

CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF THE LANGUAGE OF RAPE REPORTAGE IN NIGERIAN NEWSPAPERS

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Newspapers, as part of the print media, perform the functions of informing and enlightening their readers about different societal issues, and by extension, bring about the socialisation of the readers and the reformation of the society. One of the indispensable tools used in achieving these functions is the language with which they report and frame stories. Conboy (2010) opines that the language of newspapers is the most vital and dynamic aspect of newspapers and newspapers extend the social activity feature of a language beyond the confines of face-to-face discourse to an extended, imagined community of kinship. The issues which newspapers write about, the information which they bring to the readers, the manner of their reportage, and the language used in their reportage have a way of affecting any given society by way of changing or advancing a particular tradition of a people. The reason for this as opined by Benedict (1992, p.3) is that “the press both reflects and shapes public opinion. Sometimes, by reporting events, it merely reinforces established opinions by mirroring them. At other times, it takes a more active role, suggesting new views and challenging old ones”.

The societal issues that usually make up the various news stories of newspapers are political, economic, social, educational, sport, and moral issues, etc. These societal issues are reported by newspapers with different attitudes: attitudes which are very often reflected in the language of the reportage, and the location of the reportage within the newspapers. News reports at the front pages of newspapers are considered to be more important and get more attention than those in other pages. In Nigeria, one of the social/moral issues that occupy the reportage of the Nigerian newspapers is rape. Amnesty International (2005) raised an alarm

on the increasing rate of rape and other related sexual violence against women in Nigeria and called for a collaborative effort in tackling the menace.

Amnesty International (2005) identified failure in criminal judicial system and the inadequacies inherent in Nigerian laws as partly responsible for the increase, and suggested that while the federal government, state government and international community need to do more in terms of strengthening judicial system, the media should be at the front of the fight through their reportage on rape and other sexual crime. Years after Amnesty International's publication, Chiazor, Udume and Egharevba (2016) re-echoed the fact that rape crime is still on the increase in Nigerian society and queried the underreported nature of the crime in general and the attitude of newspapers towards rape in particular.

Available literature has showed that because of the social and moral stigma attached to rape globally, rape crimes are reported in Nigerian newspapers in a language that speaks volumes about the stance of the newspapers, the attitude of the reporters/newspapers towards the rapists, the rape victims, and the judicial/legal process that see to it that justice is done. Whether any ideology in support or against rape crime in the society will be advanced in newspapers depends on how the newspapers use language to report rape crime. Language is therefore the hinge, at every point in time, upon which the position of the newspapers will turn. As important as the language is therefore in rape reportage, it has not attracted adequate scholarly attention of discourse analysts who could use the findings of their analyses to speak on the Nigerian newspapers' position on rape, and also advise the newspapers' management and their readers. This particular work fills that gap by examining the language of rape reportage in Nigerian newspapers from the perspective of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Critical discourse analysis (CDA) is one linguistic research approach that has been used to unravel ideological commitments, issues of power relations, dominance and resistance in different media discourses. While some discourses like political, racial, medical, economic, and legal discourses in the (print) media are enjoying patronage, as they are being used as research data, some others are not enjoying such attention. One of such discourses in the media is rape crime. In Nigeria, as revealed by available literature, it is often believed that rape reports in newspapers are conditioned by societal stereotypes which are biased and often constructed to the disadvantage of rape victims. Dunu and Okafor (2017) write that media coverage of rape cases poses a great deal of concern because they may serve to indirectly perpetuate sexual violence through creating beliefs and attitudes about sexual assault that distort the definition of sexual assaults and shift the blame to victims, influence readers' perception of sexual assaults and may further perpetuate rape culture in the society.

Other scholars like Wilkinson (2008), Womersley and Anastasia (2009), Macleod (2010), Nwabueze and Oduah (2015), Chiazor, Udume and Egharevba (2016), share Dunu and Okafor's (2017) view on media coverage of rape. For example, Nwabueze and Oduah (2015) are of the belief that the media in Nigeria still frame rape report in a manner that rape victims are revictimized by the report. What is obvious in the available research works on rape generally and rape as a media discourse is the fact that there is the problem of inadequate attention given to the language used in reporting rape in newspapers in general and Nigerian newspapers in particular. Adequate attention to the language becomes a necessity that will help debunk or justify the claims of available literature and reveal what the true position of Nigerian newspapers is in relation to rape in the Nigerian society.

Following the suitability of CDA in analysing discourses, this work addressed the problem by carrying out a critical discourse analysis of the language of rape reportage in Nigerian newspapers in order to analyse the language and explain the communicative purpose behind its usage.

1.3 Aim and Objectives of Study

The aim of this work is to analyse the language of rape reportage in Nigerian newspapers in order to identify the communicative purpose behind its usage. The objectives which this work intends to achieve are to:

1. explain the linguistic structures that are used in Nigerian newspapers' rape reportage;
2. determine the discursive strategies used in Nigerian newspapers' rape reportage and their communicative goals;
3. study how the language of rape reportage present the rapist and the rape victim to the readers;
4. explain the ideologies inherent in the language of rape reportage in Nigerian newspapers; and
5. determine the power relations inherent in the language of Nigerian newspapers' rape reportage.

1.4 Research Questions

Following the statement of problem, the aim and objectives stated in previous sections, the research questions of this work are:

1. What are the linguistic structures that are used in Nigerian newspapers' rape reportage?
2. What discursive strategies are used in Nigerian newspapers rape reportage and what are their communicative goals?
3. How does the language of the reportage present both the rapist and the rape victim to the readers?
4. What ideologies are inherent in the language of rape reportage?
5. What power relations are demonstrated by the language of the newspapers' rape reportage?

1.5 Scope of Study

The data used in this work are newspapers' rape reportage and the scope of the study in relation to the data is limited to one hundred and fifty (150) different rape news reports between 2013 and 2017 from three different Nigerian newspapers: *Vanguard*, *Punch*, and *The Nation*. Although the newspapers' head offices are located in Lagos, the reports collected from these newspapers cover every geopolitical zone and states in Nigeria. Fifty (50) different reports were collected from each of the newspapers, giving a total of one hundred and fifty different (150) reports. The scope of the study is limited to the three newspapers because the newspapers have wide range of circulation and huge readership in Nigeria. The sampling methodology adopted also informed the scope of the study because the researcher of this work adopted the deliberate data sampling method: a sampling method which allowed the researcher to purposively draw the research data.

1.6 Significance of the Study

This work and its findings are significant in so many ways. First, by examining the linguistic elements, structures, and discursive strategies that are used in rape reportage, the work showed the need for readers to read in between the lines. The reason for this is that language and mode of news reportage are always ideologically used and interpretation of messages in the reports very much depends on the recognition and understanding of the ideological positions inherent in the reports.

The second significance is that this work has contributed to the body of available knowledge on CDA by modifying two approaches to CDA (van Dijk's social cognitive and Fairclough's dialectical relational approaches) to what the researcher called Social Structural Model of CDA (SSM), and used it as part of the theoretical framework of this work. SSM can be used or further modified by other critical discourse analysts who may find it suitable for their own research work.

The third significance is that the findings of this work would be important to news reporters and newspapers as an institution. This is because the findings do not only expose the attitude of reporters and their newspapers towards rape cases but it can also influence how future rape reports are framed by reporters, and show the degree to which the language of their reportage can bring about some social influence on the readers as regards rape as a social vice and the extent to which the discourse of the rape reportage is capable of changing readers' perception and attitude towards rape crime. This is because, according to Teo (2000, p.9), "discourse, especially the sort that we encounter every day, in an almost routine and hence unremarkable way, can change our perception and attitudes regarding people, places, and events and therefore becomes a potentially powerful site for the dominance of minds."

1.7 Justification of Study

The justification for this study is rooted in the fact that available literature to the researcher, both on critical discourse analysis as a theoretical approach in language study and on newspaper discourse, show that scholars like Wilkinson (2008), Womersley and Anastasia (2009) Macleod (2010), Nwabueze and Oduah (2015), Chiazor, Udume and Egharevba (2016), Dunu and Okafor's (2017) have examined rape from different perspectives like legal, psychological, and social and cultural perspectives. The works share the view that the newspapers' reports on rape are conditioned by societal stereotypes and attitudes which place rape victims at a disadvantage position. What is common in the literature is the fact that there is the problem of inadequate attention on the language used in reporting rape in newspapers. The need to study the language used in rape reportage in Nigerian newspapers, from the perspective of critical discourse analysis, in order to debunk or justify the extant view, and show what the position of the newspapers is, formed the justifiable ground upon which this work stands.

1.8 Limitation of Study

This work is limited in some ways and they are identified below.

1. The cultural aspect of the data was not considered in the analysis because of the different cultural background of the different places in Nigeria from which the newspapers reported. It is the researcher opinion that the data does not provide enough information as regards how cultural values of the society affect rape.
2. Issues of intertextuality inherent in the data were also not analysed. This is because the aim and objectives of this work do not favour its inclusion in the analysis.

1.9 Summary

This chapter has so far given a general introduction to this work. It begins by giving relevant information which serves as background of the study. This was followed with appropriate problem of study. The need to examine the language of rape reportage in Nigerian newspapers in order to show how it is used by the newspapers to achieve different communicative purposes is the aim of the study, with well expressed objectives. The research questions were carefully drawn in a manner that they aligned with the set objectives. The scope of the study was carefully delimited and the significance and justification of the study stated. The following chapter, therefore, reviews literature on relevant concepts and theoretical framework.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This section reviews literature related to this work. The following areas constitute the focus of this review: discourse analysis and its origin, approaches to discourse analysis, some concepts in discourse analysis, critical discourse analysis and its origin, approaches to critical discourse analysis, theoretical framework, language of newspaper reportage, news as discourse, and empirical review on the language of newspaper reportage and rape cases.

2.2 Discourse Analysis and its Origin

The term “discourse analysis” in linguistics is used to refer to the analysis of “discourse.” According to Crystal (2008), discourse is a term used in linguistics to refer to a continuous stretch of language larger than a sentence. It is a set of utterances which constitute any recognisable speech event. Barker and Ellege (2011, p. 30 – 31), while giving the different meanings of discourse, write that

in its most general usage, discourse can refer to any form of language in use or naturally occurring language. Another meaning conceives discourse as language above the sentence or clause and would lend itself to the analysis text structure and pragmatics. Discourse can also be used to refer to particular contexts of language use, and in this sense it becomes similar to concepts like genre or text type. For example we conceptualized political discourse (the sort of language used in political contexts) or media discourse (language used in the media). In addition, some writers have conceived of discourse as related to

particular topics, such as environmental discourse or colonial discourse. Such labels sometimes suggest a particular attitude towards a topic.

What this means is that discourse is the use of language in different communicative contexts, and as Jorgensen and Phillips (2002, p.1) put it, “underlying the word discourse is the general idea that language is structured according to different patterns that people’s utterances follow when they take part in different domains of life (familiar examples being “medical discourse” and “political discourse”) and discourse analysis is the analysis of those patterns”. In this study, the analysis of the different patterns of people’s use of language is important because it is the patterns that often differentiate one discourse from another and reveal things about the discourse participants.

Therefore, discourse analysis is the analysis of the use of language and the different contextual factors that condition the usage of the language in any given communicative situation or speech event. According to McCarthy, Matthiessen, and Slade (2002), discourse analysis is the analysis of language in social context. This view by McCarthy, Matthiessen, and Slade is too narrow because the researcher of this work believes that other contexts, like cultural context, can affect language use in any communicative situation. Malmkjar (1995), while writing about the origin of discourse analysis, writes that the term discourse analysis was first employed by [the structural linguist] Zellig Harris in 1952 as the name for a method for the analysis of connected speech and that this method departed from the then popular descriptive linguistics which only focused on sentence construction and the structure of a sentence. Mcarthur (1992) shares this view also when he writes that at a time when linguistics was largely concerned with the analysis of single sentences, Harris was interested in the distribution of elements in extended texts and the relationship between a text and its social situation.

Mcarthur (1992) writes further that the development of discourse analysis was also helped by other linguists whose linguistic researches and theories advanced discourse analytic study. According to him, in an attempt to study language use and its function within a given context, the American linguistic anthropologist Dell Hymes studies speech in its social setting, J. L Austin, J. R. Searle and H.P Grice studied speech act and conversational maxims respectively, while M. A. K. Halliday in turn influenced discourse analysis through his systemic functional grammar. van Dijk (1993) gives a more elaborate view on the origin and development of discourse analysis when he identifies various academic fields that influenced the development of discourse analysis.

The first is the influence of discourse analysis by anthropology and ethnography. van Dijk (1993) writes further that against the historical background of the movement of Russian formalism that accompanied the Soviet Revolution, anthropologists, linguists, and literary scholars provided the first elementary structural analysis of various types of discourse. The analysis as at this time was greatly influenced by the tenets of structural anthropology which put more emphasis on semiotics. The second influence on the development of discourse analysis, according to van Dijk (1993), is the one brought about by sociology. van Dijk explains further that Sociological scholars, like Goffman, Garfinkel and Cicourel, focused on everyday interactions and the meanings and interpretations that could be associated with them developed conversational analysis and other concepts like turn taking which are today associated with discourse analysis.

The third influence on discourse analysis was done by sociolinguistics: a linguistic approach that emphasised the importance of the study of actual language use in social context. Sociolinguistics influenced the analysis of the effect of social factors like age, gender, class in present day discourse analysis. The fourth influence, according to van Dijk

(1993), was done by philosophical studies and the works of scholars like J. L. Austin, J. R. Searle and H. P. Grice were influential. van Dijk (1993, p. 5) writes that:

they provided the basic conceptual framework of the pragmatic account of language use and thus enable the construction of the necessary link between verbal utterances analysed as linguistic objects on the one hand and the accomplishment of social action on the other hand. Although much of their works were initially limited to isolated one-sentence utterances, this pragmatic missing link between linguistic structures and social actions also appeared to be relevant for the analysis of discourse as a sequence of speech acts and for the relationship between text and context.

The contributions of the above fields/authorities to the study of discourse analysis are still important today. It was these various contributions to discourse analysis that brought about the differences between discourse analysis and other related approaches to the study of language in use like text analysis.

Some linguists have tried to differentiate discourse analysis from text analysis. One of them is Crystal (1987), who while trying to explain the meaning of “discourse” and “text,” writes that discourse analysis mainly focuses on the structure of naturally occurring spoken language, as found in such discourses like conversations, interviews, and speeches, and that text analysis focuses on the structure of written language, as found in such texts as essays, notices, etc. But he is quick to accept, and this work believes it so, that the distinction is not clear-cut because discourse and text can be used in a much broader sense to include all language units with a definable communicative function, whether spoken or written.

Discourse analysis has contributed to the development of contemporary modern linguistics in that it has demonstrated that both spoken and written discourse have consistent and describable structures, with different complexities reflecting the different functions of speech and writing in different cultures (McCarthy, Matthiessen, & Slade, 2002). Supporting this view, Agnes (2001, p.429) writes thus: “what makes discourse analysis to stand out as a discipline independent from although intricately interwoven with other domains of linguistic inquiry is that, more than any other domain of linguistics, discourse analysis emphasizes that language is not merely a self-contained system of symbols but more importantly a mode of doing, being, and becoming”. This study supports Agnes’ view because it shares the view that language is not only a symbol of communication but a tool that can be used to reflect or change some social practices.

In doing discourse analysis, there are some things which the discourse analyst looks out for which make him/her different from other linguists of different object of study and theoretical orientations. McCarthy, Matthiessen, and Slade (2002, p.56) give some questions which when asked could reveal those things which are unique to discourse analysis. They put the questions thus:

Who are the participants in the discourse, that is, the writer and reader, the speaker and listener? What is their relationship? Is it one between equals? Are there differences in power or knowledge between the participants? How do we know what writers and speakers mean? What does a piece of language mean in a given context? What factors enable us to interpret the text? What do we need to know about the context? What clues are there in the surrounding text which will enable us to apprehend the meaning?

The above explains why discourse analysts are said to be different from structural linguists and grammarians whose major focus is only restricted to describing the structures of sentences created by them. This is because in an attempt to analyse naturally occurring language data, the discourse analyst, according to Agnes (2001), does not only see the language as a mere system of acoustic and orthographic symbols and rules for sequencing words or inferring meanings, but also sees language use as motivated by real communicative needs, and as a means through which we accomplish various actions and interactions. In doing discourse analysis, there are some concepts which the analyst cannot ignore. Some of them are reviewed in section 2.3:

2.3 Elements of Discourse Analysis

Some elements are indispensable when doing any linguistic analytic work worth given the descriptive label of discourse analysis. Some of the elements under review are context, discourse markers, discourse structure, and cohesion.

Context

The term context in linguistics generally has so many definitions and explanations depending on the linguistic angle from which it is being looked at. From a grammatical perspective, it is seen as the grammatical environment in which a particular grammatical element is used and as such finds its grammatical meaning and syntactic relevance, while from a discourse analysis and pragmatic perspective, it is seen as both linguistic and non-linguistic situation and environment in which a language is used, and as such determine the meaning of such language. It is this second perspective that is shared in this work. Regardless of the available views, there is always a meeting ground for the definitions and explanations, and the ground is the fact that a linguistic element or a piece of language is not used in

isolation of an environment that will help the users to use the language appropriately for communication purposes.

Crystal (2008) presents two views which when combined will explain context in the light of discourse analysis. The first view sees context in the light of the linguistic environment within which a given grammatical element is used. For the second view, Crystal (2008, p.108) writes that context is

a term referring to the features of the non-linguistic world in relation to which linguistic units are systematically used. The term “situation” is also used in this sense, as in the compound term situational context. In its broadest sense, situational context includes the total non-linguistic background to a text or utterance, including the immediate situation in which it is used, and the awareness by speaker and hearer of what has been said earlier and of any relevant external beliefs or presuppositions.

In discourse analysis, this researcher believes that contextual analysis is important because context is everything and it helps to situate the meaning of a particular language use properly and remove other meanings which could bring about ambiguity. In this light, Widdowson (2004, p.38) quoting Hymes (1968) writes that “when a [linguistic] form is used in a context, it eliminates the meanings possible to that context other than those the form can signal: the context eliminates from consideration the meanings possible to the form other than those the context can support”. Contextual meaning in any discourse is therefore obtained when attention is paid to the following: reference, presupposition, implicature, inference, and communicative situations.

Reference is the relation that exists between grammatical items/units (like words, phrases, etc) in which one item is used to designate another. Reference can be anaphoric when it is referring to an earlier part of a discourse or cataphoric when it refers to a later part. Referencing is done by the language user who could either be a speaker or a writer. It is what a speaker's or a writer's expressions refer to that concern the discourse analyst (Yule, 1988). Presupposition has to do with assumption upon which a given communication stands. According to Barker and Ellege (2011), it is a proposition, which although not formally stated, is understood and taken in order for an utterance or a statement to make sense. As part of contextual determinants, presupposition is important in discourse analysis because it can point to speaker's or writer's commonsense assumptions, beliefs, and attitudes that are taken as given (Barker & Ellege 2011).

Implicature has to do with the contextual implication of an utterance within a discourse. According to Crystal (2008), it is a term derived from the work of the Philosopher H. P Grice and now frequently used in linguistics as part of the study of conversational structure. To Crystal, it is the implication which can be deduced from an utterance on the basis of certain cooperative principles which govern the efficiency and normal acceptability of conversations. In this study, the consideration of implicature may lend some contribution to the contextual understanding of the data. Inference shares some relationship with implicature. This is because it is what is implicated in a given communicative context that can be inferred by participants of the communicative situation. Communicative situation is another important contextual determinant in a discourse. It is a situation in which a given communication takes places.

Deixis in Discourse

Deixis is another important concept in the analysis of any discourse because it concerns those grammatical items used to show anaphoric and cataphoric references. According to Crystal (2007), deixis is a term used to subsume those features of language which refer directly to the personal, temporal, or locational characteristics of the situation within which an utterance takes place and whose meaning is thus relative to that situation. Crystal's view above echoes Levinson's (2006) view that deixis introduces subjective, attentional, intentional, context-dependent properties into natural language. There are five basic types of deixis and they are person, spatial, time, social and discourse deixises

Person deixis is the use of personal pronouns like *I*, *You*, *He*, to indicate a speaker/listener. In conversation, the use of person deixis can become complex during the exchange of turns between speaker and listener. This is because a speaker can shift from being "I" to "you" in a conversation. In written text, person deixis is easily identified because it usually has a co-reference. Spatial deixis is used to indicate the concept of distance in a given discourse. It is often represented with the word class of adverb (like *here* and *there*) and it is used to show the position or location of a thing or person. Yule (1996) writes, and the researcher of this work agrees, that in considering spatial deixis, however, it is important to remember that location from a speaker's perspective can be fixed mentally as well as physically. When it is mentally fixed, it means that the concept of distance that is being represented by a given spatial deictic item does not refer to a physical location that can be easily seen by a given listener in a conversation or a reader of a written text. For the listener/reader to know the referent of the deictic item therefore, he/she has to share the same background knowledge with the speaker/writer. But when it is physically fixed, it means the immediate context of a speech event gives clue to the referent of the spatial deictic item.

Time deixis is often known as temporal deixis. It is the deixis like *now, then, last night, this Monday, yesterday*, etc. use to show time in a discourse. According to Grundy (2008), time deictic items are usually demonstrative adverbial expressions and tense markers indicating points of time whose reference can only be determined in relation to the time of utterance in which the tense markers occur. The use of time deixis is almost a common thing in every conversation or written communication but the reference of time is not something that is easy to pinpoint. This is because, time reference in any communication could cut across the overt semantics of the lexical item realising the deictic item. The example and its explanation below are taken from Grundy (2008, p. 31):

I hope this year's going to be good (a student says this in September during a conversation with a friend)

“This year” probably refers to the academic year. If she says the same thing on 1st January, it refers to the calendrical year. And if she says it on her birthday, it refers to the twelve months until her next birthday.

