (Luke, 1997). These tools make it possible to identify latent or concealed views that sneak their way into language through metaphors, analogies, or other conceptual representations. (Wodak & Meyer, 2009). In general, problem-oriented approaches, semiotic data analysis, the idea that discourses are situated in time and place, the idea that language expressions are never neutral, systematic, interpretive, descriptive, and explanatory analysis, as well as interdisciplinary and eclectic methodologies, are characteristics of most approaches to CDA (Mullet, 2018; Wodak & Meyer, 2009; Van Dijk, 1993).

Three interrelated processes of analysis associated to three interrelated discourse dimensions make up Fairclough's (1989, 1995) CDA model. The object of analysis (which can include verbal, visual, or verbal and visual texts) is one of these three dimensions. The other two are the processes-writing, speaking, designing, reading, listening, and viewing- by which the object is produced and received by human subjects, as well as the sociohistorical contexts that control those processes. Fairclough believes that each dimension deserves a varying type of examination. Description is necessary for text analysis, interpretation is necessary for processing analysis, and justification is necessary for social analysis. This aids the researcher in thinking about the text's signifiers, particular linguistic choices, juxtapositioning, sequencing, and layout. There also has to be a consideration of the historical determinations of the linguistic selections in terms of possibility. This approach requires a researcher to describe, interpret and explain at various stages of inquiry just as this study does.

Procedure of Analysis

This section outlines the procedure of analysis used in this study. The analysis procedure for the study is in two folds. The analysis was divided into

two parts: one pertaining to research question one, and the other to research question two. The first part of the analysis involved the identification of clauses with modal verbal operators. The clauses were then isolated and analysed using Halliday and Matthiessen's (2014) modality system as well as that of Thompson (2014). Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) establish three basic values or points of modality on the scale: high, median and low. These points on the modality scale are pivotal in determining a speaker's commitment, that is, the degree to which the speaker commits herself or himself to the validity of what is being uttered (Thompson, 2014). This scale was used as a guide in the analysis to aid in determining the speaker's level of commitment.

In the second part, clauses were selected from chosen thematic parts of the data and categorized using Halliday and Matthiessen's (2014) notion of transitivity. Afterwards, for a methodical transitivity analysis, these clauses were entered into Microsoft Excel. Using Halliday and Matthiessen's (2014) ergative transitivity model, the clauses were analyzed into the two ergative clause types. The second layer of the transitivity analysis involved a more detailed ergativity analysis where the clauses were analysed to determine which participants were ascribed agency and the sociopolitical implications of these choices. Here also, Halliday and Matthiessen's (2014) notion of ergativity and Fairclough's (1989) CDA were used for the analysis.

Measures for Validity

As part of the research, procedures were put in place to guarantee the reliability of the study or analysis. Firstly, an expert in SFL was often consulted for assessment. Also, Weber (1990) is of the view that "to make valid inferences

from the text, it is important that the classification procedure be reliable in the sense of being consistent: Different people should code the same text in the same way" (p. 12). Stability, reproducibility, and accuracy are three categories of reliability that Krippendirff (1980) lists in connection to content analysis. This study employs the reducibility type which is sometimes referred to as intercoder/interrater reliability. This is a reference to the degree to which content classification yields consistent outcomes when the same text is coded by multiple coders. Reliability is measured through the percentage of consensus among raters. To do this, simply add up the cases that both raters coded in the same manner and divide that amount by the overall number of cases (Stemler, 2001). Samples of the data were given to two postgraduate students for reliability checks. These students had prior knowledge of the coding and analysis process before the verification process. After the review, the results showed an average agreement percentage of 87%, which denotes a high agreement rate.

Chapter Summary

This chapter provided an outline of the methodological and analytical procedures employed in undertaking the research. First, the research design was discussed, where it was noted that a qualitative research design, specifically, content analysis was utilized for the research. The data for the study was also discussed in relation to its nature (SONA), collection procedure and sampling techniques. Furthermore, the method of analysis was discussed, where the researcher outlined the procedures involved in the process of analysis. It was noted that the analysis was done in two folds to answer the two research

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questions. Finally, for the sake of ensuring quality, the measures employed to guarantee reliability were also discussed.

CHAPTER FOUR

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Introduction

In the previous chapter, I outlined the methodological procedures employed in undertaking this research. In this chapter, I put forth the analysis of the data alongside the discussion of the findings concerning the research questions. The chapter is divided into two parts where the first part discusses commitment concerning modality in the SONAs while the second part discusses agency in relation to ergativity.

RQ1: Modal Commitment

In this section, I analyze and discuss the data in relation to the first research question, which seeks to determine the commitment level of the two presidents under study through their use or choice of modal operators. Table 1 indicates the frequency of occurrence of the modal verbs that show inclination in the two State of the Nation Addresses analyzed.

Table 1: Distribution of modal verbs that show inclination

Modal Operator	SONA 1		SONA 2		Total	
	n	%	n	%	N	%
Will	48	84	19	68	67	78
Shall	7	12	8	28	15	18
Must	2	4	1	4	3	4
Total	57	100	28	100	85	100

The analysis of the data showed that three modal verbal operators were employed by the Presidents in their speeches. These modal operators are: "will", "shall" and "must". Table 1 shows that the modal verbal operator "will" has the highest frequency of occurrence in both State of the Nation Addresses. It had

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78 percent occurrence as compared to "shall" and "must" which had 18 and four percent occurrence respectively. In SONA 1, it has 48 realizations out of a total number of 57 clauses that have modal verbal operators and this represents an occurrence rate of 84 percent. In SONA 2, it has 19 realizations out of a total number of 28 clauses that have modal verbal operators, representing an occurrence rate of 68 percent. Table 1 also shows that the next highest frequency of occurrence belongs to the modal verbal operator "shall" which had an occurrence rate of 18 percent. In SONA 1, it occurs seven times and in SONA 2, it occurs eight times which represents a 12 and 28 percent of occurrence respectively. In the case of the modal verbal operator "must" there are two realizations in SONA 1 and one realization in SONA 2 which represents four percent occurrence each. It had the lowest frequency of occurrence where it occurred three times to take up a four percent realization. As visualized by Table 1, there was no use of low-value modal verbal operators in the data, only median and high-value modal verbal operators were used.

Modality, from the point of view of Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) is divided into two subsections namely modalization or modulation depending on the purpose of the statement. Modalization is related to propositions - the function of the clause in the exchange of information and modulation is related to proposals - a clause functioning in the exchange of "goods and services" rather than information. The focus of the modality analysis in this data is on clauses functioning in the exchange of goods and services hence a focus on the modulation aspect of modality. This then means that attitudes that will be expressed will range from that of obligation to inclination.

It has been established in the previous chapters that in this research, modal commitment will be focused on the proposals/promises of the political personalities under scrutiny to determine their levels of dedication and allegiance towards what they utter. This will be done using the three basic values (high, median and low) proposed by Halliday and Matthiessen, (2014). Having established this, the next paragraphs will demonstrate how the two presidents make choices that reflect their levels of commitment.

Generally, the two presidents restrict themselves to the use of high-value and median-value modals in their addresses. The high-value modals used in both addresses are "must" and "shall". They were used to show high levels of commitment and obligation in order to win the confidence and support of the citizens. The median-value modal used in the speech is "will". It is considered the default choice since it lies between low and high-value modals and it also has high usage in political discourse. Its usage communicates a median level of commitment and inclination from the speakers. The extracts presented below show instances from the two SONAs to instantiate the usage of the median-value and high-value modals.

Modals Verbs in SONA 1

As Table (1) shows, SONA 1, which is that of President Mahama, uses median and high-value modal verbal operators. The following extracts show the modal choices the speaker made and the ways in which they were used.

USAGE OF "WILL"

As stated earlier, "will" is a modal verbal operator and when it is being used in the exchange of goods and services it reveals a speaker's inclination towards the fulfilment of an offer. As Halliday and Matthiessen, (2014) put forth, "will" is

a median value modal hence its usage in a proposal which is an offer denotes a median level of inclination towards fulfilling the offer. This communicates a median level of commitment towards an offer. The following extracts show instances where the speaker (Mahama) uses the median value modal operator "will" in making offers in his SONA.

Extract 1

Mr. Speaker, this administration *will* pursue rapid economic development with a sense of urgency in order to create new jobs particularly for our youth (MAHAMA, 2013)

In this clause, we see the usage of the modal verbal operator "will" in a proposal (an offer to be precise). "Will" is a modal of median value hence its usage here suggests that the speaker expresses a median level of willingness to fulfil the economic development that he proposes.

Extract 2

We *will* work towards improving access, service quality, increased personnel, and enhanced working conditions across the various professions in the health sector. (MAHAMA, 2013)

In this clause, the speaker makes a proposal (offer) to improve the health sector of the country in various ways. In doing this, he selects the median value modal verbal operator "will" to communicate the offer. Consequently, the usage of "will" projects a median level of willingness from the speaker to fulfil the proposal.

Extract 3

We *will* begin the road map for converting our existing 10 public polytechnics into fully fledged technical universities. (MAHAMA, 2013)

Extract 4

In the area of Special Education, government *will* facilitate the completion of ongoing construction of Assessment Centres and equip our special education units with the necessary teaching and learning aids including devices for the hearing and visually impaired. (MAHAMA, 2013)

In extracts 3 and 4, there are offers in the sphere of education. In both extracts, the speaker uses "will" to facilitate his offers. Extract 3 presents an upgrade in the status of some educational institutions while extract 4 presents an improvement in the infrastructure of some educational facilities. The choice of "will" which is a median value modal operator seems to suggest that the speaker has only a mid-level of willingness to fulfil these offers.

Extract 5

We *will* also develop strategies to counter the growing threats of cyber-attacks. (MAHAMA, 2013)

Extract 6

In my first term, we *will* seek to strengthen Parliament. (MAHAMA, 2013)

Extract 7

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The Government of Ghana *will* develop mechanisms for promoting citizen-based monitoring and evaluation of public policies and programs. (MAHAMA, 2013)

Extract 8

We *will* continue to strengthen our decentralized local governance system. (MAHAMA, 2013)

Extract 9

We *will* work with the Judicial Council to continue the process of providing new and more

modern court rooms. (MAHAMA, 2013)

In extracts 6-7, we see various kinds of offers related to governance. These offers range from strengthening the already existing arms of government through policies and infrastructural development and creating pathways to involve citizens in the governance process. In all these offers, the speaker employs the modal verb "will", which as noted earlier denotes a median value of modality on Halliday and Matthiessen's (2014) modality scale.

Generally, extracts 1-9 show the usage of the verbal operator "will" to make proposals of different kinds. As noted earlier, proposals can be either offers or commands. In these extracts, the speaker uses the modal verbal operator to make offers in the form of developmental policies and action plans. Here, the speaker employs the verbal operator to make a promise of job provision to the youth of the country. The modal operator "will" has a medium value of modality on Halliday and Matthiessen's (2014) scale of modal commitment. This suggests that the speaker chooses to use the median operator out of the other available choices to put across a proposal.

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USAGE OF "SHALL"

As a modal operator, "shall" can either be used in propositions or proposals. In proposals, it can be used in commands or offers. When used in offers, it expresses an inclination towards the fulfilment of the offer. Moreover, when "shall" is used in offers, it denotes a high level of inclination or willingness towards the fulfilment of an offer. It shows high modal commitment on the part of the speaker. The extracts below instantiate the usage of "shall" to make offers in the SONA.

Extract 10

We *shall* expand training of kindergarten teachers (MAHAMA, 2013)

Extract 11

We *shall* commence the distribution of Four Hundred Thousand (400,000) laptop computers to schools and students. (MAHAMA, 2013)

In extracts 10 and 11, we see the usage of another modal verbal operator in the making of offers. There is the usage of the modal verb "shall" to make offers related to improving education. The offer in extract 10 targets some teachers while that of extract 11 targets schools and students. In terms of offers, "shall" expresses a strong assertion or intention to fulfil something in the future. The usage of "shall" hence communicates a high willingness to fulfil the offers being made.

Extract 12

I *shall* work to ensure that every household in this country will soon enjoy uninterrupted

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water and power supply. (MAHAMA, 2013)

Extract 13

Our inner cities *shall* witness significant renewal in sanitation and housing (MAHAMA, 2013)

Extract 14

Our governance systems *shall* deliver the services and opportunities we promise to the

citizens of Ghana. (MAHAMA, 2013)

Extracts 12, 13 and 14 reveal offers made in relation to the improvement of the welfare of the citizens. The SONA usually affords presidents the opportunity to outline the means through which they intend to improve the lives of citizens and the country as a whole. These three extracts (12,13 and 14) project the usage of the modal verb "shall" in offers that are tailored towards improving the welfare of Ghanaian citizens. "Shall" being a modal verb that expresses strong intent portrays that the speaker is determined and highly willing to go through with the offers that he proposes in these extracts.

Extract 15

We *shall* maintain a zero tolerance for drug trafficking (MAHAMA, 2013)

Extract 16

We *shall* also support the National Media Commission to enact the needed Regulations (MAHAMA, 2013)

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Extract 15 and 16 show the usage of the modal verb "shall" to make proposals in the sphere of law enforcement. The speaker, through the usage of the modal verb "shall", shows strong intent and willingness to prevent drug trafficking and also support the National Media Commission to enact the needed Regulations.

USAGE OF "MUST"

"Must" can be used in making proposals which can be either commands or offers. When used in commands, it expresses levels of obligation towards the realization of the command. According to Halliday and Matthiessen, (2014) "must" is a high-value modal operator hence its usage in a command will signify a high level of duty or obligation towards the fulfilment of a command. The extracts below exemplify how the speaker uses "must" in proposals in SONA 2.

Extract 17

We *must* hasten to pass the Bill so that national standards for the electronic media can be

established. (MAHAMA, 2013)

Extract 18

We *must* bring to book pedophiles and rapist who prey on our women and rob them of their dignity. (MAHAMA, 2013)

The choice of "must" in extracts 17 and 18 denotes a high value of modality on the scale of modality. In the context of usage, however, "must" exudes a sense of obligation rather than that of willingness or commitment. "Must" denotes a high value of modal obligation on the scale of modality. This

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shows that the speaker is highly determined to fulfil the obligations he has proposed in the proposals.

Extract 19

Ghana *will* not serve as a haven to destabilize any of our neighbors. (MAHAMA, 2013)

In extract 6, there is the use of the modal verbal operator "will" which expresses a median degree of modality with the negative particle "not". This extract is the only instance of usage where the modal operator was combined with a negative particle in the data. In the context of usage, the modal operator "will" expresses a median degree of probability.

Modals Verbs in SONA 2

As presented in Table (1), SONA 2 which is that of President Akufo-Addo sees the usage of high and median value modal verbal operators. The subsequent extracts demonstrate the usage of these modals.

