

Pragmatic Analysis of President Muhamadu Buhari's Cumulative Lockdown Order of the Federal Capital Territory, Ogun and Lagos States on COVID 19 Pandemic at the State House Abuja on Monday, April 27, 2020

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Abstract

This paper investigates the pragmatic acts of locution, illocution, and perlocution in President Muhamadu Buhari's cumulative Lockdown order of the Federal Capital Territory, (Abuja), Ogun, and Lagos States during the COVID 19 pandemic on Monday, April 27, 2020. We adopt J. L. Austin's (1962) and Searle's (1969) speech act theory, using the illocutionary acts of: expressive, declaratives, assertive, directives, and commissive. The data for this paper are drawn from President Muhammadu Buhari's speech on COVID 19 on Monday, April 27, 2020. In this study, qualitative research method is adopted; and the descriptive survey method is used for the data analysis. The study reveals that the President used more of assertive speech acts which recorded an overall frequency of 15 and (42%) to affirm, announce, report and state the damaging effect of the pandemic on human lives and economies across the globe, and the measures to be taken in protecting the lives and livelihood of Nigerians. This is followed by expressive and commissive speech acts which recorded a frequency of, 8 and (22%) each and finally directive speech act which has a frequency of 5 and (14%). The perlocutionary effects of the lockdown order on Nigerians are: hope, optimism, compliance and awareness. The percentage and frequency of speech acts are arranged on a table and presented on a pie chart.

Keywords: lockdown order, speech act, perlocution, Lagos, Ogun state, FCT

1. Introduction

Language is as old as man himself, and is therefore a unique human attribute which distinguishes humans from animals. Through language man had been able to interact with one another and communicate his feelings, thoughts and needs. Language does not exist in isolation but operates within a context of situation. (Martinet, 1970, p.20) posits that "language is a formidable instrument of communication by which human experience is analyzed." This implies that language is employed to carry out some specialized activities such as: informing, persuading, entertaining and educating. The primacy of language cuts across all facets of human existence: government, education, health, politics, etc. Omachanu in (Okolo 2016, p.1) avers that "language is a facilitator of human essence for all inventions and achievements ever recorded in human existence have their root in language as their veritable instrument of thought and an indispensable channel of communication". Politicians are reputed for their ability to manipulate language to their own advantage in order to appeal to the senses of the governed. Language and politics have an inextricable affinity; hence language is the force that drives politics. Chilton (1998, p.20) opines that "politics is the art of governance and power, while on the other hand language is the universal capacity of all humans to communicate in all societies". Aligning to Chilton's postulation (Bayram 2010, p.23) asserts that "politics is the struggle for power for the purpose of putting certain political, economic and social ideas into practice". The inextricable relationship between language and politics made it mandatory that politics must go with the appropriate language to carry it out. Language plays a very important role in political activities because of its multi-facet function in different political situations which enable politicians form stable social relationship. Language is indispensable in the successful implementation of any democratic process. (Taiwo, 1980, p.92) avers that "Language conveys power; it moves people to exercise their franchise, debate and even revolt". It is therefore, central to political stability or polarization. Re-echoing the inextricable affinity between language and politics

(Wodak 2001, p.11) opines that “the constant unity of language and other social matters ensured that language is intertwined in social power in a number of ways: language indexes power, expresses power and is involved where there is a contention of power and where power is challenged.” With the office of the president as the highest political office in any country, it is imperative that the president must be in constant touch with his people (the governed) which can better be achieved through speech making whose medium is language.

Available studies on political discourse of heads of governments dwells so much on campaign speeches, acceptance speech and inaugural speeches. None has addressed a world health pandemic which this study seeks to address. This study therefore attempts a pragmatic analysis of President Muhammadu Buhari’s cumulative lockdown order of Ogun state, Lagos and the F.C.T (Abuja) during the outbreak of the COVID 19 pandemic.

The aim of this study is to ascertain the perlocutionary effect of President Muhammadu Buhari’s Covid 19 lockdown order on Nigerians, and to ascertain how the president effectively deployed illocutionary speech acts like: assertive, directive, commissive and expressive to direct Nigerian masses on the preventive measures against the novel COVID 19 pandemic, and methods to be employed in alleviating the economic hardship facing the Nigerian masses.

