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Analysis of Texture in Bola Ahmed Tinubu's #EndBadGovernance Protest Speech 2024

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Abstract

Texture is an integral component of a text as without it, a text will be made up of isolated sentences with no connection to one another. It is achieved in a text through the use of cohesive ties that link and unify the different parts of the text. This study is a textural analysis of the #EndBadGovernanceProtest speech of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. Its aim was to account for texture in the speech by identifying the various choices of cohesive links made by the speaker, explain the functional purposes these choices were meant to serve and how they contributed to unifying the speech in order to achieve its rhetorical purpose. The qualitative research design was adopted for this study and Halliday and Hassan's model of Cohesion and Coherence was used as the theoretical framework. It was found that the speaker made abundant use of grammatical cohesive links especially references and conjunctions. Ellipsis and substitutions were sparsely used. Lexical cohesive links including reiteration and collocation were also used. These were identified in the text and their functional purposes elucidated. The researchers concluded that the speech was well crafted to

achieve cohesion, coherence and texture in a bid to appeal to the emotions of the protesters and bring the protest to an end.
Keywords: text, texture, cohesion, coherence, cohesive links/devices

Introduction

Communication through language is central to human existence in society. By means of language, human beings achieve a variety of communicative goals. Language use can be in the form of speech or writing of any length which creates meaning in its context of use. In order to use language to make meaning, there has to be unity among the lexical choices made by the language user. This unity which is achieved through the cohesive devices accounts for texture in a text. This work is a textural analysis of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's national broadcast on #EndBadGovernance protest that rocked the country from August 1 to August 10, 2024. It aimed to analyze the cohesive devices used by the speaker to achieve texture and make the speech coherent and appealing to the protesters in a bid to bring the protest to an end. Its specific objective is to account for texture in the speech by identifying the choice of cohesive devices, links or ties made by the speaker, explaining the functional purposes these choices were meant to serve and how they contribute to texture in the text with a view to providing an in-depth interpretation of the speech. By so doing, the researchers aimed to create textual awareness and contribute to the scope of knowledge in text linguistics.

Conceptual Review

Concepts such as text, texture, cohesion and coherence are relevant to this study and are discussed below.

Text

Beaugrande and Dressler (1981) define a text as a communicative occurrence that meets seven standards of textuality without which a sequence of sentences cannot pass for a text, namely, cohesion,

coherence, intentionality, acceptability, informativity, situationality and intertextuality. To them, a text is a naturally occurring manifestation of language in a context, that is, language produced within a communicative event as opposed to invented language. it is a set of expressions that are actually used in a particular context in which some knowledge are made explicit and others, implicit but both are still applied during processing. What this means is that shared knowledge between interactants in a text is left implicit because they are understood from the context and are used in making sense of or interpreting a text. According to Halliday and Hassan (1976), a text refers to any passage spoken or written, be it a monologue or dialogue, a prose or verse, a single proverb or a whole play, no matter the length that does form a unified whole as opposed to a group of unconnected sentences. They note that any piece of language that is operational, functioning as a unified whole in some context of situation, spoken or written, in any style or genre and involving any number of participants constitutes a text. It is a unit of language in use, a semantic unit, that is, a unit not of form but of meaning. The #EndBadGovernance Protest Speech of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is thus a text and constitutes the data for this study.

Texture

The term texture cannot be defined in concrete terms because it is an elusive and abstract concept. It refers to the property of being a text which distinguishes it from non-text and which derives from the ability of the text to function as a unified whole with respect to its context (Halliday and Hassan, 1976). Texture is provided in a text by the cohesive relationships among the different linguistic items and different segments of the text. It is also the basis for unity and interdependence of meaning within a text. Crane (2006) holds that it is texture which makes a stretch of language coherent and meaningful, hence, any text that lacks it is a bunch of isolated sentences with no relationship to one another. Thompson (2004) defines texture as the quality of being recognizable as a text rather