USAGE OF "WILL"

As stated earlier, modals can be used in the exchange of information or the exchange of goods and services. "Will" is a modal verbal operator which can be used in both ways. When it is used in the exchange of goods and services, it reveals a speaker's inclination towards the fulfilment of an offer. As Halliday and Matthiessen, (2014) put forth, "will" is a median value modal hence its usage in a proposal which is an offer denotes a median level of inclination towards fulfilling the offer. This communicates a median level of commitment towards an offer. The following extracts show instances where the speaker (Akufo-Addo) uses the median value modal operator "will" in making offers in his SONA.

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Extract 1

By the way, teacher trainee allowances *will* be restored when the Minister of Finance comes to read the budget. (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

Extract 2

We *will* also reduce significantly some of the levies and taxes on the tariffs. (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

Extract 3

Mr. Speaker, my government *will* enforce the procurement law. (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

Extract 4

We *will* set upon the path to build a Ghana that is not dependent on charity; a Ghana that is able to look after its people through intelligent management of the resources with which it has been endowed. (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

Extract 5

A National Campaign, "PLANTING FOR FOOD AND JOBS", *will* be launched (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

Extract 6

We *will* put in place policies that will deliver sustainable growth and cut out   corruption. (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

Extract 7

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Government *will* encourage increased private sector investment in utility scale solar and wind energy projects (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

Extract 8

The process for a comprehensive national identification system and a property titling system *will* be completed this year. (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

Extract 9

We *will* improve the state of combat readiness of our armed forces by improving the logistical infrastructure, and improve the welfare of service men and women and also of veterans. (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

Extract 10

Mr. Speaker, government *will* work with Parliament to pass the Affirmative Action Bill (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

These extracts (1-10) display the usage or choice of the modal operator "will" in various kinds of proposals. Extracts 1-3 show proposals that are made in relation to economic development; ranging from restoration of scrapped allowances, reduction of tax tariffs and enforcement of procurement laws. Extracts 4-10 are proposals that contain general developmental policies and action plans related to various sectors of the country. Extract 4 is a proposal towards making the country an independent country; extract 5 is a proposed policy for job creation and provision of food; extract 6 promises sustainable growth and fighting corruption; extract 7 proposes the encouragement of private investment in the energy sector; extract 9 promises an improvement in

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infrastructure and welfare of service men and veterans of the armed forces. In all these extracts, where the speaker makes proposals (extracts 1-10), the modal of choice is "will", which is a modal of medium degree according to Halliday and Matthiessen's (2014) modality valuation scale. This suggests that the inclination to fulfil these proposals is not high but rather at a median level.

USAGE OF "SHALL"

"Shall" is a modal operator that can either be used in propositions or proposals. In proposals, it can be used in commands or offers. When used in offers, it expresses an inclination towards the fulfilment of the offer. Moreover, when "shall" is used in offers, it denotes a high level of inclination or willingness towards the fulfilment of an offer. It shows high modal commitment on the part of the speaker. The extracts below instantiate the usage of "shall" to make offers in SONA 2.

Extract 11

I *shall* inaugurate the Council this week (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

Extract 12

We *shall* restore the National Health Insurance Scheme to good health. (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

Extract 13

We *shall* embark upon a vigorous expansion and re-equipping of Technical,

Vocational and Agricultural schools and align all TVAET under the Ministry of Education (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

Extract 14

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My government *shall* place teachers at the centre of quality education, and encourage

professionalism among them. (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

Extract 15

We *shall* ensure that our sports development is hinged on the revival of

school sports. (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

Extract 16

We *shall* continue recruitment into the police service (AKUFO-ADDO

2017)

Extract 17

I *shall* be bringing legislation before the House for its rapid

establishment. (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

Extract 18

In like manner, I *shall* propose for legislation amendments to the current

asset declaration regime to make it more effective. (AKUFO-ADDO

2017)

These extracts (11-18) display the choice of the modal operator "shall" in making various proposals in Akufo-Addo's SONA. Extract 11 proposes the inauguration of a council; extract 12 promises to restore the National Health Insurance Scheme which has been in a bad state to a good state; extracts 13 and 14 see the usage of "shall" in proposals in the sphere of educational development. Extract 13 is targeted towards infrastructural development while extract 14 targets personnel development; extract 15 proposes the development of sports through the development of school sports; extract 16 makes a proposal that will aim to improve the employment situation in the country; extracts 17

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and 18 are proposals that concern law-making or legislation in the country. In making all these proposals, the speaker's usage of the modal verbal operator "shall" seems to suggest a high level of inclination towards the fulfilment of the proposals. This is due to the fact that the usage of "shall" in proposals indicates a high level of modality (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014; Thompson, 2014).

Extract 19

The problems are enormous, but we must, and we will, confront them.

(AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

In extract 19, we notice the usage of two modal verbal operators in the same structure. One of which is "must" and the other is "will". According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), "must" denotes a high value of modality on the scale of modality while "will" denotes a medium value as established earlier. The combination of these two indicates a high level of obligation towards the fulfilment of the proposal.

Discussion for Research Question One

In some of the extracts from SONA 1, we see the use of the modal verbal operator "will" in making a proposal. The proposals being made in these extracts are offers hence the level of modality here has to do with the degree of inclination or willingness that the speaker has towards fulfilling the offers. "Will" is a modal with a median value on the scale of modality (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014), consequently, the speaker expresses a median level of willingness or inclination. It must be noted that in the view of Newson (2008), "will" being used in a political context for a proposal is a strong modal. So in this case the level of commitment or intent would then be high. However, some of the extracts see the use of the modal "shall" in the making of offers. Unlike

"will", "shall" indicates a high value on the scale of modality (in relation to proposals) hence it portrays and expresses a high level of willingness or inclination from the speaker. In extracts 17 and 18 however, there is the use of the modal "must" in making proposals. In these instances, the proposals being made are more of commands rather than offers so the modal attitude being expressed here is that of obligation. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), "must" is a high-value modal verbal operator hence the speaker's choice of "must" in the proposal puts across a high level of obligation towards the fulfilment of the command. Extract 19 presents a scenario outside the focus of the study. In this extract, "will" is used together with the negative particle "not" in a proposition rather than a proposal. Here, the modal verbal operator is used to express an attitude of probability. "Will" being a modal of median value denotes then that its choice by the speaker communicates a median level of probability towards the proposition or in Newson's (2008) view, a strong level of probability.

In SONA 2, extracts 1-10 are proposals that have the usage of the modal verbal operator "will". As established earlier, proposals are either commands or offers (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014; Thompson, 2014). Here, the proposals being made are offers and when offers are being made the attitude expressed is an attitude of inclination towards the fulfilment of the offers. "Will" being a median value modal indicates that the speaker chooses it to indicate a median or high (Newson, 2008) level of inclination towards the fulfilment of the offer. The modal verbal operator "shall" is also used in a like manner in this text. In extracts 11-18, it was used in proposals that make offers hence expressing a modal attitude of inclination. "Shall" however has a high value of modality

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(Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014; Thompson, 2014) so it signifies a high level of inclination towards the achievement of the offers. Extract 19 sees the choice of the modal verbal operator "must" and "will" in a proposal. Here, the proposal is in the form of a command and an offer at the same time. In relation to the offer, "will" expresses a median level of inclination towards the fulfilment of the offer. "Must" however, is used in a command and modals in commands usually express an attitude of obligation (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014; Thompson, 2014). According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), "must" is a high-value modal hence in this instance its choice means a high level of obligation towards the fulfilment of the command.

The findings of the modality analysis are in line with the findings of Koussouhon & Dossoumou's (2015) study on political discourse which suggests that high and median auxiliaries mostly dominate the modal choices in political language. Also, in terms of the median verbal operators, the findings of the current analysis toe the line of that of Pensung & Fenfeng (2013) which suggest that, in political speeches, median modal operators have the highest occurrence rate among the three types of modal operators. Similarly, Ehineni's (2014) study shows that the modals *will* and *shall* are more predominantly used in political discourse. Nuraisiah's (2017) research also reveals that political speeches are dominated by median level modality, then followed by high and low-level modality. Such linguistic choices convey a sense of moral obligation, accountability, and responsibility (Koussouhon & Dossoumou, 2015). Additionally, modals are used in political speeches to convey political commitment, pledges, pledging, political obligation, manipulation, and personal conviction. Modals are frequently used by politicians to amplify their political

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ideology, explain their ideas, and win the public's support. Also, modals are more than just linguistic elements in political discourses; they are also political devices and ideological tools (Ehineni, 2014).

Furthermore, modal auxiliary verbs have the propensity to reveal very subtly and nuanced meanings of the nature of political discourse. Deontic modals are thus appropriate because they reflect the political party's level of dedication, ardour, and enthusiasm (Maks & Vossen, 2010). The leaders' use of modality highlighted their dedication to some of the points they made regarding the social and economic issues in Africa, according to research on modality as a rhetorical approach in African political discourse (Alo, 2012), and this is not different on the Ghanaian political scene as the findings of the study suggest. We see the Ghanaian presidents using the modal verbs to indicate their intentions and commitment to social and economic policies and proposals in the SONA. Modality is a very important linguistic tool that politicians use to conduct their political businesses.

Generally, the discussion above shows that the choice of modal operators in SONAs is motivated by the kind of attitude a speaker wants to express. Also, Ghanaian presidents show varying levels of commitment towards the proposals they make. They seem to show more median and high levels of commitment since they mostly hover around the choice of median and high-level modals which are usually the preferred choices as seen in the data. One notable thing is the absence of low-value modal operators. Though the Ghanaian presidents show varying degrees of commitment, they avoid the use of low modals which will communicate no or low commitment towards the proposals they make. This is because this would put their political ambitions and

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aspirations at risk since the populace would have no confidence in them. This suggests that, in political discourse, low-value modal verbs are mostly avoided by politicians.

Furthermore, there are some differences in how the presidents employ modal verbs to show commitment in their addresses. In SONA 2, Akufo-Addo uses high-value modal verbs anytime "I" is the one supposed to carry out the proposal or promise. However, in SONA 1, Mahama uses high-value modals mainly for important thematic areas like electric power supply and sanitation. Also, the proposals these presidents make and the ones they give priority to by means of high-value modal verbs are dependent on the circumstances surrounding the time of their address. For instance, around the time of Mahama's administration, there were issues of unreliable or erratic electric power supply so in his address, he gives a high commitment towards fixing the problem. In the case of Akufo-Addo, the National Health Insurance Scheme was in a bad state so he proposed to fix it and showed high modal commitment towards it.

Generally, there are also some differences between instances where the presidents employed high-value modals of inclination and where they employed median value modals of inclination (which is considered the default choice). These differences are present in both SONAs. In laying out their promises and proposals, the presidents tend to prefer the use of high-value modals when the citizens are mentioned or directly involved in the proposal or promise. This seems to suggest that the presidents are highly inclined or committed to fulfilling the promises and proposals that directly affect the citizens. Also, proposals and promises in some thematic areas see the use of high-value modals.

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These thematic areas are law enforcement and education. This suggests that proposals relating to these areas are of utmost importance and the presidents are highly committed to fulfilling them.

      Considering the socio-political context of both addresses is relevant to understanding the choices (high and median value modals) that were made by the speakers in the State of the Nation Addresses. It is worth noting that, both addresses come from presidents who are in their first year of their first term in office. The first State of the Nation Address affords them the opportunity to lay out their proposals and policies for the upcoming year before the citizens. This address gives the presidents the platform to convince their citizens (both those who voted for them and those who did not) that they are committed to serving and leading in their (citizens') interest. Due to this, the linguistic choices that are made in both addresses by these presidents are tailored towards winning the confidence and trust of the populace. These linguistic choices come in the form of high and median value modals which are tailored towards projecting presidents who are committed and dedicated to fulfilling their proposals and promises. These deliberate linguistic choices win the confidence and trust of the citizens for their respective governments. The avoidance of low-value modals (which are also options of choice in the system) is a deliberate attempt by both presidents to avoid projecting themselves as uncommitted. This is because low-value modals communicate uncertainty and low commitment, so their usage by leaders in political discourse especially, elicits low trust and confidence from people. Because these two presidents wanted to avoid losing the trust and confidence of the people, they made modality choices that portrayed them as committed and dedicated.

RQ2: Agency

In this section of the analysis, I seek to investigate "agency", through the linguistic patterns of the two political personalities under study. This investigation will be facilitated mainly through Halliday and Matthiessen's (2014) ergative model of transitivity. In this analysis, the clauses are analyzed to determine whether the processes involved happen by themselves or are caused to happen. There are processes that are represented as self-generated and those that are portrayed as being caused by external participants. This external cause is known as the agent. The Agent is the external cause where there is one. In the ergative model, clauses that have agents are termed "effective clauses" and those without agents are termed "middle clauses".

Table 2: Distribution of Effective and Middle Clauses

Clause type	SONA 1		SONA 2		Total	
	n	%	n	%	N	%
Effective	73	57	51	40	124	49
Middle	55	43	76	60	131	51
Total	128	100	127	100	255	100

Table 2 shows the numerical representation of the occurrence of the two kinds of ergative clauses in the data. Clauses from various thematic areas were sampled from the two addresses and analyzed using the ergative model of transitivity. Table 2 shows that SONA 1 which is the address of President John Mahama has 55 middle clauses (representing 43 percent of the clauses) and 73 effective clauses (representing 57 percent of the clauses) while SONA 2 which is President Akufo-Addo's address has 76 middle clauses (representing 60 percent of the clauses) and 51 effective clauses (representing 40 percent of the clauses). The findings suggest that Mahama (73 clauses) makes use of more

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effective clauses as compared to Akufo-Addo (51 clauses). Generally, middle clauses, with an occurrence rate of 51 percent, have more realizations than effective clauses which have an occurrence rate of 49 percent across both addresses.

Table 3: Frequency of Occurrence of Agents Relating to the Speakers

Agent	SONA 1		SONA 2		Total	
	n	%	n	%	N	%
We	44	73	23	70	67	72
Government	13	22	6	18	19	21
I	2	3	2	6	4	4
District assemblies	1	2	0	0	1	1
The minister for finance	0	0	1	3	1	1
The minister for local government	0	0	1	3	1	1
Total	60	100	33	100	93	100

As established previously, effective clauses are clauses that have an agent, thereby denoting the idea of "agency". Across the two addresses, the nature of the agents varies. For SONA 1, the agents ranged from animate to inanimate entities. Some linguistic elements that served as agents are "we", "I", "it", "this", "government", "the private sector", "Ghana" etc. To determine the agency on the part of the President, we have to take into consideration agents that relate to him and his government. From the range of agents of the 73 effective clauses, those that relate to the president and his government are 60 in number. Out of these 60 agents, "we" occurs 44 times (73%), "government" occurs 13 times (22%), "I" occurs two times (3%) and "district assemblies" occurs one time (2%). The rest of the effective clauses (13) have agents that are not related to the president or the government. "The private sector", "it",

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"Ghana", "this funding" are some of the agents that occur without relation to the president and his government. Table 3 shows the frequency of occurrence of the agents related to the President/speaker and his government.