2. Literature Review

This section of our study reviews scholarly works on pragmatics and the speeches of political office holders, and political office seekers. Several studies have indeed been carried out on the communicative strategies employed by politicians through the perspective of Pragmatics and discourse analysis. This study reviews some of these studies: Akinwotu S. Alaba (2013) investigated speech act analysis of the acceptance of the nomination speech of Chief Obafemi Awolowo and Chief Moshood Abiola, using J.L. Austin’s (1962) speech act theory as modified by Seale (1969). The data for the study were the selected speeches of Chief Awolowo (The Presidential Candidate of the Unity Party of Nigeria, UPN, in 1979) and Chief Moshood Abiola (The Presidential Candidate of the Social Democratic Party- SDP, in 1993). Chief Awolowo’s speech, “The Challenges of the New Era” was delivered at the UPN, National Convention in Lagos on the 6th of October, 1978 and was later published in a collection of his speeches titled “Path to Nigeria Greatness” while that of Abiola “Hope for Nigerians” was delivered at the Social Democratic Party national convention in Jos on the 29th of March 1993 and published later as “Hope 93 Fare Well to Poverty”. The result of the study revealed that the illocutionary act of assertive has the highest percentage and frequency of occurrence among all the other speech acts such as: directive, commissive, expressive and declarative, the study was concluded on the note that unlike presidential inaugural speeches acceptance of nomination speeches are mostly used as mobilization strategies especially in political campaigns where it is necessary for candidates to persuade their listeners towards the desired goal of winning elections. Olaniyi Oladimeji and Bamigbola Esther,(2012) investigated contextual acts in former president Goodluck Ebele Jonathan’s declaration of presidential candidacy under the political platform of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), using context and speech act theory. The study’s aim was to examine how contextual illocutionary acts have been used to achieve a coherent speech delivery. Ayeomoni and Akinkuolere (2012) examined the pragmatics of victory/inaugural speeches of President Umaru Musa Yaradua using Austin (1962) and Searle (1969) the speech act theory. The data for the study (victory/inaugural) were the first speech delivered by President Umaru Musa Yaradua in 2007. The selected speeches were extracted from specific portions of the speech, thus a total of ten sentences were selected comprising the first five and the last five making a total of forty speech acts (direct and indirect illocutionary acts). The study revealed that the president exploited fewer sentences to indicate the sincerity of his intentions. The study concludes that the speech act analysis of the political discourse of President Yaradua provided the understanding that political leaders in Nigeria perform various acts through their speeches which assist in the understanding and interpretation of the messages in their speeches. These political speeches reviewed above are either acceptance speeches or inaugural speech and none has addressed an issue of world health pandemic which this study seeks to address. This is where this study finds its relevance as it is to the best of knowledge of these researchers the first to address the COVID 19 health pandemic. Through this speech of the President of Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari, charted and directed a new course to the Nigeria nation about the preventive measures in containing the spread of the novel COVID 19 pandemic, and the future of Nigeria’s economy during and after the period of the lockdown.

3. Methodology and Theoretical Framework

This section presents and discusses the methodology, and framework deployed in this paper. The methodology is divided into: research design, sampling technique, method of data collection and method of data analysis, and the theoretical framework used for this study.

3.1 Research Design

This study adopts the qualitative research method, and descriptive survey method is used for the data analysis. Glesne Corrine (2011, p.39) opines that qualitative research design describes and explores meaning through text, narrative or visually based data. In qualitative research, the data are none numerical (Heigham & Croker, 2004 p.320). Rather the data is in the form of words, phrases, and sentences. Qualitative design is suitable for this study because it describes and analyzes President Muhammadu Buhari's Lockdown order during the Covid 19 pandemic.

3.2 Sampling Technique

The sample for this study is President Muhammadu Buhari's cumulative lockdown order of Federal Capital Territory (Abuja), Ogun and Lagos states on COVID 19 pandemic at the state house, Abuja on Monday, 27th April, 2020. The speech is divided into 14 texts which form the population of this study.

3.3 Instrument for Data Collection

The President's speech on the lockdown order of Federal Capital Territory, Ogun and Lagos states was downloaded from the internet. The researchers also sought for materials on Pragmatics from the library in order to carry out a detailed analysis of the speech using the speech act theory.