than a collection of unconnected words or clauses. Eggins (2004) views it as the total effect of the interplay between cohesion, registerial and generic coherence. Yu and Yu (2016) are of the view that texture is a composite notion, an overall psychological atmosphere created by the interaction of the variety of textual features and texturing resources which they opine, are multifaceted including features such as cohesion, registerial coherence, generic coherence and so on. Registerial coherence refers to the ability of all the sentences of the text to fit into a particular situational context while generic coherence refers to the text being identified as belonging to a particular genre. Both registerial and generic coherence make up what Eggins (2004) calls contextual coherence or contextual unity. To achieve texture, therefore, a text has to be contextually coherent. Sacks, Schegloff and Jefferson (1974) suggest that texture has 'sequential implicativeness' which denotes that each line in a text has a link from or to the previous line. There is thus a linear sequence in language and this linear progression creates a context of meaning, the worldview in which a text comes alive, within a text. From their perspective, texture is said to be created when cohesion and coherence are present within a text.

The textural patterns in a text can therefore be accounted for by analyzing its cohesive qualities. Halliday and Hassan assert that textuality (texture) is not a matter of all or nothing but rather a matter of more or less. Dense clusters of cohesive ties give a tight texture which signals that the meanings of the parts are strongly interdependent and that the whole forms a single unity while fewer cohesive ties give a loose texture. They identify the different kinds of cohesive tie as reference, substitution, ellipsis, conjunction and lexical cohesion. This paper aligns with the view of Halliday and Hassan (1976) with regard to texture being a function of register and cohesion and will analyze the selected text in terms of the cohesive devices therein as a way to account for its textural patterns.

Cohesion

Cohesion is the linguistic means whereby texture is achieved. What this means is that for there to be texture, there has to be cohesion in a text. Halliday and Hassan (1976) define cohesion as the set of meaning relations which defines it as a text and distinguishes text from non-text. They refer to a single instance of cohesion, that is, one occurrence of a pair of cohesively related items, as a tie and segments of a text can be characterized in terms of the number and kinds of ties it displays. It occurs where the interpretation of one element in the text depends on that of another.

According to them, cohesion is part of the text-forming component of the linguistic system whereby structurally unrelated elements are linked together through the dependence of one on the other for its interpretation. Cohesion acts as a catalyst that effectively activates the meaning potential of the language. It follows, therefore, that without cohesion, a text cannot be meaningful. Thus, there has to be cohesion for meaning to be exchanged at all as it expresses the continuity that exists between one part of the text and another. Like all other components of the semantic system, it is realized through the lexicogrammatical system. It is expressed in a text partly through the grammar and partly through the vocabulary, hence, we have, grammatical and lexical cohesion respectively. Ezeifeka (2021) defines cohesion as what makes a text stick together comprising the surface ties or formal signals that link the various lexical and grammatical items in a piece of text. Aragbuwa (2021) defines cohesion as referring to the interrelatedness between linguistic items to create logical and meaningful expressions.

From the foregoing, it can be deduced that texture is a function of register which determines the situational context of a text and cohesion. This paper will therefore analyze the patterns of cohesion in Bola Ahmed Tinubu's #EndBadGovernance Speech with a view to accounting for its texture.

Coherence

Halliday and Hassan (1976) assert that for a text to have texture, it must involve not just the semantic relations referred to as cohesion but also some degree of coherence in the actual meaning expressed not only in content but in the total selection from the semantic resources of the language including the various interpersonal components such as moods, modalities and other forms of the speaker's intrusion into the speech situation. They note that a passage may seem to hang together in the situational-semantic sense but fail as text for lack of cohesion just as a passage can be beautifully cohesive but fail as text due to inconsistency of register. Hence, registerial consistency and cohesion are necessary conditions in the judgment of texture as one is neither sufficient without the other nor does one by necessity entail the other. Hence, a coherent text must be relevant to its context and the different parts of the text must be linked with cohesive devices.

