

# Textual Organization for Effective and Meaningful Communication: A Focus on the Speeches of Muhammadu Buhari

Idegbekwe Destiny<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Institute of Foundation Studies, Federal University, Otuoke, Bayelsa State, Nigeria

Correspondence: Idegbekwe Destiny, Institute of Foundation Studies, Federal University, Otuoke, Bayelsa State, Nigeria

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## Abstract

Texts are not just texts. Texts are considered texts because of the structure and organization they have. Many linguists do not pay attention to the structure of the text instead attention is paid to the nature of delivery and other aspects of the text. Thereby leaving a vacuum as to what is the internal build of a text. In response to this, the present study presents an analysis of the textual patterns of four of Buhari's speeches focusing on the textual patterning models of problem to solution, General to Specific and Claim to Counter Claim. The purpose of the study is to unravel the technique behind the arrangement of ideas in the speeches. The study adopts Hoey's theory of textual patterning as the theoretical framework and reveals amongst others that in the problem to solution model, more problems are presented in Speech A and C which were presented in Nigeria against Speech B and D presented in the United States and in Ethiopia respectively. The problems presented in Speech A and C are local and remote problems related to Nigerians alone while the problems presented in Speech B and D have global links as they affect many countries. The study also discovers that the provision of a futuristic solution in the Problem to Solution Model of Textual Patterning acts as a pointer to the present situation even if it was not stated expressly and the use specificity in the general to specific model acts as a form of reinforcement on the information value of the general statement.

**Keywords:** Texts, Communication, Speeches, Muhammadu Buhari

## 1. Introduction

One important characteristic or nature of the human language is the fact that it is structural. That is to say languages exist in different layers which combines to aid communication. Many definitions which Linguists have given in the past for language affirm the fact that language is an organized and systematic code geared toward communication. One of such definitions comes from Pyles. According to him, language is a systematized combinations of sounds which have meaning for all persons in a given community (44). Also, Barber says a human language is a signaling system which uses vocal sounds as materials (24). The two definitions of language above clearly highlight the fact that language exists in a systematic form. Being systematic here means that language has a definite structure which aids communication. One element which is fundamental to the structure of every language is the textual patterning in the language which helps the language users to develop a text. A text according to Halliday, is anything that is spoken or written which is of whatever length and forms a unified whole and can be used for discourse (1). It therefore means that every instance of language use produces texts which are built from different resources and means.

Hoey, argues that there are three common patterns with which users of the English language build their texts. These common patterns include: problem-solution pattern, claim-counterclaim and general-specific. The problem-solution pattern consists of four basic elements: situation (within which there is a complication or problem), problem (within the situation, requiring a response), response or solution (to the evaluation or result (of the response/solution). The Claim problem) and counterclaim is one where a series of claims and contrasting counterclaims is presented in relation to a given issue and the General-specific pattern is one in which a generalization is followed by more specific statements and perhaps might end with a broader generalization. The presentation of a speech and its writing is an instance of language use which invariably qualifies as a text because through them, one can communicate ones feelings, ideas, opinions, likes, dislikes etc.

So, when people speak, the listeners get the meaning if there is linguistic co-operation in the text. The linguistic co-operation in a text using the structural patterns identified by Hoey helps the audience to understand a text better. The speeches of President Muhammadu Buhari of Nigeria are instances of language use and text building. As an instance of language use, Buhari carefully develops his speech text using the textual building resources of problem-solution pattern, claim-counterclaim and general-specific through the use of cohesive devices.

It is therefore against this background that this present study is hinged on: the major aim is to investigate the textual building elements in President Buhari's speeches. Other researchers in the past have investigated how these textual building elements operate in newspaper articles, story books, students' essays and other fields of writing. It still remains obscure today as regards the ways in which the textual building elements of problem-solution pattern, claim-counterclaim and general-specific are used in speeches and the speeches of Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari.

### *1.1 Theoretical Framework*

The theoretical framework we have adopted for this study is Michael Hoey's text patterning theory of textual analysis. Holland and Johnson points out that text patterning attempts to describe written discourse at a level beyond the grammatical sentence. Hence, patterns in English discourse include problem to solution, claim to counterclaim and general to specific. Assuming that people naturally adhere to certain rules and norms when they create texts, McCarthy argues that "most texts display links from sentence to sentence in terms of grammatical features such as pronominalisation, ellipsis, and conjunctions of various kinds" (25). This is to say that the study or creation of a text takes account its formal characteristics, its structure and its grammatical and lexical choices.

In the analyzing a text, Hoey is of the opinion that the formal features which helps in developing the text should be taken note of as they contribute immensely in the thought and communication process. He identifies three traditional means by which a text is created or patterned and we are going to look as each of these patterns in details. McCarthy believed that "Textual patterns are manifested in regularly occurring functional relationships between bits of the text", which "may be a clause, sometimes a sentence, sometimes a whole paragraph" (28). Hoey held that interconnections between packages of information "have to be interpreted as descriptions of culturally popular patterns of organization" (193). They both maintained that there may exist many textual patterns between textual segments like "problem-solution", "general-specific", "claim-counterclaim", and "question-answer". From an overview of the study on textual patterns for discourse interpretation, Hoey and McCarthy deal with them at the level of paragraph and we intend to follow this form in our study. McCarthy holds that "Patterns in text are generated by the vocabulary relations that are found over clause and sentence boundaries, and by the role of certain words in signaling their structure" (86). According to Xiu-kun and Yong, textual patterns differ from one another in the number of structural elements and organizers, but they may share some organizers. Moreover, in a larger discourse, two or more textual patterns can be found either one following another or one embedded in another. The analysis of textual patterns and organizers are only confined to the length of a natural paragraph for convenience. (1205)

### *1.2 Problem-Solution*

This pattern has been commonly identified as important among the several linguistic scholars although they did not clearly label it. Hoey mentions Grime's analysis which concludes that both the plots of fairy tales and the writings of scientists are built on a response pattern, and have in common the problem and solution to the problem in configuration (27). However, most of the details of how this relationships have been left unanswered. Winter first developed this technique for analysing the Problem-Solution structure. This pattern is comprised of Situation (Where did the event occur?), Problem (What requires attention in the situation?), Response (How did the characters/author respond to the event?), Evaluation/Result (How successful was this response?) and Solution (How was the problem addressed?). The 'Problem-Solution' pattern is a typical pattern of discourse and is frequently found in advertising texts which aim to convince consumers to solve their problems through the purchasing of the said products (McCarthy, 31).

### *1.3 General-Specific*

This is the pattern, in which a general description is followed by a more detailed description with specific information. The general specific pattern is characterized by the following macro structure:

General statement	General statement↓	↓ Specific
statement 1	Specific statement ↓	↓ Specific
statement 2	Even more specific↓	↓ Specific
statement 3	Even more specific↓	↓ etc....
etc.... ↓		

(McCarthy, 158)

The macro structure of the general to specific pattern works in such a way that the text presents a series of general statements which are mostly vague and wide; and could possibly leave the listeners confused but in return, to reduce the confusion, the text or the speaker becomes more specific with the information being relayed. This can move the audience from the unknown to the known.

#### 1.4 Claim-Counterclaim

Claim-counterclaim pattern is constituted of: situation → claim → reason → affirm → evaluation (Hoey, 180). To respond to the claim, the writer can support or deny it with corresponding reasons or evidences. If the response is not positive, correction usually follows accompanied by reasons. Claim-counterclaim is often found in rebuttal letters or letters-to-the editor 'where a series of claims and contrasting counterclaims is presented in relation to a given issue' (Coulthard, 23). This pattern is also referred to as the 'hypothetical-real' (McCarthy, 2001). When the writer needs to show some doubt or uncertainty, he indicates this through signs of hypotheticality. McCarthy cites Jordan's list of signaling words used in 'claim –counterclaim' pattern such as according to, appears, arguably, might, estimated...and so on (80). The pattern contains at least three elements: 'claim', 'counter-claim' and 'common ground' which reveals similarity or what is in common between the two opposing assertions. Each element makes use of specific lexical items to signal its message:

Claim: argue, assertive, state, view, etc.

Counter-claim: contest, reject, etc.

Common ground: accept, admit, agree, similarity, etc.

What we are going to do in this study is to look at the three patterns above in the speech of President Muhammadu Buhari to investigate how he builds the speech from these elements.

## 2. Review of Related Literature

In this section, we would focus on highlighting studies that have been done on the speeches of former Nigerian leaders in particular and world leaders in general. Ayoola, studies the speech of President Obasanjo during his popular third term agenda bid. With insights from critical discourse analysis, the author reveals that President Obasanjo's speech was laden with his views and ambitions which were made transparent by the rhetorical strategies deployed by the elder statesman. The specific linguistic resources used by the speaker were given as deixis, emotive lexis, campaign diction (cliché, platitudes and mere rhetoric), Nigerian English political lexicon, military lexicon and military syntax. All of these features betrayed the ambition of the then President who wittingly had plans to go for an unconstitutional third term. Ayoola captures this succinctly by stating that 'The President's choice of words, their lexical set and collocations point to a hidden agenda at best or a sit-tight syndrome at worst'.

Adedun and Atolagbe also examine the discourse of Chief Olusegun Obasanjo's farewell speech to Nigerians in 2007 where he presented former President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua as the best candidate to succeed him as President of Nigeria. The authors analyse the speech drawing on the speech act theory and making recourse to the socio-political situation of the country and the personal health challenges of President Yar'adua which culminated into his death on May 5th 2010. The paper shows that the speech was characterised by the preponderant use of assertive for the persuasion and mobilisation of Nigerians to support Umaru Musa Yar'adua. General Obasanjo in the speech presented Alhaji Yar'adua as the solution to Nigeria's problem and the best candidate that can deliver quality administration to the Nigerian people. However, the paper argues that based on the unfortunate happenings after the emergence of Yar'adua, especially regarding his failing health, President Obasanjo must have been insincere about his proclamation that Yar'adua was the best candidate for presidency at that time. The paper concludes that having been aware of the health problems of Yar'adua before presenting him to Nigerians, Obasanjo must have been acting in a way that promoted his personal interest above the national interest.