3.4 Method of Data Analysis

The data analysis is concerned with the 14 text speech of President Muhammadu Buhari, on the lockdown order using the speech act theory of John Searle (1969) to show how the president through his speech was able to encode his intended meanings to the Nigerian masses. Through the illocutionary acts of: assertive, commissive, expressive, directive and declarative, and also to find out the perlocutionary effects these speeches have on the Nigerian masses. Each illocutionary act is divided into direct and indirect Illocutionary act. In order to carry out a thorough analysis of Mr. President's lockdown order, the speech is divided into 14 texts for thorough analysis. The percentage of the direct and indirect illocutionary acts and speech act types were calculated and their frequencies were generated on a table, and presented on a pie chart.

3.5 Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework of any research work serves as the tool for analyzing the research's data. This study is anchored on (J.L. Austin 1962) and (Searle's 1969) speech act theory and will be used for the analysis and evaluation of President Muhamadu Buhari's cumulative lockdown order of Federal Capital Territory, Ogun and Lagos states on COVID 19 at the state house, Abuja on Monday, 27th April, 2020. The choice of this framework is borne out of the fact that people perform different actions through their words and when utterances are made a particular act is performed. This study adopts the categorization of illocutionary force of utterance as enunciated by (J.L. Austin 1962) and (Searle 1969) John Searle improved on Austin's classification of illocutionary act into verdictives, executives, commissive, behoites and expositive. He thus categorized the illocutionary act of utterance into five classes of: expressive, directive, assertive, commissive and declarative.

Expressive: this illocutionary act expresses a psychological state, which includes, thanking, apologizing, congratulating, welcoming and greeting.

Directive: this illocutionary act is an attempt by the speakers to get the addressee to do something, such as: ordering, requesting, begging, and questioning.

Assertive: this is also called representative; it commits a speaker to the truth of the same proposition. They are statements that describe a state of affairs in the world which include stating, claiming, reporting and announcing.

Commissive: this group of illocutionary act tends to commit the speaker to some future course of action which include promising, threatening, and swearing to do something.

Declarative: this class of illocutionary act effects immediate changes in the institutional state of affairs and tends to rely on elaborate linguistic institutions which include excommunicating, marrying, firing from employment, declaring a war, resigning, sentencing, dismissing, and christening.

4. Textual Analysis of the Lockdown Order

The analysis of the lockdown order of President Muhammadu Buhari is collapsed into 14 texts for the purpose of thorough analysis.

Text one -Locution: (the physical act of producing understandable utterances)

Fellow Nigeria, I will start by commending you all for your resilience and patriotism that you have shown in our collective fight against the biggest health challenge of our generation, as at yesterday 26th April 2020, some three million confirmed cases of COVID 19 have been recorded globally with nine hundred thousand recoveries unfortunately some two hundred thousand people have also died as a result of this pandemic. The health system and economics of many nations continue to struggle as a result of coronavirus pandemic. Nigeria continues to adopt and adapt to these new global realities on a daily basis. This evening, I will present the facts as they are and explain our plans for the coming month knowing fully aware that some key variables and assumptions may change in the coming days or weeks.

Source: www.thisdaylive.com>2020/04/27 (pg.1, para.1, lines.1-7)

Illocution: (what a speaker intends to achieve by producing a particular utterance). The President's utterance above has the direct illocutionary force of 'Expressive' the president commended Nigerians for their steadfastness in the face of world's biggest health challenge. The utterance also has the indirect illocutionary force of "Assertive" the president gave an update of the COVID 19 situation report worldwide.

Perlocution: (The cognitive or emotional effect of an illocutionary act has on the addressee(s). The president's speech has the perlocutionary effect of imbuing Nigerian citizens with hope that the COVID 19 pandemic is surmountable.

Text two -Locution: (the physical act of producing understandable utterances)

Exactly two weeks ago. There were there hundred and twenty – three confirmed cases in 20 state and the federal capital territory, as at this morning, Nigeria have recorded one thousand two hundred and seventy- three cases across 32 states and FCT, Unfortunately, these cases include 40 death fatalities. I will use this opportunity to express our deepest condolence to the families of all Nigerians that have lost their loved ones as a result of COVID 19 pandemic this is our collective loss and we share your grief.

Source: www.thisdaylive.com>2020/04/27 (pg. 1, para. 2, lines 8-10)

Illocution: (what a speaker intends to achieve by producing a particular utterance). The utterance above is directed by the president to Nigerians with the direct illocutionary force of 'expressive,' the President commiserated and consoled with the families of Nigerians who lost their family members as a result of the pandemic. The utterance also has the indirect illocutionary force of assertive, the president through his utterance announced the number of infected people and thus created awareness to the Nigerian citizens on the severity of the pandemic.