Other linguists have defined the concept of coherence from different other perspectives. Reinhart (1980) in his definition which conflated coherence with cohesion holds that it comprises connectedness, consistency and relevance. By connectedness, he means that the sentences in a text are interconnected with regard to semantics and grammar; by consistency, he means that the propositions expressed by these sentences are to a certain extent true and do not contradict one another; and by relevance that the text has to be related to the context and the sentences of the text must be related to one another with all the sentences relating to the overall topic of the text. De Beaugrade and Dressles (1981) opine that cohesion refer to the structural relations on the surface text – the actual words we hear and see while coherence refer to the structural relations that underlie the surface text. Brown and Yule (1983) also hold a similar opinion while noting that a discourse is coherent if the participant's background knowledge stored in memory in the forms of frame, schemata, script, scenario and plan are consistent with the interpretation of the discourse. Wang and

Guo (2014) are of the view that cohesion and coherence are two different but interrelated concepts which are formally but not functionally different. While cohesion is more obvious than coherent owing to the fact that it operates on the surface structure of text, it is a useful means to achieve coherence. Ezeifeka (2021) defines coherence as the cognitive links which include the extra-textual factors such as the shared background knowledge between the participants in a communicative event and the context of the text.

Citing McCarthy (1991), Ezeifeka (2018) states that it concerns ideas created by the mind in the act of reading a text stressing that interpreting a text involves a mental process of creating cognitive links between the words of the text and the outside world, the background knowledge which the participants must activate together with personal inferences and considering the rhetorical situation, aims and goals of the text. Comparing it with cohesion, she notes that whereas coherence is a factor of meaning, cohesion is a factor of form and a guide to coherence both of which create texture. This is the notion upon which this study is based.

Cohesive Links/Devices

Cohesive links or cohesive devices are linguistic elements that are used to connect and create meaningful relationships between the different parts of a text so that the text flows logically and is easily comprehensible to the reader/listener. Cohesive links are important elements in achieving cohesion and unity in a text as they contribute to and function as a guide to readers/listeners to the logical development of ideas (Hoey, 1991). Ezeifela (2021) define cohesive devices as linguistic markers or signals which create surface links /ties between sentences and clauses which signal the direction of thought as one reads through a text. She notes that the presence of these cohesive links prepares the reader for each new idea and be able to relate each new idea to the preceding one. On the other hand, their absence makes a text sound like a list of unrelated ideas. Halliday and Hassan (1976) identified

grammatical and lexical cohesive devices. Grammatical cohesive devices function within the syntax and structure of the text or discourse. They are intersentential links that logically relate one idea to the other to achieve cohesion. They include references substitution, ellipses and conjunctions. Lexical cohesive devices share certain basic semantic relations and include reiteration and collocation. These concepts are discussed below under theoretical framework.

The importance of cohesive links in the surface structure of a text cannot be overemphasized. They help to connect ideas and minimize redundancy that otherwise, makes a text or discourse boring and difficult to understand, enabling writers and speakers to achieve textual unity and logical flow of ideas.

Theoretical Framework

This study adopted the model of Cohesion proposed by Halliday and Hassan (1976) as its theoretical framework. According to them a relation of cohesion is set up when the interpretation of some element in a discourse or text is dependent on that of another in such a way that one element presupposes the other and the presupposing cannot be effectively decoded without recourse to the presupposed. Cohesion is thus a semantic relation between one element in the text and some other element that is crucial to the interpretation of it, that is, for one element to be interpreted, reference has to be made to some other element in the text. The location of this other element within the text does not affect the cohesive relation as the two elements may or may not share a structural relation. All semantic relations are expressed through the stratal organization of language and so is cohesion. Halliday and Hassan (1976) conceive of language as being composed of three strata (levels) namely, the semantic stratum, the lexicogrammatical stratum and the phonological stratum. The semantic stratum is the stratum of meaning, the lexicogrammatical stratum of wording and the phonological/orthographical stratum of sounding/writing. Meanings are realized as wordings and expressed through

sounding or writing. The word 'lexicogrammar' is made up of two words 'lexis' and 'grammar'. This is because vocabulary and grammar are regarded by Halliday and Hassan as two ends of a continuum with no hard and fast division between them and thus, reflects choices within the system of vocabulary and grammatical structures respectively. Cohesion also fits into this pattern as it is expressed partly through the vocabulary and partly through the grammar; hence, two major types of cohesion are identified: grammatical and lexical cohesion. Grammatical cohesion is realized in syntactic or grammatical structures and are expressed through Reference, Substitution, Ellipsis and Conjuction while lexical cohesion is realized by word choices and expressed through reiteration and collocation.