Ayeomoni and Akinkuolere carry out a pragmatic analysis of victory and inaugural speeches of President Musa Yar'Adua. Using the speech act theory of Austin (1962) and Searle (1969), the study focused on the locutionary, illocutionary and perlocutionary acts of the speeches, with a view to determining the predominant pattern of

pragmatic moves in the speech. The paper shows that Umaru Musa Yar'Adua deployed speech acts such as assertives, directives, expressives, verdictives, commissives and declaratives but featured most prominently assertives as sixty percent of his sentences were assertives. The paper further shows that the President used vindictive and directive acts to assert his authority and exercise his power as the President while using less of the expressive act; thus backgrounding his real intentions for the Nigerian nation.

Abuya also analyses President Goodluck Jonathan's inaugural speech from a pragmasylistic perspective with a view to describing the linguistic acts in the speech. Using the speech act theory of Austin (1962) and Searle (1969), the study focuses on the locutionary, illocutionary and perlocutionary acts in the speech. The paper reveals that President Jonathan's inaugural speech contained assertive, verdictive, commissive and declarative, even though he used sentences that performed more commissive acts than other speech acts. Therefore, it is evident that the President made a lot of promises to the people in appreciation of their support for him during his electioneering campaign which culminated in his election.

Ogunmuyiwa studies a Critical Discourse Analysis of Corruption in Presidential Speeches in Nigeria. The study explores and analyzes the discursive positioning of corruption by two successive Nigerian presidents - Umaru Musa Yar'Adua and Goodluck Jonathan - using their two official speeches as data. Following Halliday's system of Transitivity (Halliday, 1978, 1985, 1993) and Fairclough's three-tier analytical framework grounded in Critical Discourse Analysis (1989, 1992, 1995), Ogunmuyiwa argues that official speeches of presidents (particularly in Nigeria) can discursively reveal their commitment to fighting corruption. Also, the instruments of language can be used tactically absolve themselves from corruption. Literature on corruption especially in the field of social sciences is very substantial particularly in the aspects of its prevalence, negative impacts on the country's socio-economic, political and public life. This appears to be more worrisome juxtaposing the country's enormous natural resources and human capital cum the poor living conditions of many Nigerians. The representation of corruption, its negotiation, and perpetration are foregrounded through discourse. Just as corruption is a social phenomenon (e.g. Khondker, 2006; Collier, 2002), discourse is also a social practice (e.g. Fairclough, 1992).

Ogunmuyiwa observed from the literature review he carried out in the study that none of the works on corruption in Nigeria has engaged in a critical study of corruption using the texts from the Nigeria's presidential speeches. A few studies of presidential speeches has focused on the use of personal pronouns (Bello, 2013); declaration of interest to contest presidential elections (Kamalu and Agangan, 2012), and on features derived from pragmatics (Ayemoni and Akinkuolere, 2012). Thus, knowledge is relatively inadequate regarding how the resources of language employed in the speeches of Nigerian presidents reveal how presidents position corruption and themselves in their official speeches. It is also interesting that corruption is discursively investigated through the speeches of the political class who are often accused of corruption.

At the end of the data analysis in Ogunmuyiwa study, it concludes that the way in which grammatical clauses are constructed in relation to corruption is aimed at foregrounding it as the major problem facing Nigeria. The number of clauses on corruption and the way in which the issues of corruption is addressed can lead to certain generalizations. Through the speech, we see that corruption exists in Nigeria and it is discursively presented in texts in certain ways. Secondly, the representation of the phenomenon in the speeches appears to be skewed. None of the presidents make specific reference to individuals or organizations in their government as responsible for corruption. Their speeches appear to have been built on the cognitive resources of Nigerians; which is meant to narrow the dynamics of the phenomenon rather than encapsulating all its aspects in life of the nation. According to him:

Looking at individual president, we see that Yar'Adua may have considered corruption as a problem more than Jonathan. This is not only because he laments the phenomenon of corruption more than Jonathan but also the ability to flaunt his achievement through the recovery of 'over N400 billion from unspent capital releases to Ministries, Departments, and Agencies' and expression of personal commitment which are not found in Jonathan's. The only clause specifically says something about corruption in his Independence Day speech – We are waging a steady battle against poverty, unemployment and corruption - is only performing a speech act of 'informing'. Interestingly, the phenomenon of poverty and unemployment is a shared knowledge in Nigeria, and people need not to be told of these effects. Moreover, the assertion may be questionable as people need not be informed if real 'battle against poverty, unemployment and corruption' is actually happening. Other clauses in his speeches appear to have been misrepresented in relation to the reality on ground. As a president, he has the constitutional power to make national broadcasts – the power which other participants may not have to be able react, especially, using the same context. When issues that

are available in the public domain are apparently misrepresented by a president, it may be to achieve certain political gains. (47)

For the two presidents, however, it appears that the emphasis on corruption reduced by the passage of time. This raises a fundamental question. The context of the inaugural speeches is different from that of Independence Day speech. At the beginning of a government, a president might assume office with the determination to fight corruption, and in the process of government he may have seen certain obstacles threatening such determination. He may also find himself encircled in certain forms of corruption. This, in turn, may affect the discourse and the content of such discourse.

In another study, Enyi and Chitulu does a study on the lexical cohesion in Nigeria's President Goodluck Jonathan's Inaugural Address. Guided by the theoretical postulations of Halliday's tripartite meta functions of language: the ideational, the interpersonal and the textual, with closer affinity to the textual metafunction that has to do with text creation, Enyi and Chitulu presented cohesion to be a textual quality, attained through the use of grammatical and lexical elements that enable readers to perceive semantic relationships within and between sentences.

Specifically, the study concentrated on the various lexical cohesive devices the President used to bring his message and intentions to the forecourt of the listeners' and readers' attention. The basic finding was that the President made preponderant use of :lexical repetitions, synonyms and near synonyms, superordinate/ hyponyms and the various shades of oppositeness in language use, in fleshing out the details of his text and making the text to say what it intends to say. In a more general term, Enyi and Chitulu discovers that producers of political discourse normally have particular intentions and aims. According to them, these aims are not far from convincing, conscientizing and swaying, their target audience to their side on various issues, subjects or particular demands. To achieve these, it was discovered that they use a properly crafted, well- articulated, tightly knit coherent body of discourse rich in cohesive ties and other linguistic elements that give their texts texture.

Also, Olajoke focuses on the lexical analysis of the inaugural speech of the speaker of Benue State House of Assembly in Nigeria. The study investigated the pattern and functions of lexical devices in the inaugural speech of the Speaker of State House of Assembly as an avenue to expand the frontiers of knowledge on language of politics by legislators and analysed based on the Lexical Cohesion theory of Halliday and Hassan. The Olajoke's study reflected that legislators employed lexical cohesive devices such as repetition, synonymy, antonym, collocation, and super ordination to achieve certain purposes such as interconnectivity, directness, emphasis, appreciation and appeal in the process of negotiating meaning in their use of language. The connectedness that is brought to fore in lexical analysis is not important for its own sake but for its usefulness in aiding meaning. As observed from the study, the use of lexical cohesive devices makes a legislature discourse to be easily interpreted as a result of the predominant use of indigenous language in the state to cater for different parties with different linguistic background from Tiv ethnic group because the audience were predominantly people of Benue. These lexical devices emphasize feelings, and expressions for purpose of clarification.

Adetunji conducts a study a study on the politics of inclusion and exclusion in political discourse paying huge attention on the use of deixis in Olusegun Obasanjo's speeches. From this study, we discover that two speeches by the same speaker are scarcely similar in terms in the use of deitic items. The uses of deitic items vary with speech situation. Adetunji in a similar way analyse two speeches of Obasanjo and reveals that there is an essential difference between the situation of deixis in texts A and B. he further notes that:

While the speaker in Text A seeks an acceptance from and collaboration with the audience, the speaker rejects the ways of and vilifies the referent 'he', in text B. Text A is thus speaker inclusive, a macro-text of 'inclusion.' And because the speaker in text B finds fault with the person he escribes by means of what scholars have variously conceptualized as 'discrediting tact...text B represents a self-exclusive speaker. Text B is, as such, a macro-text of 'exclusion'. (188)

In another study, Taiwo examines the use of metaphors in the Nigerian political discourse. The study is from the conceptual perspective, describing how politicians and political commentators use them as rhetorical strategy to present their message. The study identify three key issues that are the focus of conceptual metaphors in Nigerian political discourse—nation, politician and politics. The nation, which is what politician struggle to govern, is conceptualized as a person by giving her some human attributes. This is similar to Lakoff's claim that the 'nation as a family' metaphor is very common in political discourse. He identifies the conceptual metaphor of the politician as a builder describing how Nigerian politicians portray themselves as the builders of the nation. Lastly, Taiwo reveals that politicians in Nigeria present the metaphor pf politics as a journey or as a battle. That is a battle against social-economic problems and a journey towards nationhood, respectively.

If there is any study that is close to the present study, it is the research carried out by Sharndama on the 2015 inaugural speech of President Buhari. Sharndama's research focuses on a critical analyses of the inaugural Speech of President Muhammadu Buhari which was delivered shortly after his swearing into office on the 29th May, 2015. In carrying out the analysis, Sharndama uses Norman Furlough's three dimensional Analytical Models. Following the model, the speech was subjected to description (text analysis), interpretation (processing/ analysis) and explanation (social practice and analysis). The result of the analysis showed that an inaugural speech is a revelation of plans and hopes in the new government. The speech analyzed particularly revealed the ideologies/ plans on which the new government headed by President Muhammadu Buhari intends to operate. The most important ones include good governance, strengthening international relations, foreign Policies and democracy, fight insecurity, corruption, and improve power supply and the nation's economy. At the end of the study, it concludes that:

...the content of the inaugural consists of appreciations, exposition of ideological plans as to the direction of the new government and subtle criticism of the past government. An inaugural speech differs from campaign speeches or parliamentary debates because it is informative rather than persuasive. The opening of the speech subjected to analysis contains appreciation of the electorates by the president. After appreciation, he unveiled the ideologies and plans on which the administration would run and spelled out the direction of the new government. It could also be concluded that inaugural speech reflects the party's manifestoes and promises made during electioneering campaigning processes. Revealed in the analysis are the determination of the new government to strengthen foreign relations and policies, strengthen democracy, fight corruption and insecurity, and improve the power sector and economic sector of the country. (22-23)

Sharndama's study uses the Critical Discourse Analysis Model to investigate the speech inaugural speech of President Buhari which is quite different from what we have done in the present study. In this study, we focused on four speeches of Buhari including the inaugural speech our aim is very different from that of Sharndama as we intend to reveal the nature of the textual patterning technique which Buhari uses in the four speeches. In carrying out the research, we used the Textual Patterning Model of Hoey and expanded by McCarthy. This makes the present study different from that of Sharndama.