Another type of deixis in discourse is social deixis. It is the deixis used to signal the social relation that exists between participants in a discourse (speaker and listener/ writer and reader). The social status indexed by social deixis is usually relative to the place in a social structure where a given discourse participants locate themselves. This is different from the discourse deixis that refers to the way a writer indexes places in a discourse relative to point of writing (Grundy, 2008). Deixis in discourses are used differently depending on what the speakers/writers want to encode for the listener/reader.

Discourse Markers

Discourse markers are indispensable elements in any discourse. This is because apart from helping to serve as “ground fillers” in interaction most especially the oral communicative situation, they also help to enhance cohesion in any communicative situation and as such they are part of the concepts that the discourse analyst looks for when doing discourse analysis. According to Trillo (2006, p.191), discourse markers can be defined as “those elements, such as *you know, I mean, well, oh, you see, listen, look*, etc. that have a distinct prosodic entity, tend not to have a specific meaning, and contribute to scaffold the pragmatic coherence of interaction”. He writes further that discourse markers have often been described by their absence of traditional linguistic properties, since neither their use nor their meaning seem to resemble any of the traditional linguistic categories. Blakemore (2006) elaborates on the above view when she writes that discourse markers are generally used to refer to a syntactically heterogeneous class of expressions which are distinguished by their function in discourse and the kind of meaning they encode.

Discourse markers are not restricted to oral conversation alone as many authors would want readers to believe. This is because there are grammatical elements in written discourse that are used as discourse markers and as such they perform both grammatical and discourse functions. According to Schiffrin (2001), discourse markers in written texts just like in oral conversations are set of linguistic expressions which can belong to any word class like conjunction, interjection, adverb, and some lexicalise phrases (like *I mean*) , and whether in oral or written discourse, discourse markers can have individual syntactic and semantic functions. Their discourse functions, Schiffrin (2001, p.57 – 58) writes, “are multifunctional, and it is the multifunctionality on different plane of discourse that helps to integrate the many

different simultaneous processes underlying the construction of discourse, and thus helps to create cohesion”.

The discourse function of discourse markers identified by Schiffrin is related to what Blakemore (2006) refers to discourse markers as conventional implicatures. To Blakemore, discourse markers can indicate conventional implicatures because they lie on the pragmatic side of the semantic-pragmatic border because of the fact that they do not contribute to truth-conditional content of the utterance that contains them. In any discourse where discourse markers are to be found, they can perform two broad semantic functions which are rhetorical management and information structuring. Lewis (2006) explains that when discourse makers help structure information, they can either be used to either foreground or background any piece of information and when they are used for rhetorical management, they simply perform rhetorical functions like persuading.

In most discourse analytic researches, the discourse analyst often examines the discourse markers used because “discourse markers tell us not only about the linguistic properties of a set of frequently used expressions and the organisation of social interactions and situations in which they are used, but also about the cognitive, expressive, social, and textual competence of those who use them” (Schiffrin, 2001, p.67).

Discourse Structure

Discourse structure is one particular concept in discourse analysis which is not common in available literature but whose importance in the business of the discourse analyst cannot be over emphasised. Discourse structure is the way in which information is linguistically presented in any communicative event where language is used. It is the manner in which a user of a language structured his/her language use, “syntax-discoursally” in such a

way that the positions of some linguistic elements will communicate the language user's intended meaning/message and as such achieve a particular contextual and communicative effect. Ward and Birner (2001) are of the opinion that it is the way discourses are structured that a discourse analyst can identify some piece of information as "given" and some others as "new": given information being those information which the speaker/writer assumes the addressee/reader knows, while new information is the information which speaker/writer is introducing.

Discourse structure also helps to expose the unique difference that exists between different discourses, most especially the written discourses. What this means is that discourses are structured differently with the aim of achieving different communicative goals and creating different communicative identities: the way media discourse is structured is different from the way legal, medical, political, and other discourses are structured. Each has a unique structure that aids its communicative intentions, and in doing discourse analysis, the discourse analyst can examine the discourse structure of the data with which he/she is working. In this study, the researcher is of the view that the way news reports are structured is deliberately done by the newspapers in order to ideologically control the order in which information is presented to the readers, and how the readers should process the information.

Cohesion

Cohesion is another concept in discourse analysis which the discourse analyst cannot ignore. This is because the connectivity that exists between various linguistic elements within any linguistic construction (like the sentence, clause, and phrase etc.) and the way the connectivity relates with the non-linguistic elements within the communicative context in order to achieve effective communication is achieved through the help of cohesion. According to Halliday and Hasan (1976, p.4), "cohesion is a semantic relation that exists

within a text and it occurs where the interpretation of some elements in a discourse is dependent on that of another”. What Halliday and Hasan are saying is that in language use, regardless of the medium of communication, the various linguistic elements and the non-linguistic contextual elements must work together in such a way that together they communicate, and when interpretation of a particular linguistic item is to be done, reference(s) should be made to other linguistic item as well.

Based on the above, the researcher of this work shares the view that without cohesion there is no text because the unity of linguistic elements that brings about what Halliday and Hasan (1976) will describe as the texture of a text is achieved through cohesion. If discourse data are regarded as texts because, according to Halliday and Hasan (1976, p.1), “a text is used in linguistics to refer to any passage, spoken or written, of whatever length, that does form a unified whole,” it means therefore that without cohesion, there is no discourse, and where discourse is to be analysed, the cohesive elements within the discourse should be considered by the analyst. This is why in this study attention is given to cohesive devices used in the data. There are many ways in which cohesion in a discourse can be achieved but Halliday and Hasan (1976) group them into five when they say that cohesion in English can be achieved through the use of referencing elements, substitution of linguistic items, ellipsis of linguistic items, conjunction, and lexical cohesion.

Referencing as already explained under context above is the relation that exists between grammatical items/units (like words, phrases, etc) in which one item is used to designate another and it can either be anaphoric or cataphoric reference. The anaphoric and cataphoric are classified as endophoric reference because their referencing manifests within a given syntactic structure. But cohesion can as well be achieved with an exophoric reference which is the referencing of elements outside a given syntactic construction but within a given

speech situation: that is reference made to context of situation. Substitution as a cohesive strategy has to do with the replacement of an item by another in a given grammatical construction. Halliday and Hasan (1976) write that the distinction between substitution and reference is that substitution is a relation between linguistic items such as words or phrases, whereas reference is a relation between meanings.

Ellipsis is related to substitution as a cohesive marker. It is simply the removal or omission of a grammatical item or the act of leaving something unsaid. This is often used in a discourse when it is certain that the discourse participants (speaker and listener, writer and reader) are aware of the omission and as such can easily recover the meaning and discourse function of the omitted part. The use of ellipsis can be ideological in a discourse when a discourse participant deliberately employs it to remove an item whose physical presence would have been more revealing in terms of messages. This will be considered very well in the data of this work. The use of conjunction and lexical cohesion are other cohesive markers in a discourse.

Conjunction is the use of coordinators like *and*, *or*, *but* in a grammatical construction. Halliday and Hasan (1976) write that “conjunctive elements are cohesive not in themselves but in directly by virtue of their specific meaning: they are not primarily devices for reaching out into the preceding text, but they express certain meanings which presuppose the presence of other components in the discourse.” Lexical cohesion is the cohesive effect achieved by the selection of vocabulary. The selection of vocabulary does not only help discourse participants to create cohesive ties always, but as Teo (2010) puts it, it also provides a discourse analyst with a key to unravel the potential ideological construction that underlies a text.

The concepts reviewed so far in this section can therefore be described as the backbone of any discourse analysis because they are there in virtually all discourse analysis data to aid the discourse analyst to realise his set goals. So, when discourse analysis is said to “describe and explain linguistic phenomena in terms of the affective, cognitive, situational, and cultural contexts of language use” (Agnes, 2001, p.429), it is because of the theoretical orientation of discourse analysts: an orientation which gives prominence to how we use language the way we do and how we live our lives linguistically (Agnes, 2001). In summary, discourse analysis is all about analysing language use as conditioned by different contexts. The data used for its analysis are usually naturally occurring language, and its analysts share the belief that context has so much influence on language and its functions. But regardless of the beliefs shared by different discourse analysts, they are rather not in agreement on the approaches to discourse analysis. The next section below reviews literature on approaches to discourse analysis.

2.4 Approaches to Discourse Analysis

There are so many approaches to the study of discourse analysis because discourse analysis cuts across many different academic disciplines like anthropology, philosophy, sociology, psychology, and linguistics. The approaches reviewed below are based on our available literature. According to Fairclough (1992), the approaches to discourse analysis can be divided into two – “non critical” and “critical” approaches. In trying to differentiate “non critical” from “critical” approaches, Fairclough (1992, p.12 – 13) writes that:

Critical approaches differ from non-critical approaches in not just describing discursive practices, but also showing how discourse is shaped by relations of power and ideologies, and the constructive effects discourse has upon social identities, social relations and systems of knowledge and belief, neither of

which is normally apparent to discourse participants. The approaches I designated as basically non-critical are: the frame work for describing classroom discourse in Sinclair and Coulthard (1975); ethnomethodological work in conversation analysis...

The non-critical approaches of discourse analysis are those approaches that give a general descriptive system for analysing discourse. Fairclough (1992) explains further that the advantage of the non-critical approaches is in the pioneering way in which it draws attention to systemic organisational properties of dialogue and provides ways of describing them; while its limitations are the absence of a developed social orientation to discourse and insufficient attention to interpretation. One popular approach within the “non-critical” approaches is conversational analysis.

According to Fairclough (1992), conversational analysis is an approach to discourse analysis which has been developed by a group of sociologists who call themselves “ethnomethodologists.” It is concerned with the detailed organisation of everyday interaction and was stimulated by Garfinkel H, and Goffman E. but later was developed by Sacks H., Schegloff E. A., Jefferson G., and others (McCarthy, Matthiessen, & Slade, 2002). The things that are mainly important to this approach are: conversational opening and closing, how topics are established, developed and changed within a conversation, how and why people formulate conversation, and the issue of turn-taking during conversation (Fairclough, 1996). Supporting the above view, Barker and Ellege (2011, p. 22) write that

a key aspect of conversational analysis is the belief that conversations tend to follow regular structures and that breakdown in such structures are of interest. Conversation analysts focus on the transcript of the talk and therefore

do not usually use other sources of information to aid their analysis. For example, they tend to not make inferences about what people are thinking, and they do not interview the participants to ask them about their inner feelings. In addition, many conversation analysts do not try to explain their conversational data by relating it to a person's identity or personality or by considering the wider social context or any existing theories.

Regardless of the limitation associated with conversational analysis, McCarthy, Matthiessen, and Slade (2002) are of the opinion, and the researcher of this work shares the view too, that a major contribution of conversational analysis has been to make everyday interaction a subject worthy of academic research.

The discourse analysis approaches which Fairclough refers to as “critical” are those situated within the frame work of “critical linguistics”: a development of linguistics which aims to reveal hidden power relations and ideological processes at work in spoken and written text (Crystal, 2008). According to him, “critical linguistics was the approach developed by a group based at the University of East Anglia in the 1970. They tried to marry a method of linguistic text analysis with a social theory of the functioning of language in political and ideological processes, drawing upon the functionalist linguistic theory associated with Michael Halliday, known as “systemic linguistics” (Fairclough, 1992). In writing about the origin of critical linguistics vis a vis its theoretical stance, as an approach of discourse analysis, Fairclough (1992, p.26) writes that

In view of its disciplinary origins, it is not surprising that critical linguistics was eager to distinguish itself from mainstream linguistics (then more heavily dominated by the Chomskyan paradigm than it is now) and sociolinguistics. Two prevalent and related dualisms in linguistic theory are rejected: the

treatment of language systems as autonomous and independent of “use” of language and the separation of meaning from style or expression. Against the first dualism, critical linguistics asserts with Halliday that language is as it is because of its function in social structure, and argues that the language that people have access to depend upon their position in the social system.

The view which is exposed in the above is that in analysing language in use in any context, critical linguistics is interested in language ideological interface and the various contextual functions which condition language use. It is this approach that has been developed into “critical discourse analysis” (CDA) and it is the theoretical framework of this study.

Some other linguists/discourse analysts have also explained other available discourse analysis approaches, which share some similarities with those explained by Fairclough (1992). Jorgensen and Phillips (2002) present three different approaches to discourse analysis and they are: Ernesto Laclau and Chantal Mouffe’s discourse theory, critical discourse analysis, and discursive psychology. They opined that these approaches are unique because they represent particularly fruitful theories and methods for research in communication, culture and society (Jorgensen & Phillips, 2002). Discursive theory, Jorgensen and Phillips (2002) write, aims at an understanding of the social as a discursive construction whereby, in principle, all social phenomena can be analysed using discourse analytical tools and its overall idea is that social phenomena are never finished or total, that is meaning can never be ultimately fixed and this opens up the way for constant social struggles about definitions of society and identity, with resulting social effects.

Jorgensen and Phillips, (2002) explain further that Laclau and Mouffe’s discursive theory is founded on the combination and modifying of two major theoretical traditions – Marxism and structuralism. “Marxism provides a starting point for thinking about the social,

and structuralism provides a theory of meaning. Laclau and Mouffe fuse these traditions into a single poststructuralist theory in which the whole social field is understood as a web of processes in which meaning is created” (Jorgensen & Phillips, 2002, p.25). To the researcher of this work, the major weakness associated with this approach is that it is too abstract in that Laclau and Mouffe did not present any viable analytical tool for any discourse analyst using this approach to work with. The second discourse approach, which Jorgensen and Phillips write about, is “critical discourse analysis.” This approach is what Fairclough (1992) tries to describe as “critical linguistics.” Because CDA is the discourse analysis approach employed in this work, it is reviewed in a section of its own.

The third discourse analysis approach is discursive psychology. The approach was developed by Edwards and Potter in the early 1990s. Jorgensen and Phillips (2002) write that the approach treats written and spoken language as constructions of the world oriented towards social action. As a social constructionist influenced approach, discursive psychology shares the structuralist and post structuralist premise that language is a dynamic form of social practice which shapes the social world including identities, social relations, and understanding of the world (Jorgensen & Phillips 2002). The premise of the approach is hinged on the fact that mental processes and their categories are constituted through social and discursive activities and not internal in human, as advanced by some psychologist. This approach is often employed as a theory in communication and social-cultural researches.

The review so far has shown that there are many approaches to discourse analysis, and that these approaches are influenced by the different academic disciplines of the analysts who introduced and used them. Figure1 shows some discourse analysis approaches.

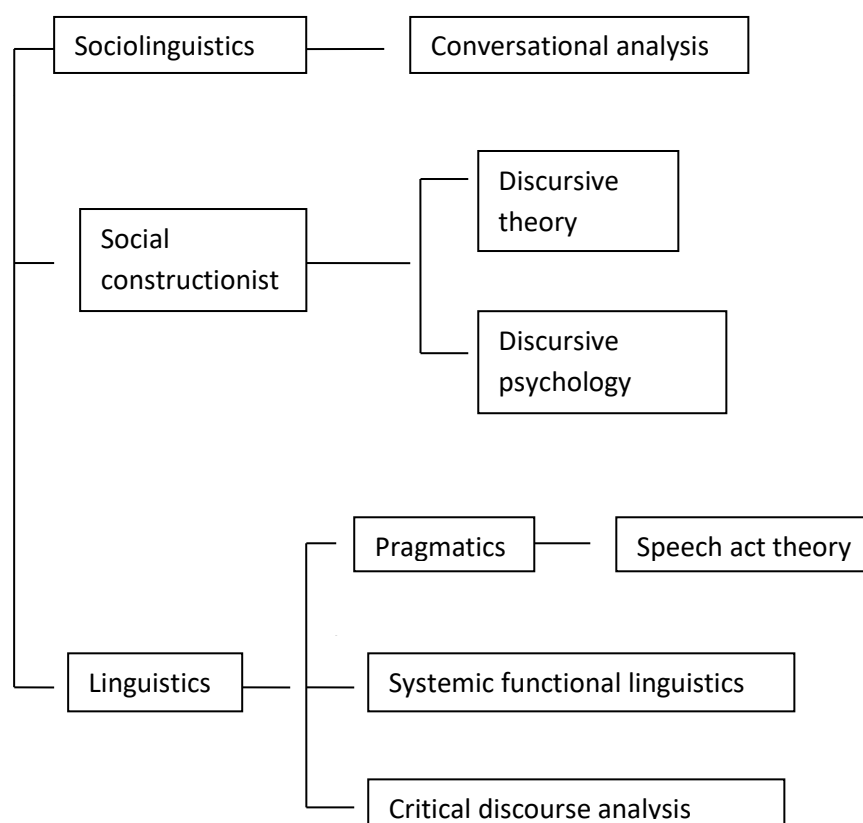


Figure 1. Some discourse analysis approaches, McCarthy, Matthiessen, & Slade (2002, P. 57).

The essence of the diagram is to give a clear picture of some available approaches to discourse analysis and the academic disciplines that influenced them. The focus of the literature review of this work does not give us the room to expose all the approaches. The section below, therefore, reviews literature on CDA: the approach upon which the analysis of this work is based.

2.5 Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)

CDA is one of the approaches to discourse analysis and there are many views towards explaining and defining it. According to van Dijk (2001, p.352), “CDA is a type of discourse analytical research that primarily studies the way social power abuse, dominance, and inequality are enacted, reproduced, and resisted by text and talk in the social and political

context”. What this means is that CDA as a discourse analysis approach aims to bring to the fore those ideologies and power relations of dominance, and resistance of different kinds which people usually take for granted in different discourses. van Dijk (2001, p.96) explains further that

CDA is discourse analysis “with an attitude.” It focuses on social problems, and especially on the role of discourse in the production and reproduction of power abuse or domination. Wherever possible, it does so from a perspective that is consistent with the best interest of dominated groups. It takes the experiences and opinions of members of such groups seriously, and supports their struggle against inequality. That is, CDA research combines what perhaps pompously used to be called “solidarity with the oppressed” with an attitude of opposition and dissent against those who abuse text and talk in order to establish, confirm or legitimate their abuse of power.

The view expressed by van Dijk above seems to make CDA research to be restricted to only linguistic data where issues of power abuse and dominance are only treated. Even though Widdowson (2004) tends to agree with van Dijk’s view by writing that CDA approach is critical because it is quite explicitly directed at revealing how language is used for the exercise of socio-political control, this study supports Wodak and Meyer’s (2008, p. 2) view that “the objects under investigation [in CDA] do not have to be related to negative or exceptionally serious social or political experiences or event – this is a frequent misunderstanding of the aims and goals of CDA: any social phenomenon lends itself to critical investigation, to be challenged and not taken for granted.” .

CDA, according to Wodak and Meyer (2008), seems to have originated from critical linguistics: a linguistic orientation whose basic claims are that all linguistic usage encodes

ideological patterns or discursive structures which mediate representations of the world in language, and that different usages encode different ideologies resulting from their different situation and purpose (Malmkjar 1995, p.118). Wodak (2001, p. 4) writes about the origin of CDA thus:

CDA as a network of scholars emerged in the early 1990s, following a small symposium in Amsterdam, in January 1991. By chance and through the support of the University of Amsterdam, Teun Van Dijk, Norman Fairclough, Gunther Kress, Theo Van Leeuwen and Ruth Wodak spent two days together, and had the wonderful opportunity to discuss theories and methods of discourse analysis and specially CDA. The meeting made it possible for everyone to confront each other with the very distinct and different approaches, which still mark the different approaches today. In this process of group formation, differences and sameness were exposed; differences towards other theories and methodologies in discourse analysis.

The different linguistic theoretical orientations of the authorities in the above quotation could be taken to account for the different views of what CDA is all about today. But regardless of the different views on CDA available in various literatures, CDA scholars like Norman Fairclough, Teun Van Dijk, Gunther Kress, Ruth Wodak, etc seem to agree on the features of CDA.

2.6 Features/ Tenets of Critical Discourse Analysis

The features/tenets of CDA are areas which the diversity of CDA's meaning manifests. This is because of the different views held by its pioneers. But the features/tenets as espoused by CDA pioneers still have a common ground regardless of the different

available approaches to CDA. Van Dijk (2001, p. 353) while quoting Fairclough and Wodak (1997), summarises the main tenets of CDA as follow:

1. CDA addresses social problems
2. Power relations are discursive
3. Discourse constitutes society and culture
4. Discourse does ideological work
5. Discourse is historical
6. The link between text and society is mediated
7. Discourse analysis is interpretative and explanatory
8. Discourse is a form of social action

The social problems, which CDA addresses, are the issues of ideologies (certain belief systems which condition an individual world view at any given time and place) in different discourses and how they are taken for granted by language users. Another issue is that in almost every discourse, there is usually a demonstration of power relations between the participants of a discourse. The power relations, whether that of dominance or that of equality, is often an out play of the underlying ideology in a discourse, and these ideologies and power relations manifested in different discourses constitute the society. So, one of the major focus of CDA is to interpret and explain how discourse constitutes a form of social action.

The above tenets could provoke the question – “how then is CDA different from other discourse analyses?” since discourse analysis in general examines language use as

determined by context. Kress (1991) responds by writing that although most forms of discourse analysis aim to provide a better understanding of socio-cultural aspects of texts via socially situated account of texts, CDA is different. Kress (1991, p.85) puts the difference this way:

Practitioners of CDA have the larger political aim of putting the forms of texts, the processes of productions of texts, and the process of reading, together with the structures of power which have given rise to them into consideration. By denaturalizing the discursive practices and the texts of a society, treated as a set of discursively linked communities, and by making visible and apparent that which may previously have been invisible and seemingly natural, they [CDA practitioners] intend to show the inbrication of linguistic-discursive practices with the wider socio-political structures of power and domination. In as far as these structures act to the detriment of particular groups in a society, critical discourse analysts hope to bring about change not only to the discursive practices, but also to the socio-political practices and structures supporting the discursive practices.