Similarly, agents in SONA 2 ranged from animate to inanimate entities. Some linguistic elements that are used as agents are "we", "I", "it", and "this", "government", "agriculture", "education", "previous government" etc. Out of the 51 effective clauses recorded, 33 are in relation to the president and his government. Making up the 33 effective clauses in relation to the president and his government, "we" occurs 23 times (70%), "I" occurs two times (6%), "government" occurs six times (18%), "the minister for finance" and "the minister for local government" occur one time each (3% each). Eighteen of the effective clauses have agents that do not relate to the president or his government. Some of these agents are "it", "this", "previous government", "education", "agriculture", etc. The table below shows the frequency of occurrence of the agents related to the President/speaker and his government.

Participant Roles

In this research, the clausal analysis is targeted towards certain participant roles namely: Agent, Medium, Beneficiary and Range. These participant roles help us to arrive at various conclusions about the data under study. The "Agent" is the participant in the clause that is regarded as the external cause of the process in the clause where there is one. That is to say, some clauses have external causes and some do not, where there is an external cause, the participant role ascribed to this cause is the Agent.

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Another participant role that is important to this research is that of the Medium. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), the Process and the Medium make up the nucleus of the English clause. The Medium is the participant that facilitates the actualization of the Process in the clause, such that, without the Medium, the Process does not take place. The next participant role the clausal analysis in this research looks out for is that of the Beneficiary. The Beneficiary is the participant that benefits from the action or happening in the process of the clause. However, as Thompson (2014) says, the beneficiary label should not always be taken to mean that the participant benefits from the process. The last participant role, the Range, is the entity in the clause that indicates the domain in which an action or event takes place or indicates the scope of an action or event.

In realizing the various participant roles, there are four general patterns of choice that the speaker can choose from. These patterns are:

1. **AGENT+PROCESS+MEDIUM**

2. **AGENT+PROCESS+MEDIUM+BENEFICIARY**   (OPTIONAL) +**RANGE** (OPTIONAL) + **CIRCUMSTANCE** (OPTIONAL)

3. **MEDIUM+PROCESS**

4. **MEDIUM+PROCESS+BENEFICIARY** (OPTIONAL) +**RANGE** (OPTIONAL) +**CIRCUMSTANCE** (OPTIONAL)

The first two patterns (1 and 2) are for realizing effective clauses. Pattern one shows the obligatory elements needed for the realization of an effective clause and pattern two shows the optional elements that can occur alongside the obligatory elements. The last two patterns (2 and 3) realize middle clauses. Pattern three shows the obligatory elements for realizing a middle clause and

pattern three presents the optional elements that can occur alongside the obligatory elements. These range of patterns equip the speakers with a range of choices in realizing the participant roles clause templates associated with them.

Participant Roles in SONA 1

Table 4: Participant Roles in SONA 1

Participant roles	*Entities*			
	Government	*Citizens*	*Previous government*	*Policies/concepts/objects*
Agent	61	1	0	11
Medium	9	4	0	115
Beneficiary	5	18	0	5
Range	0	0	0	49
Total	75	23	0	180

Table 4 shows the distribution of entities and their various participant roles in the clauses in SONA 1. The table reveals that entities relating to the speaker and his government occur most in the Agent participant role. They occur 61 (84%) times as compared to entities relating to the citizens and inanimate entities which occur once (1%) and 11(15%) times respectively. This means that out of the 73 effective clauses in the data, entities relating to the speaker and his government are responsible for the highest frequency, that is, 61 out of 73 clauses which represents an occurrence rate of 84 percent. This implies that the speaker and his government are the causes of most of the processes that take place in the effective clauses across the data. This would normally be the case in a SONA since the speaker and his government will seek

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to outline policies and actions they plan to undertake. Also, inanimate entities have the highest frequency of occurrence in the Medium participant role. Inanimate entities had an occurrence of 115 as compared to nine and four of the government and citizens respectively. These inanimate entities were made up of concepts, policies and objects. These inanimate entities have the highest frequency as mediums because the speaker makes a lot of proposals and policies through which the processes in the clauses will be actualized. Furthermore, the citizens have the highest occurrence in the Beneficiary participant role. Entities relating to the citizen occur 18 times as compared to five occurrences each for both the government and inanimate entities. This means the citizens benefit or mostly receive the actions of happenings of the processes in the clauses. This is because, in the SONA, the speaker usually outlines developmental policies and actions that will benefit the citizenry.

GOVERNMENT AS AGENT

For the realization of this participant role, several patterns of choice are presented in the data. These templates illustrate the various patterns through which the agent (in relation to the speaker and entities related to him) participant role is realized in SONA 1. These templates are typical of effective clauses since they are the clauses that have the element of agency.

TEMPLATE 1

Agent	Process	Medium
Entity relating to the speaker	acts on	concepts/policies/objects

TEMPLATE 2

Agent	Process	Medium	Beneficiary
Entity relating to the speaker	acts on	concepts/policies/objects	to the reception of citizens

TEMPLATE 3

Agent	Process	Medium	Circumstance
Entity relating to the speaker	acts on	concepts/policies/objects	in circumstances (purpose/place)

TEMPLATE 4

Agent	Process	Medium	Beneficiary	Circumstance
Speaker	acts on	concepts/policies/objects	to the reception of citizens	in circumstances

Template 1 shows the basic arrangement of participants in the effective clauses where we have the Agent combined with the Process and the Medium which are regarded as the nucleus of the English clause. Templates 2, 3 and 4 show alternative patterns for the effective clauses whose agents are the speaker or related to the speaker. In these templates, the entities that dominated the Agent participant role are the entities that relate to the speaker and his government. The Processes are realized by verbal groups. The Medium participant role is dominated by inanimate entities (concepts/policies/objects)

The following extracts depict clauses in which entities related to the speaker and his government function as agents. These clauses also give instances of templates 1, 2, 3 and 4 that are provided for the realization of this participant role.

Extract 1

"Government has taken note of the last review workshop held" (MAHAMA, 2013)

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Government	has taken note of	the last review workshop held
Agent	Process	Medium

Extract 1 gives an instance of template 1 where we have an entity relating to the speaker (government) acting on (has taken note of) an inanimate entity (the last review shop held). In relation to agency, "government" is the participant that is given agency in this clause. This is because it is the participant that is outside the nucleus of the clause and generates the action in the Process of the clause. That is, "government" is the external cause and is responsible for the Process "has taken note of".

Extract 2

"Towards this end we will: Prioritize and expand access at all levels;" (MAHAMA, 2013)

We	Will prioritize and expand	Access	Towards this end/at all levels
Agent	Process	Medium	Purpose/place

Extract 3

"To this end, District Assemblies will be required to incrementally build new structures in all existing public schools to serve the needs of kindergarten education." (MAHAMA, 2013)

District assemblies	Will be required to incrementally build	New structures	To this end/ in all existing public schools/ to serve the needs of kindergarten education
Agent	Process	Medium	Purpose/place/purpose

Extracts 2 and 3 depict template 3 which portrays an Agent acting on concepts/policies/objects in Circumstances. In extract 2, the Agent participant

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role is performed by the pronoun "we" which is the external cause of the Process "will prioritize and expand". This Process is actualized by means of "access" which serves as the Medium of the clause. The fourth participant role which is the Circumstance is realized by "towards this end/at all levels". In extract 3; however, the Agent participant role is occupied by "district assemblies" and not the pronoun "we". The clause has a nucleus of "will be required to incrementally build" (Process) and "new structures" (Medium) complemented by circumstances of purpose and place.

Extract 5

"Mr. Speaker, I extend a hand of partnership to our social partners to engage in this national reconstruction exercise for expanding access and improving quality of education in Ghana." (MAHAMA, 2013)

I	Extend	A hand of partnership	to our social partners	to engage in this national reconstruction exercise for expanding access and improving quality of education/ in Ghana
Agent	Process	Medium	Beneficiary	Purpose/place

Extract 5 depicts template 4 where we have an agent acting on a concept to the benefit of a participant in a circumstance. In this instance, the pronoun "I" is the Agent or external cause of the Process "extend" which is actualized by "a hand of partnership" which is the Medium of the clause. Besides the Agent which is the external cause and the nucleus of the clause (Process + Medium), two optional participants are included in the layout of the clause. These optional participant roles are Beneficiary and Circumstance. In this clause "to our social partners" plays the role of the Beneficiary, thereby receiving the action of the Process in the clause and "to engage in this national reconstruction exercise for

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expanding access and improving quality of education /in Ghana" show the circumstance in which the Process takes place.

Extract 6

"Government will provide incentives for special educators" (MAHAMA, 2013)

Government	Will provide	Incentives	For special educators
Agent	Process	Medium	Beneficiary

Extract 6 shows an instance of Template 2 where we have an entity relating to the speaker "government" externally causing a Process "will provide". This makes "government" the Agent of the Process which is actualized through "incentives" which serves as the Medium of the clause. The Process of this clause is directed towards the benefit of "special educators" which serves as the Beneficiary in the clause.

The clausal analysis revealed a range of entities relating to the speaker and his government functioning as the Agent in the various extracts. The analysis shows that the choice of Agent in the clauses alternates mainly between nouns and pronouns. In Extracts 1 and 6 the choice of Agent is the noun "Government" which represents the speaker and his governing body and serves as the external cause of the process in the clause. In this case, though "government" is in relation to the speaker, it is an inanimate noun hence it is not capable of acting on or causing a Process on its own. Though Agency is being given to the government, it will be difficult to ascribe responsibility to any particular individual since "government" is general categorization. The choice of "government" as the Agent in these clauses communicates a subtle

escape from direct responsibility though, generally, the responsibility still lies with the speaker and his governing body. This aligns with Fairclough's (1989) view that Agents can be realized as inanimate/abstract nouns or nominalizations and when that happens there might be possible ideologically motivated obfuscation of agency, causality and responsibility.

In like manner, extract (4) sees the use of "district assemblies" as the Agent of the Process in the clause. This is also an inanimate noun which is given agency, however; compared to "government" it is not too much of a general categorization since it is a decentralized section or part of the governing body. This decentralized entity is "district assemblies". Though there is still a subtle escape from agency, much of the responsibility and causality here lies on the district assemblies. However, in extracts 2 and 3, the Agent of choice in both clauses is the pronoun "we". That is to say that in both clauses, "we" is the participant or clausal entity outside the nucleus of the clause (Medium + Process) that externally causes or generates the process. Pennycook (1993) is of the view that the usage of "we" is always two-fold: it is simultaneously inclusive and exclusive as a pronoun of solidarity and rejection. In terms of inclusive usage of "we," it represents the speaker and his government in both clauses. In terms of agency, the choice of "we" as an agent gives responsibility to the referents of the pronoun. It must be noted that the usage of "we" does not denote direct responsibility or agency on the part of the speaker.

In a socio-political sense, "we" creates solidarity whereby the speaker uses the pronoun to tie himself and his government together. Also, the usage of "we" denotes the existence of a "you" or "they". In exclusive terms, the usage of "we" points to the exclusion of an "other" or "they" that exists. In this

instance, the "other" or "they" would be the main political opposition which is the New Patriotic Party. In terms of exclusive usage, the socio-political aspect of "we" communicates that responsibility and power lie with the incumbent political party and not the major opposition.   A clausal analysis of extract (5) reveals that the agent participant role is played by "I" which represents the speaker John Mahama. This means that "I" is the participant that is responsible for the external causation of the Process of the clause. The usage of "I" gives direct agency and responsibility to the speaker as it denotes personal involvement and commitment (Beard, 2000; Malone, 1997) unlike the use of "we" and inanimate nouns.

GOVERNMENT AS MEDIUM

Another participant role in which the speaker and his governing body function is the Medium role. This is the participant that facilitates the actualization of the Process in the clause. The following templates show the various patterns of choice that the speaker resorts to in his address in relation to the Medium participant role. These templates depict middle clauses since they do not have the element of "agent" or agency.

Template 1

Medium	Process	Range	Circumstance
Entity related to the speaker	actualizes process	within a domain	in circumstances (means/quality)

Template 2

Medium	Process	Circumstance
Entity related to the speaker	actualizes process	in circumstances (manner/purpose)

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The following extracts depict clauses in which entities relating to the speaker and the government function as the Medium. These extracts also exemplify the various templates associated with this participant role.

Extract 1

"As President I am adequately aware of the challenges and the extreme discomfort…" (MAHAMA, 2013)

I	Am aware	Of the challenges and the extreme discomfort	As president/ adequately
Medium	Process	Range	Guise/quality

Extract 1 depicts the clausal patterning choice of template 1 where we have a Medium facilitating the actualization of a Process over a Range (Scope or Domain) in certain Circumstances. "I" which represents the speaker serves as the Medium actualizing the Process "am aware" in the domain or scope in various circumstances.

Extract 2

"We have had to work round the clock to bring many plants into operation earlier than scheduled while we await the restoration of the plants affected by the absence of gas from the WAPCO." (MAHAMA, 2013)

We	Have had to work	Round the clock/to bring many plants into operation earlier than scheduled/while we await the restoration of the plants affected by the absence of gas from the WAPCO
Medium	Process	Manner/purpose

Extract 3

"We will work to reduce cost and eliminate fraud in the system." (MAHAMA, 2013)

We	Will work	To reduce cost and eliminate fraud in the system
Medium	Process	Purpose

Extract 2 and 3 portray the patterning in template 2 where there is a Medium that facilitates the realization of the Process in some Circumstances. In extract 2, "we" which represents the speaker and his government brings about the realization of the Process "have had to work" in some circumstances. Similarly, extract 3 has its Medium participant as "we" actualizing the Process "will work" in a Circumstance.

Extract 4

"Mr. Speaker, the GNPC through joint ventures continue to explore the hydrocarbon potential of our sedimentary basins." (MAHAMA, 2013)

The GNPC	Continue to explore	The hydrocarbon potential of our sedimentary basins	Through joint ventures
Medium	Process	Range	Means

Extract 5

"The Bulk Oil Storage Company (BOST) will be reorganized to play its role in strategic storage and distribution of petroleum products." (MAHAMA, 2013)

The bulk oil storage company	Will be reorganized	To play its role in strategic storage and distribution of petroleum products
Medium	Process	Purpose

Extracts 4 and 5 align with the choice of clause patterning in template 2 where we have two core entities, the Medium and the Process, which are combined with two optional elements of Range and Circumstances. Extract 4 shows a clause where the full range of entities are used in the clause, that is, the core elements are used alongside all the optional elements. Here, "the GNPC" (a governmental organization) is the Medium and actualizes the Process "continue to explore" in a domain and a Circumstance. However, in extract 5, the two core elements occur with just one optional element (Circumstance). In this extract (5), the Process "will be reorganized" is realized by "the bulk oil storage company" in a Circumstance.