Per locution: (the cognitive or emotional effect an illocutionary act has on an addressee(s). The president's utterance has the perlocutionary effect of empathizing with Nigerians who lost 9 their lives in the pandemic, it also created the awareness on them to believe that COVID 19 is real.

Text three - Locution: (the physical act of producing understandable utterances)

Initial models predicted that Nigeria will record an estimated two thousand confirmed cases in the first month after the index case, this means that despite drastic increase in the number of confirmed cases recorded in the past two weeks, the measures we have put in place thus far have yielded positive outcome against projections.

Source: www.thisdaylive.com>2020/04/27 (pg. 1, para. 3, lines, 11-12)

Illocution: (what a speaker intends to achieve by producing a particular utterance). The above utterance has the direct illocutionary force of "assertive" affirming the initial prediction about Nigeria on the pandemic. The utterance also has the indirect illocutionary force of 'expressive' he expressed his gratitude to the Nigerian center for Disease control, and other health workers whose contribution in fighting COVID 19 has yielded a positive result. Per locution: (the cognitive or emotional effect an illocutionary act has on an addressee(s).

Per locution: (the cognitive or emotional effect an illocutionary act has on the address(s) The president's utterance has the perlocutionary force of inspiration and optimism on the Nigerian masses.

Text four-Locution: (the physical act of producing understandable utterances)

The proportion of cases imported from other countries have reduced to only 19% of new cases, showing that our border closures yielded positive result. These are mostly fellow Nigeria returning through our land borders. We will continue to enforce land board arrival protocols as part of the containment strategy. Today, the Nigeria Centre for disease control (NCDC) has credited 15 laboratories across the country with an aggregate capacity to undertake 2,500 test per day across the country.

Source: www.thisdaylive.com>2020/04/27 (pg.1, para.4, lines 12-15)

Illocution: (what a speaker intends to achieve by producing a particular utterance). The above utterance has a direct illocutionary force of “assertive” the president reports to Nigerians on the current COVID 19 status of Nigeria, the utterance also has an indirect illocutionary act of “commissive” in it the president reiterated the government’s commitment to ensure proper COVID 19 screening protocols of immigrants at the countries borders.

Per locution: (the cognitive or emotional effect an illocutionary act has on an addressee(s) in reality) the above illocutionary act of the president created awareness on the Nigerian populace on the novel COVID 19, the activities of the government to contain its spread.

Text five-Locution: (the physical act of producing understandable utterances)

Based on your feed-back Lagos state government and FCT with support from NCDC have established several sample collection centers in Lagos and FCT, they are also reviewing their laboratory testing strategy to further increase the number of tests they can perform including the accreditation of selected private laboratories that meet the accreditation criteria. Several new fully equipped treatment Centers have been operationalized across the country thereby increasing bed capacity to about three thousand, at this point, I will commend the state governors for the activation of state level emergency operation centers, establishment of new treatment centers and the delivery of aggressive risk of communication strategies. Over ten thousand health care workers have been trained, for their protection additional personal protective equipment have been distributed to all the states. Although we have experienced logistic challenges we remain committed to establishing a solid supply chain process to ensure that these heroic professionals can work safely and are properly equipped. In keeping with our government’s promise to improve the well- fare of health care workers we have signed a memorandum of understanding on the provision of hazard allowances and other incentives with key health sector professional associations we have also procured insurance cover for five thousand frontline health workers. At this point I must commend the insurance sector for their support in achieving this within a short period of time.

Source: www.thisdaylive.com>2020/04/27 (pg.2, para.5, lines.16-25)

Illocution: (what a speaker intends to achieve by producing a particular utterance). The utterance above has a direct illocutionary force of “assertive”, affirming the president’s desire to intimate the public of the government’s commitment in the fight against COVID19 through the establishment of new testing centers in Lagos and FCT. The speech also has the indirect illocutionary force of “commissive” the government is committed to the establishment of several accredited private testing centers all over the nation to checkmate the spread of the COVID 19 pandemic.

Per locution: (the cognitive or emotional effect an illocutionary act has on an addressee(s). the speech has the perlocutionary force of hope on Nigerians.

Text six-Locution: (the physical act of producing understandable utterances)

Nigeria has also continued to receive support from the International community multilateral agencies, the private sector and public spirited individuals. This support has ensured that critical lifesaving equipment and materials, which have been scarce globally, are available for Nigeria through original equipment manufacturers and government to government processes.