The difference between CDA and other discourse analysis as outlined above by Kress is supported by Bhatia (2013) when she writes that “CDA is distinguished from mere discourse analysis in that it studies text in an interdiscursive and intertextual manner in the process of making meaning.”

So, even though discourse analysis has something common to all its approaches, there are so many things which differentiate CDA from other discourse analysis types, and these differences constitute its features. Jorgensen and Phillips (2002) give about five features of

CDA which are common to all the various approaches to CDA. Below are the features and the explanation they gave.

1. The character of social and cultural processes and structures is partly linguistic-discursive. What this means is that discursive practices (processes through which texts are produced and consumed) are seen as important form of social practice which contributes to the constitution of social world including social identities and social relations. The aim of critical discourse analysis is to shed light on the linguistic-discursive dimension of social and cultural phenomena and processes of change in late modernity because it is partly through discursive practices in everyday life that social and cultural reproduction and change take place.
2. Discourse is both constitutive and constituted. Jorgensen and Phillips (2002) explain this feature to mean that for critical discourse analysts, discourse is a form of social practice which both constitute the social world and is constituted by other social practices: discourse does not just contribute to the shaping and reshaping of social structure, it reflects them. According to Fairclough (1996, p.22), when discourse analysts see discourse as a form of social practice, it means “that language is part of a society and not somehow external to it; that language is a social process and that language is a socially conditioned process, conditioned that is by other (non-linguistic) parts of society.”

Fairclough (1996) explains further that there is not an external relationship between language and society but an internal and dialectical relationship: language is part of society; linguistic phenomena are social phenomena of a sort, and social phenomena are linguistic phenomena, and in seeing language as discourse and social practice, one is committing oneself not just to analysing text, nor just to analysing

processes of production and interpretation, but to analysing the relationship between texts, processes, and their social conditions, both the immediate conditions of the situational contexts and the more remote conditions of institutional and social structures.

3. The third feature of CDA as given by Jorgensen and Phillips (2002) is that language use should be empirically analysed within its social context. Here, critical discourse analysts recognise the fact that when a given language use is not analysed within its social context of use, it can bring about inappropriate interpretation of the language and the message being communicated by the language user will not be gotten. This particular feature is common to all discourse analysis approaches.
4. The fourth feature of CDA is that discourse functions ideologically. This means that discourse reflects the language user's understanding of the world, which he brings into any discursive practice. The language user's understanding of the world is often reflected in the language used in any social practice or communicative event. It is therefore the ideology of the language user that usually determines power relations, whether symmetrical or asymmetrical, that exists between different groups participating in a given discourse.

Based on this feature, Jorgensen and Phillips (2002, p.63) write that

the research focus of CDA is both the discursive practices which construct representations of the world, social subjects and social relations, including power relations, and the role that these discursive practices play in furthering the interests of particular social group.

This to a very large extent is what this study intends to demonstrate. It is the belief of critical discourse analysts that the ideological function of discourse is related to power relations in discourse and discursive practices because the ideology that a particular language user has when participating in a given discourse will determine the power he will show in his language. In this regard, Fairclough (1996, p.2) writes that:

Ideologies are closely linked to power, because the nature of ideological assumptions embedded in particular conventions, and so the nature of those conventions themselves, depends on the power relations which underlie the conventions; and because they are a means of legitimizing existing social relations and differences of power, simply through the reoccurrence of ordinary, familiar ways of behaving which take these relations and power differences for granted. Ideologies are closely linked to language because using language is the commonest form of social behaviour, and the form of social behaviour where we rely mostly on common sense assumptions.

The above fourth feature is really distinguishing because it shows the core focus of CDA: to analyse language use in context and the ideology and power relations that exist in discourse, and how they constitute and are constituted by social practice. More literature on ideology is reviewed in a separate section in this work.

5. CDA is committed to social change. The change, which CDA seeks to bring about, is the asymmetrical/symmetric power relations that exist between groups participating in a discourse, and the ideological orientation which conditions the power relations, and the language use. An example of the dominance and inequality as reflected in discourse is the interrogation of a crime suspect by the police; the cross examination of an accused person in a court of law by a lawyer or any law enforcement personnel. For this work, the manner of reportage in the data shows some asymmetric power

relations like a rapist encounter with his victim, the interaction between the police and a rapist, interaction between a journalist and a rapist/rape victim, etc.

This work has reviewed literature on features/tenets of CDA, the next section reviews literature on some concepts in CDA.

2.7 Some Concepts in CDA

Ideology

Unravelling ideological commitment in discourses is one of the major focuses of CDA. This is because proponents of CDA and critical discourse analysts believe that every discourse is ideologically committed. Ideology is taken in this work, from Taiwo's (2007) view, to mean attitudes, set of beliefs, values and doctrines with reference to religious, political, social and economic life, which shape an individual's and group's perception and through which reality is constructed and interpreted. Ideological commitment in any discourse usually shapes the nature of contributions (whether production or interpretation of messages) in a discourse by discourse participants, so that issues like power relations, assumptions, social identity creation and some other concepts in any discourse are forms of ideological representation (Igwebuike, 2013).

van Dijk (2006) had earlier shared a similar view on ideology above when he writes that an ideology is the foundation of the social representations shared by a social group. Depending on one's perspective, group membership or ethics, these group ideas may be valued positively, negatively, or not be valued at all. Ideological workings in a discourse can be made obvious or otherwise depending on the discursive strategy employed by participants (especially a text producer). But Fairclough (1996, P.85) writes that

Ideology is most effective when its workings are least visible. If one becomes

aware that a particular aspect of common sense is sustaining power inequality at one's expense, it ceases to become common sense and may cease to have the capacity of power inequality. And invisibility is achieved when ideologies are brought to discourse not as explicit elements of the texts, but as the background assumption which on the one hand leads the text producer to textualize the world in a particular way, and on the other hand to lead the interpreter to interpret the text in a particular way.

Whether ideology is overtly or covertly presented in a discourse, critical discourse analysts share the agreement that ideology represents the interest of a group or an individual: an interest which could be socially, politically, or culturally oriented. van Dijk (2006, p. 729) gives some general features of ideology in discourses when he writes thus.

1. Ideology have both social and cognitive properties which need to be accounted for in an integrated theory.
2. Cognitively, ideologies are a special kind of social belief systems stored in long-term memory.
3. Socially and cognitively, these ideological belief systems are socially shared by the members of specific social groups or ideological communities.
4. Ideological belief systems form the axiomatic basis of the more specific beliefs or social representations of a group such as their group knowledge and group opinion.

5. Ideologies are not necessarily negative. They may have structures and functions whether shared by dominant or dominated group, “bad” group or “good” group. Thus we may have negative as well as positive ideologies, depending on the perspective, values, or group membership of the one who evaluates them.
6. Ideologies embody general principles that control the overall coherence of the social representations shared by the members of a group.
7. Ideologies represent one of the dimensions of the social identity or self-image of groups.
8. Unlike less fundamental social representations, ideologies are relatively stable. One does not become or cease to be a feminist or socialist overnight.
9. The social practices and hence discourses of group members may be controlled by group ideologies, but are usually mediated by more specific social representations at the group level and by concrete, personal mental model at the personal level.
10. Conversely, ideologies are personally acquired and socially reproduced by the social practices and especially the discourses of a group.

All the features above must not necessarily manifest at once in a discourse, whether written or spoken. The goal of involving in a discourse often determines the features of ideology that will be demonstrated. The researcher of this work puts this in mind during the data analysis for ideological commitment.

Power Relation in Discourse

Power relation in discourse has to do with the relationship that exists between discourse participants in relation to what power the participants have and show in a discourse. It could be influenced by the social roles of discourse participants or its presence in a discourse may be a form of ideological representation. When power relation is determined by the social roles of discourse participants, the power relation demonstrated could be symmetrical or asymmetrical relation. A typical example is an interaction between a judge and a lawyer during a given court proceeding. The interaction and the turn taking process are most often going to be dominated by the judge who apparently possesses more power than the lawyer. The conversation below between a Judge and a lawyer during a court proceeding demonstrates the manifestation of asymmetrical power relationship in a discourse.

Judge: This case lacks merits and I don't think it should be taken.

Lawyer: My Lord, we have not even finished presenting our case

Judge: Clerk, let it be on record that the case lacks merit and as such the next

Case should be read.

Lawyer: My lord, it will interest this honourable court to know [interrupted]

Judge: Defence counsel this is my court and I preside here. I say it lacks merit.

Lawyer: As your Lordship pleases.

In the above conversation, the use of honorific term (My Lord) by the lawyer in addressing the judge and the judge's interruption of the lawyer underscore the asymmetrical power relationship that exists between them. While power relations in conversations are very often clear, the power relations in written discourses especially media discourse may not be overtly

signalled. It is in support of this view that Fairclough (1996) writes that media discourse is interesting because the nature of power relations enacted in it is often not clear and hidden. In this work, power relation is considered in relation to the power relation between participants involved in rape crime.

The reason for the difference between the power relations demonstrated in spoken and written discourse is that in spoken discourse, participants see each other live while in written discourse participants (writer and reader) are far away from each other. Fairclough (1996, p. 49) elaborated on the difference further when he writes that

The most obvious difference between face-to-face discourse and media discourse is the one-sidedness of the latter. In face to face interaction, participants alternate between being the producers and interpreters of a text, but in media discourse, as well as writing generally, there is a sharp divide between producers and interpreters... In face to face discourse, producers design their contributions for the particular people they are interacting with – they adapt the language they use and keep adapting throughout an encounter in the light of various sorts of feedbacks they get from co-participants. But media discourse is designed for mass audiences/readers, and there is no way the producer can even know who is the audience.

When power relation is a manifestation of a particular ideology, it is often a demonstration of an ideological position through the showing of power by participants. Power relations influenced by ideological position and that influenced overtly by difference in social roles do not exist in isolation of each other in a discourse. They often work together in a complimentary way.

Intertextuality

The concept of intertextuality has gained recognition overtime in CDA. This is because it affords a critical discourse analyst the room to consider the wider context of a text during analysis. According to Fairclough (2006), the concept was first coined by Julia Kristeva in the late 1960s in the concept of her influential account for western audiences of the work of Bakhtin. To Kristeva, any text is constructed as a mosaic of quotations: any text is the absorption and transformation of other text. Intertextuality, therefore, deals with the relationship which a particular text shares with other texts or genres as signalled by the linguistic features/elements of a text. In CDA, intertextual analysis is important because it draws attention to the dependence of texts upon other texts by showing how texts may transform social and historical resources and re-accentuate genres (Fairclough, 2006).

Fairclough (2006) gives two types of intertextuality and they are manifest intertextuality and constitutive intertextuality. The former, he explains, is when other texts are explicitly present in a text under analysis. What this means is that other texts are manifestly marked by features on the text under analysis with linguistic devices like quotation marks. The latter is the type of intertextuality in which the presence of other texts in a given text under analysis is not explicitly marked. Rather, the convention of other texts or genre is followed in the production of the text. Constitutive intertextuality is often referred to as interdiscursivity. Both manifest and constitutive intertextuality share the same mood of intertextual relation. The mood of relation can therefore be sequential, embedded or mixed intertextuality. When it is sequential, it means that the intertextual relation occurs in a manner that different texts types alternate in a text. When it is embedded, it means that the intertextual relations is such that one text type is clearly contained in the matrix of another text

and when it is mixed, it means that the intertextual relation exists as a combination of the first two (Fairclough, 2006).

In analysis for intertextuality in a discourse, some discourse elements/strategies and other linguistic features can signal its presence in a text. When attention is to be focused on manifest intertextual relations in a given text, Fairclough (2006) advises the analyst to look at the following: discourse representation; presupposition; negation; metadiscourse, and irony. Discourse representation simply means the way other discourses are represented in a given discourse. It is the name which Fairclough chooses to use in place of the traditional reported speech. Reported speech is one way in which intertextual relations in a text can be demonstrated. So, discourse representation can either be direct speech or indirect speech form. The representation of other discourses in a given text under analysis, as will be demonstrated in the analysis of this work, can be ideologically manipulated to suit a discourse participant aim or goal.

Presupposition is a proposition often taken for granted in a discourse. It can also signal intertextual relation because the proposition presupposed can have its existence outside the text under analysis. For example, when the definite article “the” is used to begin a text like *The demolished Ayefele building*, it means that the building has an existential meaning. Fairclough (2006) writes, and the researcher of this work is in agreement, that presupposition when employed as a signal for intertextual relation in a text can be used manipulatively by discourse participants for whatever purpose. But when attention in an analysis is focused on interdiscursivity or constitutive intertextuality, an analyst is often advised to look at the various levels in which interdiscursivity can manifest. The levels, according to Fairclough (2006), are: the societal order of discourse; the institutional order of discourse; and the discourse type.

2.8 Approaches to Critical Discourse Analysis

Critical discourse analysts are not in agreement theoretically on how to go about doing a critical discourse analysis. Their theoretical differences can be attributed to the fact that the pioneers of CDA came from different academic backgrounds with different theoretical orientations as regards CDA but they all share the same view about the aims, goals, tenets and features of CDA. Some of the approaches are Socio-Cognitive Approach, Discourse-Historical Approach, Social Actors Approach, and Dialectical-Relational Approach (Wodak & Meyer, 2008). Figure 2 is designed by the researcher of this work to show the approaches.

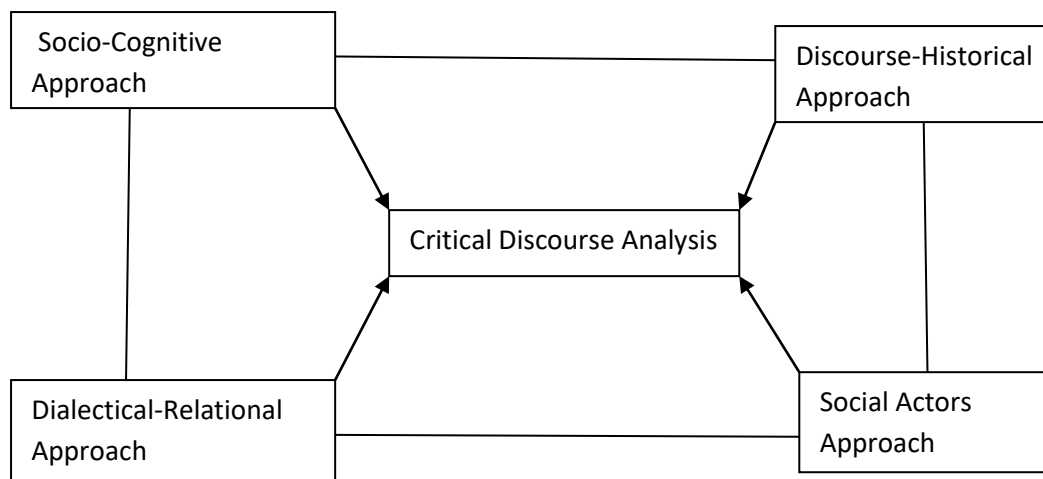


Figure 2 *Approaches to Critical Discourse Analysis*

Figure 2.2 shows that each of the approaches can be used to carry out a CDA work, just as the approaches can also be employed together for the same purpose.

2. 9 Socio-Cognitive Approach

This approach was introduced by Teun van Dijk. The approach believes that in CDA the individual experiences of a discourse participant and the experiences that he shares with

other group are important in studying issues of power, dominance and ideology. Van Dijk (1993) writes that socio-cognition as an approach to CDA involves the study of socially shared representation of societal arrangement, group and relations, as well as individual mental operations that condition the issue of discourse and dominance. According to Wodak and Meyer (2008, p. 26), the approach argues that “CDA should be based on a sound theory of context: that is, the approach introduces the concept of context models which are understood as mental representations of the structure of communicative situation that are discursively relevant for a participant”. The approach is built around discourse, cognition, and society. According Wodak (2001), Van Dijk named three forms of social representations relevant to the understanding of discourse, and they are: knowledge (which could be personal, group, cultural, etc.), participant attitude, and ideology within the discourse. In explaining what “discourse,” “cognition,” and “society” mean to this approach, Van Dijk (2001, p. 98) writes that

“Discourse” is here meant in the broad sense of a communicative event, including conversational interaction, written text, as well as associated gestures, facework, typographical layout, images and any other semiotic or multimedia dimension of signification. Similarly, “cognition” here involves personal as well as social cognition, beliefs and goals as well as evaluations and emotions, and any other “mental” or “memory” structures, representations or processes involved in discourse and interaction. And finally “society” is meant to include both the local, microstructures of situated face-to-face interactions, as well as the more global, societal and political structures variously defined in terms of groups, group-relations (such as dominance and inequality), movement, institutions, organizations, social processes, political systems and more abstract properties of societies and cultures.

In using this approach to do critical discourse analysis, van Dijk (2001, p. 99) gives some of the things which the analyst should concentrate on when he writes that

If we want to study the way some speakers or writers exercise power in or by their discourse, it only makes sense to study those properties that can vary as a function of social power. Thus, stress and intonation, word order, lexical style, coherence, local semantic moves such as disclaimers, topic choice, speech acts, schematic organisation, rhetorical figures and most forms of interactions are in principle susceptible to speaker/writer control. But other structures, such as the form of words, and many structures of sentences are grammatically obligatory and contextually invariant and hence usually not subject to speaker [writer] control and hence irrelevant for a study of social power.

Although the researcher agrees with van Dijk to some extent, this work refutes his claim that form of words and many structures of sentences are grammatically obligatory and contextually invariant and as such they are not subject to speaker's/writer's control. This is because the researcher believes that the ideological orientation behind the use of a language by a given speaker/writer can be manifested through the choice of words and the different sentence structures deployed.

2.10 Discourse-Historical Approach

This approach to CDA is credited to Martin Reisigl and Ruth Wodak. According to Reisigl and Wodak (2001, p. 32), “the approach was influenced by other schools and sub-disciplines, especially British discourse analysis in the tradition of Hallidayan systemic functional linguistics”. The major concern of the approach is to analyse the historical dimension of discursive actions by exploring the ways in which particular genres of discourse

are subjected to diachronic change. What this means is that in investigating research data in CDA, the approach attempts to integrate a large quantity of available knowledge about the historical sources and the background of the social and political fields in which discursive events are embedded (Wodak, 2001).

Wodak (2001, p. 69 – 70) gives the features that characterise the discourse-historical approach as

1. The approach is interdisciplinary.
2. Interdisciplinarity is located on several levels: in theory, in the work itself, in teams, and in practice.
3. The approach is problem oriented, not focused on specific linguistic items.
4. The theory as well as the methodology is eclectic; that is theories and methods are integrated which are helpful in understanding and explaining the object under investigation.
5. The study always incorporates fieldwork and ethnography to explore the object under investigation (study from the inside) as a precondition for any further analysis and theorizing.
6. The approach is abductive: a constant movement back and forth between theory and empirical data is necessary.
7. Multiple genres and multiple public spaces are studied, and intertextual and interdiscursive relationships are investigated. Recontextualization is the most important process in connecting these genres as well as topics and arguments.
8. The historical context is always analysed and integrated into the interpretation of discourses and texts.

9. The categories and tools for the analysis are defined according to all these steps and procedures as well as to the specific problem under investigation.
10. Grand theories serve as a foundation. In the specific analysis, middle range theories serve the analytical aims better.
11. Practice is the target. The results should be made available to experts in different fields and, as a second step, be applied with the goal of changing certain discursive and social practices.

When using the approach for CDA, the pioneers of the approach advise the analyst to try to establish the topic of the discourse under study, try to examine the discursive strategy used in the discourse, and then the linguistic means and the specific context-dependent linguistic realisation of the discourse. The similarity that the approach shares with other CDA approaches is that it sees both written and spoken language as a form of social practice, and the indispensable nature of context in analysing discourse. But the weakness of the approach resides in its multidisciplinary, multi-theoretical, and multi-methodological approach to critical discourse analysis which leaves the analyst with so much to consider.

2.11 Dialectical-Relational Approach

This approach, otherwise known as Social Theory of Discourse, is credited to Norman Fairclough. The approach submits that language, and social practices as conditioned by social structures are in a dialectical relationship in that social practice can significantly determine the language used in any discourse just as language used in a given discourse can reinforce or change social practice. What this means is that this approach sees language as a form of social practice which, according to Fairclough (1996, p. 22 – 23), means that “language is a part of society and not external to it, that language is a social process and that it is socially

conditioned by other non-linguistic parts of the society: linguistic phenomena are social phenomena of a sort and social phenomena are in part linguistic phenomena”.

The approach sees discourse as the whole process of social interaction which includes the text, the process of text production and interpretation. In the production and interpretation of a text, the approach believes that both the linguistic composition of a text and other non-linguistic resources (which Fairclough calls member resources) which text producers/interpreters have (in their head like knowledge of language, representations of the natural and social world they inhabit, values, beliefs, assumption, etc.) are necessary. Fairclough (1996) explains further that the non-linguistic resources involved in text production and interpretation are cognitive and social in that they are in people’s head and they have social origin because they are socially generated and their nature is dependent on the social relations and struggles out of which they were generated.

Since discourse involves social conditions of text production and interpretation, the dialectical-relational approach to CDA submits that the conditions relate to three different levels of social organisations which are: “the level of the social situation or the immediate social environment in which the discourse occurs; the level of the social institution which constitutes a wider matrix for the discourse; and the level of the society as a whole.” In summarising the may focus of the approach therefore, Fairclough (1996, p. 27) writes that “in seeing language as discourse and as social practice, one is committing oneself not just to analysing texts, nor just to analysing processes of production and interpretation, but to analysing the relationship between texts, processes, and their social conditions, both the immediate conditions of the situational context and the more remote conditions of institutional and social structures”.