Related to Sharndama study is the research carried out by Ademilokun also on the inaugural speech of President Buhari. Ademilokun's study focuses on the attitudinal meaning in the speech. The study attempts a linguistic appraisal analysis of the speech with a view to showing how President Buhari construes attitudinal meanings in the speech. The theoretical framework he employed for the data analysis in the study is the appraisal theory of Martin and White. The analysis reveals that President Buhari expresses different kinds of attitudinal meaning in the speech as he deployed affectual meanings, judgements and appreciations in order to achieve his aim of connecting effectively with his audience. While the attitudinal meanings in the speech were largely for interpersonal consolidation as the President thanked and sought the cooperation of stakeholders in the Nigerian project, there were also some meanings relating to the displeasure of the new President about some persons and institutions in the Nigerian nation. Furthermore, the study reveals that:

...the different aspects of attitude as a domain of appraisal theory manifest in the speech as the speaker expressed affectual meanings, expressed judgements and demonstrated appreciations in the speech. Affectual meanings were largely used in the speech to establish and maintain interpersonal relationships with some stakeholders in the Nigerian nation and the Nigerian people generally, in recognition of the fact that the President needed the support of everybody in order to succeed. Affectual meanings were also used by the President for the externalisation of his personal feelings having contested the presidency unsuccessfully at three different times in the past and having undergone a mentally and psychologically sapping electioneering campaign experience. President Buhari also used positive judgements in the speech to thank his supporters, salute himself and his team and ultimately enhance strong interpersonal relationships with his associates, supporters and Nigerians, while he deployed negative judgements in reprimanding politicians and national leaders whose activities had negative effects on the country. The new President also used negative judgements in reference to the saboteurs of the Nigerian project such as Boko haram insurgents. (8)

A look at all the studies we have reviewed so far exposes that many scholars and researchers in the past have focused on the study of speeches both in Nigeria and outside the shores of the country but none in the knowledge of the researcher has focused on the speeches of President Mohammadu Buhari and none has focused on the textual building strategies which he adopts in his speeches. This is the gap which the present study aims to cover.

### 3. Methodology

There are two types of data for this study- the primary and the secondary data. The primary data for this study are four speeches of President Muhammadu Buhari of Nigeria. The secondary data include the opinions of scholars in journal, textbooks and other textual materials outside the four speeches of Buhari under consideration. Four speeches of Buhari are used the primary data for this study. In collecting them, these speeches were downloaded from online media websites. The researcher read them and the extracts needed for the study are taken from the speeches written out and analysed. These speeches can also be found in the appendix section of this study. The first speech was delivered on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May, 2015 to mark the formal hand over of power to him from former President Goodluck Jonathan, the second speech was delivered on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, 2015 to mark the Annual Independence Celebration of the country, the third speech was delivered on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February, 2016 at the United Nations Summit and the fourth was delivered at the African Union Summit on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June, 2015.

### 4. Data Analysis

In this section, we focus on the analyses of the speeches which forms the bulk of the primary data. We picked each of the textual patterning measures identified by Hoey and analysed their use in the speeches. We started by looking at the Problem to Solution Model in the four speeches then, we moved to General to Specific Model and then to Claims to Counter Claims Model. The analysis reveals that Buhari uses all the models extensively in his speeches.

#### 4.1 Problem to Solution Textual Patterning Model

Earlier, we stated that the Problem to Solution textual patterning model helps in building or shaping a particular text into stating problems first then a set of solutions are presented. We need to be aware that leaders are meant to solve problems in order to move the society in which they lead to the next level and as such this textual patterning helps them in presenting the negative trends in the society and how they intend to solve them.

As we also stated earlier, this pattern is comprised of **the Situation** which relates where the problem has occurred or is occurring, **the Problem** which relates what actually requires attention in the situation, **the Response and Solution** relate how the problem would be solved in the interim and permanently. The last stage in this pattern is **the Evaluation/Result** relates how successful was the response and solution was. One characteristic worthy of note with this pattern is the fact that the problem being talked about can be in the past or the past. Leaders can relate what they met and what they did and solved it. They can also relate what is on ground and how they intend to solve it. The former can have evaluation because the process has been concluded but the later cannot provide evaluation because the process is on-going.

We now focus on the speeches of Buhari. In Speech one delivered on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May, 2015 at his inauguration Ceremony, he uses the textual patterning technique of Problem to Solution when he says:

*Today marks a triumph for Nigeria and an occasion to celebrate her freedom and cherish her democracy. Nigerians have shown their commitment to democracy and are determined to entrench its culture. Our journey has not been easy but thanks to the determination of our people and strong support from friends abroad we have today a truly democratically elected government in place.*

Buhari here presents a problem in the first part of the extract which is the lack of freedom Nigerians had under long years of military regimes characterized by lack of free speech and monumental infringements on the fundamental human rights of its citizens. Apart from that, the country experienced corruption as the wealth was not for the people but for a select few who used it at the detriment of the masses. In following Hoey's theory, we establish the situation as Nigeria and the problem as the lack of political freedom. The response and solution is provided in the second part of the extract when the speaker says: *Nigerians have shown their commitment to democracy and are determined to entrench its culture.* The solution to the problem of Military Government and lack of freedom is in committing to the culture of democracy and rejecting the imposition of some individuals in the Military. The next stage in this model is the evaluation stage where the result of the application of the solution is tested. This is presented in the last part of the extract where Buhari says: *but thanks to the determination of our people and strong support from friends abroad we have today a truly democratically elected government in place.* So, he first presents the problem, then, the solution and then the evaluation. The solution and evaluation comes in form of a contrast, hence, the use of the contrastive conjunction *but*. The solution and evaluation in most cases contradicts what have been. Before now, it was the Military Government, but now, there is *a truly democratically elected government in place.* This system helps Buhari to organize his message moving from the problem to the solution unlike where the problems will be stated, solutions are left out and cause confusion and misunderstandings on the part of the audience.

Also, he uses the Problem to Solution Model in another instance in Speech One when he says:

*A few people have privately voiced fears that on coming back to office I shall go after them. These fears are groundless. There will be no paying off old scores. The past is prologue.*

Here, the problem is clearly stated: many are scared of his return as the number one citizen in the country as he would use it to settle old notches as regards his removal from office through a coup d'état in 1985. But quickly, he provides the solution. The solution comes in the form of a reassurance that the past is the past and the present is different. In following Hoey's textual patterning theory in the Problem to Solution Model, the situation is not clearly stated like the first extract but extra-linguistically, one knows the setting is Nigeria because the speaker is being inaugurated as the next Nigerian president, he was once a Military Head of state and the people scared are mostly Nigerians. In terms of the evaluation stage, this cannot be evaluated at the moment as the solution is futuristic unlike the solution in the first extract which was in the past and the evaluation can be seen. This goes a long way to show that this model is mainly built on the problem and solution. The situation and the evaluation are not the core elements. If the solution was applied in the past, evaluation can be seen but if it is in the future, then there would not be any evaluation yet; the situation and evaluation are secondary.

In another part of the speech President Buhari says:

*At home we face enormous challenges. Insecurity, pervasive corruption, the hitherto unending and seemingly impossible fuel and power shortages are the immediate concerns. We are going to tackle them head on. Nigerians will not regret that they have entrusted national responsibility to us. We must not succumb to hopelessness and defeatism. We can fix our problems...Daunting as the task may be it is by no means insurmountable.... It is a national shame that an economy of 180 million generates only 4,000MW, and distributes even less. Continuous tinkering with the structures of power supply and distribution and close on 20 billion dollars expanded since 1999 have only brought darkness, frustration, misery, and resignation among Nigerians. We will not allow this to go on. Careful studies are under way during this transition to identify the quickest, safest and most cost-effective way to bring light and relief to Nigerians.*

In the extract above, the speaker presents series of problems ranging from insecurity, corruption, power shortages and others. The situation is clearly stated here so we do not need extra linguistic features to identify this. The speaker uses the words home and mentions Nigerians thrice and the population figure of the country in order to make it clear that the problems he is presenting are the concerns of Nigeria and Nigerians. In the second part of the extract, Buhari presents the solutions to these problem by stating that: *We are going to tackle them head on*. Though the means and ways the solutions would come are stated clearly presented, there is a hint on what will be done when he says: *We will not allow this to go on. Careful studies are under way during this transition to identify the quickest, safest and most cost-effective way to bring light and relief to Nigerians*.

The evaluation cannot be presented in an instance like this as we have seen before that when the solution is in the future, an evaluation cannot be presented since the solution has not been applied. We might not see so much evaluation in this speech because it was delivered by Buhari on his inauguration when nothing essentially has been done by his Government yet. In order speeches, we might see evaluations since they were presented when he and his cabinets have spent a number of weeks in power.

Further in the speech, President Buhari also applies the Problem to Solution Model in building his text when he says:

*The most immediate (problem) is Boko Haram's insurgency. Progress has been made in recent weeks by our security forces but victory cannot be achieved by basing the Command and Control Centre in Abuja. The command Centre will be relocated to Maiduguri and remain until Boko Haram is completely subdued....For now the Armed Forces will be fully charged with prosecuting the fight against Boko Haram. We shall overhaul the rules of engagement to avoid human rights violations in operations. We shall improve operational and legal mechanisms so that disciplinary steps are taken against proven human right violations by the Armed Forces.*

The extract above is a very clear use of the problem to solution model as the first sentence in the extract establishes the problem of Boko Hara insurgency in the North East part of the country. The next sentence creates an information touch on the situation currently as little progress has been made which in the speaker's opinion is not enough. The fact that what has been done is not enough makes the problem to subsist and it remains. The next part of the extract provides the solution to the problem earlier cited by the speaker. Buhari in this instance uses two sentences to provide the solution: *The command Centre will be relocated to Maiduguri and remain until Boko Haram is completely subdued....For now the Armed Forces will be fully charged with prosecuting the fight against Boko Haram*. The solutions provided suggest that the situation is different. In this case, the Command Centre was at Abuja far from the



action point in the fight against Boko Haram and the use of the Armed forces to fight the Boko Haram insurgency changes the situation as some mercenaries were used at a point in time to fight Boko Haram insurgency.