These extracts display clauses in which various entities relating to the government function as the Medium of the clause. These clauses, as mentioned earlier, depict middle clauses, that is, clauses without the element of agency or external causation. Middle clauses are characterized by the nucleus of the English clause (Medium + Process) and other optional elements (Range and Circumstance). The Medium is the participant that facilitates or brings the Process into being. An ergative analysis of extract (1) reveals that the Medium participant role is occupied by the pronoun "I" which represents the speaker. This suggests that the process in the clause is actualized through the speaker and without the speaker this process will not take place. The use of "I" denotes personal involvement of the speaker in the Process and by extension things that take place in the country. This choice communicates a sense of concern and proactiveness on the part of the speaker.

The next two extracts (2) and (3) have the pronoun "we" functioning as the participant through which the process is realized, making it the Medium of

the two clauses. "We" in these clauses represent the speaker and his governing body. This choice shows that the whole governing body is involved in the process of bringing things into being and it also creates a sense of solidarity in a sociopolitical sense. "The GNPC" facilitates the realization of the process in the next clause (extract 4). That is "continue to explore" which is the process in the clause is realized through "The GNPC" (a part of the governing body related to the speaker). Similarly, the next extract (5) sees the use of "The bulk oil storage company" which is also a decentralized part of the governing body serving as the medium of the process in the clause. These two extracts (4 and 5) see the actualization of Processes through governmental agencies. These two organizations (GNPC and BOST) are not directly but rather remotely related to the governing body. The choice of these agencies as Mediums of the clauses has socio-political implications. It suggests that any entity related to the government in any way (directly or remotely) would be involved in making things come to actualization for the government.

GOVERNMENT AS BENEFICIARY

Entities relating to the speaker and his government also function as beneficiaries in some of the clauses in the data. That is to say, they benefit or receive the action in the Process of the clause. The following templates show the various patterns of choice the speaker uses in projecting himself and his government as Beneficiaries in the address.

Template 1

Medium	Process	Beneficiary	Range	Circumstance
An entity actualizes	a process	received by an entity related to the speaker	within a domain	in a circumstance (reason)

Template 2

Agent	Process	Medium	Beneficiary	Circumstance
An entity	acts on	policies/concepts/objects	to the "benefit" of an entity related to the speaker	in a circumstance (time/purpose)

The following extracts provide evidence from the data to validate how the generalizations in the templates apply to this participant role.

Extract 1

"This situation causes me sleepless nights." (MAHAMA, 2013)

This situation	Causes	Me	Sleepless nights
Medium	Process	Beneficiary	Range

Extract 2

"…and will present the recommendations especially in respect to sustainable financing of the scheme to cabinet for consideration." (MAHAMA, 2013)

Will present	The recommendations	To cabinet	Especially in respect to sustainable financing of the scheme	For consideration
Process	Medium	Beneficiary	Range	Reason

Extract 1 and 2 show patterns of template 1 where we have three core elements: Medium, Process and Beneficiary which can occur with the optional elements: Range and Circumstance. In extract 1, the three core elements occur with one optional element (Range). The nucleus of the clause being "the situation" (Medium) and "causes" (Process) occur with the Beneficiary "me" which is the recipient of the Process in the domain "sleepless nights". Extract 2 shows the

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occurrence of three core elements with the two optional elements. Here, the Process "will present" is being actualized by "the recommendations" and being received by "to cabinet" over a domain in a Circumstance.

Extract 3

"When completed by the end of this year, it will put us on track to achieve the planned expansion of 5,000 MW capacity of power generation by 2016" (MAHAMA, 2013)

It	Will put	Us	On track	When completed by the end of this year/to achieve the planned expansion of…
Agent	Process	Beneficiary	Medium	Time/ purpose

Extract 3 depicts template 2 where we have four core elements and one optional element (Circumstance) occurring. In this clause, there is an Agent "it" externally causing the Process "will put" through the Medium "on track" for the benefit of "us" in some Circumstances.

After a clausal analysis, it is evident that "me" functions as a Beneficiary in extract (1). "Me" here represents the speaker who is the recipient of the process in the clause. The use of "me" as the Beneficiary has some sociopolitical implications. First, it projects a sense of empathy on the part of the speaker. Since he was talking about difficulties (electrical power problems) the citizens are facing, the use of "me" communicates that he understands and feels what the citizens are going through and he suffers with and for the people. The speaker identifies himself as being affected by whatever is affecting the people

he leads. Extract 3 sees "us" being the participant that receives the action of the process in the clause. "Us" represents the speaker and his governing body in this context of usage. "Us" in this context is not limited to the speaker and his government but it also extends to the citizens. The speaker tries to use "us" here to assimilate the government to the people. Both the people and the government become one in the usage of "us" to achieve positive targets to fix the power problems and enjoy the results. In extract 2, the clausal analysis reveals that "cabinet" is the clausal participant that functions as the Beneficiary. "Cabinet" is the recipient of the action in the process of the clause.

CITIZENS AS AGENT

Entities relating to the citizens function as the external cause of processes in some clauses. Template 1 below shows the choice of clausal patterning that the speaker employs in realizing the citizens as agents.

Agent	Process	Medium	Range	Circumstance
Entity related to citizens	acts on	inanimate entity	in a domain	in a circumstance (place)

"The private sector has shown considerable interest in investing in the renewable energy sector." (MAHAMA, 2013)

The private sector	Has shown	Considerable interest	In investing	In the renewable energy sector
Agent	Process	Medium	Range	Place

The clause above shows a clause in which an entity that relates to the citizens functions as the Agent. The noun phrase "The private sector" which is a part of the citizenry or represents a part of the citizens, is the external cause of

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the Process "has shown" in the clause in question. This participant has thereby been ascribed agency. This means that the speaker and government are not given responsibility and causality in this clause but rather, that is given to the citizens. In a sociopolitical context, giving the citizens agency and responsibility suggests that they have to be part of the developmental processes that take place in the country. That means the development and the progress of the country is not the sole responsibility of the speaker and the government but the citizens also have their part to play.

CITIZENS AS MEDIUM

Aside from the Agent participant role, entities relating to the citizens also function as the participants through which the Process in some of the clauses is actualized. The templates (1 and 2) provided below show patterns of choice in relation to how clauses are structured to suit this participant role.

Template 1

Medium	Process	Range	Circumstance
Entity relating to citizens	actualizes process	within a domain	in a circumstance (purpose/quality/place)

Template 2

Medium	Process	Circumstance
Entity relating to citizens	actualizes process	in a circumstance (reason)

The following extracts show instances of clauses where entities relating to the citizens function as the Medium.

Extract 1

"A sick population cannot generate the productivity needed to maintain the acceleration of our economy." (MAHAMA, 2013)

A sick population	Cannot generate	The productivity needed	To maintain the acceleration of our economy
Medium	Process	Range	Purpose

Extract 2

"Mr. Speaker, in a frantic effort to pump the seawater out, two of our most experienced engineers lost their lives tragically in an underwater explosion." (MAHAMA, 2013)

Two of our most experienced engineers	Lost	Their lives	In a frantic effort to pump the seawater out/tragically/in an underwater explosion
Medium	Process	Range	Reason/quality/place

Extract 3

"Mr. Speaker, millions of Ghanaians and businesses are today experiencing very erratic and frustrating electricity supply." (MAHAMA, 2013)

Millions of Ghanaians and businesses	Are experiencing	Electric supply	Today/ very erratic and frustrating
Medium	Process	Range	Time/quality

Extracts 1, 2 and 3 show instances of template 1 where there is a medium that facilitates the actualization of a process in a domain or scope in some circumstances. In extract 1, the Process of the clause "cannot generate" is

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actualized through "a sick population" which serves as the Medium of the clause. This is done over a domain (Range) and in a certain Circumstance. In extract 2, the Medium, "two of our most experienced engineers," actualizes the Process "lost" over a range or domain "their lives" in some circumstances. Similarly, extract 3 has a Medium "millions of Ghanaians and businesses" which facilitates the coming into being of the Process "are experiencing" in the domain "electric supply" in some circumstances.

Extract 4

"Most importantly, over 625,000 expectant mothers will be tested for HIV."
(MAHAMA, 2013)

Over 625,000 expectant mothers	Will be tested	For HIV	Most importantly
Medium	Process	Reason	Comparison

Extract 4 shows an instance of template 2 where there is a Medium facilitating the actualization of a Process in some Circumstances. Here, "over 625,000 expectant mothers" which is the Medium in the clause actualizes the Process "will be tested" in some circumstances.

An analysis of extract (1) reveals the use of "a sick population" (which represents a part of the citizenry) as the participant through which the process of the clause is realized, making it the medium of the clause. The process in the next extract (2) is actualized through "two of our most experienced engineers". This participant forms part of the citizens of the nation and is necessary for the realization of the process. Similarly, the process of the next extract (3) is facilitated by the means of "millions of Ghanaians and businesses", also a part of the citizenry. In the next clause (extract 4), the medium role is played by

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"625,000 expectant mothers", which is a fraction of the citizenry. All these clauses are middle clauses so they do not have the element of external causation. This means that in clauses patterned in this manner, the speaker and his government are free of any responsibility in relation to the content of the clausal Processes. This clausal patterning also has a sociopolitical implication. The Medium of a clause together with the Process make up the nucleus of the clause, making them essential parts of the clause. Portraying the citizens as the Medium of these clauses seems to communicate that they are essential in happenings in the country since without them, these things cannot come into being.

CITIZENS AS BENEFICIARY

The citizens and entities relating to them also function as the beneficiary of some of the clauses in the data under enquiry. Templates 1 and 2 below show how the speaker patterns clauses in which the citizens are realized as beneficiaries. Some occurrences of these templates are depicted in the extracts below.

Template 1

Agent	Process	Medium	Beneficiary	Circumstance
An entity	acts on	concept/policy/object	to the "benefit" of citizens	in a circumstance (purpose/additive)

Template 2

Agent	Process	Medium	Beneficiary	Range	Circumstance
An entity	acts on	concept/policy/object	to the "benefit" of citizens	within a domain	in a circumstance (quality/purpose)

Extract 1

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"We shall expand training of kindergarten teachers to ensure that our children all over the country acquire basic numeracy and literacy skills before they start primary education." (MAHAMA, 2013)

We	Shall expand	Training	Of kindergarten teachers	To ensure that our children all over the country acquire basic numeracy and literacy skills before they start primary education
Agent	Process	Medium	Beneficiary	Purpose

Extract 2

"Government will provide incentives for special educators and ensure our children-with-special-needs benefit from the advantages of modern technology." (MAHAMA, 2013)

Government	Will provide	Incentives	For special educators	And ensure our children with special needs benefit from the advantages of modern technology
Agent	Process	Medium	Beneficiary	Additive

Extract 1 and 2 instantiate template 1 where there is an Agent who acts on a policy, object or concept (Medium) to the benefit of the citizens (beneficiary) in some situations (Circumstance). In extract 1, the Agent "we" externally causes the Process "shall expand" through the Medium "Training", and the Process is being received by "kindergarten teachers" who serve as the Beneficiaries in certain circumstances. Similarly, extract 2 has "government" as

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the Agent causing the Process "will provide" through the Medium "incentives" to the benefit of "special educators" in a Circumstance.

Extract 3

"This funding will enable the Ghana AIDS Commission enrol over 220,000 Persons Living with HIV on the National Health Insurance Scheme Free of Charge." (MAHAMA, 2013)

This funding	Will enable enroll	The Ghana AIDS Commission	Over 220,000 persons living with HIV	On the National Health Insurance Scheme	Free of charge
Agent	Process	Medium	Beneficiary	Range	Quality

Extract 4

"The key measures we have identified to accomplish this are the continued payment of at least 70% of the world market price of cocoa to farmers, " (MAHAMA, 2013)

We	Have identified are	The key measures	To farmers	The continued payment of at least 70% of the world market price of cocoa	To accomplish this
Agent	Process	Medium	Beneficiary	Range	Purpose

Extracts 3 and 4 exemplify template 2 where we have an Agent that externally causes a Process through a Medium to the benefit of the citizens within a scope or domain in certain circumstances. In extract 3, "this funding" is causing the Process "will enable enroll" through the Medium "The Ghana AIDS

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Commission" to the benefit of "222,000 people living with HIV" within a domain in a particular Circumstance. In like manner, extract 4 has "we" externally causing "have identified" through "the key measures" directed towards "farmers" within a domain and in a Circumstance.

After analyzing extract (1), the clausal pattern shows that the beneficiary participant role is filled by "kindergarten teachers" who form part of the citizenry. The next clause (extract 3) sees the usage of "Over 220,000 persons living with HIV" as the participant that functions as the beneficiary. This entity also relates to the citizenry of the country. In the next extract (4), the beneficiary function is performed by "farmers" which is also a representation of a part of the populace of the country. A clausal analysis of the next clause (extract 2) reveals a clausal pattern where "special educators" functions as the beneficiary. Here, this participant specifically functions as the client of the clause. In all these clauses, the choice of the citizens as the Beneficiaries suggests that everything that happens or takes place in the country is directed towards them and is going to affect them (positively or negatively). In extracts 1, 2 and 4 we see entities relating to the speaker and his government being the Agents of the clause. This seems to communicate that the speaker and his government are making things happen for the benefit of the people. This ultimately communicates or projects the speaker and his government to be responsible and accountable to the people.

POLICIES/CONCEPTS/OBJECTS AS AGENT

Inanimate entities also perform various functions in the clauses. The first of these functions is the agent. The templates (1 and 2) below show the clausal

patterns of choice associated with this participant role. The extracts show instances from the data that exemplify the templates outlined.

Template 1

Agent	Process	Medium	Circumstance
policies/concept/object	acts on	policies/concept/object	in a circumstance (duration/place)

Template 2

Agent	Process	Medium	Beneficiary	Circumstance
policies/concept/object	acts on	policies/concept/object	to the "benefit" of citizens	in a circumstance (time/purpose)

Extract 1

"This will allow for all year round farming" (MAHAMA, 2013)

This	Will allow for	Farming	All year round
Agent	Process	Medium	Duration

Extract 2

"These two projects are expected to bring some 80,000 hectares of land under irrigation in the Northern belt." (MAHAMA, 2013)

These two projects	Are expected to bring	Some 80,000 hectares of land	Under irrigation in the Northern belt
Agent	Process	Medium	Place

Extracts 1 and 2 instantiate template 1 where there is an Agent externally causing a Process through a Medium in a Circumstance. In Extract 1, "this" which is used in anaphoric reference to land irrigation is the Agent that is

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externally causing the Process "will allow for" by means of the Medium "Farming" in a Circumstance. In like manner, extract 2 sees the use of "these two projects" which is used in reference to hydroelectric power and irrigation as the Agent externally causing the Process "are expected to bring" through the Medium "80,000 hectares of land" in a Circumstance.