In using the approach for CDA, Fairclough (1996) writes that the following should be taken as stages of analysis: (A) Description; where formal linguistic properties of the text will be described. For example, what experiential, relational, and expressive values do words have? What experiential, relational, and expressive values do grammatical features have? How are sentences linked, and what interactional conventions are used in the text? (B) Interpretation; this is concerned with the relationship between text and interaction – with seeing the text as the product of a process of production, and as a resource in the process of interpretation; (C) Explanation is concerned with the relationship between interaction and social context – with the social determination of the processes of production and interpretation, and their social effects. These stages are what Fairclough (2006) referred to as the three dimensional model for doing CDA and they are represented in figure 3

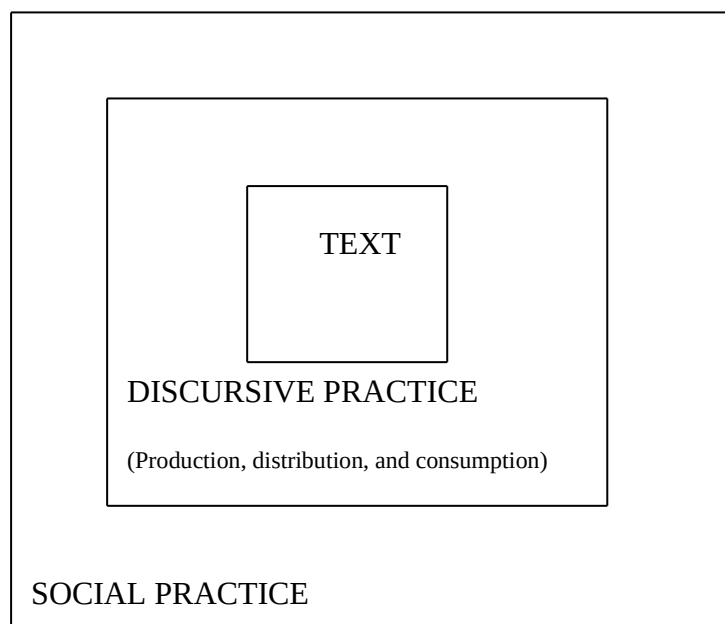


Figure 3. *Fairclough's Three Dimensional model for critical discourse analysis.*

What the diagram of figure 2.3 means is that in every communicative event, three different dimensions are always available for the analyst to look at while carrying out his/her analysis.

Text in figure 3 means that any communicative event is a text which can either be in form of

a speech, writing or picture. The discursive practice represents the fact that every communicative event involves the process of text production and consumption, while the social practice represents the fact that every communicative event represents one social practice or the order. The three stages of description, interpretation, and explanation earlier explained are represented respectively as text, discursive practice, and social practice respectively in figure 2.3. This dialectical-relational approach is more comprehensive than the discourse-historical approach because it is not multidimensional and theoretical like discourse-historical approach, hence its combination with socio-cognitive approach as our theoretical framework.

2.12 Social Actors Approach

Theo van Leeuwen is one of the pioneers of this approach. The approach focuses on how participants are represented in any discourse or communicative events, and the role which the actions of the discourse participants play in establishing social structure that affect discourse. The weakness of this approach is that it is too narrow minded in that its concentration is mainly on the social actions of participants in a discourse and how they are linguistically represented. The approach does not expose vividly how issue of power, dominance and inequality in discourse are to be analysed.

The approaches of CDA reviewed above, though different in their theoretical orientations and methodological approaches, are similar in that they are all problem-solving-oriented, and the issue of the relevance of context in the analysis of discourse is a common factor. Any of the approaches can be used to do CDA, just as the approaches can be combined for better analysis, depending on what the analyst intends to achieve.

2.13 Language of Newspaper Reportage

Newspaper has the duty of informing, educating, (re)orienting, and entertaining its readers: one which it shares with other mass media group like the television, magazine,

different social media platforms, etc. This duty has become so recognisable because of the influence which the mass media, generally, can have on any society. According to Thornborrow (1999, p. 33 – 34),

the mass media have become one of the principal means through which we have access to a large part of our information about the world, as well as to much of our entertainment. Because of this, they are a powerful site for the production and circulation of social meaning. To a great extent, the media decide the significance of things that happen in the world for any given culture, society or social group. The language used by the media to represent particular social and political groups, and to describe newsworthy events, tends to provide the dominant ways available for the rest of us to talk about those groups and events.

It is clear from Thornborrow's view above that the unique functions of the mass media are achieved through the use of language. Because the language of the media varies, the literature review presented here is concentrated on the language of the newspaper reportage.

The language of the newspaper reportage is unique in its own right in that the language is very often precise and the syntax of the sentences is such that the sense of freshness associated with news is made obvious through the use of active form of the verb in place of the passive form. According to Keeble (2006), the sentences in newspapers' reports are structured the way they usually appear because of the need to help readers move through the newspaper quickly. It is a generally accepted fact that the availability of space in the newspaper also affects the kind of language used by reporters so that, according to Pape and Featherstone (2005), in the real world of newspapers, there is very little room for the eloquent and elegant form of writing often found in novels.

Pape and Featherstone (2005) write further that the language of newspaper is a particular discourse with its own vocabulary, style and rhythm that has emerged over time, with clichés and metaphor constituting more of the vocabulary. The precise nature of the language of the newspaper reportage and the way the sentences are structured are ideologically motivated, apart from being conditioned by the availability of space. This is because the reporter and newspaper house do not just nose for news for the informative benefit of the readers only but also to determine the way the news is received and interpreted, and by so doing project whatever ideology they want to project. It is in consonant with this view Pape and Featherstone (2005, p.56) writes that “every time a journalist chooses one word rather than another, he or she is making decisions about how facts are presented to the readers and therefore, how they should be interpreted”.

News as Discourse

News whether in print medium or broadcast medium is a form of text and as such constitutes a discourse of its own. When it is taken as discourse, van Dijk (1991) opines that the structure of news and the complex relationship between news text and its context are things of interest to a discourse analyst: that is how do cognitive and social constraints determine the structures of news and how are the understanding and the uses of news influenced by its textual structures?

In answering the above question, a particular newspaper’s in-house-style on what a news story should look like affects the discourse nature of the news in newspapers. This is because during the processes of the production of the entire newspapers (which involves gathering the news, reporting the story as news, the news undergoing editing, and space allocation), the editorial team of the newspaper ensures that the grammatical structures of the language of the news, its lexical choices, and other pragmatic strategies do not only tell the news of the day but advance whatever sociological, political, economic, or religious ideology

they want to advance and at the same time the news must be in conformity with other media discourse of its type.

In newspapers, news discourse has three unique structural parts: the headline, the lead, and the body. The headline of a new is the first part that usually comes in contact with a reader. It conveys and highlights the major issue contained in an entire news. According to van Dijk (1991), an headline is most conspicuous part of a news report and its main function is to summarise the most important information of a report.

Other relevant things about the nature of news as discourse like what ideology a particular news report advances, what relationship exists between the readers and the newspaper as an institution shall be expose in other subsequent sections of this work.

2.14 History of Newspapers in Nigeria

Newspapers in Nigeria have a long history. Like newspaper development in other countries, the development of printing press and the printing of books contributed to the development of newspapers in Nigeria. The history of newspaper development in Nigeria is often classified into three different historical periods which are: the missionary and colonialism phase of 1859 to 1900; the nationalist era of 1900 to 1960; and the post independence era of 1960 till date (Bello, 2013). Writing about the development of newspapers from the missionary era, Odorume (2012) writes that the press in Nigeria dates back to 1846 when a printing press was established in Calabar by the then Presbyterian church to print their religious books. To him, the establishment of the first newspaper in Nigeria can therefore be traced back to 1859 when Reverend Henry Townsend of the Anglican Mission set up a newspaper called *Iwe Irohin Fun Awon Ara Egba Ati Yoruba*: a newspaper that was set up mainly to talk about the Egba people (Odorume, 2012).

According to Ogunsiji (1989), *Iwe Irohin*, which started publishing in Yoruba, was set up for the purpose of developing the literacy of the Yoruba people. Imhonopi (2012, p. 294) writes that “newspapers in missionary era were precisely established by the missionaries for the purpose of spreading the gospel among the people. That is why some scholars believe that Nigerian press was born and nurtured in the water of colonialism”. *Iwe Irohin*, which was then published in Abeokuta by Henry Townsend, did not really get wide readership because of the language of publication: Yoruba. Other newspapers like *Uwana Efik*, *Anglo African*, and *The Lagos Times* came after *Iwe Irohin*. *Anglo African* was published by Robert Campbell and it was considered as a newspaper with wider readership because of the English language it used and the non tribal nature of its news coverage (Imhonopi,2012).

The nationalist era of newspaper development in Nigeria was the era of pre-independence when colonialism was still in its high gear. The newspapers that came up at this time were mainly used for political purposes like agitation for the independence of Nigeria and African nations in general. Some of the newspapers of this era include *The Nigerian Chronicles* founded in 1908, *The West African Pilot* which was founded by Dr. Nnadi Azikiwe in 1937, *Eastern Nigerian Guardian* also founded by Dr. Nnadi Azikiwe, *The Nigerian Daily Times* which was set up in 1926, *The Nigerian observer* of 1930, and *Nigerian Tribune* founded by Chief Obafemi Awolowo in 1949. The major feature of the newspapers of this era was the coming of indigenous Nigerians into press industry and the collective use of the press for the agitation for freedom and independence.

The post independence era of newspaper development in Nigeria saw the birth of many newspapers like *Morning Post* which was set up in 1961, *Daily Post* founded in 1964, *New Nigeria* which was set up in 1966, *Nigeria Chronicles* established in 1970, *Lagos Weekend* founded in 1970, *Punch* set up in 1971, *Vanguard* founded in 1984 and *The Nation*

founded in 2006. Some scholars are of the opinion that there is need to always differentiate two classes of newspapers in the post independence era: the early post independence era and the late post independence era.

Imhonopi (2012) writes that at the early stage of post independence era, newspaper development received huge boost as more professional came into the press industry. But the era was negatively characterised by a shift from national aspirations to regional politics. The reason for this was the struggle for power by the regional politicians after the departure of the colonial masters. Imhonopi (2012) also writes that the late post independence period of newspaper development in Nigeria saw the press suffering under the rule of military administration. The various developmental stages which newspaper in Nigeria has undergone have contributed to the success recorded in press industry in Nigeria today (Bello, 2013).

2.15 Empirical Review of Literature

Some works on rape case reportage have been done by some scholars but their works are different from our work in that our data, our theoretical orientation, and our analytic approach are different from theirs. Among available literature for this work are works like Benedict (1992), Baker (1999), Ehrlich (2001), Matoesian (2001), Grant and Woodhams (2007), and Womersley and Anastasia (2009).

Benedict (1992) examines rape myth, language, and how women are portrayed in the media. To her, the rape myth ignores the fact that rape is a physical attack and leads to the mistaken belief that rape does not hurt the victim and that the idea that rape is a sexual rather than an aggressive act encourages people not to take it seriously as a crime. She explains further that the myth of rape and sex is helped by gender bias of our language use and this bias is very often seen in the way rape cases are reported in the media.

Baker (1999) examines what rape is and what it is not from a legal perspective. Her major concern is to highlight how our understanding of who rapes and who can be raped is permeated by demonstrably false stereotypes. She submits that the obstacles to prosecution are social constructions and that what we think about rape, what it is, why it is wrong, when it is wrong and who is responsible are functions of social norms and values. She concludes that the law can curb the incidence of rape by debunking the stereotypes in rape prosecutions and changing the social norms that encourage men to rape.

Ehrlich (2001) studies how institutional discourse structure can affect the language used during rape case proceeding. To achieve her aim, she focused on the use of language by other personnel during the adjudication processes. What Ehrlich finds out is that because [rape] witnesses are systematically disabled from asking questions and initiating turns, their ability to challenge or resist the assumptions encoded in questions asked them during the proceedings is severely limited. The assumptions, she adds, can be inferred from the use of gender insensitive language by people during sexual assault adjudication and it does not favour the rape victims' plight rather it projects and supports already existing ideology about rape and rape victims.

Matoesian (2001) has also done a work in which he uses the discourse in the William Kennedy Smith's rape trial to examine law and the language of identity. William Kennedy Smith, who was in his final year in medical school at Georgetown University when he raped Patricia Bowman, was a nephew to the late president J.F Kennedy of United State of America, and because of this, his rape trial attracted so much attention from intellectuals and the media. Using the discourse of his trial, Matoesian in his work focuses on the linguistic devices and cultural presuppositions that attorneys and other courtroom participants use to foster an impression of scoring some points and to create a sense of devastatingness on the victim.

According to Matoesian (2001), the central premise of his work is that language is not the mere passive vehicle for the imposition or transmission of law but actually constitutes and transforms evidence, facts and rules into relevant objects of legal knowledge. To achieve his set goal of describing the interactional processes in which social identity is made relevant in the performance of legal knowledge, Matoesian (2001) examines orthodox trial strategies (like creating inconsistency testimony, control and expansion of testimony, reported speech and expert testimony) and how they relate to the ways in which stylistic and aesthetic forms of language such as parallelism, repetition, reported speech, tense variation, intonation and other paralinguistic features foreground or draw attention to themselves and thus create powerful emotive and persuasive images.

Another research work done on rape from a linguistic point of view is that done by foremost forensic linguists Tim Grant and Jessica Woodhams (2007). They both attempt to improve the use of linguistic information in rape case investigation. The aim of their work, they explain, is to set out theoretical assumptions that rape can be considered as a social activity type which can be usefully analysed into phases with different pragmatic-linguistic patterns (Grant & Woodhams, 2007). According to them, the data they used in the work involved 16 different rape cases and they were provided by Serious Crime Analysis Section (SCAS) of the UK National Crime and Operations Faculty. They further categorised the utterances of the rapists in their data into various forms of speech acts and related them to rape as a social activity. They came up with the finding that the categorisation system of analysing rapists' utterances into various forms of speech acts can be a useful forensic tool to a crime analyst.

From a psychological and feminist point of view, Womersley and Anastasia (2009) look at contextualising the experiences of South African women in the immediate aftermath

of rape. Their purpose is to contribute to the body of literature on rape trauma and the impact of rape on women in South Africa. To achieve their aim, they present a feminist discourse analysis of conversations with nine women living in a low-income area of Cape Town. The discourses they discussed in their work in relation to rape are discourses of damage, ostracism, resistance and survival, confessional discourse and discourse of masculinity and femininity. Their analysis revealed “that the women’s narratives of rape were informed by patriarchal discourses which operated to reinforce gendered relations of power” (Womersley & Anastasia 2009, p.40). Their conclusion is that the dominant socio-cultural discourses are often blaming, alienating and degrading of women and their sexuality, which in turn negatively impact on post rape recovery. All these works are different from this present study because this work is doing a critical discourse analysis of rape case reportage in Nigerian newspapers.

2.16 Empirical Review on Critical Discourse Analysis and Language of Newspapers

So many scholarly works have been done on critical discourse analysis as a theoretical framework for analysis of linguistic data, and on the language of newspapers. In this section, the researcher reviewed some research works on the above and showed how they are different from this work. Rashidi and Souzandehfar (2010) examine the debates between the Republicans and Democrats presidential candidates during the US presidential primary elections in 2008 over the continuation of war in Iraq from a critical discourse analysis perspective. Their intention in the work is to show how candidates of the two major political parties in America, while dealing with the issue of the continuation of war in Iraq, try to justify their ideas and persuade their audience by utilizing subtle ideological discourse structures in their speech.

They adopted Teun van Dijk frame work on critical discourse analysis to detect the discursive structures within the transcripts of the candidates’ speeches and discover the

ideology underlying them. For their data, they use six texts which consist of transcripts of the candidates' speeches during the presidential primary elections: three for the Republican and three for the Democrat. Their analysis reveals that the Republican candidates tend to be against the withdrawal of the American troops from Iraq. However, the Democratic candidates showed the opposite tendency. To justify their claims, the candidates of each party utilized different subtle ideological discourse structures all of which could be classified under the two major strategies of positive self-presentation and negative other-presentation (Rashidi & Souzandehfar, 2010). Their work is different from this work because the data are different and the purpose of study/objectives, which have earlier been stated in this work, are different from theirs.

Another research work is that done by Abdullahi-Idiagbon (2010). From a critical discourse analysis angle, he examines language used in selected Nigerian presidential election campaign speeches by investigating how feelings, emotions as well as ideological beliefs of individuals or groups were conveyed through linguistic expressions to manipulate others. With CDA approach, he analyses the patterns of language use in three of the presidential candidates' speeches in Nigeria's 2007 presidential election campaign with the aim of uncovering the hidden meaning relating to the social structures, identities and power relations between the electorates and political office holders. In his analysis, Abdullahi-Idiagbon focuses on concepts like topicalisation, mood system, passivisation, presupposition, connotation, tone and style, among others. The finding of the work reveals how language was used to champion individual interests in political discourse.

Also, Taiwo (2007) has examined language, ideology and power relations in Nigerian newspaper headlines. In the work, employing the critical discourse analytic approach, Taiwo examines three hundred Nigerian newspaper headlines for peculiarity in vocabulary and rhetorical devices used in order to identify the ideologies that lie behind their constructions.

Taiwo in his analysis reveals that the headlines in Nigerian newspapers have hidden ideological meanings, being divided along some ideological lines reflecting the views of those whose interest is being served and those whose interest is being undermined. The conclusion which he reaches is that beyond the generally observed rhetorical and graphological devices employed in newspaper headlines, headlines are emotion-inducing strategy in the hands of the editors and they are used to initiate, sustain discourse and shape the views of the readers on national issues. Taiwo's work and that of Abdullahi-Idiagbon are different from this work because while Abdullahi-Idiagbon and Taiwo examine selected Nigerian presidential election campaign speeches, and three hundred Nigerian newspaper headlines respectively, this work examines rape reportage in Nigerian newspaper. The similarity shared is the critical discourse analysis approach.

Another work is that done by Adelakun (2013) in which he examines election news in Nigerian newspapers from a critical discourse analysis perspectives. In the work, Adelakun sets out to investigate the newspaper reports of 2011 general election in Nigeria with regards to the way language is employed, often in quite subtle way, to reveal discourses of ideologies and to look at the attitude of the press to issues raised in the news of the newspapers. The data used for the work are limited to two newspapers: *Daily Trust* and *The Nation*. Adelakun's study reveals that "the major themes represented in the two newspapers are those related to the politicians and the electoral process and it also include legal and security matters. These are topics that are expected to be the major focus of attention in the election". The difference between Adelakun's work and this present work is the same with the difference shown between Abdullahi-Idiagbon's work and Taiwo's work above.

Ike-Nwafor (2015) has also carried out a critical discourse analysis of selected political campaign speeches of gubernatorial candidates in South-Western Nigeria. The purpose of study which her work sets out to achieve are: "to investigate and interpret the

2007 and 2014 gubernatorial election campaign speeches as pieces of discourse; to investigate linguistic expressions which carry ideological colourations in her data; to find out if the ideological discursive formations sustain power and unequal power relations and linguistic manipulation in favour of some groups at the expense of other, amongst others” (Ike-Nwafor 2015, p. 33).

She uses a total of eight speeches as her sample data: two from each gubernatorial candidate of Ekiti, Lagos, Ondo, and Osun states during the 2007 and 2014 elections. Her findings show that the South-Western gubernatorial aspirants deployed language as a strategy of domination and supremacy by exploiting lexical items and strong imperatives which allow them to impose their views on others. Ike-Nwafor (2015) concludes her work that in actual sense, the plethora of texts produced, distributed and consumed in the 2007-2014 gubernatorial electioneering campaigns in the South-Western Nigeria not only promoted asymmetrical power relations, they also produced, reproduced, legitimized and maintained social structures that sustain domination.

Still on research works on critical discourse analysis, Rafiu (2015) has examined language, ideology and reportage on mutuality in a pluralistic world. His study explores the ideological nature of reportage in selected newspaper headlines with a view to examining how the structures of media discourse are influenced by the structures of ideologies. For data, twenty headlines, characterised by social properties of ideology such as activity, perspective, rhetorical form, goal, resource, and so on were purposively selected from five different Nigerian newspapers.

After his analysis, Rafiu (2015, p. 82) reveals “that the surface structure of the newspaper headlines contained ideologies and belief system of the writers which were not overtly expressed but located in the linguistic expressions that characterized the selected newspaper headlines”. The nature of language in the newspaper headlines indicates that the

writers conceal their opinions in linguistic forms in order to create persuasion for ideological support. He therefore concludes that the language in newspaper reportage can be regarded as ‘accomplice’ in the manipulation of both the audience and reality and the manner of reporting has been proved as serving the best interest of the headline producers. Like other works reviewed above, Rafiu’s work is different from this work because of the difference in data, purpose of study and objectives.

Olagunju (2016) looks at critical discourse analysis of language interaction among readers in newspapers stand in Kaduna. He sets out to examine and document the nature of the conversation among free readers of newspapers in order to demonstrate that power is linked to language in their utterances. Employing participant observation and interview as method of data collection, Olagunju sets out to use his findings to answer the following research questions: what is the nature of the conversation among newspaper free readers at newspaper stand?; how is power linked to language in the utterances of one free reader to the other?; in what contexts are some free readers subject of dominance to one another?; and to what extent do free readers at news stand use power in language control on one another? He concludes that free readers employ code-mixing and code-switching to pass information.

Also, Abochol and Adegboye (2016) did a critical discourse analysis of threat using Asari Dokubo’s Utterances as a case study. Using Norman Fairclough’s approach to CDA, as theoretical model, their findings reveal that: aspersions and name calling constitute part of the language of threat; pronominal items are used to designate distinct individuals and groups with shared and varied ideological views; and that threat issuing often makes use of references which can be anaphoric, cataphoric, or exophoric. They concluded that Asari Dokubo is at the forefront of people issuing threats which is aimed at showing his political and regional sentiments, and the threats have a perlocutionary effect of aligning people to his ideological views.