The provision of a futuristic solution has the ability of projecting what the situation is at the moment which makes the problem to remain. A change in the situation might just be a solution to the problem earlier stated. The speakers or the one using this model in this instance might not need to relate the situation to the audience as the solution provided would counter and shed light on what the situation is at the moment. This is much related to the manner with which Buhari presents the next sets of messages in the extract below:

*The spate of kidnappings, armed robberies, herdsmen/farmers clashes, cattle rustlings all help to add to the general air of insecurity in our land. We are going to erect and maintain an efficient, disciplined people – friendly and well – compensated security forces within and over – all security architecture.*

We underlined the second part of the extract to highlight the part that carries the solution which more or less contradicts the present situation. If there was an ‘*efficient, disciplined people – friendly and well – compensated security forces within and over – all security architecture*’, the problems of kidnappings, armed robberies, herdsmen/farmers clashes and cattle rustling earlier stated would not be in existence. The provision of solutions in a text like the one we are looking at in most cases are indictments on the present and the lack in the present situation which the speaker might not need to state because it is the obvious from the text. This validates the fact that there is usually more to a speech than the actual words used.

Lastly, on the use of Problem to Solution Model in Speech one of Buhari’s speeches, we look at this extract below:

*Unemployment, notably youth un-employment features strongly in our party’s manifesto. We intend to attack the problem frontally through revival of agriculture, solid minerals mining as well as credits to small and medium size businesses to kick – start these enterprises. We shall quickly examine the best way to revive major industries and accelerate the revival and development of our railways, roads and general infrastructure.*

Buhari presents in the first part of the extract above the problem of unemployment especially youth unemployment which satisfies the presence of a problem. We have earlier established that the situation, that is, the place the problem applies can be got from the context of situation or the context of the speech. The speaker here is the President of Nigeria on his day of inauguration so the situation where the problem applies is Nigeria. The second part of the extract is dedicated to the solutions which again is futuristic as characterized by *shall* and *will*. No evaluation is provided as the solution has not been implemented which makes it similar to the earlier extracts we have looked at.

Now that we have looked at how the Problem to Solution Model works in speech one we now turn our attention to speech two. In speech two delivered by President Buhari on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, 2015 to mark the annual independence day celebration of Nigeria. In the earlier part of the speech Buhari says:

*As you know, I toured the neighbouring countries, marshalled a coalition of armed forces of the five nations to confront and defeat Boko Haram. I met also the G-7 leaders and other friendly presidents in an effort to build an international coalition against Boko Haram. “Our gallant armed forces under new leadership have taken the battle to the insurgents, and severely weakened their logistical and infrastructural capabilities. Boko Haram are being scattered and are on the run. “That they are resorting to shameless attacks on soft targets such as I.D.P. camps is indicative of their cowardice and desperation. I have instructed security and local authorities to tighten vigilance in vulnerable places.*

One feature worthy of notice in the extract above is the somewhat continuation of ideas from the first speech in the second speech. The first speech had all Nigerians as the immediate audience so also the second speech but they were delivered at different times and at different occasions. The other feature being that most of the problems presented in the first speech and the proposed solutions now have results in the second speech. President Buhari before the extract above summarizes all the problems before him by saying:

*My countrymen and women, every new government inherits problems. Ours was no different. But what Nigerians want are solutions, quick solutions not a recitation of problems inherited. Accordingly, after consultations with the Vice President, senior party leaders and other senior stakeholders, I quickly got down to work on the immediate, medium-term and long-term problems which we must solve if we are to maintain the confidence which Nigerians so generously bestowed on us in the March elections and since then.*

So, the first solution to one of the problems- insurgency is presented in the earlier extract where he says: *I toured the neighbouring countries, marshalled a coalition of armed forces of the five nations to confront and defeat Boko Haram. I met also the G-7 leaders and other friendly presidents in an effort to build an international coalition against Boko*

*Haram*. The solutions above were applied and the next stage is the evaluation stage. Since the solution was implemented in the past, we have the evaluation and result unlike the first speech. In this case the result is presented when Buhari says: *Our gallant armed forces under new leadership have taken the battle to the insurgents, and severely weakened their logistical and infrastructural capabilities. Boko Haram are being scattered and are on the run.* This is a whole methodology which Buhari uses in organizing his text.

In another instance in speech two Buhari also use the Problem to Solution Model to organize his thoughts when he says:

*On power, government officials have held a series of long sessions over several weeks about the best way to improve the nation's power supply in the safest and most cost-effective way. "In the meantime, improvement in the power supply is moderately encouraging.*

Here, the problem is the lack of power and the solution he applied is that Government officials met for several weeks and took steps in providing safe and cost-efficient means of providing power. The immediate result which follows is: *'In the meantime, improvement in the power supply is moderately encouraging.'* All the stages in the Problem to Solution Model are all applied in the extract above.

In Buhari's Independence Speech, solutions are mostly presented after the initial presentation of the problems in the form of a list in the first paragraph as we earlier stated in the first extract under speech. This trend continues in the next extract where Buhari presents the solutions he has applied to the corruption in the Nigerian National Petroleum Company and the incessant scarcity of petroleum products in the country. He says:

*By the same token, supply of petrol and kerosene to the public has improved throughout the Country. All the early signs are that within months the whole country would begin to feel a change for the better. "Preliminary steps have been taken to sanitize NNPC and improve its operations so that the inefficiency and corruption could be reduced to a minimum. "Those of our refineries which can be serviced and brought back into partial production would be enabled to resume operations so that the whole sordid business of exporting crude and importing finished products in dubious transactions could be stopped. "In addition to NNPC, I have ordered a complete audit of our other revenue generating agencies mainly CBN, FIRS, Customs, NCC, for better service delivery to the nation. Prudent house-keeping is needed now more than ever in view of the sharp decline in world market oil prices. It is a challenge we have to face squarely. But what counts is not so much what accrues but how we manage our resources. "We have seen in the last few years how huge resources were mismanaged, squandered and wasted. The new APC government is embarking on a clean-up, introducing prudence and probity in public financing.*

Again, in the extract above, the solutions applied have a stage for evaluation and result because they were applied in the past. Because of the solution stage, the speaker says: *... supply of petrol and kerosene to the public has improved throughout the Country. All the early signs are that within months the whole country would begin to feel a change for the better.* The solutions and evaluation in a way contrast the situation that was prevalent before now that created the problem in the first. From the solutions and the evaluation in the extract above, we can know that in the past there was acute scarcity of petroleum products and much corruption in the NNPC. So, whether the problem is obviously stated or not, the Problem to Solution model has a way of revealing the problems if the solutions and evaluations are presented. That is to say all the stages in this model are all represented either covertly or openly.

Additionally, Buhari says:

*Fellow Nigerians, there have been a lot of anxiety and impatience over the apparent delay in announcement of ministers. There is no cause to be anxious. Our government set out to do things methodically and properly. We received the handing over notes from the outgoing government only four days before taking over. Consequently, the Joda Transition Committee submitted its Report on the reorganization of Federal Government structure after studying the hand over notes. It would have been haphazard to announce ministers when the government had not finalized the number of ministries to optimally carry the burden of governance. "Anyway, the wait is over. The first set of names for ministerial nominees for confirmation has been sent to the senate. Subsequent lists will be forwarded in due course.*

In the extract above, the problem is centred on the growing impatience amongst Nigerians then on the delay in the appointment of Ministers and other key Government officials in the new Buhari Government. Now, the solution is presented immediately after the problem which is on the fact that the *Anyway, the wait is over.* The solution quickly presented helps to douse the tension created by the problem. One feature we must at this point in time note about the Problem to Solution textual patterning Model is the creation or modelling of a text into a plot form where the problem stage can be regarded as the conflict part of the plot with so high a tension then the solution which brings resolution and if there is evaluation or results that follow, one can call it the denouncement stage where everything is redistributed. So,

one can liken this model to the plot in a literary work. It means that it can make a text interesting as the audience can switch mood from the apprehension stage to the relaxation stage through the various stages in the model.

Below, we look at the last extract in speech two:

*Impatience is not a virtue. Order is more vital than speed. Careful and deliberate decisions after consultations get far better results. And better results for our country is what the APC government for CHANGE is all about. "I would like to end my address this morning on our agenda for CHANGE. Change does not just happen. You and I and all of us must appreciate that we all have our part to play if we want to bring change about. We must change our lawless habits, our attitude to public office and public trust. We must change our unruly behaviour in schools, hospitals, market places, motor parks, on the roads, in homes and offices. To bring about change, we must change ourselves by being law-abiding citizens.*

Many persons are apprehensive on the 'Change' mantra of the new Government and they are getting worked up if it would ever come to fruition. Likening this to the plot scenario we earlier created, this stage of the text can lead to anxiety on the part of the audience if the speaker would be able to prove to the teeming populace that he can bring the desired change. This anxiety is the problem while the reassurance that follow are the solutions which brings the anxiety or conflict to an end. In this case, Buhari says the solution to the change agenda is patience and apart from that 'We must change our lawless habits, our attitude to public office and public trust. We must change our unruly behaviour in schools, hospitals, market places, motor parks, on the roads, in homes and offices. To bring about change, we must change ourselves by being law-abiding citizens.' So, he more or less pushes the drive for change back to the expectant audience as they are the first agents of change. This solves the problem in the meantime. Since these solution have not been applied yet, we cannot get the evaluation stage where results will be dished out.