Extract 3

"The repercussions of the incapacitated gas pipeline has brought near total darkness to our neighbours in Togo and Benin, and led to the loss of over 250 MW of electricity supply to Ghana." (MAHAMA, 2013)

The repercussions of the incapacitated gas pipeline	Has brought	Near total darkness	To our neighbours	In Togo and Benin/and led to the loss of over 250 MW of electricity supply to Ghana
Agent	Process	Medium	Beneficiary	Place/ additive

Extract 4

"When completed by the end of this year, it will put us on track to achieve the planned expansion of 5,000 MW capacity of power generation by 2016" (MAHAMA, 2013)

It	Will put	On track	Us	When completed by the end of this year/ to achieve the planned expansion of 5,000 MW capacity of power generation by 2016
Agent	Process	Medium	Beneficiary	Time/purpose

Extract 3 and 4 exemplify template 2 where an Agent is causing a Process through a Medium to the "benefit" of another participant in certain

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Circumstances. In extract 3, "the repercussions of the incapacitated gas pipeline" causes the Process "has brought" through the Medium "total darkness" to the reception of "our neighbors" which serves as the Beneficiary in some Circumstances. In extract 4, "it" which is being used in reference to a gas infrastructure project is the Agent externally causing the Process "will put" by means of the Medium "track" to the reception of the "us" (the Beneficiary) in certain Circumstances.

In extract (1), the Agent role is played by "this". This is the participant that causes the process in the clause. The next extract (2) has "these two projects" as the participant externally causing the process of the clause, making it the Agent. "The repercussions of the incapacitated gas pipeline" is the cause of the Process "has brought" in the next extract (3), ascribing it the Agent status. Extract (4) sees the usage of "it" as the Agent of the clause. This "it" refers back to a power generation plant under construction. All the entities given Agency in the clauses are inanimate entities instead of the speaker and his government. This gives human attributes to inanimate entities. The choice of inanimate entities as Agents relieves the speaker and his government of causality and responsibility in relation to the Process of the clause. This corresponds with Fairclough's (1989) view that Agents can be realized as inanimate/abstract nouns or nominalizations and when that happens there might be possible ideologically motivated obfuscation of agency, causality and responsibility.

POLICIES/CONCEPTS/OBJECTS AS MEDIUM

Inanimate entities also function as the Medium of the clauses in the data. The three templates below show how the speaker chooses to pattern clauses in relation to this participant role. The extracts that follow depict instances where

inanimate entities function as the Medium in various clauses in the data under study.

Template 1

Agent	Process	Medium	Circumstance
An entity	acts on	policies/concept/object	in a circumstance (time/place)

Template 2

Medium	Process	Range	Circumstance
policies/concept/object	actualizes process	within a domain	in a circumstance (degree)

Template 3

Agent	Process	Medium	Beneficiary	Range	Circumstance
An entity	acts on	policies/concept/object	to the "benefit" of citizens	within a domain	in a circumstance (purpose)

Extract 1

"In 2011, Government committed GH¢150 Million to support the implementation of the new five (5) year strategic Plan." (MAHAMA, 2013)

Government	Committed	GH¢150 Million	To support the implementation of the new five (5) year strategic plan/in 2011
Agent	Process	Medium	Purpose/time

Extract 2

"We will establish an additional 1,600 CHIPS compounds across the country by the end of 2016." (MAHAMA, 2013)

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We	Will establish	1,600 CHIPS compounds	Across the country/by the end of 2016
Agent	Process	Medium	Place/time

Extracts 1 and two instantiate template 1 where there is an Agent causing a Process through a Medium in a Circumstance. Extract 1 has the use of "government" as an Agent effecting the Process "committed" through the Medium "GH¢150 Million" in some Circumstances. Furthermore, extract 2 sees the use of "we" as the Agent bringing about the Process "will establish" through the Medium "1,600 CHIPS compounds" in some Circumstances.

Extract 3

"Our goal is to ensure a more efficient, expanded and sustainable delivery." (MAHAMA, 2013)

Our goal	Is to ensure	delivery	A more efficient, expanded and sustainable
Medium	Process	Range	Degree

Extract 3 realizes template 2 which has a pattern of a Medium actualizing a Process in a domain in a Circumstance. The Medium "our goal" facilitates the actualization of the Process "is to ensure" in a domain "delivery" in a Circumstance.

Extract 4

"The key measures we have identified to accomplish this are the continued payment of at least 70% of the world market price of cocoa to farmers..." (MAHAMA, 2013)

We	Have identified are	The key measures	To farmers	The continued payment of at least 70% of the world	To accomplish this

				market price of cocoa	
Agent	Process	Medium	Beneficiary	Range	Purpose

Extract 4 realizes template 3 where there is a realization of all possible participants in this system of choice. Here, there is an Agent (we) externally causing a Process (have identified) through a Medium (the key measures) to the reception of another participant (farmers) in a domain and a Circumstance.

In the first extract (1), the participant through which the process is actualized is "GH¢150 Million". Without this participant, the actualization of the process would be impossible. The next extract (2) has "1,600 CHIPS compounds" as the participant that functions as the Medium. This participant combines with the Process of the clause to form the nucleus of the clause (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). In the next extract (3), "Our goal" facilitates the actualization of the Process in the clause, rendering it the Medium of the clause. An ergative causal analysis of extract (4) shows that "the key measures" is the participant that sits in the Medium role. The use of these inanimate entities (policies/concepts/objects) suggests that they are essential to the realization of the Processes that take place in the clauses. This seems to point to the idea that the realization of proposals and promises on the part of the speaker and his government would heavily involve inanimate entities like policies and objects.

POLICIES/CONCEPTS/OBJECTS AS BENEFICIARY

The analysis also revealed that inanimate entities functioned as participants that filled the beneficiary role in some clauses. The template provided below shows how the speaker chooses to pattern clauses where inanimate entities played the Beneficiary role. Some clauses to illustrate this template are showcased in the extracts provided.

Template 1

Agent	Process	Medium	Beneficiary	Circumstance
An entity	acts on	policies/concepts/objects	to "benefit" policies/concepts/ objects	in a circumstance (place/behalf)

Extract 1

"We had made good progress in fixing the damage done to the West African Gas Pipeline Company (WAPCO)" (MAHAMA, 2013)

We	Had made	Good progress	To the West African Gas Pipeline Company	In fixing the damage done
Agent	Process	Medium	Beneficiary	Place

Extract 2

"We will continue to provide security for both onshore and offshore oil and gas infrastructure against disruptive threats and theft while putting in place anti---piracy infrastructure." (MAHAMA, 2013)

We	Will continue to provide	Security	For both onshore and offshore oil and infrastructure	Against disruptive threats and theft while putting in place anti-piracy infrastructure
Agent	Process	Medium	Beneficiary	Behalf

Extracts 1 and 2 provide instances for template 1 which patterns an Agent causing a Process through a Medium to the reception of a Beneficiary in a Circumstance. Extract 1 has the Agent "we" causing the Process "had made"

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through "good progress" to the reception of the Beneficiary "the West African Gas Pipeline Company" in a Circumstance. Similarly, extract 2 has the Agent "we" causing the Process "will continue to provide" through the Medium "security" to the reception of the Beneficiary "both onshore and offshore oil and infrastructure" in a Circumstance.

In extract 2, the analysis revealed that the beneficiary participant role is occupied by an inanimate entity which is "the West African Gas Pipeline Company". Extract 2 has "for both onshore and offshore oil and infrastructure" as the beneficiary of the process in the clause. In this instance, the inanimate entity is the client.

Participant Roles in SONA 2

Table 5: Participant Roles in SONA 2

Participant roles	Entities			
	Government	Citizens	Previous government	Policies/concepts/objects
Agent	33	3	1	14
Medium	9	9	0	105
Beneficiary	2	17	0	6
Range	1	2	0	31
Total	45	31	1	156

Table 5 shows the distribution of entities and their various participant roles in the clauses in SONA 2. The table reveals that entities relating to the speaker and his government have the highest occurrence in the Agent participant role. These entities occur 33 times (65%) as compared to the other entities which occur three (6%), one (2%) and 14 (27%) times. This means that out of the effective clauses in the SONA, the speaker and his government are responsible for 33 out of 51 of them which denotes a 65 percent occurrence. This suggests that the speaker and his government are mostly the cause of most of the processes in the effective clauses in the speech. This is due to the fact that in the SONA, the speaker and his government are the ones making the proposals and taking actions so they automatically become the cause of the processes in the clauses unless the speaker makes linguistic choices to avoid agency and by extension, responsibility.

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Furthermore, the table shows that inanimate entities which consist of objects, concepts and policies have the highest occurrence in the Medium participant role. They occur 105 times as compared to the nine times occurrence of government entities and entities related to the citizens. This is the case because in SONA's there are a lot of proposed projects and policies, hence they would be key participants in realizing processes. Also, the table reveals that entities relating to the citizens have the highest frequency of occurrence in the Beneficiary role as compared to the other entities. Entities relating to the citizenry occur 17 times as compared to the other entities occurring two and six times. This suggests that the citizens are mostly the ones that stand to benefit from the actions and policies that are outlined in the SONA. This is because the SONA is a political genre that seeks to outline development projects and policies whose target is the citizens.

GOVERNMENT AS AGENT

In terms of the Agent participant role, 33 entities related to the speaker and his government realize this role. The templates a general idea of how clauses related to this participant role are patterned by the speaker. The extracts show participants related to the speaker and his government realizing the role of the agent in relation to the templates provided.

TEMPLATE 1

Agent	Process	Medium	Beneficiary
Entity relating to the speaker	acts on	concepts/policies/objects	to the reception of citizens

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TEMPLATE 2

Agent	Process	Medium	Circumstance
Entity relating to the speaker	act on	concepts/policies/objects	in circumstances (degree/means)

TEMPLATE 3

Agent	Process	Medium	Beneficiary	Circumstance
Speaker	acts on	concepts/policies/objects	to the reception of citizens	in a circumstance (place)

TEMPLATE 4

Agent	Process	Medium	Range	Circumstance
Speaker	acts on	concepts/policies/objects	within a domain	in a circumstance (purpose)

Extract 1

"I am proposing a number of policy interventions." (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

I	am proposing	a number of	policy interventions
Agent	Process	Circumstance(degree)	Medium

Extract 2

"We aim to popularize farming by encouraging many people to take it up as a

full or part time activity." (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

We	aim to popularize	Farming	by encouraging many people to take it up /as a full or part time activity
Agent	Process	Medium	Means/guise

Extract 1 and 2 instantiate template 2 where there is an Agent acting on an

inanimate entity in a circumstance. In extract 1, "I" (representing the speaker)

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serves as the Agent and externally causes the Process "am proposing" through the Medium "policy interventions" in a Circumstance. In extract 2, the Agent role is played by "we" (representing the speaker and his government) which causes the Process "aim to popularize" through "farming" (Medium) in some Circumstances.

Extract 3

"Government is conducting a review of all the Power Agreements entered into by the previous government in order to prioritise, renegotiate, defer or cancel outright, if necessary, in the national interest." (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

Government	is conducting	a review	of all the Power Agreements entered into by the previous government	in order to prioritise, renegotiate, defer or cancel outright, if necessary, in the national interest.
Agent	Process	Medium	Range	Circ: purpose

Extract 3 instantiates template 4 where there is an Agent causing a Process through a Medium within a domain and in a Circumstance. Here, "government" which is a noun that represents the speaker and his ruling body causes the Process "is conducting" through the Medium "a review" within a domain and in a Circumstance.

Extract 4

"And yes, the Minister for Finance will restore the allowances to trainee nurses in the budget." (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

the Minister for Finance	will restore	the allowances	to trainee nurses	in the budget
Agent	Process	Medium	Beneficiary	Circ: place

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Extract 4 exemplifies template 3 where the Process of a clause which is being caused by an Agent through a Medium is received by a Beneficiary in a Circumstance. In this clause, "the minister of finance" who is part of the government is causing the Process "will restore" through the Medium "the allowances" to the benefit of "trainee nurses" in a Circumstance.

Extract 5

"The Minister for Local Government will also see to the implementation of the District Integrated Social Services programme for children, families and vulnerable adults." (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

The Minister for Local Government	will also see to the implementation of	the District Integrated Social Services programme	for children, families and vulnerable adults.
Agent	Process	Medium	Beneficiary

Extract 5 instantiates template 1 which has a Beneficiary receiving the Process of the clause which is caused by an Agent through a Medium. Here, "the minister for local government" is responsible for causing the Process through the Medium "the District Integrated Social Services programme" to the benefit of "children, families and vulnerable adults".

In these extracts 1-5, there is the usage of various entities or participants related to the government as agents. In the first extract, there is the usage of the pronoun "I" as the Agent of the clause. This Agent is causing the action in the Process of the clause. In this clause, "I" represents the speaker, that is, President Akufo-Addo. The use of "I" as an Agent gives direct agency, causality and responsibility to the speaker since it shows personal involvement and commitment (Beard, 2000; Malone, 1997). Extract 2 shows the pronoun "we"

serving as the external cause of the process in the clause. As a result, "we" becomes the Agent of the clause in question. Here, "we" represents the speaker (the President of Ghana at the time) and his government. Pennycook (1993) believes that the usage of "we" is always two-fold: it is simultaneously inclusive and exclusive as a pronoun of solidarity and rejection. In terms of inclusive usage of "we," it represents the speaker and his government. Using "we" as an Agent does not give direct responsibility to the speaker, its usage denotes collective responsibility.

Also, in a socio-political sense, "we" creates solidarity whereby the speaker uses the pronoun to tie himself and his government together in their exploits. In its usage as an exclusive pronoun, it denotes the existence of a "you" or "they". In exclusive terms, the usage of "we" points to the exclusion of an "other" or "they" that exists. In this instance, the "other" or "they" would be the main political opposition which is the National Democratic Congress. In terms of exclusive usage, the socio-political aspect of "we" communicates that responsibility and power lie with the incumbent political party and not the major opposition.

Clausal analysis of extract 3 reveals that the noun "government" occupies the Agent participant role. Government represents the speaker and his ruling or governing body. Here, though "government" is in relation to the speaker, it is an inanimate noun hence it is not capable of acting on or causing a Process on its own. Though Agency is being given to the government, it will be difficult to ascribe responsibility to any particular individual since "government" is general categorization. The choice of "government" as the Agent in these clauses communicates a subtle escape from direct responsibility

though, generally, the responsibility still lies with the speaker and his governing body. This aligns with Fairclough's (1989) view that Agents can be realized as inanimate/abstract nouns or nominalizations and when that happens there might be possible ideologically motivated obfuscation of agency, causality and responsibility. Extracts 5 and 6 show the Agent participant role being occupied by entities related to the speaker and his governing body. Extract 5 has "the Minister for Finance" as the Agent and extract 6 has "the Minister for Local Government" as its Agent. These two entities are positions within the government hence using them as Agents of the respective clauses gives agency and responsibility to them. This takes direct responsibility off the speaker.