Source: www.thisdaylive.com>2020/04/27 ((pg.2, Para.6, lines.25-27)

Illocution: (what a speaker intends to achieve by producing a particular utterance). The text has the direct illocutionary force of assertive, the president affirms the receipt of financial and material assistance from highly placed and concerned individuals, international communities and agencies. It also has the indirect illocutionary force of expressive, the president expresses his gratitude to the donors.

Per locution: (the cognitive and emotional effect an illocutionary act has on an addressee(s). The perlocutionary effect of the text on the masses is that of hope believing that the scourge of the pandemic will soon be a thing of the past.

Text seven - Locution: (the physical act of producing understandable utterances)

The distribution and expansion of palliatives which I directed in my earlier broadcast is still ongoing in a transparent manner I am mindful of the seeming frustration being faced by expectant citizens. I urge all potential beneficiaries to excise patience as we continue to fine tune our logistical and distribution process working with the state government. I have directed the centre bank of Nigeria and other financial institutions to make further plans and provisions for financial stimulus packages for small and medium scale enterprises, we recognize the critical role that they play in Nigeria economy.

Source: www.thisdaylive.com>2020/04/27 (pg.2, Para.7, lines.28-30)

Illocution: (what the speaker intends to achieve by producing a particular utterance). The text has the direct illocutionary force of directive, the president encouraged Nigerians to exercise patience on the distribution of palliatives. The text also has the indirect illocutionary force of assertive, the president announced his plans on how to alleviate the sufferings of the masses due to COVID 19 pandemic.

Per locution: (the cognitive and emotional effect the illocutionary act has on the addressee(s). The effect of the speech on the masses is unflinching hope on the government's ability to defeat the COVID 19 pandemic.

Text eight - Locution: (the physical act of producing understandable utterances)

Our Security Agencies continue to rise to the challenge posed by this unusual situation. While we feel deeply concerned about isolated security incidents involving hoodlums and miscreants. I want to assure all Nigerians that your safety and security remains our primary concern especially in these exceedingly difficult and uncertain times. As we focus on protecting lives and properties. We will not tolerate any human right abuses by our security agencies. The few reported incidences are regrettable, and I want to assure you that the culprits will be brought to justice. I urge all Nigerians to continue to cooperate and show understanding when they encounter security agents. Furthermore, for their protection, I have instructed the personnel of the Security Agencies be provided with the necessary personal protective equipment for their own protection.

Source: www.thisdaylive.com>2020/04/27 (pg.2, para.8, lines. 29-34)

Illocution: (what a speaker intends to achieve by producing a particular utterance). The above text has a direct illocutionary force of "commissive" the president reassures Nigerians of his government's commitment to protect lives and property. The utterance also has the indirect illocutionary force of "directive" he pleaded with Nigerians to cooperate with security agencies.

Per locution: (the cognitive and emotional effect an illocutionary act has on an addressee(s). The president's speech gave the Nigerian masses the hope of surmounting the COVID 19 pandemic.

Text nine-Locution: (the physical act of producing understandable utterances)

As we continue to streamline our response in the epicentre of Lagos and FCT I am concerned about the unfortunate development in Kano in recent days. Although an in-depth investigation is still ongoing we have decided to deploy additional Federal Government human, material and technical resources to strengthen and support the State Government's efforts. We will commence implementation immediately in Kano and many other states that are recording new cases. Preliminary findings show that such cases are mostly from inter- state travel and emerging community transmission. Drawing from this I implore all Nigerians to continue to adhere strictly to the advisories published by the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control. These include regular washing of hand washing, social physical distancing, wearing of face mask/covering in public, avoidance of non-essential movement and travel and avoidance of large gathering remain paramount.

Source: www.thisdaylive.com>2020/04/27 (pg.2-3, para. 9, lines.35-40)

Illocution: (what a speaker intends to achieve by producing a particular utterance). The president's utterance above has the direct illocutionary force of "assertive" in it the president is reporting the extent of damage caused by the pandemic in Kano state and the support given to the Kano state government by the federal government. The utterance also has the indirect illocutionary force of "directive" the president advised Nigerians to adhere to safety measures in order to protect and prevent the spread of the deadly virus.

Per locution: (the cognitive and emotional effect an illocutionary act has on an addressee(s). The utterances above have the perlocutionary effect of Hope of the possibility of overcoming the pandemic.