Now that we have looked how the Problem to Solution Model works in Buhari's Speech One and Speech Two, we now shift our attention to Speech Three and Speech Four. Speech Three was delivered at the 77<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly Meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February, 2016 at the United States of America. In the speech, Buhari says:

*This is a war about values between progress and chaos; between democracy and the rule of law. Boko Haram celebrates violence against the weak and the innocent and deplorably, they hide behind their perverted interpretation of Islam. Boko Haram is as far away from Islam as anyone can think of. Many of my colleagues attending this forum would want to know how our new government intends to tackle the huge problems the government has inherited. Friends of Nigeria and foreign investor partners will be encouraged to know that the new Government is attacking the problems we inherited head-on....Accordingly, Mr. President, Members of the General Assembly, the new Nigerian Government which I have the honour to head, moved with dispatch to put in a bold and robust strategy to defeat Boko Haram. Nigeria and her neighbours Cameroon, Chad and Niger plus Benin are working together to face this common threat within the regional framework of the Lake Chad Basin Commission. We have established a multinational joint task force to confront, degrade and defeat Boko Haram. We have driven them away from many of their strongholds, killed or captured many of their operatives or commanders and freed several hundreds of hostages. Mr. President, one of our major aims is to rescue the Chibok girls alive and unharmed. We are working round the clock to ensure their safety and eventual reunion with their families. Chibok girls are constantly on our minds and in our plans.*

In the extract above, President Buhari uses the Problem to Solution Model to structure his text. He first presents the problem of Boko Haram ravaging the North Eastern part of Nigeria killing many and rendering millions homeless. Now, that he has presented the problem the immediate audience would want to know what he intends to do or what he has done so far to solve the problem clear the curiosity, Buhari in turn presents what his administration has done so far in tackling the problem. He says: 'moved with dispatch to put in a bold and robust strategy to defeat Boko Haram. Nigeria and her neighbours Cameroon, Chad and Niger plus Benin are working together to face this common threat within the regional framework of the Lake Chad Basin Commission.' The model does not stop here, it gives the speaker the room to state the result of the solution applied in the past. In following that, he presents that result as: 'We have driven them away from many of their strongholds, killed or captured many of their operatives or commanders and freed several hundreds of hostages.' This invariably brings satisfaction to the audience as they were initially anxious and worried over the problems earlier presented but the solution and result calms them down and they get ready with another one to be unveiled. Still on the first extract in Speech Three, President Buhari presents the problem of the adopted 263 Chibok girls by the same Boko Haram terrorist group. At this point, the audience becomes apprehensive as the tension starts building up but the solution comes immediately after when Buhari says: *our major aims is to rescue the Chibok girls alive and unharmed. We are working round the clock to ensure their safety and eventual reunion with their families. Chibok girls are constantly on our minds and in our plans.* This solution is on-going and futuristic. In a situation like this, the Problem to Solution Model cannot present the result or evaluation. We must note

here that the lack of result or evaluation in some of the extracts does not reduce its liking to the plot of a literary work as the futuristic solution presented acts as a form of calm to the anxious audience with the feeling of 'at least something is being done' which in most case preludes the next stage in the plot.

In the next extract we at a similar use of the Problem to Solution Model in the third speech under consideration. Buhari says:

*We intend to tackle inequalities arising from massive unemployment and previous government policies favouring a few people to the detriment of the many. We intend to emphasize quality technological education for development and lay foundation for comprehensive care of the aged, the disadvantaged and the infirm. But for now terrorism is the immediate problem.*

Here, the problem is a straight forward one there is unemployment in the country Nigeria and the solution again in a futuristic one: technologically based education would be introduced to solve the problem of unemployment in the country. Because the solution is in the future, there is no evaluation yet but the model has been fully followed since the core component of problem and solution have been stated in the text.

In the next extract, President Buhari presents series of problems facing the country then he also presents series of solution to each of them. This is also a way of using the Problem to Solution Model. One can divide each of the problems and solutions into different paragraphs, one can also state all the problems in a paragraph then use the subsequent paragraphs to present the problems. In this case the President goes for the latter where he declares that:

*Corruption, Cross border financial crimes, Cyber-crimes, Human trafficking, Spread of communicable diseases, Climate change, Proliferation of weapons are all major challenges of the 21st century which the international community must tackle collectively. Let me reaffirm Nigerian government's unwavering commitment to fight corruption and illicit financial flows. By any consideration, corruption and cross border financial crimes are impediments to development, economic growth, and the realization of the wellbeing of citizens across the globe.*

*Nigeria is ready and willing to partner with international agencies and individual countries on a bilateral basis to confront crimes and corruption. In particular, I call upon the global community to urgently redouble efforts towards strengthening the mechanisms for dismantling safe havens for proceeds of corruption and ensuring the return of stolen funds and assets to their countries of origin. Mr. President, the world is now facing a big new challenge: human trafficking. This is an old evil taking an altogether new and dangerous dimension threatening to upset international relationships. We in Africa are grieved to see on international networks how hundreds of thousands of our able bodied men and women fleeing to Europe and in the process thousands dying in the desert or drowning in the Mediterranean.*

*We condemn in the strongest terms these people traffickers and will support any measures to apprehend and bring them to justice. At the same time, we are very appreciative of European governments notably Italy and Germany, for their understanding and humane treatment of these refugees.*

*Last year, our continent faced the dreadful occurrence of Ebola. We sincerely thank the international community for the collective efforts to contain this deadly disease. We are not out of the woods yet but we would like to record our appreciation to the United States, United Kingdom, France and China for their outstanding assistance in arresting the spread of Ebola and care of those infected in collaboration with host countries.*

*Nigeria fully subscribes to and fully endorses Goals 13, 14 and 15 of the SDGs regarding Climate Change. In Nigeria, desertification and land erosion and degradation leading to biodiversity loss are real threats to our environment and we shall propose under the auspices of the Lake Chad Basin Commission a regional approach to combat these environmental challenges.*

*We are witnessing a dreadful increase in conflicts fuelled by availability of small arms and light weapons. I call upon all member countries to demonstrate the political will needed to uphold the UN charter. For a start, a robust implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty will guarantee that small arms and light weapons are only legally transferred. Arms traffickers and human traffickers are two evil species which the world community should eradicate.*

The part underlined in the first part of the extract is the problem stage of the model. We stated earlier that Buhari in this instance uses the first part of the text to present the problems then the subsequent paragraphs are loaded with solutions. This opens up a new horizon in the use of Problem to Solution Model to text organization. The other paragraphs carrying solutions are weaved with the first paragraph. For you to understand these paragraphs you must look at the first paragraph and for you to fully satisfy the curiosity and anxiety which the first paragraph creates you need to look at the other paragraphs that follow. So, it makes the text together and well-formed for easy

understanding for the audience of the speech. The Problem to Solution Model acts like an inner thread tying the ideas and introducing the next to be used. That is to say that there is an inner connection in following strands of messages:

*Corruption, Cross border financial crimes, Cyber-crimes, Human trafficking, Spread of communicable diseases, Climate change, Proliferation of weapons are all major challenges*



*Nigeria is ready and willing to partner with international agencies and individual countries on a bilateral basis to confront crimes and corruption*

*We condemn in the strongest terms these people traffickers and will support any measures to apprehend and bring them to justice.*

*Nigeria fully subscribes to and fully endorses Goals 13, 14 and 15 of the SDGs regarding Climate Change.*

*For a start, a robust implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty will guarantee that small arms and light weapons are only legally transferred.*

The internal connection is not provided by the arrow after the first paragraph rather there is a semantic connection between the first paragraphs and the others. While the first paragraph is built on problems, the second, third and fourth are built on solution. This creates the type of semantic or collocative link which antonyms create as identified by Halliday and Hassan.

In the last speech under consideration, delivered at the African Union Summit on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June, 2015 Buhari also uses the Problem to Solution Model to organize his thoughts when he says:

*On our part, I was convinced on my assumption of office that the best approach would be to work within the framework of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) to mobilize collective support to fight against Boko Haram. I have in this regard, directed the relocation of Nigeria's Command Centre to place it closer to the theatre of action. Furthermore, I have vigorously engaged the member states of the LCBC to better coordinate the strategies and tactics in fighting the insurgency in the region. I believe that this approach can be enhanced through complimentary regional and continental efforts.*

The extract above from the fourth speech we are using as the data is not too different from most of the features of the problem to Solution Model of textual organization. Here, the problem of Boko Haram is presented first and as usual the solution is presented after. The solution in this case is to mobilize neighbouring countries in the fight against the deadly group Boko Haram. It would have been incomplete for him to present the problem of Boko Haram without him presenting what would/have been done to solve the problem. The presentation of problems to solutions makes the text to run chronologically for effective meaning interpretation.

Also, he uses this model in another instance in the speech when he states that:

*The images in the international mass media of African youths getting drowned in the Mediterranean sea on their illegal attempts, and often times illusory hope of attaining better life in Europe is not only an embarrassment to us as leaders, but dehumanises our persons. Indeed, they combine to paint a very unfavourable picture of our peoples and countries. Those of us gathered here today owe it as a duty to reverse this ugly trend. We must put an end to the so-called push factors that compel our young men and women to throw caution to the winds and risk life, limbs and all, on this dangerous adventure. We must redouble our efforts to sustain the economic development of our countries, ensure empowerment of our youths, create more jobs, improve and upgrade our infrastructure, and above all continue the enthronement of a regime of democracy, good governance and respect for human rights and rule of law. These and other measures that engender peace and stability must be pursued relentlessly.*

Here, the problem is the continuous movement of African Immigrants through the Mediterranean Sea to get a better life in Europe especially Spain and Italy. The presentation of the problem alone by Buhari would have been more of a news or a sought of comment on the situation which leaders are not expected to do. Leaders are expected to solve problems. As the speaker here, Buhari needed to fulfil his role as the speaker who knows his role in a particular context. The context demands that he presents solutions because of who he is in relation to his audience. This he does by fulfilling the maxim of relevance as propounded by J. R Austin. In that light, the relevant solution here is presented immediately after the problem when he says: *We must put an end to the so-called push factors that compel our young men and women to throw caution to the winds and risk life, limbs and all, on this dangerous adventure. We must redouble our efforts to sustain the economic development of our countries, ensure empowerment of our*

youths, create more jobs, improve and upgrade our infrastructure, and above all continue the enthronement of a regime of democracy, good governance and respect for human rights and rule of law. This solution invariably completes the plot as it serves as the resolution to the conflict/ earlier stated.

Lastly on the Problem to Solution Model, we present the extract below which is the last in the fourth speech. It is presented to re-emphasize the fact that this model runs through all the speeches of Buhari under consideration in this study and beyond. In the last extract in this session, Buhari says:

*... on the issue of poverty,, we must persist in our collective endeavour to work together through the African Union and our respective Regional Economic Communities (RECs), to uplift our continent and provide the African peoples the enabling environment for the realization of their legitimate dreams and aspirations. At this juncture, let me assure you of the unflinching commitment of Nigeria to the ideals and aspirations of the African Union as explained in the Agenda 2063, which is geared towards ensuring a peaceful, prosperous and integrated Africa in the next 50 years. It is for this reason that Nigeria is fully and irrevocably committed to ECOWAS.*

In the extract above, the problem cited is that of poverty in the African Region which acts as the conflict in this segment of the speech and he does usually, Buhari presents the solution to drown the tension. In this case the solution is for regional government to 'to uplift our continent and provide the African peoples the enabling environment for the realization of their legitimate dreams and aspirations. Most of the solutions presented in the fourth speech are futuristic. And as we have established earlier, the futuristic solutions do not have evaluation for the simple fact that they have not been applied for results. This does not stop the model of Problem to Solution from realizing its aim of organizing the text for better understand as the two core components of problem and solution are well accounted for.