GOVERNMENT AS MEDIUM

Concerning the participant role of "medium", nine (9) entities relating to the speaker and his governing body occupy this role. As noted earlier, the medium is the part of the English clause that combines with the process to form the nucleus. The medium is necessary for the actualization of the process in the clause. The extracts below reveal the speaker and entities related to his governing body serving as the medium in some clauses.

Template 1

Medium	Process	Beneficiary	Circumstance
Entity related to the speaker	actualizes a process	received by citizens	in circumstances (purpose/location)

Template 2

Medium	Process	Circumstance
Entity related to the speaker	actualizes process	in circumstances (degree/place)

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Template 3

Medium	Process	Range	Circumstance
Entity related to the speaker	actualizes process	within a domain	in circumstances (purpose/location)

Extract 1

"To initiate the Campaign, the District Assemblies will be tasked to identify and register progressive farmers in each of the 216 districts" (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

the district assemblies	will be tasked to identify and register	progressive farmers	To initiate the campaign/ in each of the 216 districts
Medium	Process	Beneficiary	Purpose/location

Extract 1 instantiates template 1 where there is a Medium that actualizes a Process which is received by another participant in a Circumstance. In this clause, the Medium "district assemblies" actualizes the Process "will be tasked to identify and register" which is being received by "progressive farmers" in some Circumstances.

Extract 2

"I look forward to an increase in public investment in agriculture" (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

I	Look forward to	An increase /in public investment in agriculture	
Medium	Process	Circ: degree/place	

Extract 2 exemplifies template 2 where there is a Medium actualizing a Process in a Circumstance. Here, "I", the Medium, facilitates the coming into being of the Process "look forward to" in a Circumstance.

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Extract 3

"We have decided to embark upon a programme to provide water to enable all-year farming." (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

We	Have decided to embark upon	a programme	To enable all-year farming
Medium	Process	Range	Circ: purpose

Extract 4

"Mr. Speaker, I look forward to an exciting time in the agricultural sector." (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

I	look forward to	an exciting time	in the agricultural sector
Medium	Process	Range	Circ: location

Extracts 3 and 4 show instances of template 3 where there is a Medium facilitating the actualization of a Process within a domain in certain Circumstances. In extract 3, "we" serves as a Medium through which the Process "have decided to embark upon" within a domain and in a Circumstance. Extract 4 has the Medium "I" actualizing the Process "look forward to" within a scope and in a Circumstance.

These extracts display clauses in which various entities relating to the government function as the Medium of the clause. These clauses, as mentioned earlier, depict middle clauses, that is, clauses without the element of agency or external causation. Middle clauses are characterized by the nucleus of the English clause (Medium + Process) and other optional elements (Range and Circumstance). The Medium is the participant that facilitates or brings the Process into being. A clausal analysis of Extract (1) reveals that "the District

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Assemblies" which is a decentralized body of government performs the role of the medium. It is the participant through which the process (to identify and register) is actualized. In Extract (3) the clausal analysis shows that the medium participant role is played by "we". The process (have decided to embark upon) is facilitated by the participant "we". The use of "district assemblies" and "we" in extracts 1 and 2 respectively suggest that the whole governing body is involved in the processes of bringing things into being and it also creates a sense of solidarity in a sociopolitical sense. An ergative clausal analysis of extracts (2) and (4) reveal "I" which represents the speaker serving as the participant that facilitates or actualizes the process. Without this participant, the process cannot be realized. The use of "I" denotes the personal involvement of the speaker in the Process and by extension things that take place in the country. This choice communicates a sense of concern and proactiveness on the part of the speaker. However, in all these extracts, the speaker and his government are not ascribed agency or responsibility since there is no element of external causation in the clauses. This means that no one can be held responsible for the processes in these clauses.

GOVERNMENT AS BENEFICIARY

Another participant role this research considers, as stated earlier, is the beneficiary participant role. In the data, only two (2) clauses have entities related to the speaker and his government occupying the beneficiary participant role. The templates (1 and 2) show how these clauses are patterned and the extracts present instances from the data.

Template 1

Medium	Process	Beneficiary	Circumstance

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An entity	actualizes a process	being received by a participant related to the speaker	in a circumstance (degree)

Template 2

Medium	Process	Beneficiary	Range
An entity	actualizes a process	being received by a participant related to the speaker	within a domain

Extract 1

"We have inherited a heavily indebted energy sector …" (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

We	Have inherited	A heavily indebted	Energy sector
Beneficiary	Process	Circ: degree	Medium

Extract 1 is an instance of template 1 where "we" receives the Process "have inherited" which is actualized by the Medium "energy sector" in a circumstance.

Extract 2

"Mr. Speaker, government will work with Parliament to pass the Affirmative Action Bill to increase women's involvement in decision making at all levels, and *enable us achieve our current objective of 30 per cent participation of women in public appointments."* (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

Enable achieve	Us	our current objective of 30 per cent participation of women	In public appointments
Process	Beneficiary	Medium	Range

Extract 2 presents an instance of template 2 where the Medium "our current objective of 30 per cent participation of women" actualizes the Process "enable achieve" to the reception of "us" within a domain.

In extract (1), the clausal analysis shows the pronoun "we" performing the role of the beneficiary in the clause. "We" in this clause is receiving "benefitting from" the action in the process (have inherited). Here, "we" represents the speaker and his government. The clause is patterned by the speaker to show a problem he and his government inherited from the previous government which was the opposition political party. Extract (2) shows the beneficiary role being performed by "us". "Us" is receiving the process in the clause, and in this instance "us" represents the speaker and his government just like "we" does. However, "us", in this context, is not limited to the speaker and his government but it also extends to the citizens. The speaker tries to use "us" here to assimilate the government to the people. Both the people and the government become one in the usage of "us" to achieve a positive target of involving more women in public appointments.

CITIZENS AS AGENT

Aside from the speaker and entities relating to him, entities related to the citizens also perform various functions in the clauses found in the data. Just like the speaker and his government, the citizens perform the role of the agent. The following templates show how clauses are patterned in relation to this participant role and the extracts show instances from the data where various participants related to the citizens functioning as the agents of the clauses.

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Template 1

Agent	Process	Medium	Circumstance
Entity related to citizens	acts on	concepts/policies/objects	in a circumstance (place/purpose)

Template 2

Agent	Process	Medium
Entity related to citizens	acts on	concepts/policies/objects

Extract 1

"The happy and skilled population that will drive the path to development starts

at school." (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

The happy and skilled population	will drive	the path to development	Starts at school
Agent	Process	Medium	Circ: place

Extract 2

"They are threatening to opt out…"(AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

They	are threatening	to opt out
Agent	Process	Medium

Extract 3

"…that all stakeholders will discuss these issues dispassionately and

transparently, to ensure that all concerns are adequately addressed." (AKUFO-

ADDO 2017)

all stakeholders	will discuss	these issues	dispassionately and transparently, // to ensure that all concerns are adequately addressed.
Agent	Process	Medium	Quality/purpose

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Extracts 1 and 3 exemplify template 1 where there is an Agent which causes a Process through a Medium in certain Circumstances. In extract 1, "the happy and skilled population" serves as an external cause of the Process "will drive" through the Medium "the path to development" in a Circumstance. Similarly, "all stakeholders" as an Agent causes "will discuss" through "these issues" in certain Circumstances. Extract 2 realizes template 2 where there is an Agent generating a Process through a Medium. In this clause, "they" which is used in reference to the citizens causes "are threatening" through the Medium "opt out".

The ergative clausal analysis in extract (1) showed that "the happy and skilled population" is the external cause of the process in the clause. This participant is directly related to the citizens of the country. Extract (2) shows the usage of the pronoun "they" as the external causal participant. "They" in the context of use was in relation to a part of the citizenry. The next extract (3) shows the agent participant role being performed by "all stakeholders". Here, "stakeholder is used in reference to labour unions and other organizations that are made up of citizens. In all these clauses the citizens are ascribed agency instead of the speaker and his government. As a result, responsibility and causality lie with the citizens and not the government. In a sociopolitical context, giving the citizens agency and responsibility suggests that they have to be part of the developmental processes that take place in the country. That means the development and the progress of the country is not the sole responsibility of the speaker and the government but the citizens also have their part to play.

CITIZENS AS MEDIUM

Another participant role that was performed by the citizens is that of the Medium. That is, the participant through which the Process happens. The three templates below show the patterns of choice in relation to this participant role and the extracts show examples of clauses where we have the citizens and entities related to them serving as the Medium of the clause.

Template 1

Medium	Process	Circumstance
Citizens and entities related	actualize process	in a circumstance (means/purpose)

Template 2

Agent	Process	Medium
Entity	causes a process	actualized through citizens and entities related

Template 3

Agent	Process	Medium	Circumstance
Entity	causes a process	actualized through citizens and entities related	in a circumstance (place/purpose)

Extract 1

"Farmers are left on their own." (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

Farmers	Are left	On their own
Medium	Process	Circ: quality

Extract 2

"…and equip farmers with the skills needed to make farming a well-paying business." (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

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Equip	Farmers	with the skills needed /to make farming a well-paying business
Process	Medium	Circ: means/purpose

Extracts 1 and 2 show instances of template 1 which has a Medium actualizing a Process in a Circumstance. In extract 1, the Medium "farmers" facilitates the actualization of the Process "are left" in a Circumstance. In like manner, extract 2 sees the choice of "farmers" as the Medium through which the Process "equip" is realized in some Circumstances.

Extract 3

"It has disrupted families and businesses**"** (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

It	Has disrupted	families and businesses
Agent	Process	Medium

Extract 3 realizes template 2 where an Agent generates a Process which is brought into being through a Medium. Here "it" is the external cause of the Process "has disrupted" which is realized through the Medium "families and businesses".

Extract 4

"My government shall place teachers at the centre of quality education," (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

My government	Shall place	Teachers	At the center of quality education
Agent	Process	Medium	Circ: place

Extract 4 shows a realization of template 3 where an Agent generates a Process which is brought into being through a Medium in a Circumstance. In this clause,

"my government" causes the Process "shall place" through the Medium "teachers" in a Circumstance.

In the first two extracts (1) (2), an ergative clausal analysis reveals that "farmers" is the entity that functions as the Medium. This is the participant through which the Processes in the two clauses are able to take place. Extract (3) shows the actualization of the process in the clause through "families and businesses" which is the participant that functions as the Medium in the clause. Analysis of extract (4) shows that "teachers" facilitates the occurrence of the Process in the clause, thereby making it the medium. This clausal patterning has a sociopolitical implication. The Medium of a clause together with the Process make up the nucleus of the clause, making them essential and important parts of the clause. Portraying the citizens as the Medium of these clauses seems to communicate that they are important and essential in happenings in the country since without them, these things cannot come into being. Even in clauses where there is an Agent like extract 3, the Medium still plays an important role by bringing the Process into being.

CITIZENS AS BENEFICIARY

Another participant role that was occupied by the citizens and entities related to them is the Beneficiary participant role. This role denotes the participant that stands to benefit from or receive the Process of the clause. The following templates show how clauses related to this participant role are patterned and the extracts show instances where the citizens or entities related to the citizens function as beneficiaries in the various clauses.

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Template 1

Agent	Process	Medium	Beneficiary	Circumstance
An entity	acts on	concepts/policies/objects	to the reception of citizens	in a circumstance (purpose/duration)

Template 2

Medium	Process	Beneficiary	Circumstance
An entity	actualizes a process	to the reception of citizens	in a circumstance (purpose/location)

Extract 1

"And yet, agriculture provides the best opportunity to use modern methods to change the lives of many, within the shortest possible time." (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

Agriculture	Provides	the best opportunity	the lives of many	to use modern methods to change/ within the shortest possible time
Agent	Process	Medium	Beneficiary	Purpose/duration

Extract 2

"And yes, the Minister for Finance will restore the allowances to trainee nurses in the budget." (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

the Minister for Finance	Will restore	the allowances	to trainee nurses	in the budget
Agent	Process	Medium	Beneficiary	Circ: place

Extract 1 and 2 instantiate template 1 where there is an Agent causing a Process through a Medium to the reception of the citizens in a Circumstance. Extract 1 has "agriculture" causing "provides" through "the best opportunity" to the reception of "the lives of many" in some Circumstances. Extract 2 sees the use

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of "the Minister for Finance" to generate the Process "will restore" through "the allowances" to the reception of "trainee nurses" in a Circumstance.

Extract 3

"To initiate the Campaign, the District Assemblies will be tasked to identify and register progressive farmers in each of the 216 districts" (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

the District Assemblies	will be tasked to identify and register	progressive farmers	To initiate the Campaign/ in each of the 216 districts
Medium	Process	Beneficiary	Purpose/location

Extract 4

"…which will begin with access to public buildings for the physically challenged." (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

Will begin with access to	Public buildings	For the physically challenged
Process	Medium	Beneficiary

Extract 3 and 4 realize template 2 where a Medium actualizes a Process to the reception of citizens with or without a Circumstance. In extract 2, "the District Assemblies" actualizes the Process "will be tasked to identify and register" which is being received by "progressive farmers" in a Circumstance. Extract 4 has the Process "will begin with access to" which is actualized through "public buildings" being received by "the physically challenged".

Extract 5

"The Minister for Local Government will also see to the implementation of the District Integrated Social Services programme for children, families and vulnerable adults." (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

The Minister for Local Government	will also see to	the implementation of the District Integrated Social Services programme	for children, families and vulnerable adults
Agent	Process	Medium	Beneficiary

Extract 5 instantiates template 1 where there is an Agent causing a Process through a Medium to the reception of the citizens without a Circumstance. Here, "the Minister for Local Government" causes "will also see to" through "the implementation of the District Integrated Social Services programme" to the reception of "children, families and vulnerable adults".

The ergative clausal analysis of the various clauses shows various entities related to the citizens functioning as the beneficiaries in the clauses. Extract (1) has the Beneficiary role being played by "the lives of many" which in this instance is a representation of the citizenry. An analysis of the next extract (2) reveals the beneficiary participant role being occupied by "trainee nurses" which is also an extension of the citizenry of the country. In extract (3), the clausal analysis shows that "progressive farmers" functions as the Beneficiary in the structure. Here, "progressive farmers" represents a fraction of the populace of the country. An ergative analysis of the next extract (4) reveals the use of "the physically challenged" as the participant that functions as the Beneficiary. In this case also, "the physically challenged" represents a part of the population of the country. The next extract (5) sees the use of "children, families and vulnerable adults" in the Beneficiary role of the clause. This also represents a part of the citizenry or the populace of the country.