Another research work is that of Alo and Ogungbe's (2012) lexicalisation in news stories of some Nigerian national newspapers. They employ critical discourse analysis as a theoretical stand point to explore how lexical choices are used simultaneously to convey information and judgement on people, events and policies in Nigerian newspaper news report. The news stories that made up their data were selected from *The Guardian*, *The Nation*, *Nigerian Tribune*, and *Daily Trust* with concentration on political, economy, sport, and security news stories. Their findings reveal that Nigerian newspaper reporters' choice of lexical patterns produces differential judgmental stances which have some control on the attitudes and actions of readers towards the people, events and policies represented and that the newspapers often represent people, events, and policies through sensational but very blatantly biased, inflammatory and pejorative lexical items, which undoubtedly reveal the reporters' desperation to propagandise, sensationalise, binarise, or impose certain meanings upon the webs of complexity in news discourse in Nigerian newspapers.

Other available literature on the language of newspaper reportage and discourse generally include Jonah's (2012) a linguo-stylistic analysis of newspaper reportage on the 2010 and 2011 crisis in Jos: a case study of *The Nation* and *This Day*, and Ezeife's (2013) strategic use of metaphors in Nigerian newspaper reports: a critical perspective, Ndoma and Udomisor's (2015) evaluation of political news reportage in Nigeria's *Vanguard* and *The Guardian*, Agu's (2015) a linguistic-stylistic analysis of newspaper reportage, Babatunde and Abdullahi-Idiagbon's (2014) speech act analysis of quit notice and tenancy agreements, Babatunde and Alege's (2016) work on politeness, intention and common ground, and Dahunsi and Babatunde's (2017) mood structure analysis and thematization pattern in Osundare's poem. The difference between all the researched works reviewed above constitutes part of the justification of this present work.

2.17 Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework of this study is a combination of Teun van Dijk's Social cognitive approach, Norman Fairclough's Dialectical relational approach to CDA and M. A. K Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG). The items combined from Dijk's and Fairclough's approaches are described as Social Structural Model (SSM). It should be noted that this is neither a new independent theory nor approach to CDA because nothing new is added to the combined items. Rather, it conveniently describes the area of analytical focus vis a vis the analysis done in this work: it helps the researcher to account for ideological positions and other social structural manifestations inherent in the data. SFG is employed too because with it, the researcher is able to account for the functional importance of the language of the data.

Social Structural Model of CDA

Social Structural Model of CDA is a term used to describe the combination of Teun van Dijk's Socio-Cognitive Approach and Norman Fairclough's Dialectical Relational approach to CDA (which are reviewed in this work under approaches to CDA). The model (SSM) believes that social structure is the foundation of all discourses because it determines, the ideology, language use, social practices and social cognition carried into any given discourse by the discourse participants. It shares the view that CDA is a discourse analysis with an attitude but not in the understanding of van Dijk (2001, p.96) who sees "CDA research as a solidarity with the oppressed in a society and a means to show opposition and dissent against those who abuse text and talk in order to establish, confirm or legitimize their abuse of power". To SSM, the attitude behind CDA should not be biased nor its research be limited to negative or exceptionally serious social or political experiences or events, rather CDA should explain how social structure and positions of discourse participants reflect elements of power

abuse, dominance, resistance, ideology, and power relation. The basic tenets of Social Structural Approach to CDA are as follow:

1. The social structure within which participants of any discourse operate can affect the social practice and social cognition of the discourse participants and their use of language.
2. The social practice, social cognition and language used in any given discourse are in a dialectical relationship.
3. The social issues like ideology, power relations, dominance and resistance are products of discourse participants' social positions.

Figure 4 is a diagram representing the Social Structural Model to CDA

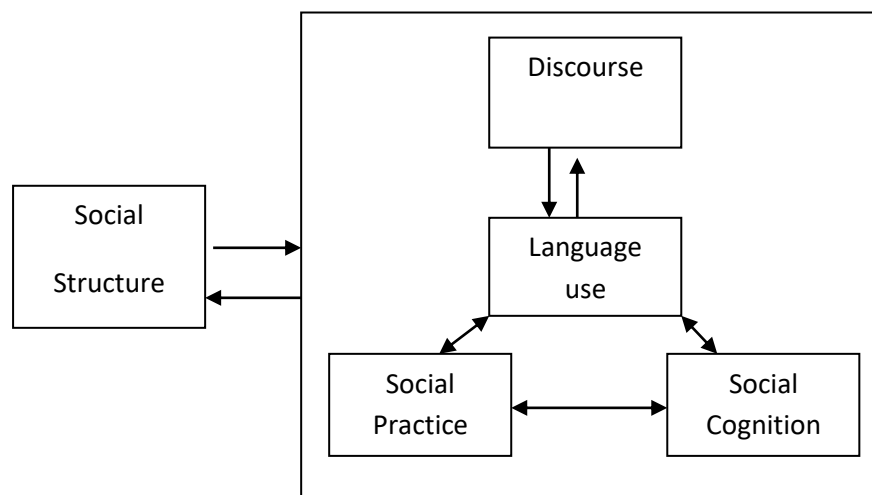


Figure 4. Social Structural Model of CDA

In figure 4, the content of social structure is the social positions of participants involved in any discourse, which usually conditioned the way the participants relate with each other. The discourse is rape, while language use involves the language employed in reporting rape. This is accounted for in the analysis through Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG).

Newspapers' rape reportage is the social practice while the social cognition is the ideologies and attitude carried into the social practice.

So, figure 4 represents the belief that every discourse has its root in the social positions of its participants. This is because the language which a discourse participant uses (participants in a face-to-face discourse or writer and reader in a written discourse) reflects his/her social position and cognition, and the social practice which he/she is involved in during the discourse. In figure 4, language used in discourse, the social cognition of the participants (which has to do with his/her background knowledge, experiences, world view, etc) and the social practice they are engaged in are in a dialectical relationship. This is represented by the arrows in-between language use, and each of social practice, and social cognition. What this means is that each of them can affect each other during a discourse process. But the unique thing about the three elements in the diagram is that social practice and social cognition are seen to be secondary to language use regardless of their dialectical relationship. This is because the model believes that language is the medium through which other things can be mirrored in a given discourse.

The arrow facing up in between language use and discourse in the diagram represents the fact that language is the platform upon which any given discourse sits: that is, language is the final vehicle which any discourse uses to convey its messages, ideology, power relations, social dominance and resistance, etc. The arrow facing down shows that the outcome of a given discourse can be used to change or maintain a social structure and this is done through a change in language and down to changes in social cognition and social practice. The arrows in between social structure and the entire discourse processes show that just as social structure or position can affect discourse processes, so also discourse can be used to change or maintain social structure and position.

In using Social Structural Model in analysing the data of this work, the language used in the data is accounted for through Systemic Functional Grammar. Particular attention was given to Information, Thematic, Transitivity, and Mood structures of the language used in the rape reports. The social practice which is represented by the rape reports of the data was accounted for through the analysis of the discursive strategies employed in the reports and the power relations between participants, which further underscore the social practice. The social cognition was accounted for by the analysis of different ideologies in the data.

Systemic Functional Grammar

Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) is a theoretical framework developed by M. A. K. Halliday and its major focus is the function of language. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2004), the theory gets its name from the fact that the grammar of a language is represented in the form of system networks, not as an inventory of structures. To Halliday, the grammar of a language provides a set of systems which a language user at any time chooses from in order to communicate, and the choice made serve a given function. In SFG theory, therefore, systemic choices and their functions in a given grammatical construction are two indispensable parts. It is in support of this view that Halliday and Matthiessen (2004, p.24) write that “when we analyse a text, we show the functional organisation of its structure and we show what meaningful choices have been made, each one seen in the context of what might have been meant but was not”.

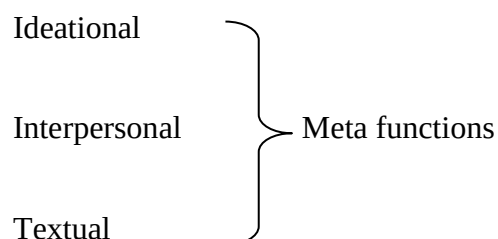
Halliday’s SFG has its root in J. R Firth’s linguistic postulations. This is because Firth’s concern in language study was to explain how words and their structures function in a given social context of situation. Firth built his linguistic description around the concept of system. To Firth, a system can be interpreted as a set of options that is specified for a given environment (Halliday, 1973). The set of options can be chosen from by an individual who

uses language in a particular situation to express an idea. It was this Firth's approach to language that Halliday took further in SFG. As a grammatical theory, SFG progressed from systemic grammar to functional grammar and later to systemic functional grammar.

Halliday's Systemic grammar otherwise known as Scale and Category Grammar is based on the fact that language offers a system of options from which a language user can choose from in order to express a meaning in a given context of situation. The sets of options available to a language user can be in any linguistic level like phonological, syntactical, or semantic levels. To explain that language is a system of options, Halliday discusses four fundamental categories of grammar which are: Unit, Structure, Class, and System. These four categories he called the highest order of abstraction. The relation that exists between the categories manifests in three forms: rank, exponence, and delicacy, and together they are called the highest scales of abstraction. Functional grammar in SFG focuses on the various functions which language can be used to perform. The functions are classified basically into three and they are referred to as Meta functions of language.

Meta functions of Language

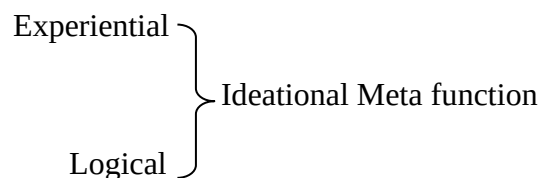
This is the part that shows Halliday's functional take on language from a different perspective. Halliday introduces three Meta functions in his systemic functional grammar. They are listed below.



These functions do not exist in isolation of each other in any language usage. Rather they complement each other. The Meta functions are explained in the following section.

Ideational Meta function

This meta-function is all about using language to reveal human experiences. It has to do with language potential for expressing content in terms of a language user experience and that of his speech community (Halliday, 1973). The ideational function is divided into two.



The experiential ideational function is concerned with the representation of the experiences of a language user in a given text, while logical ideational function is concerned with logical relations of ideas in a text. So, ideational function of language is concerned with how language is used to organise, understand and express our perception of the world (Bloor & Bloor, 1995).

Interpersonal and Textual Meta functions

Interpersonal meta-function has to do with how language shows the relationship that exists between participants in a given speech event. According to Halliday and Hasan (1976), interpersonal function is concerned with the social, expressive and conative function of language. It is the function that gives a given language user a social role in a speech event. Bloor and Bloor (1995) write that this function is rooted in the fact that language is used to enable us to participate in communicative acts with other people, to take on roles and to

express and understand feelings, attitude and judgements. Textual function is concerned with the potential that language has to create a text. It has to do with the organisation of a text through linguistic elements, features and devices, like cohesive markers, etc.

Meta-functions in Halliday's systemic-functional grammar do not exist in isolation of each other as stated earlier. They are both used in a complementary way to aid communication. Bloor and Bloor (1995, p. 09) support this view when they write that

newcomers to functional grammar are sometimes confused by meta-functions because they expect them to operate independently and discretely. This is a mistaken expectation. In almost any instance of language use, all three Meta functions operate simultaneously in the expression of meaning. This is because certain aspects of the grammar realize the ideational function, other aspects realise the interpersonal function.

These meta-functions of language correlate with the SFG concepts of thematization, transitivity, and mood structure.

Thematization

Thematization in SFG has to do with the way messages are organised in a clause. It expands the textual meta function associated with SFG. Thematization is a phenomenon that is present in every clause no matter the speech event in which the clause is used. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2004), in English, the clause is organised as a message by having a distinct status assigned to one part of it. One part of the clause is enunciated as the Theme; this then combines with the remainder so that the two parts together constitute a message. Thematization is divided into two: Theme and Rheme. According to Halliday and

Matthiessen (2004, p, 64), “the Theme is the element which serves as the point of departure of the message; it is that which locates and orients the clause within its context. The remainder of the message, the part in which the Theme is developed, is called the Rheme.”

In terms of the thematic structure of a clause, the Theme usually appears before the Rheme. Whatever is used to realise the Theme of a clause depends on what the language user (writer/speaker) wants to foreground. Fontaine (2013) shares this view when he writes that in a naturally occurring text, the thematic element of the clause would be motivated by a speaker method of weaving the text and the relevance he or she intends to convey. Since the theme appears at the beginning of a clause, it therefore means that among other functions, the theme takes to its self the significance that is usually associated with the beginning of a clause. Fontaine (2013, p. 140) highlight such significance when he writes thus:

In English, the initial position of the clause is significant for a variety of reasons. For example, it often introduces the topic about which something is being said, it may indicate the relevance of the clause to the surrounding text, it may orient the message in a particular way, or it may mark a transition in the text. This is not to say that the thematic elements of the clause are more important than the rest of the clause but rather that they contribute directly and in a pivotal sense to the creation of text.

Table 1 shows some examples of clauses analysed for Theme and Rheme.

Table 1. Examples of clauses analysed for Theme and Rheme

S/N	Theme	Rheme
1	Daura	has been sacked by the presidency.
2.	The presidency	has sacked Daura
3	Expectedly, the president	has sacked the DSS boss.
4	First, they	traded blames

Three types of themes are basically identified in SFG and they are topical, interpersonal and textual themes. The topical theme is the main theme in a clause. According to Fontaine (2013), it is often referred to as experiential theme because it corresponds to the first clausal element expressing experiential meaning and will often conflate with the subject of a clause. Topical theme can be realised as participant, circumstance or process. Usually in a clause, it is realised as participant but when it is realised either as a circumstance or process, the topical theme is therefore described as marked topical theme. The textual theme is used to perform textual function while the interpersonal theme is used to perform interpersonal function. Textual theme tends to have explicit relevance function and serve to indicate the relevance of a clause to neighbouring clauses within a text and it is often expressed by conjunctions like *and*, *but*, *or*, or continuatives like *well*, *so*, *therefore*, (Fontaine, 2013). Interpersonal theme is realised by modal adjuncts like *certainly*, *frankly*, *maybe*, auxiliary verbs like *can* *could*, *will* or interrogative pronouns like *who*, *what*, *how*. Textual and interpersonal themes are often obligatory in a clause while topical theme is mandatory. Table 2 shows examples of thematic analysis of some clauses.

Table 2. Examples of thematic analysis

S/N	Theme			Rheme
	Textual theme	Interpersonal theme	Topical theme	
1			The man	Needs his car now.
2		Maybe	she	is the next leader of the group.
3	Of course		the rain	drenched him.
4	So	Maybe	he	will sing at the party
5	Well		the party	has started.
6			they	are being examined.

Thematization is related to what Halliday and Mattiessen (2004) called information structure in a clause. To them, information in a clause is basically structured into given and new information. The given information is the information that is assumed to be known and shared already by discourse participants (writer and reader/speaker and listener), while new information is the information that is new which a given writer/speaker wants his reader/listener to get. In a clause, a Given information is usually optional while the New information is mandatory. Table 3 shows examples of clauses analysed into information structure.

Table 3. Clauses analysed for information structure

S/N	Given Information	New Information
1	The vibrant Senator McCain	is dead.
2	The last man standing	is here.
3	The cups	are good for use.
4	Tolu	passed her examination.

Information structure is related to the thematic structure of a clause because the part that is often labelled as given information is the Theme, while the part labelled new information is the Rheme. The difference resides in the fact that while it is possible not to have a given information in a clause (a situation where everything in a clause is considered as new information) it is not possible to have a situation in a clause where a theme is not realised. Explaining the difference further, Halliday and Mattiessen (2004, p. 93) write that

The Theme is what I, the speaker, choose to take as my point of departure. The Given is what you, the listener, already know about or have accessible to you. Theme + Rheme is speaker-oriented, whereas Given + New is listener-oriented. But both are of course speaker-selected. It is the speaker who assigns both structures, mapping one on to the other to give a composite texture to discourse and thereby relate it to its environment.

In the data analysis section of this work, the researcher analysed for both Information structure and thematic structure inherent in the data because he shares the following views of Halliday and Matthiessen (2004).

- (1) Initial position in the English clause is meaningful in the construction of the clause message; specifically, it has a thematic function.
- (2) Information structure and thematic structure can be ideologically manipulated by discourse participants (most especially a writer or a speaker).
- (3) Certain textual elements that orient the clause within the discourse, rhetorically and logically, are inherently thematic.
- (4) Certain other elements, textual and interpersonal, that set up a semantic relation with what precedes, or express a writer's angle or intended reader, are characteristically thematic.

Transitivity

Transitivity is an important concept in SFG. It elaborates on the ideational metafunction of language by showing how a given clause can be used to represent experience(s). According to Thompson (2014), from the experiential perspective, language comprises a set of resources for referring to entities in the world and the way in which those entities act on or relate to each other. Transitivity system, therefore, construes the world of experience into manageable set of process type (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004). With transitivity, focus is primarily on the propositional content of a clause rather than the purpose for which a speaker/writer uses the clause. Transitivity in SFG is different from what transitivity means in traditional grammar. While in traditional grammar it is a concept related to verb alone, in SFG it is related to an entire clause. Fontaine (2013) explains the difference

further when she writes that traditionally transitivity is associated with the verb because a verb can either be transitive or intransitive but Halliday extends his view of transitivity beyond the verb to include the participants, processes, and circumstance in a clause.

Participant, process and circumstance are the three elements that make up the transitivity structure of any clause and transitivity analysis in SFG is centred on them. Among these elements, process stands at the centre because it determines what the participant of a clause is and the nature the circumstance will take. Process is represented by a verb; participant is represented by a noun or nominal group, while circumstance is usually represented by adverbial groups. Figure 5 illustrates the relationship shared by process, participant and circumstance as elements in transitivity structure of a clause.

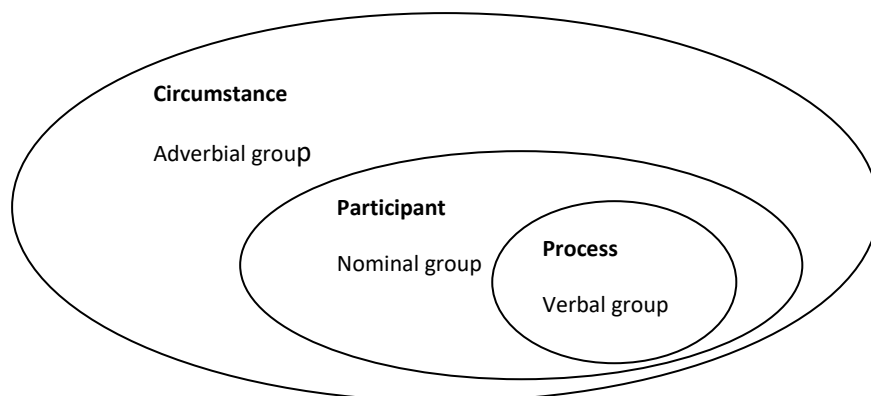


Figure 5. Relationship between process, participant and circumstance. Adapted from Halliday & Matthiessen (2004)

Table 4 shows example of transitivity analyses of some clauses

Table 4. Example of Transitivity analysis

S/N	Circumstance	Participant	Process	Participant	Circumstance
1		The class	ended		last week
2	Yesterday	Musa	picked	a pen	in my bag
3		Tolu	pushed	the man	

Process Types

The three basic elements of transitivity can appear in different individual forms. Halliday and Matthiessen (2004) identify six different types of process and they are material, mental, relational, behavioural, verbal, and existential processes. To them, material, mental and relational processes are the main types of process because they are easily distinguishable with unique features.

Thompson (2014) writes that material process forms the largest and most diverse category in transitivity because of the different forms it can manifest in. Material process is the process that overtly involves physical action like singing, dancing, cooking, and so on. The action must be performed by an individual (participant). In traditional grammar parlance, the verb of a material process is called a doing a verb. The person doing the action is called Actor while the person to whom the action is done is called Goal. Depending on what a given language user wants to say, a clause can be constructed in a way that it will have the presence of an Actor along with a material process without a Goal. In the sentence *He sings everyday* there is an Actor (he), a material process (sings), a circumstance (everyday) but no Goal. The clause can also be constructed in a way that there will be a Goal without an Actor. This is often associated with passive construction of sentences.

Mental process is the process type that is used to represent something that goes on in the internal mind of language users. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2004), it is the process that construes a quantum of change in the flow of events taking place in our own consciousness. In a clause where mental process is used, the participant in whose mind the process occurs is called Sener while what is going on in the mind is called Phenomenon. In the sentence, *He thinks he is intelligent*, “He” is the Sener, “thinks” is the mental process while “he is intelligent” is the Phenomenon. Halliday and Matthiessen (2004) give some features of mental process which distinguish it from the material process.

The first feature is that there is at least only one participant involved in mental process and the participant usually has human features. What is implied here is the fact that a Sener can either be human or inanimate. When it is inanimate, it usually has human features. For example, in the sentence, *The old brush is longing for retirement*, the Sener is inanimate with human feature. The second feature is that when compared to Goal participant in material process, the participant that can serve as Phenomenon in mental process is not restricted to any particular grammatical/semantic category. Rather, it can either be a human, a thing, a fact or even an act. The examples below demonstrated this, with the Phenomenon highlighted.

1. They hate **Obi** badly.
2. She likes **the necklace**.
3. I remember **that I was one a child**.

The third feature that differentiates the mental process is what Halliday and Matthiessen (2004) call tense. They explain that the natural present tense form of a material process is the continuous form like *dancing*, *talking*, and *playing* in the sentences: *They are dancing*; *The*

teacher is talking; The children are playing. But the natural present tense form of a mental process is the simple present form like *remember, like, and hate* in the sentences.