#### 4.2 General to Specific Textual Patterning Model

In this section we would look at the textual building technique of General to Specific in the four speeches of Buhari under consideration. We have indeed established earlier that this model deals with a type of textual organization that involves the introduction of a general idea before a specific one is stated and a possibility of a more specific one. It moves from the broad or wide idea to a detailed or more explicit one. In Speech one, President Buhari uses the textual Patterning of General to Specific to organize his ideas when he says:

*I would like to thank President Goodluck Jonathan for his display of statesmanship in setting a precedent for us that has now made our people proud to be Nigerians wherever they are. With the support and cooperation he has given to the transition process, he has made it possible for us to show the world that despite the perceived tension in the land we can be a united people capable of doing what is right for our nation.*

The organizational structure of the extract above is that of General to Specific. In the first part of the extract, Buhari thanks the former President Goodluck Jonathan for his 'Statesmanship.' The word 'Statesmanship' is a general word used in the first instance but Buhari in the extract becomes more specific when he says: *the support and cooperation... he made it possible... he did the right thing for our nation*; these words are more specific compared to the former. In the latter, he gives examples of acts of statesmanship which include supporting your nation, doing the right things and cooperating for the good of a nation; that is what statesmen do. So, in the extract there is a move from the general to the specific or from the wide to the narrow. It helps in making the message in the text clearer to the audience as it would have been a little open for President Buhari to say former President Jonathan was a statesman without explaining in details the specific things he did.

Furthermore, Buhari relies on the textual organization model of General to Specific in putting his ideas together in another instance in Speech One when he says:

*I thank all of you.*

*I would like to thank the millions of our supporters who believed in us even when the cause seemed hopeless. I salute their resolve in waiting long hours in rain and hot sunshine to register and cast their votes and stay all night if necessary to protect and ensure their votes count and were counted. I thank those who tirelessly carried the campaign on the social media. At the same time, I thank our other countrymen and women who did not vote for us but contributed to make our democratic culture truly competitive, strong and definitive.*

In the extract above, the first sentence underlined 'I thank you all' is very general as no specific reference is indicated. The greeting goes to everybody as it maybe. This would have been ambiguous if he stopped there but he uses the General to Specific model of Textual analysis to indicate in details the various groups he is actually referring to. In the first part after the general reference, he presents the details by saying: *thank the millions of our supporters, I thank those who tirelessly carried the campaign on the social media, I thank our other countrymen and women who did not*

*vote for us.* The general word ‘All’ used in the first general statement would not have been able to include specificity. We need to state here, that using the specific reference have effects on the group being referred to. If the President ended with the general statement of ‘I thank you all’, many of his supporters could have got angry because they are subsumed in the general but calling them specifically can give them ‘a sense of belonging at least politically.’ We can then agree that some level of specificity can be an avenue of patronage especially when humans are involved. We would try and prove this point in the subsequent extracts though it might not be the case with the next extract as no human group is mentioned.

In the next extract, Buhari says:

*At home we face enormous challenges. Insecurity, pervasive corruption, the hitherto unending and seemingly impossible fuel and power shortages are the immediate concerns. We are going to tackle them head on. Nigerians will not regret that they have entrusted national responsibility to us. We must not succumb to hopelessness and defeatism. We can fix our problems.*

The word ‘challenges’ is the general word in the extract above and it comes first. It would have been somewhat vague for President Buhari to stop at that point without becoming particular on the challenges Nigeria is facing at the moment. The information value of the text would have been so reduced if the other part (specificity) of the text was not presented. To become more informative, he names or gives examples of these ‘challenges’ to include: *insecurity, corruption, fuel and power shortages*. These are indeed challenges but one would not have known if these were the ones he was referring to in the first instance. So, becoming more specific can make the message clearer because more information that reinforces the first is being pass across.

We indeed stated earlier that being specific can be source of patronage on a group when they are mentioned. The people or group mentioned feel important politically or socially. Many leaders and politicians know this and they use it in aligning with the various groups. In the speech under consideration, Buhari does this when he says:

*In recent times Nigerian leaders appear to have misread our mission. Our founding fathers, Mr Herbert Macauley, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, Alhaji Ahmadu Bello, the Sardauna of Sokoto, Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, Malam Aminu Kano, Chief J.S. Tarka, Mr Eyo Ita, Chief Denis Osadeby, Chief Ladoke Akintola and their colleagues worked to establish certain standards of governance. They might have differed in their methods or tactics or details, but they were united in establishing a viable and progressive country. Some of their successors behaved like spoiled children breaking everything and bringing disorder to the house.*

The phrase ‘*our founding fathers*’ as used in the extract above is very general as no one in particular is being mentioned as there are many ‘founding fathers’ in Nigeria today depending on where you are looking at it from. If President Buhari stopped at this point, the statement would have been lacking in details as nobody was mentioned. But he goes ahead to call about Ten names from the various parts of the country to achieve detail. Apart from achieving details, this helps him to patronize the various segments of the country where these great leaders came from as they would ‘feel carried along’ by the new President. It can be a political way of aligning oneself to the public. Though it is not the object of our study here, we must state that this is made very possible by using on the General to Specific Model of textual organization.

The extract below is very similar to the one above. The President patronizes the various segments of the country represented by the various civilization cited below when he says:

*Furthermore, we as Nigerians must remind ourselves that we are heirs to great civilizations: Shehu Othman Dan fodio’s caliphate, the Kanem Borno Empire, the Oyo Empire, the Benin Empire and King Jaja’s formidable domain. The blood of those great ancestors flow in our veins.*

The phrase ‘great civilization’ is again a general reference as used in the extract. The President becomes more specific when calls the names of the different ‘great civilization.’ Again, we must say that it helps him to include the people represented by the various civilization in the current scheme of things with the line of thinking that if they are called they are very important to the new president. This can even guarantee their loyalty politically speaking.

In another instance in the speech, Buhari says:

*However, no matter how well organized the governments of the federation are they cannot succeed without the support, understanding and cooperation of labour unions, organized private sector, the press and civil society organizations. I appeal to employers and workers alike to unite in raising productivity so that everybody will have the opportunity to share in increased prosperity. The Nigerian press is the most vibrant in Africa. My appeal to the media today - and this includes the social media – is to exercise its considerable powers with responsibility and patriotism.*

The extract above achieves specificity by stating categorically the type of support and understanding Buhari wants from the labour unions, organized private sector, the press and civil society organizations. The words understanding and cooperation are general. He becomes specific when he says he wants the labour unions to unite and increase production for prosperity; this is a type of understanding and cooperation. He becomes more specific also when he says to the media: *to exercise its considerable powers with responsibility and patriotism*. One might have got confused on the type of understanding and cooperation he needed from these group as there would have been different interpretations from different persons but this is silenced when he becomes specific as the message becomes clearer.

Lastly, in the use of the General to specific Model from Speech One, we look at the extract below where Buhari says:

*My appeal for unity is predicated on the seriousness of the legacy we are getting into. With depleted foreign reserves, falling oil prices, leakages and debts the Nigerian economy is in deep trouble and will require careful management to bring it round and to tackle the immediate challenges confronting us, namely; Boko Haram, the Niger Delta situation, the power shortages and unemployment especially among young people. For the longer term we have to improve the standards of our education. We have to look at the whole field of Medicare. We have to upgrade our dilapidated physical infrastructure. The most immediate is Boko Haram's insurgency.*

In the extract above, the President presents a lot of things he intends to achieve on the assumption office. The list is endless. The list in our structure of General to Specific represents the general form. Amongst all the items he mentioned, at the end he names his immediate concern which is ending the Boko Haram insurgency. In the structure, the Boko Haram insurgency being part of the general list becomes the specific point as it has been signaled out among the others. This he does to achieve clarity on the way he intends to run his government. If the audience did not get his other message, they should be aware that he would fight the Boko Haram insurgency immediately because it is of urgent concern to him.

Now that we are through with looking at the use of the General to Specific Model of textual organization in Speech One of Buhari speeches, we now turn our attention quickly to Speech Two. In Speech Two, Buhari uses the General to Specific Model of textual organization when he says:

*October 1st is a day for joy and celebrations for us Nigerians, whatever the circumstances we find ourselves in because it is the day, 55 years ago; we liberated ourselves from the shackles of colonialism and began our long march to nationhood and to greatness. Let us remind ourselves of the gifts God has given us. Our Creator has bequeathed to us Numbers – Nigeria is the ninth most populated country on the planet. We have in addition arable land; water; forests; oil and gas; coastline; and solid minerals “We have all the attributes of a great nation.*

The above extract is a compound complex housing the general statement and the more specific ones. The general statement here is the fact *that Nigerians should be happy and celebrate*. That statement is not in itself enough to convince Nigerians even on a day set aside to celebrate the independence of the Nigerian state. After saying Nigerians should celebrate, Buhari becomes more specific by telling Nigerians why they should celebrate. Giving the reasons for the celebration is a more specific way that reinforces the first idea earlier stated. The idea of people celebrating and being joyful will only get full attention with the specific reasons giving. In doing this Buhari reels out the good things Nigeria has achieved in the past such as: *‘we liberated ourselves from the shackles of colonialism, ... Nigeria is the ninth most populated country on the planet, we have in addition arable land; water; forests; oil and gas; coastline; and solid minerals “We have all the attributes of a great nation;’* so, one can continue from where he started earlier by saying ‘while not celebrate and be happy?’ This structure is very much similar to the idea of essay writing where there is a topic statement at the beginning and detail sentences building the topic sentence would follow. In the same vein, the general statement acts more or less like the topic sentence while the other sentences with more specific ideas provide the detail for a balanced paragraph. This obviously helps in building and organizing the text in a whole.