References refer to those items in language which make reference to something else for their interpretation rather than being semantically interpreted in their own right. They, according to Ezeifeka (2021), help the reader/writer track other items in a text without unnecessary repetition of the word or phrase. These include personal pronouns, demonstratives and comparatives. Substitution is defined by Halliday and Hassan as the replacement of one item by another. It is achieved using such words as one, too, so/not, same, do, do so and so on as in 'I love the black **car** but not the red **one**.'

Ellipsis is simply defined as 'substitution by zero'; something left unsaid but understood nevertheless as there is some presupposition in the structure to supply that which is left unsaid. It is called substitution by zero because the slot of the presupposed item in an elliptical structure is left empty as in 'I don't have to buy him a car but I will…. (buy him a car)'.

Conjunctions, according to Ezeifeka (2021) are items that signal the relationships known as clause relations between grammatical elements or segments of discourse. These clause relations may

signal cause-effect, temporal/time sequence or chronological order, comparison-contrast and so on in discourse. Halliday and Hassan (1976) note that conjunctive elements are not in themselves cohesive but indirectly so because they possess specific meanings. A conjunction specifies the way in which what is to follow is connected to what has gone before. Conjunctions as cohesive devices are described based on their function of relating to each other, linguistic elements that occur in succession but do not share any other structural relations.

Halliday and Hassan adopted a scheme of four basic categories of conjunctions, namely, additive which expresses addition to what has gone before; adversative which expresses a kind of contrast to what is expected either from the content of what is being said or the communication process; causal which expresses cause and effect and temporal which expresses sequence in time. These categories of conjunction are exemplified by 'and', 'yet', 'so' and 'then' respectively in their simplest form.

Apart from the grammatical cohesive devices, Halliday and Hassan define lexical cohesive devices as the relationship established at the lexicogrammatical level through the lexis or vocabulary embracing reiteration and collocation. Reiteration is the repetition of a lexical item or the occurrence of a related item which may be a synonym, a near synonym, antonym, a superordinate or a general word. It is thus, a kind of continuum that involves the repetition of a lexical item at one end and the use of a general word to refer back to a lexical item at the other end with synonyms, near synonyms or superordinates in between. Collocation is said to be the kind of cohesion that results from the co-occurrence of lexical items that in one way or another are associated with one another because they regularly share the same linguistic environment. Hence, a cohesive effect can be achieved by the occurrence in proximity to each other of such pairs as 'boys…girls', 'basement…roof', 'red…green', 'north…south,'ill…doctor',

'laugh…joke' 'bee…honey' and so on. The cohesive force exerted between any pair of lexical items is a function of the probability with which one word tends to co-occur with another and the relative proximity between them, that is, the distance between one item and another in terms of the number of words, clauses or sentences separating them. The lexical items exert a stronger cohesive force if they occur in adjacent sentences but the cohesive force becomes weaker with greater distance between them. Furthermore, the frequency with which a word enters into collocation with words of every possible range of lexical meaning also determines its cohesive force. The higher the overall frequency of a lexical item, the smaller the part it plays in lexical cohesion in texts.

Analysis of Cohesion in the Text Under Study

An in-depth study of the #EndBadGovernance Speech of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu revealed the use of the following cohesive devices to achieve texture in the text.