Relational process is the process type that shows relation between participants often in an abstract way. For example in the sentences *The room is big; Mike is a doctor* the process in the first sentence attributes the quality *big* to the participant (*the room*). In the second sentence, the relational process represented by the verb *is* shows the relation between the two participants of the sentence (*Mike* and *a doctor*) by identifying Mike as a doctor. So, relational process is of two different types: attributive relational process and identifying relational process. The sentence *The room is big* is an example of an attributive relational process, while the sentence *Mike is a doctor* is an example of an identifying relational process. In attributive relational process, the participant that has the attribute is called Carrier while the participant that expresses the attribute is called Attribute. This is shown in Table 5

Table 5. Examples of Attributive Relational Process

S/N	Carrier	Attributive process	Attribute
1	The room	is	big
2	The cloud	is	dark

In identifying relational process, the participant that is being identified is called Identified while the participant doing the identification is called Identifier. This is shown in table 6

Table.6. Examples of Identifying Relational Process

S/N	Identified	Identifying process	Identifier
1	Mike	is	a doctor.
2	They	are	my students

The other process types (verbal, behavioural, and existential) share some close relationship with the three main process types explained above. Fontaine (2013) explains that verbal process involves representation of saying something. An example of a sentence that has verbal process is *The teacher said the class is over*. The two participants involved in this type of process are called Sayer and Verbiage. Sayer is the participant who says something, like *The teacher* in the above sentence, while Verbiage is what is said, like *the class is over* in the sentence above. Behavioural process shares a very close relation with Material and Mental processes and as such the researcher of this work is of the opinion that what Halliday and Matthiessen (2004) call behavioural process falls in between Material and Mental processes. Existential process expresses the existence in a given thing. In the sentence *There was a country*. The process in the sentence shows the existence of a country in a time past. The participant in existential process is called Existent. Table 2.8 shows the various process types reviewed above and analysis of sentences to illustrate them.

Table 7. Different process types in transitivity analysis, adapted from Halliday and Matthiessen (2004), and Fontaine (2013)

Process	General meaning	Participants	Examples
Material	Doing, happening	Actor, Goal.	Yewande [Actor] touched the wall [Goal]
Mental	Sensing, seeing, feeling, etc	Senser, Phenomenon	They [Senser] like him [Phenomenon]
Relational	Being		
Attributive	Attributing	Carrier, attribute	The park [Carrier] is fine [Attribute]
Identifying	Identifying	Identifier, identified	Efosa [Identified] is a man [Identifier]
Verbal	Saying	Sayer, verbiage, Receiver	My teacher [Sayer] told me [Receiver] what happened [Verbiage]
Existential	Existing	Existent	There was a country [Existent]

The process types explained so far are considered in transitivity analysis as the ways in which language users categorise and show their experiences. In the data analysis section of this work, effort is made to analyse the transitivity structure of the data by showing what process type is used and why it is used.

Mood and Modality in SFG

Mood and modality in SFG focus on the interpersonal metafunction of language. The two concepts have a complimentary relationship. For the purpose of better understanding, literature on mood is reviewed first before modality. Mood is used technically in SFG to mean two different things. On the one hand, mood refers to the system of speech function; that is whether a speech is declarative, interrogative, or imperative. At this point, language is used to define the speech role of a given language user like making statements, asking questions, and giving command. On the other hand, Mood is used to refer to two components of a clause which are subject and finite. These two components are what Halliday and Matthiessen (2004) refer to as Mood elements. It is the Mood elements of a clause that help to indicate the speech function of a clause. What this means is that Mood elements help to show whether a clause is in a declarative, interrogative or imperative mood.

Mood and Residue

The Mood structure of a clause has two parts which are the Mood and the Residue. As already explained earlier, the Mood part of a clause is realised by subject and finite while the residue is realised by other grammatical items/units apart from the subject and finite. Figure 6 illustrates the mood structure of a clause.

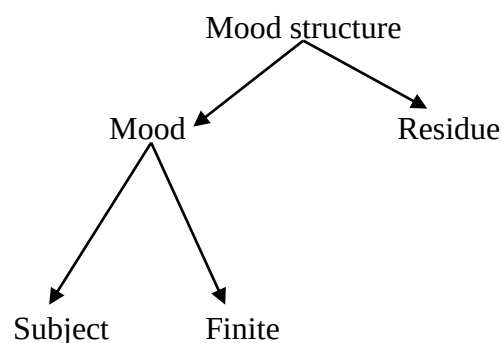


Figure 6. Mood Structure of a clause

The sentence *The baby is crying in the room now* is analysed below to further explain the above structure.

Mood		Residue
Subject	Finite	
The baby	Is	Crying in the room now

In the clause mood structure, the Mood is technically considered first because the Mood element (Subject and Finite) embodies the proposition of a clause and determines whether the clause is declarative, interrogative or imperative.

The subject as a mood element determines other parts of the clause structure because, according to Halliday and Matthiessen (2004), it supplies what it takes for a clause to make a proposition. The finite is different from the traditional meaning of finite. It refers to the first element in a verbal group. It is realised by an auxiliary verb in a verbal group consisting of an auxiliary and lexical verbs. But when the verbal group of a clause is realised only by a lexical verb, then the finite is considered to be fused with the lexical verb. In the sentences below the finite is highlighted while the subject is underlined.

1. The women **are** singing their songs.
2. You **can** visit the house now.
3. **Did** you see the post man?

The residue part is realised by any or all of the following: predicator, complement and adjunct. The predicator is always present in most clauses and it is realised by a lexical verb in

a verbal group. Because the auxiliary in a verbal group is always the finite element, the predicator is considered to be non-finite. The process in a clause is usually expressed by the predicator. For instance, in the sentence *They have said it*, while *have* is the finite expressing interpersonal function, *said* is the predicator showing the type of process used in the sentence: verbal process. Apart from indicating the process type, the predicator also indicates active or passive voice in a clause.

The complement as element in the residue includes what is traditionally referred to as object and complement. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2004), it is the element that has the potential of being subject but is not. This is because when a given clause with complement is reconstructed, the complement can be made to occupy the subject position. The complement in the sentence below is underlined.

1. He gave her the pen

Following the explanation that the complement has the potential of being the subject of a sentence, sentence 1 above is reconstructed in different ways in a manner that the complement is used as the subject.

2. She was given the pen.
3. The pen was given.

The adjunct as element in the residue is often realised by adverbial group or prepositional phrase. The adjunct is unique because it can appear more than once in the clause. Adjunct has three basic types and they are circumstantial, conjunctive, and modal adjuncts. The circumstantial adjuncts are used to contribute to experiential meaning of a clause because they show when, where, why, and how a particular thing happened. The conjunctive adjunct is used to serve a textual function by showing the connection between a

clause and another clause. Thompson (2014) writes that conjunctive adjuncts are not regarded as playing interpersonal function of a clause and as such they do not form part of either Mood or the Residue. The modal adjunct is the adjunct type that is used to show interpersonal function by showing the attitude of a language user within a clause. Modal adjunct has two main types: they are comment and mood adjuncts. The comments adjuncts like *frankly*, *foolishly*, *unfortunately*, are used to comment on an entire clause and they are often marked off by the presence of commas. The sentences below demonstrate the presence of comment modal adjunct in a sentence.

4. **Frankly**, the class has been cancelled again.

5. **Foolishly**, the man is laughed.

6. **Unfortunate**, Ronaldo did not win the world cup.

Mood adjuncts as the second type of modal adjunct are closely associated with the meanings construed by the mood system: modality, temporality, and intensity (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004). Thompson (2014) takes the above view further when he writes that

Mood adjuncts are a little more difficult to identify, because most of the

Appear to be modifying the verb and may thus look like circumstantial adjunct. However, they are in fact most closely related not to the predicator in the verbal group but to the finite: they express meanings associated with tense, polarity and modality. Because of this link with the meanings associated with the Mood, they are called Mood Adjuncts.

Examples of Mood Adjuncts are *eventually*, *probably*, *certainly*, and *hardly*. In a Mood-Residue analysis of a clause, both comment and mood adjuncts are often regarded as part of

Mood and not part of Residue because they can contribute to the meaning of interpersonal function conveyed in a clause. The tables below show examples of Mood analysis of some clauses.

1. Frankly, the class has been cancelled again.

Frankly	the class	has	been cancelled	again
Modal Adjunct	Subject	Finite	Predicator	Adjunct
Mood			Residue	

2. Rolnado, probably, has been dropped in the match.

Rolnado	probably	has	been dropped	in the match
Subject	Modal Adjunct	Finite	Predicator	Adjunct
Mood			Residue	

Modality

Modality is expressed in a clause by modal verbs and modal adjuncts. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2004), it is a resource for a given language user (speaker/writer) to intrude his/her views into a discourse. This is done by giving assessment/opinion or passing judgement on what is being said, as seen in these sentences: (1) The class will probably hold. (2) The technician can repair the television set. In sentence one, modality is expressed with the help of the modal adjunct *probably*, while in sentence two, it is expressed with the help of

modal auxiliary verb. In SFG, two types of modality are identified and they are modalization (also called epistemic modality) and modulation modality. On the one hand, Modalization deals with the certainty a language user (speaker/writer) expresses about what is being said or the probability associated with what is being said (Fontaine, 2013). On the other hand, modulation deals with obligation, ability or permission inherent in a clause. Sentences 1 and 2 above are examples of Modalization and Modulation modality.

2.18 Summary

This chapter has so far been able to review relevant literatures on key operative concepts, and the theoretical frame work that will aid reader's easy understanding of this study. The literature review exposes discourse analysis by focusing on relevant terms and concepts in discourse analysis. It was reviewed that critical discourse analysis is an approach in discourse analysis and its major concern is unravelling ideological commitments in discourses. Approaches to critical discourse analysis were also reviewed with approaches like social cognitive, dialectical-relational, and social-actor constituting the major focus. Effort was also made to give empirical review of literature on research works done by other researchers in order to further justify the need for this study, and make clearer the gap which this work in its entirety fills in the body of available literature. Dialectical-relational and social cognitive approaches to CDA were adapted by the researcher into what he calls Social Structural Model (SSM). The model and Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar were presented as the theoretical framework of this study. The next chapter looks at the research methodology adopted in this work.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter focused on the research methodology adopted in this work. It explained the research design used and the reason behind its usage. The chapter also went further to explain the method of data collection and analysis.

3.2 Research Design

The research methods adopted in this work are Qualitative (content analysis) and quantitative methods: qualitative was used as the main method while quantitative served a complimenting function. Qualitative research method was used as the main research method because it enabled the researcher to do a research in which none of its aspects was prefigured and the entire study was kept open and fluid in such a way that it could respond in a flexible way to new details or openings that emerged during the study. Quantitative method was used to compliment qualitative method in this work because some of its tools were employed in the data analysis to account for frequency distribution of relevant items.

3.3 Method of Data Collection

The data used in this work are rape reportage from newspapers in Nigeria. Three newspapers in Nigeria, *Vanguard*, *The Nation*, and *Punch*, were selected because they have wide range of circulation and huge readership in Nigeria. Reportage from other newspapers like *Nigerian Tribune*, *The Guardian*, *The Sun* and *Daily Independent* were not included in the data because the researcher believed that reducing the data to the above three newspapers would afford good management of data, and aid a detailed analysis. For data collection, the researcher employed the deliberate data sampling method: a sampling method which allows

the researcher to purposively draw the research data. The data were, therefore, collected from the newspapers' online publications in their official websites.

During the process of gathering and collecting the data, the researcher faced some problems. First, the official websites of the three newspapers where the online publications of their newspapers could be found would, sometimes, not be accessible. The researcher waited for it to be accessible. Another problem is that even when the websites were available, downloading and printing their news reportage were sometimes difficult because of the format in which the news stories appeared.

The rape news reports collected for the data were those published between 2013 to 2017. The reason for this time period was informed by the fact that available literature claims that rape increased very well in Nigeria during the period and newspapers reported it in a manner that placed victims at disadvantage position (Dunu & Okafor, 2017). A total of one hundred and fifty (150) rape news reports were purposively collected: fifty from each of the newspapers.

For the reports which were collected from the official websites of the newspapers, the researcher collected them by first using the websites' search links to search for rape reports published in the newspapers within 2013 to 2017. The results of the search produced many news reports on sexual crime. The researcher selected, from each website, the first forty five reports that were on rape. The headlines of the reports helped the researcher in this regard, because all the headlines of the reports collected were overtly marked with the used of the word rape.

3.4 Method of Data Analysis

For data analysis, the researcher took the following steps to ensure that the data were given a detailed analysis that will help address the statement of problem and achieve the aim and objectives of this study. First, the rape news reports were taken as texts that have different parts which together contribute to the messages inherent in the reports. Second, three structural parts were identified to be common to the news reports and they formed parts of the unit of analysis. The structural parts are:

(A) Headlines of the reportage;

(B) Lead of the reportage;

(C) Body of the reportage;

These parts which are typical of any news story usually appear in inverted pyramid form (appearing in order of importance) as shown in figure 7

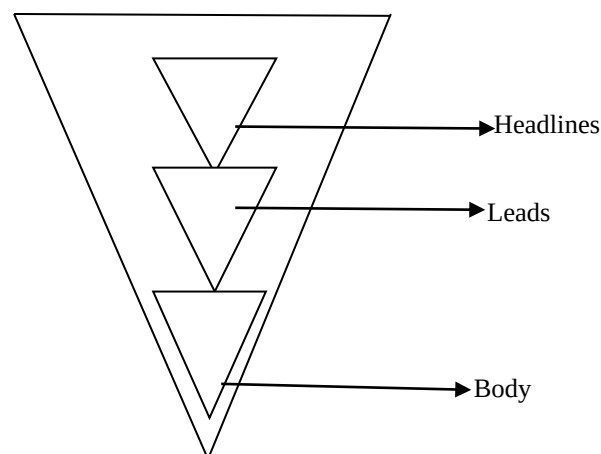


Figure 7 The Inverted Pyramid Concept, from Keeble (2006, p. 125)

In the inverted pyramid, the most important item comes before the less important, so that the headline comes before the lead and the other parts follow. A unique thing is that within each part of a news report, the concept of inverted pyramid also stands in that with each part the most important element usually comes first before other elements, hence the smaller inverted pyramids within the large inverted pyramid (Keeble, 2006). For example, in the lead, the most important element comes before the less important just as in the headline the most important words and phrases are fronted.

Headlines are important part of news stories. This is because they draw attention to the content of news stories by foregrounding the main information in news stories. This particular part of news report can be manipulated by a given newspaper for whatever reason. Infantidou (2009, p.700) writes that “headlines could make a loose, inadequate or misleading substitute for full-text news reports in a number of ways: by directing the reader’s attention to an aspect of a story, by highlighting the topic in a non-objective, yet intriguing way, and by over simplifying the full-text content”.

Leads of news reportage are usually referred to as the introduction of a news story. Keeble (2006) writes that the leads of newspapers’ reportage highlight the main angle and set the tone of a news story. They draw a reader into a story by showing what happened in a news story, who is involved, where it happened, why it happened, when it happened and how it happened (5ws and H). The 5Ws and H are usually explained or given better in the body of a news report while the conclusion may talk about other related story (Pape & Featherstone, 2005). In the analysis, the structural part of the reportage called conclusion is subsumed in the body. These structural parts of news reportage in newspapers are important because each of them can become an avenue through which a given newspaper can present and advance

any ideology hence the analysis done in this work puts the above parts into serious consideration.

Third, the data were analysed based on the theoretical framework of this work. With Systemic functional grammar, units of analysis like information, transitivity, thematic, and Mood structures were analysed for in the different structural parts identified in the reportage of the data. All these and other units of analysis like cohesion, discursive strategies, ideologies and power relations are contained in the following table that shows the coding schedules of this work.

Table 8:Code Schedule

Variables	Categories	Code
Newspapers	Vanguard	1
	The nation	2
	Punch	3
Newspapers' structural parts	Headlines	4
	Leads	5
	Body	6
SFG	Information structure	7
	Transitivity Structure	8
	Thematic structure	9

	Mood structure	10
Discursive strategies	Topicalisation	11
	Name mentioning and omission	12
	Phrasal modification	13
	Selective quotation	14
	Vagueness	15
Ideology	Rape victims as vulnerable	16
	Rapists as cruel people	17
	Zero tolerance of police	18
Power Relation	Asymmetrical power relation	19
Cohesion	Lexical cohesion	20

3.5 Summary

This chapter has been able to show the research methodology used in this work. It showed that qualitative method is the main research method used in this study while quantitative method is serving a complementary function to qualitative method. The chapter has also shown how the data of this work was collected and the reason behind its scope. It also went further to show how the data will be analysed. The next chapter presents analysis of the data.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the analysis of the data of this work. The analysis employs analytical tools of Systemic Functional Grammar like Information, Thematic, Transitivity, and Mood structures to critically account for the language used in the data. The discursive strategies, cohesion, ideological position, and power relations inherent in the data are also analysed.

4.1.1 Information Structure in Headlines of Rape Reportage

Information in a clause, according to Halliday and Matthiessen (2004), is often structured into “given” and “new” information. The given information accounts for the information considered to be shared by a writer and his reader. This is illustrated in text 1 which is an extract from one of the news reports.

Text 1: extract from R 1(Vanguard; June 9th, 2017)

The accused, according to the prosecutor, Sgt. Raphael Donny, committed the offences on May 23 at the back of Cherubim and Seraphim church, Ogba. **The offences** contravened sections 259 and 411 of the Criminal Law of Lagos.

Text 1 has just two sentences. In the first sentence, there is an assumption by the writer that the reader knows who the accused is. The assumption is signalled by the use of the definite article *The* before the word *accused*. The same explanation goes for the second sentence where the offences are assumed to be known. This assumed shared knowledge between the

writer and the reader is what is known as given information. The new information is the information that is considered new and not shared by a reader. In the clauses of the headlines of the one hundred and fifty rape reports under analysis, the information structure only contains new information. Table 4.1 gives some examples from the data.

Table 9: Information structure in headlines of rape reportage in Nigerian newspapers

Reportage Number(RN)	Given Information	New Information	Newspaper and Date
1	-	Two worshipers gang-rape during church fellowship	Vanguard; June 9 th , 2017
2	-	Teenage girl arraigned for allegedly luring her girlfriend for gang-rape	Vanguard; Jan. 31 st , 2017
3	-	Teacher allegedly rapes his nine-year-old pupil after lesson	Vanguard; May 4 th , 2017
51	-	35-year-old man rapes minor	The Nation; May 13 th , 2013
52	-	Bishop, quack doctor arrested for alleged rape, abortion	The Nation; July 3 rd , 2013
53	-	Commercial taxi driver rapes female passenger	The Nation; July 13 th , 2015
101	-	75-year-old farmer rapes minor with autism	Punch; May 11 th , 2016
102	-	50-year-old man rapes,	Punch; Feb. 13 th , 2017

		impregnates 15-year-old girl	
103	-	Husband rapes housemaid at knifepoint, wife forces her to drink concoction	Punch; Nov. 11 th , 2017

The information in the clauses of the headlines of the data is considered new because a reader is not expected to share any background information as regards the rape crime being reported in the headlines except the report is a follow up on a previous report. The importance of this information structure in the headlines is that it helps to attract the attention of a potential reader by foregrounding the news worthiness of a rape Story. Ordinarily, a headline in a newspaper can be a follow up report on previous reports on a particular issue. The following headlines from *Vanguard* are examples: (1) CCT to resume Onnoghen's trial in February (2) CCT fixes Feb 4 to resume trial of suspended CJN, Onnoghen. In the two examples, headline 2 is a follow up report on headline 1 because both reports are on the same issue but the difference is in the date *Feb 4* in headline 2. In that case, the given information can be present because it would be assumed that readers already share some background knowledge. Analysis of the headlines of the news reports of the data shows that none of the news reports is a follow up on previous reports. This is because there are no grammatical expressions in each of the news reports that could point to the fact that each news report is a follow up on previous reports. This accounts for the absence of given information and the presence of new information in the entire headlines of the news reports.

4. 1. 2Thematization in Headlines of Rape Reportage

Thematization in SFG is all about how information is organised within a clause. The positioning of a piece of information, Teo (2000) opines, in a clause is indicative of the kind

of prominence or foregrounding a writer wishes to attribute to it. In the data, thematization is ideologically used to foreground the Actor participant in the clauses of the headlines. Table 4.2 shows thematic analysis of all the headlines of the data.