In another occurrence in Speech Two, Buhari also uses the General to Specific textual organization Model when he declares that:

*Our government set out to do things methodically and properly.* *We received the handing over notes from the outgoing government only four days before taking over. Consequently, the Joda Transition Committee submitted its Report on the reorganization of Federal Government structure after studying the hand over notes. It would have been haphazard to announce ministers when the government had not finalized the number of ministries to optimally carry the burden of governance. “Anyway, the wait is over. The first set of names for ministerial nominees for confirmation has been sent to the senate.*

The first sentence underlined in the extract above is the general statement containing not much of details and acts like the topic sentence. But the other sentences are more specific as they buttress the information value of the first sentence



herby making it more meaningful to the audience. In the first sentence, the President states that his government does things ‘methodically’ but no one knows what that means until he presents the other sentences which border on the careful investigation, planning, and recommendations of the Transition Committee. The investigation and planning highlights the methodology which he earlier said in the first sentence. To also buttress the general idea of methodology he used earlier he presents the contrast where he says: *It would have been haphazard to announce ministers when the government had not finalized the number of ministries to optimally carry the burden of governance.* The word *haphazard* is the opposite of being methodical. He reinforces the details in presenting the other side.

Lastly, on the use of General to Specific textual organization Model in Speech Two, we look at the extract below:

*Change does not just happen. You and I and all of us must appreciate that we all have our part to play if we want to bring change about. We must change our lawless habits, our attitude to public office and public trust. We must change our unruly behaviour in schools, hospitals, market places, motor parks, on the roads, in homes and offices. To bring about change, we must change ourselves by being law-abiding citizens.*

In the extract above the general statement which says: *we all have our part to play if we want to bring change about* is used in a vague way as it is not specific in any way as to what should be done. In our General to Specific structure, this is the general statement as the information value is not high. The other statements that give precise instructions to the various groups are the specific statements with high information value. Again, if Buhari was to stop at the first general statement, one would have been confused as to what role one would play in bringing ‘the desired change.’ But, he goes specific when he says: *We must change our lawless habits, our attitude... our unruly behaviour in schools, hospitals, market places, motor parks, on the roads, in homes and offices.* These are more precise instructions to every citizen of this country which he seeks to motivate with his message.

We now turn our attention to the use of General to Specific Model of textual organization in Speech Three of President Buhari speeches under consideration. In the first extract in speech three, Buhari says:

*Friends of Nigeria and foreign investor partners will be encouraged to know that the new Government is attacking the problems we inherited head-on..... Accordingly, Mr. President, Members of the General Assembly, the new Nigerian Government which I have the honour to head, moved with dispatch to put in a bold and robust strategy to defeat Boko Haram. Nigeria and her neighbours Cameroon, Chad and Niger plus Benin are working together to face this common threat within the regional framework of the Lake Chad Basin Commission. We have established a multinational joint task force to confront, degrade and defeat Boko Haram. We have driven them away from many of their strongholds, killed or captured many of their operatives or commanders and freed several hundreds of hostages.*

The general statement in the extract above is underlined. It is very low in terms of the information value. At best, the idiomatic expression: ‘to tackle head on’ can mean anything that is serious and focused but the precise description is lacking here. This obviously prompts the introduction of the specificity markers to remove the vagueness attached to the first statement. In this case, Buhari specifies by explaining in actual terms what he means by ‘to tackle head on.’ In this case, he means the act of quickly convening the leaders of the neighbours of Nigeria to join hands in providing the human resources needed to fight the Boko Haram. This a more specific message than ‘to tackle head on’ the problem of insurgency in Nigeria.

The structure is not too different from what we have been explaining before now. So, we move ahead to another extract below where President Buhari uses the same model of General to Specific to explain more on what he had said earlier. He says:

*Nigeria is ready and willing to partner with international agencies and individual countries on a bilateral basis to confront crimes and corruption. In particular, I call upon the global community to urgently redouble efforts towards strengthening the mechanisms for dismantling safe havens for proceeds of corruption and ensuring the return of stolen funds and assets to their countries of origin.*

The underlined part of the extract above states Nigeria’s willingness to cooperate with other nations in the fight against corruption. This is the topic sentence. It needs further clarification on the area of ‘cooperation.’ It can be in technology, information sharing, arrest of suspects and others. If he stopped at that point one could go home with any of the shades of meaning which the first sentence suggests. To avoid this confusion, Buhari further clarifies on what he means by introducing the specificity marker represented by ‘In particular.’ In this case, the specific information, that is, the type of cooperation he wants is *the global community to urgently redouble efforts towards strengthening the mechanisms for dismantling safe havens for proceeds of corruption and ensuring the return of stolen funds and assets to their countries of origin.* In all, we can say that both the underlined part which serves as the general statement and the second part which serves as the specific statement help in reinforcing each other for a better communication.

Lastly, on the use of General to Specific Model of textual organization in Speech Three, we look at the statement below by President Buhari:

Mr. President, the world is now facing a big new challenge: human trafficking. This is an old evil taking an altogether new and dangerous dimension threatening to upset international relationships. We in Africa are grieved to see on international networks how hundreds of thousands of our able bodied men and women fleeing to Europe and in the process thousands dying in the desert or drowning in the Mediterranean. We condemn in the strongest terms these people traffickers and will support any measures to apprehend and bring them to justice.

Again the part underlined in the extract above is the general statement representing the general structure in the model but this is different from the ones we have earlier cited in the previous excerpts because, it has a bit of specificity built into it. The word *challenge* can mean many things. In the previous excerpts the structure would have been in such a way that the word in the first statement show vagueness as *challenge* suggests and would have read as *the world now is facing a big new challenge* then in the next, the specific challenge would be called. In the extract above, the ‘broadness in meaning’ is cushioned earlier on by introducing the phrase human trafficking as the last part of the statement. This does not in any way reduce exclude the fact that more statements are not needed to buttress the fact that is ‘a big new challenge.’ The other part of the extract not underline does the explanation to further clarify why human trafficking is a challenge. Again, both the general statement and the specific statements contribute to make the text rich in the information value it communicates. One might one to think that the specific statements are more important but this is not true as they both have different functions which are complimentary. While the general statement introduces and gently brings the audience to the new information being provided, the specific statements are there to further establish the information for better understanding. If the general statement is missing the audience can get confused because there would be a ‘sharp’ turn or switch to details of which the header has not been provided earlier. On the other hand, if the general statement is left alone, the information value of the text will be shallow. As we have seen in the other extracts, it can even be confusing to the audience.

We now shift our attention to Speech Four and it would be the last we would be considering in the use of General to Specific Model of textual organization in the speeches of President Buhari. In the speech, Buhari says:

I cannot fail to acknowledge the very positive role played by my predecessor, H.E. President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, in averting the feared crisis, and in facilitating the peaceful transition of power between the two parties.

Here, the general statement is underlined as it talks about the positive role which the Former Goodluck Jonathan plays in the transition process but the role exactly is not mentioned in the general statement. If he stopped at this point, the details would not be known by the audience as to the type of positive role is not stated in the general statement. To avoid this pitfall, he goes further by stating that the Former President averted the feared crisis, and in facilitated the peaceful transition of power between the two parties of PDP and APC. The latter statement is a reinforcement on the former as they both contribute to make the message clearer. We need to make it clear at this point that the idea of the general statement and the specific statement are not sentence bound. They can be in two or more sentences, they can also be in the same sentence where the first clause is dedicated to the general statement and the second or the other clauses are for the specific statements.

Furthermore, we look at the next extract where the same model is used. In the extract below, Buhari says:

Mr. Chairman, it is gratifying to note that our Union has made laudable progress over the past one and a half decades since its transformation from the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to the African Union (AU). Notably, we have been able to redirect our priorities at the continental level from mainly political goals to more diverse aspirations that are equally fundamental to our survival and development in a global community.

The part underlined in the extract above contains the general statement and it is in a different sentence from the specific part of the extract. This is different from the earlier extract where both the general and the specific statements are in the sentence. In the extract above the idea of the laudable achievements of the African Union since inception is presented in a sweeping statement. Specifics are not presented as to the nature of the achievements. Again, this can make the information incomplete and leaving the audience demanding for more from the speaker. To avoid this, the speaker goes specific by stating the most notable laudable achievement in the next sentence which is: *we have been able to redirect our priorities at the continental level from mainly political goals to more diverse aspirations that are equally fundamental to our survival and development in a global community.* This goes a long way in clarifying the earlier statement.

While the earlier extract presented the general statements as the laudable achievements in a vague form, the extract below presents the challenges facing the Union. But there is a difference: the former occupies a sentence of its own, the one below share the same sentence with the specific statement. In the extract, Buhari says:

*It is however clear, Mr. Chairman, that some of the greater challenges to our peoples within this Union still lie in the political, economic, as well as peace and security spheres. Our continent is currently bedevilled by the twin evils of terrorism and insecurity; poverty, youth unemployment, and underdevelopment. The destructive effects of the inhuman and criminal campaigns of the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria and neighbouring countries; the Al-Shabab attacks in East Africa, and the activities of the Al-Qaida in the Maghreb, all bear testimony to a continent under siege.*

Using the compound sentence type, Buhari is able to combine the general statement housing the challenges and the specific statement housing the political, economic and the security challenges. Further down in the extract, President Buhari goes even more specific by naming the type of security challenge as terrorism from the Al-Shabab, Al-Qaida to Boko Haram and in the economic challenge, he calls youth unemployment, poverty and underdevelopment. This goes to prove that in using the General to Specific Model of textual organization as propounded by Hoey the specific statement is not restricted to just one. There is a possibility of having more specific statements and a much more specific statements and it continues until the message is explicit enough. This would help to achieve clarity in a text.

The extract below is the last we would be looking at in Speech Four and the last under our consideration of the General to Specific Model of textual organization. The extract below, Buhari says:

*Those of us gathered here today owe it as a duty to reverse this ugly trend. We must put an end to the so-called push factors that compel our young men and women to throw caution to the winds and risk life, limbs and all, on this dangerous adventure. We must redouble our efforts to sustain the economic development of our countries, ensure empowerment of our youths, create more jobs, improve and upgrade our infrastructure, and above all continue the enthronement of a regime of democracy, good governance and respect for human rights and rule of law. These and other measures that engender peace and stability must be pursued relentlessly.*

In the extract above, Buhari presents a general statement in telling other African leaders that they must reverse ‘this ugly trend’ in the first sentence in the extract but he did not mention the type of trend which he refers to as ‘ugly.’ He uses the next part of the extract to achieve the specificity by stating that the ugly trend is in the high quest for young Africans to move out of the shores of the continent for greener pastures. To reverse this trend President Buhari specifically says: *We must redouble our efforts to sustain the economic development of our countries, ensure empowerment of our youths, create more jobs, improve and upgrade our infrastructure, and above all continue the enthronement of a regime of democracy, good governance and respect for human rights and rule of law.*

As a way of concluding this sub-section, we can say that in the use of the General to Specific Model of textual organization in Buhari’s speeches, both the general statement and the specific statements are of equal importance as they are two hands that intend to clap for effective communication. Also, the general statement can be in a different sentence or it can be housed in the same sentence with the specific statements where both occupy different clauses.