References used in the Text (Anaphora)

References are used to achieve cohesion in a text. Its purpose is to link the anaphora to the antecedent in order to avoid repeating a previously mentioned linguistic item. A reference tie could be endophoric (within the text) or exophoric (outside the text). This study is more concerned with endophoric references which could be anaphoric (where the antecedent is previously mentioned and reader is referred back to it using the anaphora is in the following text) or cataphoric where the referent is withheld to create suspense and the reader is referred forward in the text to discover it). The text studied has many instances of anaphoric reference. This is not surprising as there is no need to create suspense in a political text such as this rather, there is need to be explicit so as not to create confusion as the text addresses people of various social classes and educational statuses. The speaker's intent is to appeal to the protesters' emotion using any means possible, hence,

the reference items are used to refer back to the achievements and plans of the administration to better the lives of the citizens as well as to refer to entities which have been earlier mentioned in the text. The linguistic items highlighted in i – xii below are pairs of items that have cohesive ties of the reference type. Both the anaphora (presupposing item) and the referent/antecedent (presupposed item) is identified in each of i – xii below.

*i. Notably among the protesters were **young Nigerians (referent/antecedent)** who desired a better and more progressive country where **their (anaphora)** dreams, hopes, and personal aspirations would be fulfilled*

*ii. The destruction of **properties (referent/antecedent)** sets us back as a nation, as scarce resources will be again used to restore **them (anaphora)**.*

*iii. I am especially pained by the loss of lives in Borno, Jigawa, Kano, Kaduna and other states, the destruction of public facilities in some states, and the wanton looting of supermarkets and shops, contrary to the promise of **protest organizers (referent/antecedent)** that the protest would be peaceful across the country. ....*

*.... In line with my constitutional oath to protect the lives and property of every citizen, our government will not stand idly by and allow **a few with a clear political agenda (anaphora)** to tear this nation apart.*

***iv.** I therefore took the painful yet necessary decision to **remove fuel subsidies** and **abolish multiple foreign exchange systems (referent/antecedent)** which had constituted a noose around the economic jugular of our nation and ....*

***These actions (Anaphora/antecedent or referent** for **'they'** in the next sentence**)** blocked the greed and the profits that smugglers and rent-seekers made. **They (Anaphora** for **'these actions'** above**)** also blocked the undue subsidies ....*

v. *Coming from a place where* ***our country spent 97% of all our revenue on debt service (referent/antecedent);*** *we have been able to reduce* ***that (anaphora)*** *to 68% in the last 13 months.* ***We have also cleared legitimate outstanding foreign exchange obligations of about $5billion without any adverse impact on our programmes.(referent/antecedent*** for ***'this'*** below***)***
This (anaphora) *has given us more financial freedom and the room to spend more money on you, our citizens, to fund essential social services like education and healthcare.* ***It (anaphora*** for ***'this'*** above***)*** *has also led to our State, and Local Governments….*

vi. Our once-declining oil and gas industry is experiencing a resurgence on the back of the reforms I announced in ***May 2024 (referent/ntecedent)*** *to address the gaps in the Petroleum Industry Act…. Investors are coming back, and we have already seen two Foreign Direct Investments signed of over half a billion dollars since* ***then (anaphora).***

vii. Fellow Nigerians, we are ***a country (referent/antecedent*** for ***'its'*** below***)*** *blessed with both oil and gas resources, but we met a country that had been dependent solely on* ***oil-based petrol (referent/antecedent*** for ***'its'*** below***),*** *neglecting* ***its (anaphora*** for ***'a country'*** above***)*** *gas resources to power the economy. We were also using our hard-earned foreign exchange to pay for, and subsidise* ***its (anaphora*** for ***'oil-based petrol'*** above***)*** *use.*

viii. … we immediately ***launched our Compressed Natural Gas Initiative (CNG) to power our transportation economy and bring costs down (referent/antecedent). This (anaphora)*** *will save over two trillion Naira a month,….*

ix. Our administration has shown its commitment to the youth by setting up ***the student loan scheme (referent/antecedent).*** *…. I encourage more of our*

vibrant youth population to take advantage of ***this opportunity (anaphora)***

x. *We established the* ***Consumer Credit Corporation with over N200billion (referent/antecedent)*** *to help Nigerians to acquire essential products without the need for immediate cash payments, making life easier for millions of households.* ***This (anaphora)*** *will consequently reduce corruption and eliminate cash and opaque transactions.*

xi. *…,* ***I inaugurated the first phase of our ambitious housing initiative, the Renewed Hope City and Estate (referent/antecedent). This project (anaphora)*** *is the first of six we have planned across the nation's geopolitical zones.*

xii. *In addition to these city projects,* ***we are also launching the Renewed Hope Estates in every state, each comprising 500 housing units (referent/antecedent)***. ***This initiative(anaphora)*** *is not ….*