Table10: Thematic analysis of headlines of rape reportage of the data

RN	Theme Topical	Rheme	Participant in Theme Position	Newspaper and Date
1	Two Worshipers	gang-rape during church fellowship	Victims	Vanguard; June 9 th , 2017
2	Teenage girl	arraigned for allegedly luring her girlfriend for gang-raping	Rapist	Vanguard; May 4 th , 2017
3	Teacher	Allegedly rapes his nine year-old pupil after lesson	Rapist	Vanguard; Jan. 31, 2017
4	6 Varsity students	charged with gang-rape; get N9M bail	Rapists	Vanguard; march 16 th , 2017
5	Unilag student	gets N500, 000 bail for alleged gang rape	Rapist	Vanguard; March 23 rd , 2017
6	Kogi famer	Rapes, neighbour's wife	Rapist	Vanguard; August 9, 2016
7	22-yr-old man standing trial for rape	rearrested for another rape case	Rapist	Vanguard; Nov. 12 th , 2016
8	Teenagers	remanded over gang rape of minor	Rapist	Vanguard; Jan. 27, 2016
9	Court	jails 40-year-old man for raping his 17-year-old daughter	Rapist	Vanguard; July 8 th , 2016

10	Father, 55,	remanded in prison for sleeping with daughter	Rapist	Vanguard; Sept. 19, 2017
11	12-yr-old girl	exposes father: “he serially rape me, aborted my 4-month-old pregnancy	Rapist	Vanguard; April 3 rd , 2016
12	Olamide	rapes, impregnates girl at Ajegunle	Rapist	Vanguard; Oct. 26, 2017
13	Mechanic	Slaps teenage girl at party, rapes her before she recovers from daze	Rapist	Vanguard; Jan. 15, 2014
14	School proprietor	jailed 10 years for raping 10-yr-old pupil	Rapist	Vanguard; March 30th, 2016
15	52-year-old HIV positive teacher	rapes 12-year-old student	Rapist	Vanguard; July 10, 2013
16	Unemployed man	rapes 13 year old teenager in Lagos	Rapist	Vanguard; Feb. 21, 2017
17	Catholic priest	faces fresh charge over 10-yr-old girl’s rape	Rapist	Vanguard; August 31, 2016
18	Labourer	Rapes 16-yr-old daughter	Rapist	Vanguard; March 30 2016
19	Barber, 37,	Rapes 7-yr-old girl	Rapist	Vanguard; March 31, 2016
20	Husband	Rapes step-daughter after wife turned him down	Rapist	Vanguard; March 8, 2017
21	25-yr-old lady	Stabs, rapist in Kano	Victim	Vanguard; Feb. 14, 2014
22	2	Charged with raping, procuring abortion for 14-yr-old girl.	Rapist	Vanguard; July 13, 2017

23	70-yr-old man	Rapes friend's 9-yr-old daughter	Rapist	Vanguard; Jan. 5, 2014
24	Court	Remands 3 accused for alleged gang rape of 19 years girl	Police/Court	Vanguard; Feb. 1, 2016
25	Teacher	jailed 14 years for raping student in Delta	Rapist	Vanguard; June 18, 2014
26	Man, 27,	rapes 11-yr-old with Down's syndrome	Rapist	Vanguard; Dec. 4, 2014
27	Man	jailed 19 years for raping friend's daughter	Rapist	Vanguard; August 24, 2016
28	Man	arraign for sexual abuse on 3 daughter	Rapist	Vanguard; June 28, 2016
29	Man	accused of raping neighbour	Rapist	Vanguard; Sept. 26, 2017
30	Man	Rapes mother and child in Minna	Rapist	Vanguard; Nov. 17, 2015
31	Man, 29,	Rapes neighbour's 9-yr-old daughter	Rapist	Vanguard; March 15, 2013
32	Man, 25,	Rapes friend's 6-yr-old daughter	Rapist	Vanguard; Jan. 2, 2017
33	Man, 42,	Rapes, impregnates 13 yr-old plantain hawker	Rapist	Vanguard; march 30, 2017
34	Father	Catches man raping daughter	Victim	Vanguard; Sept. 17, 2013
35	Man	Rapes his children aged 5, 7, 9	Rapist	Vanguard; April 21, 2016

36	Man, 37,	Rapes mentally challenged girl	Rapist	Vanguard; Jan. 22, 2016
37	5 men	Rape 10-yr-old girl comatose in Owerri	Rapist	Vanguard; June 3, 2016
38	Man	Remanded in Prison for allegedly raping orphan on Valentine's day	Rapist	Vanguard; Feb 18, 2016
39	UNICAL Prof.	Suspended over alleged rape of student	Rapist	Vanguard; Sept. 11, 2015
40	Police arraign	Vulkanizer for allegedly raping sister-in-law	Police	Vanguard; Feb. 22, 2017
41	Fulani herdsmen	Rape woman to death in Edo	Rapists	Vanguard; March 22, 2017
42	Woman	Dies after rape by neighbour	Victim	Vanguard; Nov. 19, 2013
43	Police	Arraign native doctor in court for alleged rape of tenant's daughter in Enugu	Police	Vanguard; April 2, 2015
44	Man, 45	Rapes daughter's friend, 15	Rapist	Vanguard; Dec. 2, 2013
45	Tailor	Rapes 14-yr-old girl in Makurdi	Rapist	Vanguard; Oct. 6, 2017
46	Plantain seller	Hospitalised after rape by 2 men in Nasarawa	Victim	Vanguard; Jan. 2015
47	Police	Arrest serial rapist in Aba	Police	Vanguard; Aug. 8, 2013.
48	Pure water	Raped and impregnated in Owerri	Victim	Vanguard; June 11,

	hawker			2014
49	Man, 53,	Arrested for alleged rape and death of physically challenge girl in Benue	Rapist	Vanguard; Sept. 19, 2017
50	Police	Arraign man for raping physically challenged girl	Police	Vanguard; March 4, 2014
51	35-year-old man	rapes minors	Rapist	The Nation; May 13 th , 2013
52	Bishop, quack doctor	Arrested for alleged rape, abortion	Rapist	The Nation; July 3, 2013
53	Commercial taxi driver	rapes female passenger	Rapist	The Nation; July 13 th , 2015
54	Court	remands doctor in prison for raping patient	Rapist	The Nation; April 28 th , 2017
55	Driver	charged with raping sister-in-law	Rapist	The Nation; July 10 th , 2017
56	Eight-year-old rape victim	dies	Victim	The Nation; Nov. 24 th , 2017
57	Ekiti police	arrest man for rape of woman, 75	Police	The Nation; Nov. 27 th , 2013
58	Vice principal	bags life jail for raping 12-year-old pupil	Rapist	The Nation; June 29, 2017
59	Trader	In court for alleged rape of neighbour's daughter	Rapist	The Nation; March 1, 2017
60	My granddaughter	Bled for eight days after being raped	Victim	The Nation; Oct. 5, 2015
61	Teacher	In court over alleged raping of	Rapist	The Nation; Jan. 22,

		neighbour's daughter		2013
62	Septuagenarian	Arrested for repeatedly raping minor in Ebonyi	Rapist	The Nation; Sept. 22, 2017
63	Pregnant woman	Bites rapist's genitals	Victim	The Nation; Jan. 10, 2014
64	Police	Arrest commercial driver who raped student of Ekiti college	Police	The Nation; Sept. 2017
65	Police	Arraign herdsman over alleged rape in Benue	Police	The Nation; Nov. 25, 2017
66	Motorcyclist	Docked for allegedly defiling neighbour's minor	Rapist	The Nation; Feb. 22, 2017
67	Mechanic	Rapes girl, 15	Rapist	The Nation; Sept. 9, 2015
68	Man	Rapes girl, 16, after luring her with job offer	Rapist	The Nation; May 5, 2016
69	Man	Held for raping wife's sister for 10 years	Rapist	The Nation; April 13, 2016
70	Man	Docked for allegedly raping own daughter	Rapist	The Nation; April 20, 2015
71	Man	Arraigned in court for raping neighbour's daughter	Rapist	The Nation; May 15, 2017
72	Landlord, tenant	Rape girl, 13	Rapist	The Nation; Aug. 23, 2017
73	Grandpa	Defiles 6-year-old girl in Kadua	Rapist	The Nation; June 20, 2016
74	Consultant	Allegedly rapes colleague twice in	Rapist	The Nation; Dec.

		office		2015
75	Court	Remands man for alleged rape, infecting victim with HIV	Rapist	The Nation; Sept. 2015
76	Court	Remands five for allegedly raping Lagos model, one other	Rapist	The Nation; Aug. 13, 2016
77	Man	Remanded in prison for raping a stranded woman	Rapist	The Nation; Dec. 7, 2016
78	Impersonator	Paraded for rape in Calabar	Rapist	March 11, 2016
79	Girl, 15	Accuses uncle of raping her	Victim	The Nation; Feb. 18, 2016
80	Man, 51,	Remanded for raping NYSC member to death	Rapist	June 16, 2015
81	Police	Arrest man for raping daughter in JSS 3	Police	The Nation; Sept. 24, 2016
82	Court	Remands man in prison for raping mother	Court	The Nation; Aug. 4, 2016
83	Ekiti court	Remands man for raping girl, 5	Court	The Nation; Sept. 22, 2016
84	Pastor	Remanded for alleged rape	Rapist	The Nation; Dec. 29, 2016
85	Peace corps cadet	Arrested for raping 17 year old student	Rapist	The Nation; Oct. 26, 2016
86	11-year-old housemaid	Raped to death in Abia State	Victim	The Nation; March 17, 2015
87	Oyo NURTW boss	Nabbed for rape in Ibadan	Rapist	The Nation; July 2016

88	Native doctor	Arraigned over alleged rape	Rapist	The Nation; Jan. 15, 2016
89	Commercial taxi driver	Rapes female passenger	Rapist	The Nation; July 13, 2015
90	Inspector	Rapes 15-year-old girl at gunpoint	Rapist	The Nation; July 21, 2016
91	Tricycle rider	Abduct girl, rapes her	Rapist	The Nation; Oct. 23, 2016
92	Man	Rapes twin sister	Rapist	The Nation; May 12, 2017
93	Carpenter	Rapes 15 year old orphan in Enugu	Rapist	The Nation; May 24, 2016
94	Woman	Demands justice for her daughter rape by clergyman in Asaba	Victim	The Nation; Oct 1, 2015
95	Court	Jailed Bus driver for raping passenger	Court	The Nation; June 12, 2016
96	NURTW staff	Allegedly rapes stranded passenger in Ondo	Rapist	The Nation; Jan. 17, 2017
97	Man, 65,	Gets life imprisonment for rape of a minor	Rapist	The Nation; Sept. 30 2014
98	Pastor's son and friends	Rape 15-year-old girl in school	Rapist	The Nation; Aug. 25, 2016
99	Alleged serial rapist	Jumped bail in Warri, rearrested in Aba	Rapist	The Nation; Nov. 17, 2017
100	Man, 41,	Bags 15 years imprisonment for raping neighbour's wife	Rapist	The Nation; July 3, 2013

101	75-year-old farmer	Rapes minor with autism	Rapist	Punch; May 11, 2016
102	50-year-old man	Rapes, impregnates 15-year-old girl	Rapist	Punch; Feb. 13, 2017
103	Husband	Rapes housemaid at knifepoint, wife forces her to drink concoction	Rapist	Punch; Nov. 11, 2017
104	Man	Rapes 29-year-old virgin, bag 14 years jail term	Rapist	Punch; March 24, 2017
105	Man	Rapes only daughter, 15, for three years	Rapist	Punch; Oct. 20 th , 2017
106	Man	Rapes, kill reverend sister, dump her body into dam	Rapist	Punch; June 2, 2013
107	Man, 58	Allegedly rapes, impregnates 15-year-old groundnut hawker	Rapist	Punch; Dec. 8 th , 2017
108	Wanted Lagos rapist	Rapes 60-year-old, blinds daughter	Rapist	Punch; July 13, 2016
109	Alfa	Abducts, rapes Dubai returnee in Lagos	Rapist	Punch; June 6, 2016
110	30-year-old scrap collector	Rapes pupil, gives her N200	Rapist	Punch; April 20, 2016
111	60-year-old driver	Rapes mental patient	Rapist	Punch; Oct. 17, 2016
112	Deacon, 44	Rapes seven-year-old, blames evil forces	Rapist	Punch; March 16, 2016
113	Father	Rapes 15-year-old daughter, drugs her to prevent pregnancy	Rapist	Punch; Sept. 25, 2016
114	Guardian, 41,	Rapes 14-year-old	Rapist	Punch; Oct. 5, 2017

115	I have been raped	By my stepfather since I was 10 – 14-year-old girl	Victim	Punch; July 15, 2017
116	Lagos trader	Rapes nine-year-old boy	Rapist	Punch; Feb. 23, 2016
117	Man	Rapes three-year-old stepdaughter after wife denies him sex	Rapist	Punch;
118	Man	Rapes wife's 13-year-old sister	Rapist	Punch; March 19, 2017
119	Man, 20,	Allegedly rapes beggar's five-year-old daughter in Agege	Rapist	Punch; Sept. 2013
120	Motorcyclist	Lures, rapes pupil in hotel	Rapist	Punch; Dec4. 2015
121	Pastor	Rapes five-year-old girl in Ekiti, remanded in prison	Rapist	Punch; Dec. 28, 2016
122	Policeman	Rapes 10-year-old for a year with mother's consent	Rapist	Punch; Jan 7, 2014
123	School teacher	Rapes 16-year-old daughter for four years	Rapist	Punch; April 9, 2015
124	Septuagenarian	Rapes girl, 12, after luring her with N200	Rapist	Punch; Oct. 8, 2016
125	Teenager	Rapes, impregnates 14-year-old girl	Rapist	Punch; June 19, 2017
126	Trending: school leaver	Rapes four-year-old girl in her brother's presence	Rapist	Punch; Sept. 22, 2016
127	Man, 54,	Abducts, rapes 11-year-old girl in Ekiti	Rapist	Punch; July 3, 2016
128	How police inspector	Raped girl, 15, at gunpoint in A'lbom	Rapist	Punch; July 7, 2016
129	Computer	Gives schoolgirl N30 after rape	Rapist	Punch; May 12, 2015

	teacher			
130	Salesgirl in comma	After rape by hoodlums	Victim	Punch; Nov.20, 2013
131	Man	Rapes, impregnates 15-year-old daughter	Rapist	Punch; June 6, 2017
132	Uncle	Raped me four times a week for years	Rapist	Punch; April 10, 2016
133	My husband	Rapes me in the presence of our children, woman tell court	Rapist	Punch; March 29, 2017
134	Man, 67,	Rapes childhood friend's eight-year-old daughter in Kano	Rapist	Punch; Sept 20, 2013
135	Lagos doctor	Rapes, impregnates 26-year-old patient	Rapist	Punch; May 12, 2016
136	Man	Gets 15 years for raping neighbour	Rapist	Punch; July 4, 2013.
137	Dangote truck driver	Rapes girl, 15, in Masaka	Rapist	Punch; Dec. 1, 2014
138	Doctor	Injects, rapes patient in Niger	Rapist	Punch; Feb 21, 2017
139	Man, 38,	Rapes minor in Kaduna	Rapist	Punch; May 29, 2016
140	55-year-man	Allegedly rapes 17-year-old daughter nine times	Rapist	Punch; Aug. 15, 2017
141	Teenager	Flees home over dad's multiple rapes	Victim	Punch; July, 3, 2017
142	65-year-old man	Rapes daughter in Sokoto	Rapist	Punch; Dec 11, 2013
143	Teacher, 35	Rape pupil, 13, after school hour	Rapist	Punch; March 6, 2015
144	Police	Arrested alleged serial rapist in Akwa Ibom	Police	Punch; Feb. 14, 2017
145	Court	Jailed 70-year-old grand pa for raping	Court	Punch; Jan. 18, 2016

		grand daughter		
146	Court	Sentence clergyman for raping church member, in Edo	Court	Punch; Jan. 5, 2013
147	Salesgirl	Raped and beaten by unknown men in Imo	Victim	Punch; Aug.9, 2014
148	My daughter deserves justice	Mother of rape victim cries out	Victim	Punch; June 3, 2017
149	Police	Arraign man, 54, for raping 10 –year-old girl in Akure	Police	Punch; May 10, 2014
150	Local chief	Arrested for rape of 14-year-old girl in Delta	Rapist	Punch; July 14, 2013

The themes in the clauses of the headlines of the data are represented as topical themes and the topical themes are realised by participants (rapist, victim, and police). The themes are represented as topical themes because topical themes are used to foreground the experiential value of the headlines. What this means is that with the topical themes, the news writers are able to foreground the actors and goals, and other participants of the processes used in the headlines. There are no instances of textual and interpersonal themes in the headlines because textual and interpersonal themes are respectively used to bring about cohesiveness in a text and show the interpersonal relation between discourse participants. They are therefore not used because the headlines of the news reports of the data do not have more than one clause where cohesive ties will be needed, and the mood structure of each report is fused. In all the headlines of the news reports, rapists occupy topical thematic position in 116 headlines which account for 77% of the headlines of the data, while rape victims occupy topical thematic position in just 17 headlines, representing 11.5% of the headlines of our data. Police and

other institutions like law court occupy topical thematic position in 17 headlines, also representing 11.5% of headlines of the data. This is represented in table 11.

Table 11: Frequency distribution of participants in thematic position in thematic analysis

S/N	Participants	Number of occurrence in Thematic position	percentage
1	Rapist	116	77%
2	Victims	17	11.5%
3	Police/Court	17	11.5%

The information in table 11 is represented in figure 8

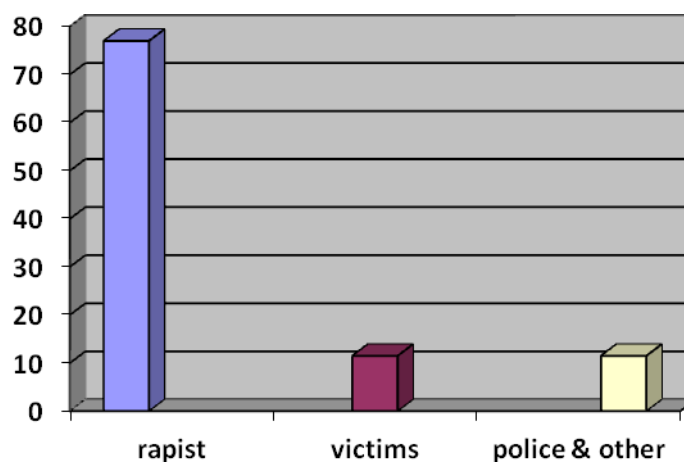


Figure 8: Distribution of participants occupying topical thematic position in headlines of the data.

The frequency distribution above is significant in the data because it shows that while other participants in a rape crime are also foregrounded, the rapists are more thematically foregrounded than any other participant in the clauses of headlines of rape reportage. The thematic foregrounding of the rapists in the headlines could be said to be ideologically used to solicit condemnation for the rapists by tacitly showing the violence and abusiveness associated with the rapists in relation to their victims. But when the rape victims and police are thematically foregrounded, as seen in R.54, 56, and 57, in Table 10 above, the news writers seem to use the foregrounding to solicit sympathy for the victims and create good image for the police. These facts are underscored by the nature of verbs used to realise the processes in the clauses of the headlines. The process types of the clauses of the headlines and the experiences they capture are analysed in the section below.

4. 1. 3 Transitivity in Headlines of Rape Reportage

Transitivity as an analytical model in SFG helps to show how experiences and reality are captured in a clause. As an analytical tool, it foregrounds the processes attributed to participants in a clause and shows the reality and experiences inherent in the processes. The process can be material, mental, relational, verbal or behavioural. Table 12 shows transitivity analysis of all clauses of the headlines in the data.

Table12: Transitivity in Headlines of Rape Reportage

S/N	Newspaper and Date	Participant (Actor)	Process (Material)	Participant (Goal)	Circumstance
1	Vanguard; June 9 th , 2017	Two Worshipers	gang-rape		during church fellowship

2	Vanguard; May 4 th , 2017	Teenage girl	arraigned		for allegedly luring her girlfriend for gang-raping
3	Vanguard; Jan. 31, 2017	Teacher	Allegedly [circumstan ce] rapes	his nine year-old pupil	after lesson
4	Vanguard; march 16 th , 2017	6 Varsity students	charged		with gang- rape; get N9M bail
5	Vanguard; March 23 rd , 2017	Unilag student	gets	N500, 000 bail	for alleged gang rape
6	Vanguard; August 9, 2016	Kogi famer	Rapes,	neighbour's wife	
7	Vanguard; Nov. 12 th , 2016	22-yr-old man standing trial for rape	rearrested		for another rape case
8	Vanguard; Jan. 27, 2016	Teenagers	remanded		over gang rape of minor
9	Vanguard; July 8 th , 2016	Court	jails	40-year-old man	for raping his 17-year-old daughter

10	Vanguard; Sept. 19, 2017	Father, 55,	remanded		in prison for sleeping with daughter
11	Vanguard; April 3 rd , 2016	12-yr-old girl	exposes pregnancy	father:	“he serially rape me, aborted my 4-month-old
12	Vanguard; Oct. 26, 2017	Olamide	rapes, impregnates	Girl	at Ajegunle
13	Vanguard; Jan. 15, 2014	Mechanic	Slaps	teenage girl	at party, rapes her before she recovers from daze
14	Vanguard; March 30th, 2016	School proprietor	jailed	10 years	for raping 10- yr-old pupil
15	Vanguard; July 10, 2013	52-year-old HIV positive teacher	rapes	12-year-old student	
16	Vanguard; Feb. 21, 2017	Unemployed man	rapes	13 year old teenager	in Lagos

17	Vanguard; August 31, 2016	Catholic priest	faces	fresh charge	over 10-yr- old girl's rape
18	Vanguard; March 30 2016	Labourer	Rapes	16-yr-old daughter	
19	Vanguard; March 31, 2016	Barber, 37,	Rapes	7-yr-old girl	
20	Vanguard; March 8, 2017	Husband	Rapes	step-daughter	after wife turned him down
21	Vanguard; Feb. 14, 2014	25-yr-old lady	Stabs,	Rapist	in Kano
22	Vanguard; July 13, 2017	2	Charged	with raping, procuring abortion for 14-yr-old girl.	
23	Vanguard; Jan. 5, 2014	70-yr-old man	Rapes	friend's 9-yr-old daughter	
24	Vanguard; Feb. 1, 2016	Court	Remands	3 accused	for alleged gang rape of 19 years girl
25	Vanguard; June 18,	Teacher	jailed	14 years	for raping student in

	2014				Delta
26	Vanguard; Dec. 4, 2014	Man, 27,	rapes	11-yr-old with Down's syndrome	
27	Vanguard; August 24, 2016	Man	jailed	19 years	for raping friend's daughter
28	Vanguard; June 28, 2016	Man	arraign		for sexual abuse on 3 daughters
29	Vanguard; Sept. 26, 2017	Man	accused	of raping neighbour	
30	Vanguard; Nov. 17, 2015	Man	Rapes	mother and child	in Minna
31	Vanguard; March 15, 2013	Man, 29,	Rapes	neighbour's 9-yr-old daughter	
32	Vanguard; Jan. 2, 2017	Man, 25,	Rapes	friend's 6-yr-old daughter	
33	Vanguard; march 30, 2017	Man, 42,	Rapes, impregnates	13 yr-old plantain hawker	
34	Vanguard; Sept. 17,	Father	Catches	Man	raping