Text ten-Locution: (the physical act of producing understandable utterances)

Fellow Nigerians, for the past four weeks, most parts of our country have been under either Federal Government or State Government lockdowns. As I mentioned earlier, these steps were necessary and overall have contributed to slowing down the spread of COVID nineteen in Nigeria. However such lockdowns have also come at a very heavy economic cost. Many of our citizens have lost their means of livelihoods. Many businesses have also shot down. No country can afford the full impact of a sustained lockdown while awaiting the development of vaccines or cures.

Source: www.thisdaylive.com>2020/04/27 (pg.3, para.10, lines. 40-45)

Illocution: (what a speaker intends to achieve by producing a particular utterance). The utterance above has a direct illocutionary force of "assertive" the president reports the overall situation in the nation as a result of the COVID

19 pandemic. The utterance also has the indirect illocutionary force of “expressive” the president empathizes with Nigerians on the hardship caused by the pandemic.

Per locution: (the cognitive or emotional effect an illocutionary act has on an addressee(s). The effect of the utterance on Nigerians is that of awareness of the preventive measures of COVID 19.

Text eleven-Locution: (the physical act of producing understandable utterances)

In my last address, I mentioned the Federal Government will develop strategies and policies that will protect lives while preserving livelihoods. In these two weeks, the Federal and State governments have jointly and collaboratively worked hard on this how to balance the need to protect health while also protecting livelihoods, leveraging global best practices while keeping in mind our peculiar circumstances. We looked at assessing how our factories, markets, traders and transporters can continue to function while at the same time respecting adhering to the NCDC guidelines on hygiene and social distancing. We assess how our children can continue to learn without compromising their health. We reviewed how our farmers can safely plant and harvest in this rainy season to ensure our food security is not compromised. Furthermore, we also discussed how to safely transport food items from rural production areas to industrial processing zones and ultimately to the key consumption centers. Our goal is to develop implementable policies that will ensure our economy continues to function with while still maintaining our aggressive response to the COVID nineteen pandemic these same difficult decision are being faced by leaders around the world.

Source: www.thisdaylive.com>2020/04/27 (pg. 3, para. 11, lines. 45-52)

Illocution: (what a speaker intends to achieve by producing a particular utterance). The above utterance has the direct illocutionary force of “assertive,” (stating) in it the president intimated Nigerians of the government’s plans on how to gradually ease the lockdown to ensure that the suffering of the masses is reduced to the barest minimum. The text also has the Indirect - illocutionary force of “commissive”, (assuring). The president affirms government’s commitment to the welfare of Nigerians during the lockdown.

Per locution: (the cognitive and emotional effect of an illocutionary act has on the addressee(s). The utterance gave the citizens hope, and made them to look at the future with optimism.

Text twelve - Locution: (the physical act of producing understandable utterances)

Based on the above and in line with the recommendations of the presidential task force on COVID 19, the various Federal Government Committees that have reviewed socio-economic matters and the Nigeria Governors Forum, I have approved for a phased and gradual easing of lock down in FCT, Lagos and Ogun states effective from Saturday, 2nd may, 2020 at 9.am However, this will be followed strictly with aggressive reinforcement of testing and contact tracing measures while allowing the restoration of some economic and business activities in certain sectors. The highlight of the new nationwide measures are as follows; a. selected business and offices can open from 9am to 6pm; there will be an overnight curfew from 8pm to 6am. This means that all movements are prohibited during this period except essential services. There will be a ban on none essential inter – state passenger travels until further notice; there will be partial and controlled interstate movement of goods and services. The movement of goods and services from producers to consumers; and we will strictly ensure the mandatory use of face mask or coverings in the public in addition to maintaining physical distancing and personal hygiene. Furthermore, the restrictions on social and religious gathering shall remain in place. State governments, corporate organizations and philanthropists are encouraged to support the production of cloth mask for citizens. For the avoidance of doubt, the lockdown in the FCT, Lagos and Ogun states shall subsist remain in place until these new ones come into effect on Saturday, 2nd May 2020 at 9am. The Presidential task Force shall provide sector specific details and timing guidelines to allow for preparations by governments, business and institutions.

Source: www.thisdaylive.com>2020/04/27 (Pg.3-4, Para.12, lines. 52-63)

Illocution: (what a speaker intends to achieve by producing a particular utterance). The utterance has a direct illocutionary force of “assertive” (stating) the president enumerated the modalities of the ease of lockdown. It also has the indirect illocutionary force of “directive” the president informs Nigerians of his order for the easing of lockdown of Lagos, FCT, and Ogun state.