In all these clauses, the choice of the citizens as the Beneficiaries suggests that everything that happens or takes place in the country is directed towards them and is going to affect them (positively or negatively). In extracts

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2 and 5 we see entities relating to the speaker and his government being the Agents of the clause. This seems to communicate that the speaker and his government are making things happen for the benefit of the people. This ultimately communicates or projects the speaker and his government to be responsible and accountable to the people.

PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT AS AGENT

The previous government was given agency in the data and the template below shows how the clause was structured to that effect. In the extract, we see the previous government being the external factor that causes the process in the clause. The previous government is generating the process and is responsible for it.

Agent	Process	Medium	Range	Circumstance
Previous government	acts on	an inanimate entity	within a domain	in a Circumstance

Extract 1

"The attempts by the previous government to resolve the crisis have led to a gargantuan debt overhang in the sector." (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

The attempts	by the previous government	have led to	Debt	to resolve the crisis/ a gargantuan/ overhang in the sector
Medium	Agent	Process	Range	Purpose/degree/place

Extract 1 shows a clause where "the previous government" causes a Process "have led to" through the Medium "the attempts" within a domain "debt" and in some Circumstances. Ascribing agency to the previous government (which was the major opposition political party) suggests that the speaker is trying to acquit himself and his government from any responsibility in relation to the Process of this clause. In the context of the clause, the speaker is trying to show

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that the responsibility of the Process goes to their opposition since it results in a negative outcome. This suggests generally that the previous government was not up to the task of properly leading and serving the country.

POLICIES/CONCEPTS/OBJECTS AS AGENT

Analysis of the data for the study revealed that inanimate entities like policies, concepts and objects functioned in various participant roles. One of these roles is the Agent participant role. The templates reveal how clauses are structured in relation to this participant role and the extracts that follow demonstrate how inanimate entities function in the Agent participant role.

Template 1

Agent	Process	Medium	Beneficiary	Circumstance
Inanimate entity	causes a process	through an entity	to the reception of citizens	in a circumstance (purpose/duration)

Template 2

Agent	Process	Medium	Circumstance / Range
Inanimate entity	causes a process	through an entity	in a circumstance (degree/quality) or within a domain

Extract 1

"And yet, agriculture provides the best opportunity to use modern methods to change the lives of many, within the shortest possible time." (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

Agriculture	Provides	the best opportunity	the lives of many	to use modern methods to change/ within the shortest possible time
Agent	Process	Medium	Beneficiary	Purpose/duration

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Extract 1 instantiates template 1 where there is an Agent causing a Process through a Medium to the reception of a Beneficiary in a Circumstance. Here, "agriculture" an inanimate entity is causing the Process "provides" through a Medium "best opportunity" to the reception of "many" in some Circumstances.

Extract 2

"Not only will it serve to cut down on the wastage of crops during the high season, **it** will provide more jobs" (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

It	will provide	more jobs	Not only will it serve to cut down on the wastage of crops during the high season
Agent	Process	Medium	Accompaniment

Extract 3

"Food processing will also save time in the preparation and cooking of our local foods," (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

Food processing	will also save	Time	in the preparation and cooking of our local foods
Agent	Process	Medium	Range

Extract 4

"The cost of energy destroys businesses large and small." (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

The cost of energy	Destroys	Businesses	large and small
Agent	Process	Medium	Circ: degree

Extract 5

"Education holds the key to the prosperous and happy Ghana we all want and deserve."

Education	Holds	The key	to the prosperous and happy Ghana, we all want and deserve.
Agent	Process	Medium	Quality

Extracts 2, 3, 4 and 5 instantiate template 2 which involves an Agent causing a Process through a Medium either within a domain or in a Circumstance. In extract 2, "it" (being used to refer to food processing" causes "will provide" through the Medium "jobs" in a Circumstance. Extract 3 has the use of "food processing" as an Agent causing the Process "will also save" through the Medium "time" within a domain (Range). Furthermore, extract 4 has the use of "the cost of energy" to generate the Process "destroys" thorough the Medium "Businesses" in a Circumstance. In extract 5, the Agent "education" externally causes the Process "holds" through "the key" in a Circumstance.

The agent as stated earlier is the participant that is regarded as the external cause of the process. In extract (1), the ergative analysis shows that "agriculture" is functioning as the external cause of the process, rendering it the agent. In like manner, the next extract (2) has "it" which refers back to "food processing" functioning as the participant that is externally responsible for the process in the clause, making it the agent. The next extract (3) has "food processing" functioning as the agent. This means that it is the participant that is externally generating the process of the clause. In like manner, extract 4 sees the use of "the cost of energy" as the participant that is externally generating or responsible for the process within the clause. This warrants it as the agent of the clause. The last extract (5) here has "education" functioning as the participant

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that is externally causing the process of the clause thereby making it the agent of the clause.

All the entities given Agency in the clauses are inanimate entities instead of the speaker and his government. This gives human attributes to inanimate entities. The choice of inanimate entities as Agents relieves the speaker and his government of causality and responsibility in relation to the Process of the clause. This corresponds with Fairclough's (1989) view that Agents can be realized as inanimate/abstract nouns or nominalizations and when that happens there might be possible ideologically motivated obfuscation of agency, causality and responsibility.

POLICIES/CONCEPTS/OBJECTS AS MEDIUM

Apart from the agent participant role, inanimate entities also function within the sphere of the Medium participant role. This is the participant that is necessary for the actualization of the process in the clause. The three templates below show how the speaker chooses to pattern clauses in relation to this participant role. The extracts that follow reveal various inanimate entities functioning as the Medium of their respective clauses.

Template 1

Agent	Process	Medium	Circumstance
An entity	causes a process	through policies/concepts/objects	in a circumstance (accompaniment/location)

Template 2

Medium	Process	Circumstance
Policies/concepts/objects	actualizes a process	in a circumstance (purpose/place)

Template 3

Agent	Process	Medium	Range	Circumstance
An entity	causes a process	through policies/concepts/objects	within a domain	in a circumstance (degree)

Extract 1

"We are having to import almost everything we eat, including vegetables from

our Sahelian neighbours" (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

We	are having to import	almost everything we eat	including vegetables/ from our Sahelian neighbours
Agent	Process	Medium	Accompaniment/location

Extract 1 exemplifies template 1 where an Agent causes a Process through a

Medium in a Circumstance. Here, "we" causes "are having to import" which is

realized by means of the Medium "almost everything we eat" in some

Circumstances.

Extract 2

"…that food prices are high" (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

Food prices	Are	High
Medium	Process	Circ: degree

Extract 3

"A National Campaign, "PLANTING FOR FOOD AND JOBS", will be

launched to stimulate this activity." (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

A National Campaign, "PLANTING FOR FOOD AND JOBS"	will be launched	to stimulate this activity.
Medium	Process	Purpose

Extract 4

"An amount of 125 million Canadian dollars has been secured from Canada, a friend of our nation, to support the initiative." (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

An amount of 125 million Canadian dollars	has been secured	from Canada, a friend of our nation, to support the initiative.
Medium	Process	Place/purpose

Extracts 2, 3 and 4 show instances of template 2 which has a Medium actualizing a Process in a Circumstance. In extract 2, the Medium "food prices" actualizes the Process "are" in a Circumstance. Extract 3 has "A National Campaign, "PLANTING FOR FOOD AND JOBS" facilitating the actualization of the Process "will be launched" in a Circumstance. Similarly, extract 4 has the use of "an amount of 125 million Canadian dollars" as a Medium actualizing "has been secured" in a Circumstance.

Extract 5

"We will also reduce significantly some of the levies and taxes on the tariffs." (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

We	will also reduce	some of the levies and taxes	on the tariffs	Significantly
Agent	Process	Medium	Range	Circ: degree

Extract 5 instantiates template 3 where an Agent causes a Process through a Medium within a domain and in a Circumstance. In this clause, "we" which serves as the Agent causes "will also reduce" by means of "some of the levies and taxes" within a domain and in a Circumstance.

The Medium participant role in extract 1 is played by "almost everything we eat". Without this participant, the Process in the clause would not have been

realized. In the next extract (2), a clausal analysis reveals that the Process in the clause is realized through "food prices". This suggests that "food prices" is the Medium of the clause in question. An ergative clausal analysis of extract 3 reveals that the participant through which the Process is actualized is "A National Campaign, "PLANTING FOR FOOD AND JOBS". This makes it the Medium of the clause. Similarly, an analysis of extract 4 shows "an amount of 125 million Canadian dollars" performing the same function of facilitating the Process of the clause. In extract 5, the Process happens through "some of the levies and taxes", rendering it the other half of the nucleus of the clause which is the Medium.

The use of these inanimate entities (policies/concepts/objects) as Mediums suggests that they are essential to the realization of the Processes that take place in the clauses. This seems to point to the idea that the realization of proposals and promises on the part of the speaker and his government would heavily involve inanimate entities like policies and objects.

POLICIES/CONCEPTS/OBJECTS AS BENEFICIARY

Inanimate entities also occupied roles as beneficiaries in various clauses. The templates provided below show how the speaker chooses to pattern clauses where inanimate entities played the Beneficiary role. Some clauses to illustrate this template are showcased in the extracts provided.

Template 1

Medium	Process	Beneficiary	Range	Circumstance
An entity	actualize process	to the reception of policies/concepts/objects	within a domain	in a circumstance (purpose/distance)

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Template 2

Agent	Process	Medium	Beneficiary	Circumstance
An entity	acts on	policies/concepts/objects	to the reception of policies/concepts/ objects	in a circumstance (quality/place)

Extract 1

"Mr. Speaker, I believe the starting point in turning round our fortunes must be

with agriculture." (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

I	Believe	the starting point	our fortunes	in turning round/ must be with agriculture
Medium	Process	Range	Beneficiary	Purpose/accompaniment

Extract 2

"…but the challenges facing Ghana's power sector are far from over" (AKUFO-

ADDO 2017)

the challenges	Facing/ are	Ghana's power sector	far from over
Medium	Process	Beneficiary	Circ: distance

Extract 3

"The marginal price charged for businesses is an effective 42 cents, more than

ten times the average tariff in West Africa." (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

The marginal price charged	for businesses	Is	an effective 42 cents	more than ten times the average tariff/ in West Africa.
Range	Beneficiary	Process	Medium	Degree/place

Extract 4

"We shall embark upon a vigorous expansion and re-equipping of Technical,

Vocational and Agricultural schools" (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

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We	shall embark upon	a vigorous	expansion and re-equipping of Technical, Vocational and Agricultural schools
Medium	Process	Circ: quality	Beneficiary

Extracts 1, 2, 3 and 4 exemplify template 1 where a Process is actualized through a Medium to the reception of an inanimate Beneficiary with the occurrence of both or either of the optional elements of Range and Circumstance.

Extract 5

"Education holds the key to the rapid development of our country;" (AKUFO-ADDO 2017)

Education	Holds	The key to	the rapid development	Of our country
Agent	Process	Medium	Circ: quality	Beneficiary

Extract 5 shows an instance of template 2 in which an Agent externally causes a Process through a Medium to the reception of an inanimate entity (our country) in a Circumstance.

The ergative clausal analysis shows that various inanimate entities in the various clauses function generally as the beneficiaries of the processes within the clauses. Extract (1) has "our fortune" functioning as the Beneficiary of the clause. Extract (2) has "Ghana's power sector" being the participant that is receiving the happening in the process of the clause. A clausal analysis in extract (3) shows that the participant role of Beneficiary is being played by "businesses". The next two extracts (4) and (5), see "Technical, Vocational and Agricultural schools" and "our country" function as the beneficiary in their respective clauses. All these inanimate entities are either the recipients, receivers or clients of the respective clauses in which they find themselves. The use of the inanimate entities as Beneficiaries suggests that they will be affected

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by happenings and actions that take place in the country. These "benefits" will, by extension affect the citizens since some of these inanimate entities serve purposes for the citizens.

Discussion for Research Question Two

The participant roles from the two SONAs reveal a similar pattern. First, in both SONAs the Agent participant role is dominated by entities related to the speaker and his government. As noted earlier the Agent is the participant that is external to the nucleus of the English clause. It is the participant that is regarded as the external cause of a process (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). This suggests that, generally, the choice of clausal patterning gives the speaker and his government agency when it comes to carrying out the proposals in the SONAs. However, a deeper and critical consideration would reveal some nuanced meanings in relation to agency in the two addresses. We realize through the analysis that "I" which represents the respective presidents occurs only twice in each of the addresses. The usage of "I" as an agent has some implications. It depicts personal involvement and commitment (Malone, 1997; Beard, 2000). It shows that the speaker is invested in what is being said and is committed to the utterance. The usage of "I" gives agency directly to the speaker, making him/her responsible for what is being said. In the case of the addresses analysed, the usage of "I" ascribes agency to the two presidents who are the speakers of the SONAs. However, its low usage suggests that both speakers mostly escape personal involvement and commitment.

The analysis also revealed the usage of "we", "government" and entities related to the government as agents. In terms of the usage of "we" in political discourse has several implications. First of all, it can be used to denote

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inclusivity and exclusivity (Pennycook, 1993). Fairclough (1989) believes that when a leader uses "we" inclusively, where the leader identifies him/herself with the people, it serves as a humbling technique. This is to say that when the leader identifies him/herself with the people it creates solidarity and creates the grounds for the speaker's ideologies and proposals to be accepted and supported easily. In the addresses, the presidents used "we" inclusively in some instances to bring them closer to the people and create some form of solidarity with the people. In terms of agency; however, "we" is used to represent two entities: the president and his government. Here, "we" is being used to denote inclusion and exclusion simultaneously whereby the membership of this "we" is limited to only the speaker and his government. The usage of "we" in the view of Pennycook (1993) denotes or signifies the existence of a "they" or "you". In the SONA, when the president uses "we" as himself and the government, the "they" that is projected refers to opposition political parties. They become the "other" in this instance. This is evident in the mention of the previous government in one of the addresses. This usage of "we" still gives agency to the speaker and his government; however, compared to the usage of "I", it shields the speaker from direct and sole responsibility to an extent. Whereas "I" denotes sole responsibility, "we" denotes shared responsibility.

The usage of "government" and other entities related to government as agents also to an extent takes away direct involvement and sole responsibility from the presidents. The analysis also reveals that, in some instances, the citizens were also construed as agents. This linguistic choice gives responsibility to the citizens regarding the fulfilment of the goals of the government. Furthermore, the analysis reveals that inanimate entities were also

given agency in the SONAs. This is done mainly through nominalizations. When this sort of linguistic choice is made, it relieves the speaker and the government of any kind of responsibility in relation to the content of what is uttered. When inanimate nouns, abstract nouns or nominalizations are projected as agents, Fairclough (1989) believes that we should be sensitive and look out for possible ideologically motivated obfuscation of agency, responsibility and causality.