Instances of Substitution Used in the Text

Substitutions are words used to replace grammatical units to avoid unnecessary repetitions which makes a text whether it is written or spoken, uninteresting. These are also called anaphoric substitutes because they refer back to an antecedent, that is, the grammatical unit they are used to replace. There are only two instances of the use of substitution in the text under study and they are identified and highlighted in i and ii below.

i. *My* ***vision*** *for our country is* ***one (nominal anaphoric substitute*** for ***'vision')*** *of a just and prosperous nation where each person may enjoy the peace, freedom, and meaningful livelihood that only democratic good governance can provide –* ***one (nominal anaphoric substitute*** still for ***'vision')*** *that is open, transparent and accountable to the Nigerian people.*

ii. *The **task** before us is a collective **one (nominal anaphoric substitute*** for ***'task)'**,….*

Instances of Ellipsis Used in the Text

The speech is meant to be brief, interesting and captivating to the protesters so that they will listen to the end. This is necessary for the purpose of persuading them to put an end to the protest to be achieved. The speaker, therefore, made use of ellipsis to avoid the superfluity or redundancy that will make the speech boring to listen to and the consequent failure to achieve its purpose. The elliptical structures used in the text are identified in i – vi with the ellipted items highlighted and enclosed in parenthesis below.

i. *....I therefore took the painful **(decision)** yet necessary decision to remove fuel subsidies….*
ii. *…while 600,000 nano-businesses have benefitted from our nano-grants. An additional 400,000 more nano-businesses are expected to benefit **(from our nano grants).***
iii. *We have also built 10 MSME hubs within the past year, (**we have also**) created 240,000 jobs through them….*
iv. *This project is the first of six **(projects)** we have planned across the nation's geopolitical zones**.***
v. *In addition to these city projects, we are also launching the Renewed Hope Estates in every state, each **(Renewed Hope Estate)** comprising 500 housing units.*
vi. *The Federal Government will provide all necessary incentives for this initiative, whilst the states provide the land (**for this initiative**),….*

Instances of Conjunction Used in the Text

The use of conjunctions enabls speakers and writers to make connections and establish relations between different segments of the text, link ideas logically and meaningfully from one clause or sentence to another and from one paragraph to another, thus unifying the whole text. Additive conjunctions which are used to

add information to what has been said earlier are mostly used as the speaker intends to give the protesters enough reasons to end the protest. There are causal conjunctions which indicate cause-effect relationship between clauses. The speaker used them to justify certain actions taken by the administrations as being necessitated by a cause. There are two instances of the use of adversatives - **(But)** to indicate contrast to what has been said earlier and **(although)** to concede to the fact that there have been unsatisfactory situations in the past while raising hopes for a better tomorrow.

Only one temporal conjunction **(in conclusion)** was identified which was used to indicate that the speech was nearing its end. Conjunctions used in the texts are identified and highlighted in i – xii below.

i. *Just over a year ago, our dear country, Nigeria, reached a point where we couldn't afford to continue the use of temporary solutions to solve long-term problems for the sake of now and our unborn generations. I* ***therefore (causal)*** *took the painful yet necessary decision to remove fuel subsidies*

ii. This will ***consequently (causal)*** *reduce corruption and eliminate cash and opaque transactions.*

iii. Additionally,(additive) *we have secured $620million under the Digital and Creative Enterprises (IDiCE) – a programme to empower our young people….*

iv. ***In addition, (additive)*** *we have introduced the Skill-Up Artisans Programme (SUPA); the Nigerian Youth Academy (NIYA); ….*

v. Also, (additive) *more than N570 billion has been released to the 36 states to expand livelihood support to their citizens,….*

vi. ***Furthermore, (additive)*** *75,000 beneficiaries have been processed to receive our N1million Micro ….. We have* ***also*** *built 10 MSME hubs within the past year, created*