Per locution: (the cognitive and emotional effect of an illocutionary act on an addressee (s). The effect of the utterance on the masses is happiness and optimism.

Text thirteen - Locution: (the physical act of producing understandable utterances)

The above guidelines the state governors may choose to amend adapt and expand based on their unique circumstances provided they maintain alignment with the guidelines issued above on public health and hygiene. The revised guidelines though will not apply to Kano state. The total lockdown recently announced by the state government shall remain enforced for the full duration. The federal government shall deploy all the necessary human, material and technical resources to support the state in controlling and containing the pandemic.

Source: www.thisdaylive.com>2020/04/27 (pg.4, Para.13, lines. 64-66)

Illocution: (what a speaker intends to achieve by producing a particular utterance). The utterance has the direct illocutionary force of “assertive”, the president announced the guidelines for the ease of the lockdown, it also has the indirect illocutionary force “commissive”, the president promised that the government will give material support to Kano state.

Per locution: (the cognitive and emotional effect of an illocutionary act an addressee(s). The perlocutionary effect on Nigerians is Hope.

Text fourteen-Locution: (the physical act of producing understandable utterances)

I wish to once again commend the frontline workers across the country who, on a daily basis, risk everything to ensure we win this fight. For those who got infected in the line of duty be rest assured that government will do all it takes to support you and your families during this exceedingly difficult period. I will also take this opportunity to assure you all that your safety, wellbeing and welfare remains paramount to our government. I will also recognize the support we have received from our traditional rulers, the Christian. Association of Nigeria, the Nigeria Super Council for Islamic Affairs, and other prominent religious and community leaders. Your cooperation and support has significantly contributed to the success we have recorded to date. I will urge you all to please continue to create awareness on the seriousness of corona virus among your worshippers and communities while appealing that they strictly comply with public health advisories. I will also thank the Nigeria governors’ forum and presidential task force for all their hard work to date. Through this collaboration, I remain confident that success is achievable. I also wish to thank corporate organization, philanthropists, the UN family the European Union, friendly nations, the media and other partners that have taken up the responsibility of supporting our response. And finally, I will thank all Nigerians again for your patience and co-operation during this difficult and challenging period. I assure you that government shall continue to take all necessary measures to protect the lives and livelihoods of our citizens and residents. I thank you for listening and God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Source: www.thisdaylive.com>2020/04/27 (pg.4, Para. 14, lines. 67-75)

Illocution: (what a speaker intends to achieve by producing a particular utterance).the utterance has the direct illocutionary force of “expressive” the president expressed his gratitude to front line health workers, religious bodies, philanthropists etc. for their contribution in the fight against the scourge, it also have the indirect illocutionary force of “commissive”, the President assured Nigerians of the government’s commitment to ensure that lives and property are protected during the pandemic.

Per locution: (The cognitive and emotional effect of an illocutionary act on the addressee(s). The perlocutionary effect of the utterance to the Nigerian masses is hopefulness.

5. Result/Findings

As earlier stated somewhere in this paper, the lockdown order of President Muhammadu Buhari is a political speech which he used to chart a new course of direction to Nigerians on how to prevent and control the spread of the COVID 19 pandemic that is ravaging the entire human race. The result of this study has shown that the president made use of a total of four speech acts in his lockdown order/speech, these are: assertive, expressive, commissive and directive. The President made use of mainly assertive illocutionary acts which has a frequency of fifteen and recorded the highest score of (42%) of all the speech acts, to affirm, announce, report and state the extent of damages already done by the pandemic the world over including Nigeria and how to go about the pandemic. Expressive and commissive have frequency of eight each, and came second highest respectively by recording (22%) each, he used the expressive speech act to commend, praise and show his gratitude to Nigerians for their resilience and cooperation, and also express his gratitude to religious bodies, corporate bodies and other well-meaning Nigerians who have in one way or the other supported the government in the fight against the COVID 19 pandemic. He used the commissive speech act to promise and reiterate the government’s commitment in ensuring the welfare of Nigerians during the fight against COVID 19. Directive speech act has the frequency of five and has the lowest score of (14%). He used this speech act to appeal, urge and persuade Nigerians to observe the COVID 19 preventive measures and also to direct government agencies on how to alleviate the sufferings of

Nigerians during the lockdown. The perlocutionary effects of President Muhammadu Buhari's lockdown speech on Nigerians are: hope, optimism, compliance and awareness. The speech imbued Nigerians with the hope of overcoming the pandemic and made them to look out into the future with optimism, it also made Nigerians to comply with measures of preventing and controlling the spread of the COVID 19, owing to the fact that the speech created much awareness about the existence of the disease even to people that are hitherto in doubt of its existence.