Secondly, the medium participant role is dominated by inanimate entities in both SONAs. The medium is the participant through which the process is actualized. That is the entity through which the process comes into existence (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Thirdly, the beneficiary role in both SONAs is dominated by entities relating to the citizens. The beneficiary is the receiver of the action in the process of the clause (Thompson, 2014). This reflects the nature of the specific political genre under investigation, where the actions and happenings are directed towards the benefit "not necessarily positive" of the citizens. This pattern of choice is preferred to other choices available because as Beard (2000) says, politicians usually try to make their interests seem like that of their citizens or followers. Therefore, linguistically constructing the citizens in the beneficiary role will purposefully serve to convince the populace that the politicians are acting in their (citizens') favour. This is important in the context of both addresses because these addresses are the first addresses of both presidents where they seek to win people's hearts and minds for a year.

The analysis has revealed two things. Firstly, it has revealed the various ways in which clauses in the State of the Nation Address are patterned.

Secondly, it has revealed the participant roles various entities play in the clauses in the State of the Nation Address. When it comes to Agency, which is the main subject of enquiry, the Presidents and their government are mostly dominating this role. This suggests that responsibility is left to the president and his government when it comes to the proposal and policies in the State of the Nation Address. This agrees with what Wang (2010) says in the transitive model of transitivity terms that the material clause is a good choice for presidents to display in addresses what the government has achieved, what is in the process of doing and what it intends to do.

However, it must be noted that the use of abstract nouns, inanimate nouns, nominalizations and the high use of middle clauses than effective clauses also suggests an escape from agency and by extension responsibility. A case of this is present if SONA 2, where the middle clauses were more than the effective clauses, suggesting a self-generation of processes in those clauses. That pointed to an absence of agents in those clauses, hence no agency and no responsibility to the speaker. This choice of clause patterning seems to be a deliberate attempt by politicians to avoid agency and responsibility. This corresponds with Adjei, Ewusi-Mensah and Okoh's (2015) research which suggests after a study of Mill's SONA with the transitive model of transitivity that Mills uses passivation to hide agency. He does this by not involving actors in the clauses he uses in his State of the Nation Address. He employs a clause such as "The private sector development agenda will be driven and monitored". In transitive terms, this clause does not have an actor and in ergative terms, it does not have an agent. He does this to be able to escape responsibility for any shortfall in the implementation of his promised policies. Ultimately, the findings have revealed

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that linguistic choices are motivated and meaning-making is closely reklated to the choices we make in a system (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004; Simpson, 2004). The choices we make in a system are dependent on factors such as culture, ideology and history.

Chapter Summary

In this chapter, I analyzed and discussed the data with consideration of the research questions. The first part of the study shows how modal verbs used in the State of the Nation Address reveal the commitment levels of Ghanaian presidents. The second part of the study shows whether the clausal patterns Ghanaian presidents use in State of the Nation Addresses assign Agency to themselves and their governments or not. Ultimately, the study reveals the commitment levels of Ghanaian presidents and also shows how their linguistic choices assign Agency. The next chapter is a conclusion of the entire study where I present a summary of the study, key findings of the study, implications of the study and recommendations for further research.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

This chapter is the conclusion of the entire study. First, I provide a summary of the study where the statement of the problem and other elements of the study like the research methodology and analytical procedure are overviewed. The chapter continues with a discussion of the key findings in relation to the two research questions. Also, the chapter provides a discussion of the implications of the study. The final part of the study involves recommendations for further studies.

Summary of the Study

The study sought to investigate the agency and commitment of Ghanaian presidents through a systemic functional grammar theoretical point of view by studying the State of the Nation Addresses of two presidents. First, the study investigated commitment through modality. It looked at how modal verbs are used by Ghanaian presidents to show different levels of commitment. The second part of the study investigated agency through the ergative model of transitivity. This part of the study sought to determine if Ghanaian presidents ascribed agency to themselves and their governments or not. As stated earlier the data source for the study was the first State of the Nation Addresses of John Mahama and Akufo-Addo. For the modality analysis, only clauses containing modal verbal operators were chosen for analysis. Fifty-seven (57) clauses were selected from Mahama's SONA and twenty-seven (27) from Akufo-Addo's SONA. For the ergativity analysis clauses were purposefully sampled from the

data for analysis. 137 clauses were sampled from Mahama's　SONA and 133 from Akufo-Addo's SONA.

The study employs a qualitative research design, specifically, directed and summative content analysis approaches. From a theoretical perspective, the concept of modality under functional grammar (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014; Thompson, 2014) was used to measure how the choice of modal verbal operator projected commitment on the part of the presidents. The levels of commitment were determined by Halliday and Matthiessen's (2014) scale of modality. Also, the ergative model of transitivity was employed to determine whether the presidents assign agency to themselves and their governments. The participant roles in the various clauses were discussed in relation to the ergative transitivity theory of Halliday and Matthiessen (2014).

Key Findings

The findings of the study are in two folds. They are aligned with the two research questions of the study.

Commitment

As stated earlier, Modality, from the point of view of Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) is divided into two subsections namely modalization and modulation depending on the purpose of the statement. Modalization is related to propositions - the function of the clause in the exchange of information and modulation is related to proposals - a clause functioning in the exchange of "goods and services" rather than information. The analysis in this study was in the sphere of modulation where the focus was on the clauses functioning in the exchange of goods and services.

The analysis of Mahama's SONA in terms of modality reveals that he uses 57 modal verbal operators in his address. Out of the 57 modal verbs, the one with the highest occurrence is "will" which occurs 48 times. "Shall" follows with an occurrence of 7 and "must" with an occurrence of 2. In Akufo-Addo's SONA, there is the use of 27 modal verbal operators. Out of the 27 modal verbs, he uses "will" 19 times, "shall" 8 times and "must" 1 time or once. This agrees with Ehineni's (2014) assertion that the modals *will* and *shall* are more predominantly used in political discourse. The analysis also reveals that both presidents employed "will" more than any other modal in their addresses. This is in agreement with Pensung & Fenfeng's (2013) findings. "Shall" had the second highest usage in both addresses and "must" had the lowest. "Will" in the context of usage in the data was a median value modal operator as compared to "shall" and "must" which were high-value modals in the context of usage. Both presidents however did not use any low-value modal in their addresses. The findings agree with that of researchers like Koussouhon & Dossoumou (2015) and Nuraisiah (2017).

The analysis revealed that most of the proposals made in the data were offers and the presidents employed one of these three modal operators (will, shall, must) in making these offers. In relation to "will" which is a median value modal, its usage communicates a median level of willingness or inclination towards an offer. "Shall" which is a high-value modal in the context of usage expresses a high level of willingness or inclination from the speakers towards the offers they make. "Must", a high-value modal operator was used in commands in the data hence it expresses a high level of obligation towards the fulfilment of the commands.

Generally, the discussion above shows that Ghanaian presidents show varying degrees of commitment towards the proposals they make. They seem to show more median and high levels of commitment since they mostly hover around the choice of median and high-level modals which is usually the preferred choice as seen in the data. One notable thing is the absence of low-value modal operators. Though the Ghanaian presidents vary between median and high levels of commitment, they avoid the choice of low modals which will communicate no or low commitment towards the proposals they make. This is because this would put their political ambitions and aspirations at risk since the populace would have no confidence in them. This suggests that, in political discourse, low-value modal verbs are mostly avoided by politicians.

Agency

The second part of the analysis sought to investigate "agency" in the State of the Nation Addresses. The analysis was done by means of Halliday and Matthiessen's (2014) ergative model of transitivity. The study revealed a number of findings. First, the study revealed that two types of clauses occurred in the data. They are effective clauses and middle clauses. For the sake of clarity and as a reminder, effective clauses are clauses that have an agent, thereby denoting the idea of "agency" and middle clauses are clauses that are without an agent and hence are self-generated clauses. SONA 1 which is the address of President John Mahama has 55 middle clauses and 73 effective clauses while SONA 2 which is President Akufo-Addo's address has 76 middle clauses and 51 effective clauses. The findings suggest that Mahama (73) makes use of more effective clauses as compared to Akufo-Addo (51).

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Secondly, the study revealed some general patterns of clausal arrangements of participants in the State of the Nation Addresses of two presidents. These patterns provide the speakers with a range of choices in realizing various participant roles. In realizing effective clauses, the core elements are Agent plus Process plus Medium. These core elements can occur with a range of optional elements namely: Beneficiary, Range and Circumstance. In realizing middle clauses, the core elements are Medium plus Process. These elements can also be realized with a range of optional elements namely: Beneficiary, Range and Circumstance.

The study also revealed that in both SONAs the Agent participant role is dominated by entities related to the speaker and his government. The Agent is the participant that is regarded as the external cause of a process (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). As stated earlier, this suggests that the choice of clausal patterning gives the speaker and his government agency when it comes to carrying out the proposals in the SONAs. Furthermore, the Medium participant role is dominated by inanimate entities in both SONAs. The Medium is the entity through which the process comes into existence (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). The Beneficiary, which is the participant that functions as the receiver of the action in the process of the clause (Thompson, 2014) is dominated by entities relating to the citizens in both SONAs.

Ultimately, the study revealed the various ways in which clauses in the State of the Nation Address are patterned. It has also revealed the participant roles that are ascribed to various entities in the State of the Nation Addresses. In terms of Agency, the choice of entity to perform the agent role was mostly the Presidents and their government. This choice consequently gives

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responsibility to the president and his government with regard to the proposals, policies and action plans in the State of the Nation Addresses. The choice of middle clauses over effective clauses has implications. In Akufo-Addo's SONA, there was the choice of more middle clauses than effective clauses. Middle clauses are clauses without agents, that is, clauses whose process is self-generated. The choice of middle clauses suggests an escape from agency since cause or causality is not ascribed to any participant in the clause. A choice of middle clause hence is an escape from responsibility by politicians in general (which Adjei, Ewusi-Mensah and Okoh (2015) allude to in transitive transitivity terms).

Implications of the Study

In this section, I present some implications of the study based on the findings. One important implication of the study relates to the system of transitivity. The study has extended the usage and coverage of the transitivity framework. The system of transitivity is made up of two models; the transitive model and the ergative model (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). These two models complement each other to make up the general system of transitivity. Over the years, research in political discourse has been done by means of the transitive model of transitivity (Yujie & Fengjie, 2018; Zhang 2017; Setiawan, Laksana, Mahyuni & Udayana, 2018; Mushtaq, Saleem, Afzal & Saleem, 2020; Adjei, Ewusi-Mensah & Okoh, 2015). The present study employs the ergative model of transitivity to investigate a genre of political discourse, which differs from what the previous studies sought to do in their studies. The study has proved that the ergative model of transitivity can also be used to analyze text in political discourse.

Another implication of this study is the contribution it makes to scholarship on the State of the Nation Address. As stated earlier, the State of the Nation Address is one of the most important political genres on the political scene of Ghana but little scholarly attention has been paid to it. As an important political genre which occurs every year and has an impact on the lives of the populace, it deserves more scholarly attention. This study has provided insight into how this important political genre is structured through linguistic choices. The study shows that on the Ghanaian political scene, the SONA serves as a fertile ground for enacting agency and commitment. The study gives citizens insights into how politicians can use linguistic choices to communicate ideologies and influence mental models. The study also extends the coverage of CDA to agency and commitment considering that they have not received much coverage in the domain.

This study has implications for pedagogy and professional political practice. In terms of pedagogy, it will serve as a reference material for instructors or teachers of political science/communication in teaching how to analyze political discourse using Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), especially by means of the ergative model of transitivity. In terms of professional practice, it will aid novice politicians to understand the implications of the linguistic choices they make in their political speeches provided their oblivious to that.

Recommendations for Further Research

In this section, I present some recommendations for further research based on the findings of the study.

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First, the present study, due to time and space constraints, limited the modality analysis to only modulation with clauses with modal verbal operators. This is because modal verbs have specific meanings associated with them and allow speakers to effectively communicate or express their attitudes. Due to their semantic precision, they allow the researcher to effectively explore the modal attitudes expressed by the speakers in the addresses. In the course of the analysis, it was observed that the other part of modality which is modalization is also present in the data and also, there are different means of expressing modality apart from the modal verbal operators. I recommend a study where modalization is also considered alongside modulation and other means of expressing modality are taken into account. A study of this nature will make it possible to determine various kinds of attitudes that are displayed in the State of the Nation Addresses by the Ghanaian presidents.

Also, the present study, just like most studies in transitivity uses only one model of transitivity for the analysis of the data. As Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) suggest, the transitive model and the ergative model complement each other to form a complete system of transitivity. I, therefore, suggest that a study be conducted where the two models are used simultaneously to analyze the same data since this will give us a better representation of the transitivity system in use. The findings of such a study will give a full view of what the transitivity system offers for discourse analysts.

Furthermore, the ergative model of transitivity can be used to study other genres of discourse. The ergative model of transitivity is well suited to be used to determine the entities that have agency in various forms of discourse. In political discourse, for instance, it can be used to study, manifestoes,

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parliamentary Hansards, and other political speeches. It can also be used to study medical discourse to determine who has agency and by extension responsibility, especially in the hospital setting.

Finally, concerning the ergativity analysis, the finding of the study revealed a difference where one president employed more effective clauses than the other. This study investigated just two of the numerous State of the Nation Addresses that are available. A comparative study can be conducted to determine what differences are present in the State of the Nation Addresses of the various presidents that have served the country over the years.

CHAPTER SUMMARY

This chapter presents a summary of the study along with the key findings of the study, implications of the study and suggestions for further research. The work is duly summarized alluding to the key elements. The key findings are presented with regard to the research questions of the study. The implications of these findings on theory, pedagogy, professional practice and scholarship are put forth. Finally, recommendations for further studies which are derived from the findings and limitations of the study conclude the chapter.

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APPENDICES

Extract from SONA 2

Mr. Speaker, I believe the starting point in turning round our fortunes must be with agriculture. Unfortunately, the state of agriculture in our country right now is not good. Farmers are left on their own. It is not surprising, therefore, that food prices are high and we are having to import almost everything we eat, including vegetables from our Sahelian neighbours. And yet, agriculture provides the best opportunity to use modern methods to change the lives of

many, within the shortest possible time. We have to irrigate our lands and equip farmers with the skills needed to make farming a well-paying business. We aim to popularize farming by encouraging many people to take it up as a full or part time activity. A National Campaign, "PLANTING FOR FOOD AND JOBS", will be launched to stimulate this activity. An amount of 125 million Canadian dollars has been secured from Canada, a friend of our nation, to support the initiative.

Extract from SONA 1

Mr. Speaker, millions of Ghanaians and businesses are today experiencing very erratic and frustrating electricity supply. It is a situation that I am deeply concerned about, and to which I have devoted considerable energy to solving. This is especially because compounding the 16 problem of unstable power supply is an equally worrying issue of unreliable water supply to some communities. The current developments do not reflect the investments and progress we have been making in the area of electricity generation. What should be our successes and rather augment available generation capacity has unfortunately been undermined by a number of unforeseen developments.