*240,000 jobs through them **and (additive)** 5 more hubs are in progress which will be ready by October this year.*

vii. *Payments of N1billion each are **also (additive**) being made to large manufacturers….*

viii. ***In addition (additive)** to these city projects, we are **also (additive)** launching the Renewed Hope Estates in every state,…. This initiative is **not only** about providing homes **but also (additive)** about creating….*

ix. *I understand the pain and frustration that drive these protests, **and (additive)** I want to assure you that our government is committed to listening and addressing the concerns of our citizens. **But (adversative)** we must not let violence and destruction tear our nation apart.*

x. *My administration is working very hard to improve and expand our national infrastructure **and (additive)** create more opportunities for our young people*

***xi. Although (adversative)** there have been many dashed hopes in the past, we are in a new era of Renewed Hope.*

xii. ***In conclusion, (temporal)** security operatives should continue to maintain peace, law, and order in our country following the necessary conventions on human rights,….*

Instances of Lexical Cohesion Used in the Text: **Reiteration**

Reiteration in the form of synonyms, near synonyms and antonyms are used to achieve coherence and effectiveness in the text. Each pair or set of lexical items identified share semantic relations with one another either of sameness (synonyms), near-sameness (near synonyms), oppositeness (antonyms). These are highlighted in E1 i – viii below.

i. *...young Nigerians who desired better and more progressive country where their **dreams, hopes**, and personal **aspirations** would be fulfilled. **(Near synonyms)***

ii. *We must stop further **bloodshed, violence** and **destruction. (Near synonyms)***

iii. *…where each person may enjoy the **peace, freedom,** and **meaningful livelihood** (**Near synonyms)** that only democratic good governance can provide – one that is **open, transparent** and **accountable (Near synonyms)** to the Nigerian people.*

iv. *In the past 14 months, our government has made significant strides in rebuilding the foundation of our economy to carry us into a future of **plenty** and **abundance.(Synonyms)***

v. *My dear Nigerians, especially our youth, I have heard you **loud** and **clear. (Near synonyms)***

vi. *Let nobody **misinform** and **miseducate** you about your country or tell you that.... **(Synonyms)***

vii. *Let us choose **hope** over **fear, unity** over **division,** and **progress** over **stagnation.(Pairs of antonyms)***

viii. *The **safety** and **security** of all Nigerians are paramount. **(Synonyms)***

ix. *Security operatives should continue to maintain **peace, law,** and **order** in our country….**(Near synonyms).***

Collocation

Collocations refer to words that naturally tend to co-occur in the same linguistic environment. The use of collocation serves to make the speech cohere and make sense to the audience. Instances of the use of collocation in the text are identified and highlighted in E2 i – ix below

i. I speak to you today with a **heavy heart** and a sense of responsibility,….

ii. *The destruction of properties sets us back as a nation, as **scarce resources** will be again used to restore them.*

iii. *In line with my constitutional oath to protect the **lives and property** of every citizen,….*

iv. *Nigeria requires all hands on deck and needs us all – regardless of* ***age, party, tribe, religion*** *or other divides, to work together in reshaping our destiny as a nation.*

v. *…where we couldn't afford to continue the use of temporary solutions to solve long-term problems for the sake of now and our* ***unborn generations****….*

vi. *I encourage more of our* ***vibrant youth*** *population to take advantage of this opportunity.*

vii. *Although there have been many* ***dashed hopes*** *in the past, we are in a new....*

viii. *Let us work together to build a* ***brighter future….***

Conclusion

From the foregoing, it can be deduced that the #EndBadGovernance speech of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu was intended to be emotive so that the protesters will see reason to quit the protest and opt for dialogue to resolve the issues at stake. This study accounted for texture in the speech by identifying the grammatical cohesive links such as references, substitution, ellipsis and conjunctions and lexical cohesive links – reiteration and collocation employed by the speaker. The functions these cohesive links were meant to serve were explained. The speech was well crafted using these cohesive links to achieve cohesion, coherence and ultimately, tight texture.

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