#### 4.3 Claim to Counter Claim Textual Patterning Model:

In the speeches of President Buhari, there are instances where he responds to claims by countering them or accepting some of them either partially or completely. Though these instances are not too many we would look at them to establish the fact that the President also uses this textual organization or patterning model to pull his text together for a better communication.

In the field of politics, there are always needs to respond to claims sometimes spurious because different persons have different opinion or perspective about the politicians and policies in the government. So, at every point in time, there is a great need to respond to them where the textual organization of claim to counter claim would be used.

Earlier, we stated that Claim-counterclaim pattern is constituted of: situation → claim → reason → affirm → evaluation (Hoey, 180). To respond to the claim, the writer can support or deny it with corresponding reasons or evidences. If the response is not positive, correction usually follows accompanied by reasons. Claim-counterclaim is of often found in rebuttal letters or letters-to-the editor ‘where a series of claims and contrasting counterclaims is presented in relation to a given issue’ (Coulthard, 23). McCarthy cites Jordan’s list of signaling words used in ‘claim-counterclaim’ pattern such as according to, appears, arguably, might, estimated...and so on (80). The pattern contains at least three elements: ‘claim’, ‘counter-claim’ and ‘common ground’ which reveals similarity or what is in common between the two opposing assertions.

At this point in time, we would now look at the various speeches of Buhari and point out the ways in which he uses the Claim to Counter Claim textual patterning Model. As we have done since we started the analysis, we would start by looking at Speech One before the other three. In Speech One Buhari uses this textual patterning model when he says:

*Having just a few minutes ago sworn on the Holy Book, I intend to keep my oath and serve as President to all Nigerians. I belong to everybody and I belong to nobody. A few people have privately voiced fears that on coming back to office I shall go after them. These fears are groundless. There will be no paying off old scores. The past is prologue.*

In the extract above, Buhari presents the claim of many persons since he won the 2015 election. The claim was that he would punish those who in one way or the other did not support him in the election process and those that contributed to his ouster in his first time as the Military Head of State back in 1983. Using Hoey's theory, the situation here is that people are scared. The claim is that he would punish political enemies, the reason has earlier been stated: they have not been supportive to him politically. Now to the other part of this model, the affirmation stage. From the extract above, Buhari counters these claims with a statement that became popular which says: *I belong to everybody and I belong to nobody*. Apart from that, he counters this claim by reassuring every Nigerian and the international Community that *these fears are groundless. There will be no paying off old scores. The past is prologue*. It obvious that to counter a particular claim, one must present the other side of the issue in most cases using facts and figures but in this instance, President Buhari counters this claim by referring to the oath he just took using the constitution and the Holy Quran to serve all Nigerians diligently. So, the claims are baseless.

We stated earlier that instances of Claim to Counter Claim as a textual patterning Model are not too frequent in the speeches unlike the other patterns. The one presented above is the only instance where it was employed in speech one. We now turn our attention to Speech Two where Buhari uses the textual patterning model of Claim to Counter Claim when he says:

*The fact that an opposition party replaced an entrenched government in a free and fair election is indicative of the deeper roots of our democratic system. Whatever one's views are, Nigerians must thank former President Jonathan for not digging-in in the face of defeat and thereby saving the country untold consequences. "As I said in my inaugural speech, I bear no ill will against anyone on past events. Nobody should fear anything from me. We are not after anyone. People should only fear the consequences of their actions.*

Two claims are presented here. The first being that many persons have different opinions about the Former President Goodluck Jonathan on his leadership style and his lost in the last election, many of them being negative. President Buhari counters this claim by presenting to the audience the noble role which the former President played in ensuring a smooth transition to the opposition party. He counters this claim by paying and drawing the attention of Nigerians to the other side of the issue when he says: *Nigerians must thank former President Jonathan for not digging-in in the face of defeat and thereby saving the country untold consequences*. This is a kind of an endorsement that counters the previous claim of many that Goodluck Jonathan did not perform well.

The other part of the extract above, is the real voicing of the claim in Speech One where many claimed that he is on a revenge mission especially for political foes. In the extract above, he reaffirms he earlier stand of countering this claim by saying: *I bear no ill will against anyone on past events. Nobody should fear anything from me. We are not after anyone*. This absolves him of any liability which the earlier claim had suggested.

Also in speech Two, Buhari says in another instance:

*Fellow Nigerians, there have been a lot of anxiety and impatience over the apparent delay in announcement of ministers. There is no cause to be anxious. Our government set out to do things methodically and properly. We received the handing over notes from the outgoing government only four days before taking over. Consequently, the Joda Transition Committee submitted its Report on the reorganization of Federal Government structure after studying the hand over notes. It would have been haphazard to announce ministers when the government had not finalized the number of ministries to optimally carry the burden of governance. "Anyway, the wait is over. The first set of names for ministerial nominees for confirmation has been sent to the senate. Subsequent lists will be forwarded in due course. Impatience is not a virtue. Order is more vital than speed. Careful and deliberate decisions after consultations get far better results.*

The underlined part in the extract above is a claim by many Nigerians that the current administration is very slow. In fact, many said they lacked ideas on how to pilot the affairs of Nigeria especially the government's inability to appoint ministers after a long period of wait. The situation is that many persons are anxious about the direction the government is taking. In countering this claim, President Buhari presents the other side of the issue which borders on the need to be

patient and methodological in taking actions. He presents the true situation of things and buttresses the fact with: *'Anyway, the wait is over.'* The intention of countering claims is to better inform the people on the true situation especially if it differs from what many think. It also has a way of stopping the spread of rumours in the society.

Next, we turn our attention to the only instance use of the Claim to Counter Claim textual patterning Model in Speech Three where Buhari says:

*Mr. President, as many might not know, my country, Nigeria, has lived by this conviction, even when judgement went against us in territorial disputes with our neighbours. We respected those judgements and abided by them as a mark of respect for the rule of law and the charter of this organization. Nigeria's record in the U.N. peacekeeping is second to none. I myself as a young officer in the Nigerian Army did tours of duty in Congo and the Lebanon. Nigeria has contributed to U.N. peacekeeping efforts in Ethiopia, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Darfur. Furthermore, we are proud of our contributions to other activities of the U.N. including the Peace Building Commission, the Human Rights Council and security sector reform.*

In the extract above, there is a situation where most of the world leaders do not know that Nigeria believes in the in the philosophies of the United Nation's Charter. To counter this claim, President Buhari presents facts and data on the various occasion where Nigeria has demonstrated that they abide by the decisions of the United Nations. The first instance is in accepting the judgement of the International Court of justice when the decision went against Nigeria in the case of the ownership of the Bakasi Peninsula. He also cites personal instances of being in the United Nations Peace keeping group as a junior Soldier in the Nigerian Army for peace keeping missions to Congo. Buhari presents the facts in the extract above to counter the claims and redirect the thinking to the right course.

Lastly in our analysis, we present the extract below on the use of Claim to Counter Claim textual patterning Model in Speech Four. According to Buhari:

*My election has been described as historic. I agree that it is indeed historic because for the first time in the practice of democracy in my country, an opposition Party has defeated the ruling Party in a keenly contested election. The election was also held against the backdrop of the fears and concerns expressed both in Nigeria and among our international friends abroad and partners that the outcome of the election could spell doom for Nigeria. I am glad that even though those fears and concerns were not without basis, the outcome was totally different, to the relief of all of us.*

The extract above differs from the others in the Claim to Counter Claim textual patterning Model in the sense that he partially accepts the claim or affirms it while in the other cases he counters the earlier claim out rightly. The affirmation stage of this model can go in different directions as we have earlier stated. One can refute while in another instance one can accept the claim and in another, one can partially accept. In the excerpt above, President Buhari partially accepts the fears that many expressed before and during the Nigerian Presidential election in 2015. He says: *The election was also held against the backdrop of the fears and concerns expressed both in Nigeria and among our international friends abroad and partners that the outcome of the election could spell doom for Nigeria.* This statement is the claim and it creates the situation clearly which is that of fear. In the affirmation stage, Buhari accepts the claim when he says: *I am glad that even though those fears and concerns were not without basis.* To display that the acceptance was partial, he says: *the outcome was totally different, to the relief of all of us.*

In all, what we have been able to do in this chapter is to analysis the four speeches of President Buhari using the textual patterning model identified by Hoey. We divided the analysis into three sections where in the first section we focused on the problem to solution model, then the General to specific Model and lastly the Claim to Counter Claim model. This was done to reveal how Buhari organizes his ideas in the four speeches.

## 5. Findings

The analysis of President Buhari's speeches in terms of the textual patterning reveals the following:

1. The Problem to Solution Model of Textual Patterning comprises of two main components- the problem and the solution. The other components of situation and evaluation are not important in the text to conclude that their absence in a text amounts to incompleteness in the structure of the model. From the speeches, we discover that if the problem is stated and the solution provided in futuristic, the evaluation cannot be presented immediately as it has not been applied but if the solution was applied in the past the evaluation stage can be presented.
2. The provision of a futuristic solution in the Problem to Solution Model of Textual Patterning acts as a pointer to the present situation even if it was not stated expressly.

3. We also discovered that there is a level of connection or a form of resemblance between two speeches presented to the same audience at two different times. In this case, the speech delivered by Buhari on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May, 2015 to mark his inaugural and the one delivered on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, 2015 to mark the Independence Celebration of Nigeria are similar.
4. Also, specificity has patronage as one of the effects it creates when a human group is focused on in the positive light in a speech, the people feel important and ‘belong’ politically.
5. Specificity acts as a form of reinforcement on the information value of the general statement. Also, both the general statement and the specific statements in the General to Specific Model of Textual Patterning are of equal importance as the study discovered that they are ‘two hands that intend to clap’ for effective communication.
6. In the General to Specific Model of Textual Patterning, the general statement can be housed in the same sentence with the specific statements in which, they would occupy different clauses. On the other hand, they can be in different sentences where the general statement acts like the topic sentence and the specific statements act like the detail sentences.

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