Table 1. Summary table of the relative frequency and percentage of speech acts of the lockdown order

SPEECH ACT. DIRECT AND INDIRECT	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Assertive	15	42
Expressive	08	22
Commissive	08	22
Directive	08	14
TOTAL NO OF SP ACTS	36	100

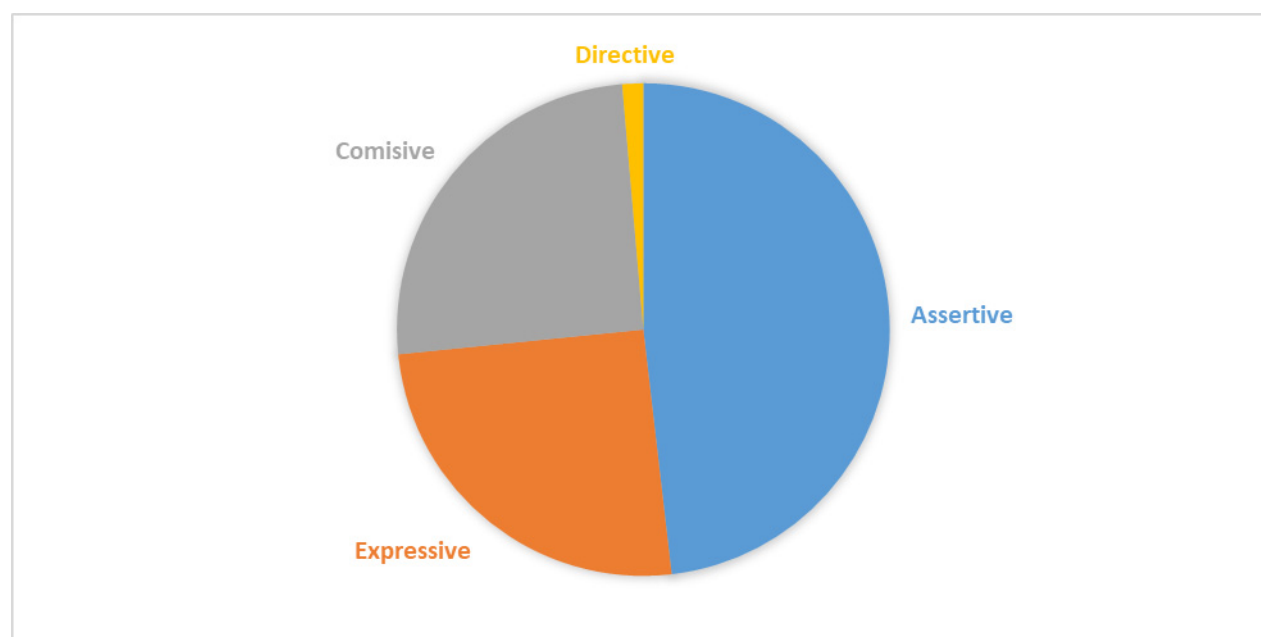


Figure 1. pie chart of percentage of speech act of the lock down order

6. Discussion

This study has successfully carried out a pragmatic analysis of President Muhammadu Buhari's lockdown order of Lagos, Ogun State and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja on Monday 27th April, 2020. The President made use of four speech acts: assertive, expressive, commissive and directive to convey his messages to Nigerians. Assertive speech act recorded the highest frequency by occurring fifteen times in the speech and recorded 42% this is followed by commissive and expressive both has a frequency of eight and recorded 22% each and finally the directive speech act which has a frequency of five and 14%. The perlocutionary effect of the president's speech on Nigerians is that of hope and optimism.

7. Conclusion

The aim of this study which is to ascertain the perlocutionary effect of President Muhammadu Buhari's Lockdown order on Nigerians, this has been achieved by applying J.L Austin (1962) and Searle (1975) speech acts. This is meant to explore the language use of politicians and shown the need for political leaders to be in constant touch with their subjects. This paper is a none electioneering, and none inaugural political discourse under pragmatics. We suggest further researches from the areas of critical discourse analysis and stylistic and comparative studies of political speeches of heads of government and political officer holders.

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