	2013				daughter
35	Vanguard; April 21, 2016	Man	Rapes	his children aged 5, 7, 9	
36	Vanguard; Jan. 22, 2016	Man, 37,	Rapes	mentally challenged girl	
37	Vanguard; June 3, 2016	5 men	Rape	10-yr-old girl	comatose in Owerri
38	Vanguard; Feb 18, 2016	Man	Remanded		in Prison for allegedly raping orphan on Valentine's day
39	Vanguard; Sept. 11, 2015	UNICAL Prof.	Suspended		over alleged rape of student
40	Vanguard; Feb. 22, 2017	Police arraign	Vulkanizer		for allegedly raping sister- in-law
41	Vanguard; March 22,	Fulani herdsmen	Rape	Woman	to death in Edo

	2017				
42	Vanguard; Nov. 19, 2013	Woman	Dies		after rape by neighbour
43	Vanguard; April 2, 2015	Police	Arraign	native doctor	in court for alleged rape of tenant's daughter in Enugu
44	Vanguard; Dec. 2, 2013	Man, 45	Rapes	daughter's friend, 15	
45	Vanguard; Oct. 6, 2017	Tailor	Rapes	14-yr-old girl	in Makurdi
46	Vanguard; Jan. 2015	Plantain seller	Hospitalised		after rape by 2 men in Nasarawa
47	Vanguard; Aug. 8, 2013.	Police	Arrest	serial rapist	in Aba
48	Vanguard; June 11, 2014	Pure water hawker	Raped and impregnated		in Owerri
49	Vanguard; Sept. 19,	Man, 53,	Arrested		for alleged rape and

	2017				death of physically challenge girl in Benue
50	Vanguard; March 4, 2014	Police	Arraign	Man	for raping physically challenged girl
51	The Nation; May 13 th , 2013	35-year-old man	rapes	Minors	
52	The Nation; July 3, 2013	Bishop, quack doctor	Arrested		for alleged rape, abortion
53	The Nation; July 13 th , 2015	Commercial taxi driver	rapes	female passenger	
54	The Nation; April 28 th , 2017	Court	remands	Doctor	in prison for raping patient
55	The Nation; July 10th, 2017	Driver	charged		with raping sister-in-law
56	The Nation; Nov. 24 th , 2017	Eight-year-old rape victim	dies		

57	The Nation; Nov. 27 th , 2013	Ekiti police	arrest	Man	for rape of woman, 75
58	The Nation; June 29, 2017	Vice principal	bags	life jail	for raping 12- year-old pupil
59	The Nation; March 1, 2017	Trader			In court for alleged rape of neighbour's daughter
60	The Nation; Oct. 5, 2015	My granddaughter	Bled		for eight days after being raped
61	The Nation; Jan. 22, 2013	Teacher			In court over alleged raping of neighbour's daughter
62	The Nation; Sept. 22, 2017	Septuagenarian	Arrested		for repeatedly raping minor in Ebonyi

63	The Nation; Jan. 10, 2014	Pregnant woman	Bites	rapist's genitals	
64	The Nation; Sept. 2017	Police	Arrest	commercial driver who raped student of Ekiti college	
65	The Nation; Nov. 25, 2017	Police	Arraign	Herdsman	over alleged rape in Benue
66	The Nation; Feb. 22, 2017	Motorcyclist	Docked		for allegedly defiling neighbour's minor
67	The Nation; Sept. 9, 2015	Mechanic	Rapes	girl, 15	
68	The Nation; May 5, 2016	Man	Rapes	girl, 16,	after luring her with job offer
69	The Nation; April 13, 2016	Man	Held		for raping wife's sister for 10 years
70	The Nation; April 20, 2015	Man	Docked		for allegedly raping own daughter

71	The Nation; May 15, 2017	Man	Arraigned		in court for raping neighbour's daughter
72	The Nation; Aug. 23, 2017	Landlord, tenant	Rape	girl, 13	
73	The Nation; June 20, 2016	Grandpa	Defiles	6-year-old girl	in Kaduna
74	The Nation; Dec. 17 2015	Consultant	Allegedly [circumstan ce] rapes	colleague twice	in office
75	The Nation; Sept. 2015	Court	Remands	Man	for alleged rape, infecting victim with HIV
76	The Nation; Aug. 13, 2016	Court	Remands	Five	for allegedly raping Lagos model, one other
77	The Nation; Dec. 7, 2016	Man	Remanded		in prison for raping a

					stranded woman
78	March 11, 2016	Impersonator	Paraded		for rape in Calabar
79	The Nation; Feb. 18, 2016	Girl, 15	Accuses	Uncle	of raping her
80	June 16, 2015	Man, 51,	Remanded		for raping NYSC member to death
81	The Nation; Sept. 24, 2016	Police	Arrest in JSS 3	Man	for raping daughter
82	The Nation; Aug. 4, 2016	Court	Remands	Man	in prison for raping mother
83	The Nation; Sept. 22, 2016	Ekiti court	Remands	Man	for raping girl, 5
84	The Nation; Dec. 29, 2016	Pastor	Remanded		for alleged rape
85	The Nation; Oct. 26,	Peace corps cadet	Arrested		for raping 17

	2016				year old student
86	The Nation; March 17, 2015	11-year-old housemaid	Raped		to death in Abia State
87	The Nation; July 2016	Oyo NURTW boss	Nabbed		for rape in Ibadan
88	The Nation; Jan. 15, 2016	Native doctor	Arraigned		over alleged rape
89	The Nation; July 13, 2015	Commercial taxi driver	Rapes	female passenger	
90	The Nation; July 21, 2016	Inspector	Rapes	15-year-old girl	at gunpoint
91	The Nation; Oct. 23, 2016	Tricycle rider	Abduct	girl, rapes [material process] her	
92	The Nation; May 12, 2017	Man	Rapes	twin sister	
93	The Nation; May 24, 2016	Carpenter	Rapes	15 year old orphan	in Enugu
94	The Nation;	Woman	Demands	Justice	for her

	Oct 1, 2015				daughter rape by clergyman in Asaba
95	The Nation; June 12, 2016	Court	Jailed	Bus driver	for raping passenger
96	The Nation; Jan. 17, 2017	NURTW staff	Allegedly [circumstan ce] rapes	stranded passenger	in Ondo
97	The Nation; Sept. 30 2014	Man, 65,	Gets	life imprisonment	for rape of a minor
98	The Nation; Aug. 25, 2016	Pastor's son and friends	Rape	15-year-old girl	in school
99	The Nation; Nov. 17, 2017	Alleged serial rapist	Jumped	Bail	in Warri, rearrested in Aba
100	The Nation; July 3, 2013	Man, 41,	Bags	15 years imprisonment	for raping neighbour's wife
101	Punch; May 11, 2016	75-year-old farmer	Rapes	minor with autism	
102	Punch; Feb. 13, 2017	50-year-old man	Rapes, impregnates	15-year-old girl	

103	Punch; Nov. 11, 2017	Husband	Rapes	Housemaid	at knifepoint, wife forces her to drink concoction
104	Punch; March 24, 2017	Man	Rapes,	29-year-old virgin	bag 14 years jail term
105	Punch; Oct. 20 th , 2017	Man	Rapes,	only daughter, 15	for three years
106	Punch; June 2, 2013	Man	Rapes, kills,	reverend sister	dump her body into dam
107	Punch; Dec. 8 th , 2017	Man, 58	Allegedly [circumstance] rapes, impregnates	15-year-old groundnut hawker	
108	Punch; July 13, 2016	Wanted Lagos rapist	Rapes	60-year-old, blinds daughter	
109	Punch; June 6, 2016	Alfa	Abducts, rapes	Dubai returnee	in Lagos
110	Punch; April 20, 2016	30-year-old scrap collector	Rapes,	Pupil	gives her N200
111	Punch; Oct. 17, 2016	60-year-old driver	Rapes	mental patient	

112	Punch; March 16, 2016	Deacon, 44	Rapes	seven-year-old,	blames evil forces
113	Punch; Sept. 25, 2016	Father	Rapes	15-year-old daughter,	drugs her to prevent pregnancy
114	Punch; Oct. 5, 2017	Guardian, 41,	Rapes	14-year-old	
115	Punch; July 15, 2017	I	have been raped		By my stepfather since I was 10 – 14-year-old girl
116	Punch; Feb. 23, 2016	Lagos trader	Rapes	nine-year-old boy	
117	Punch; Jan. 30, 2017	Man	Rapes	three-year-old stepdaughter	after wife denies him sex
118	Punch; March 19, 2017	Man	Rapes	wife's 13-year-old sister	
119	Punch; Sept. 2013	Man, 20,	Allegedly rapes	beggar's five-year-old daughter	in Agege

120	Punch; Dec4. 2015	Motorcyclist	Lures, rapes	Pupil	in hotel
121	Punch; Dec. 28, 2016	Pastor	Rapes	five-year-old girl	in Ekiti, remanded in prison
122	Punch; Jan 7, 2014	Policeman	Rapes	10-year-old	for a year with mother's consent
123	Punch; April 9, 2015	School teacher	Rapes	16-year-old daughter	for four years
124	Punch; Oct. 8, 2016	Septuagenarian	Rapes	girl, 12,	after luring her with N200
125	Punch; June 19, 2017	Teenager	Rapes, impregnates	14-year-old girl	
126	Punch; Sept. 22, 2016	Trending: school leaver	Rapes	four-year-old girl	in her brother's presence
127	Punch; July 3, 2016	Man, 54,	Abducts, rapes	11-year-old girl	in Ekiti
128	Punch; July 7, 2016	How police inspector	Raped	girl, 15,	at gunpoint in A'lbom

129	Punch; May 12, 2015	Computer teacher	Gives	Schoolgirl	N30 after rape
130	Punch; Nov.20, 2013	Salesgirl			in comma After rape by hoodlums
131	Punch; June 6, 2017	Man	Rapes, impregnates	15-year-old daughter	
132	Punch; April 10, 2016	Uncle	Raped	Me	four times a week for years
133	Punch; March 29, 2017	My husband	Rapes	Me	in the presence of our children, woman tell court
134	Punch; Sept 20, 2013	Man, 67,	Rapes	childhood friend's eight-year-old daughter	in Kano
135	Punch; May 12, 2016	Lagos doctor	Rapes, impregnates	26-year-old patient	
136	Punch; July 4, 2013.	Man	Gets	15 years	for raping neighbour
137	Punch; Dec.	Dangote truck	Rapes	girl, 15,	in Masaka

	1, 2014	driver			
138	Punch; Feb 21, 2017	Doctor	Injects, rapes	Patient	in Niger
139	Punch; May 29, 2016	Man, 38,	Rapes	Minor	in Kaduna
140	Punch; Aug. 15, 2017	55-year-man	Allegedly rapes	17-year-old daughter	nine times
141	Punch; July, 3, 2017	Teenager	Flees	Home	over dad's multiple rapes
142	Punch; Dec 11, 2013	65-year-old man	Rapes	daughter	in Sokoto
143	Punch; March 6, 2015	Teacher, 35	Rape	pupil, 13,	after school hour
144	Punch; Feb. 14, 2017	Police	Arrested	alleged serial rapist	in Akwa Ibom
145	Punch; Jan. 18, 2016	Court	Jailed	70-year-old grand pa	for raping grand daughter
146	Punch; Jan. 5, 2013	Court	Sentence	Clergyman	for raping church member, in Edo

147	Punch; Aug.9, 2014	Salesgirl	Raped and beaten		by unknown men in Imo
148	Punch; June 3, 2017	My daughter	deserves	Justice	Mother of rape victim cries out
149	Punch; May 10, 2014	Police	Arraign	man, 54,	for raping 10 –year-old girl in Akure
150	Punch; July 14, 2013	Local chief	Arrested		for rape of 14-year-old girl in Delta

Material processes are identified as the only process type in the clauses of the headlines of the data. They are used to capture the physical actions of the actors on their goals. The processes are attributed mainly to the rapists, police, and law court. In all the headlines of the news reports, material processes are attributed to rapists as actor participants in the clauses of 113 headlines (that is 75.3%), they are attributed to rape victims as actor participants in the clauses of 08 headlines (5.3), while the police and law court appear as actor participants in 29 headlines (19.3%). This is represented in Table 13 and figure 9.

Table 13: Frequency of Material Processes Attributed to Actor Participants

S/N	Actor Participant	Frequency of Material process attribution	percentage
1	Rapists	113	75.3%
2	Victims	08	5.3%
3	Police/Court	29	19.3%

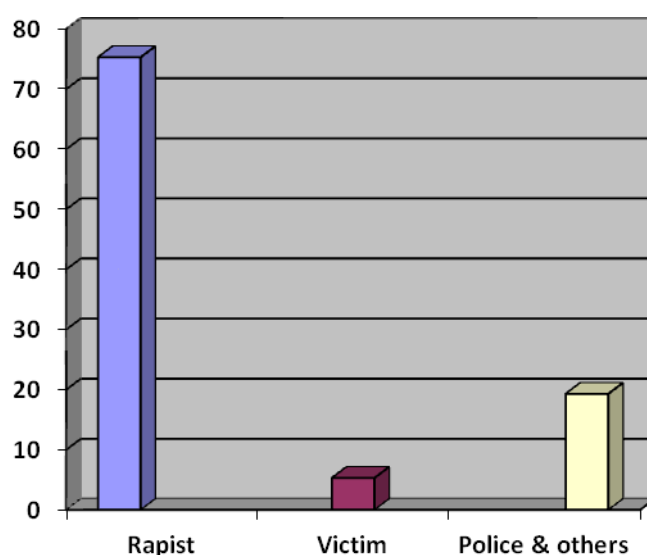


Figure 9: Attribution of material process to participants.

The distribution in figure 9 shows that majority of the material processes are attributed to rapists. The reason for this is that the news writers present their reports in a manner that the clauses of the headlines are in active form. So, because the clauses are in active form, the syntactic position occupied by the rapists in the various clauses of the headlines, as seen earlier in table 13, made them to be the ones performing the actions inherent in the material processes. The significance of this is that with the syntactic positions of the rapists in relation

to the processes of the headlines, the news writers present the rapists as actively involved in rape crimes. The verb “rape” is identified as the verb that is mainly used to realise the material process in all the headlines because the stories of the reports are focused on rape. The participants (actors and goals) in the clauses of the headlines are realized grammatically through nouns or noun groups. These grammatical items have two functions that they serve within the transitivity structure and a reader’s process of interpretation.

First, they give information like age and social position about the participants. This is seen in all the headlines of the reportage of the data. For example, in R. 15, the noun group used to realise the actor participant (rapist) gives the following information about the actor:

- (i) An adult
- (ii) A 52-year-old man
- (iii) An HIV patient
- (iv) A teacher

While the noun group used to realise the goal participant (rape victim) gives the following information about the participant.

- (i) A teenager
- (ii) A 12 year old girl
- (iii) A student

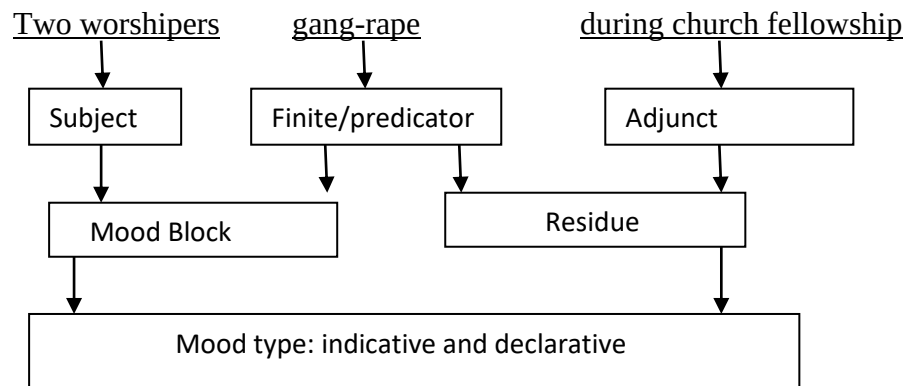
The second function which the nouns and noun groups serve in realizing the participants is that they create the social context that could trigger the social cognition of a reader when interpreting the headlines. For example, the noun group used to realise the rapist in the

headline of R. 15 as earlier presented in table 3 does not only place the rapist in a particular social group, it also triggers a reader's world view of who a 52year old HIV teacher should be in a society vis a vis his 12year old victim. Also important in the transitivity structure of the headlines is the presence of Circumstance. In the transitivity structures of the 150 headlines, 50 headlines have the presence of Circumstance which is either realised as modal adjunct or circumstantial adjunct. The modal and circumstantial adjuncts are directly used (as seen in R. 17, 24, 25, 65, 68 and 70) to comment on the processes of the clauses of the headlines. The comment is done tacitly because newspapers are expected to be seen as being objective in their stories and devoid of personal evaluation of what is being reported (Keeble, 2006). The comments embedded in the circumstantial adjuncts of the headlines could be meant to direct a reader's interpretative mind toward a particular direction. For example, in headlines of R. 17 (Catholic priest faces fresh charge **over 10-yr-old girl's rape**), 20 (Husband rapes step daughter **after wife turned him down**), and 25 (Teacher jailed 14 years **for raping student in Delta**), the circumstantial adjuncts which are highlighted could make a reader want to take side with the arrest and prosecution of the rapists. Ordinarily, the societal roles of a catholic priest, a husband and a teacher are supposed to help bring up children in a better way but when the opposite becomes the case, there is need for the action to be condemned. That is what the circumstantial adjuncts in R. 17, 20, and 25 indirectly want the readers to see.

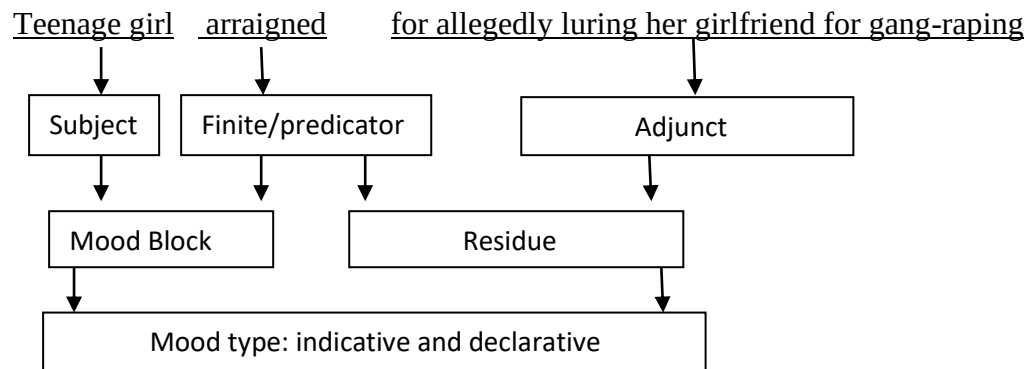
4.1. 4 Mood Structure in Headlines of Rape Reportage

Mood structure in clauses is a rich resource for language users to bring their views into a given discourse. In the clauses of the headlines of the data of this study, the mood is structured in such a way that the speech function of statement is realised, thereby making the clauses to be declarative. The declarative clauses of the headlines are either active or passive. Below is an analysis of some of the clauses of the headlines into their Mood structure

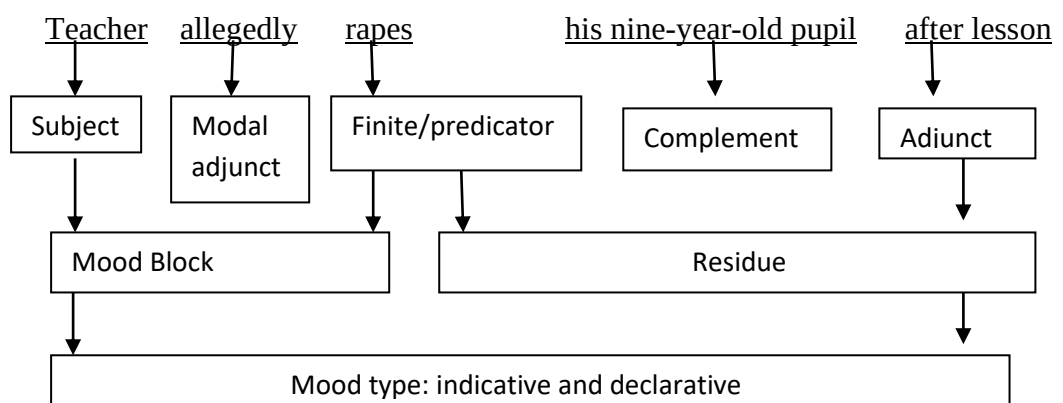
R. 1(Vanguard; June 9th, 2017)



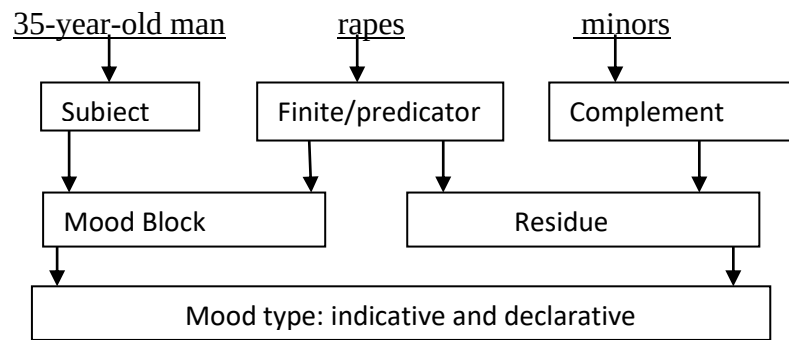
R.2 (Vanguard; Jan. 31st, 2017)



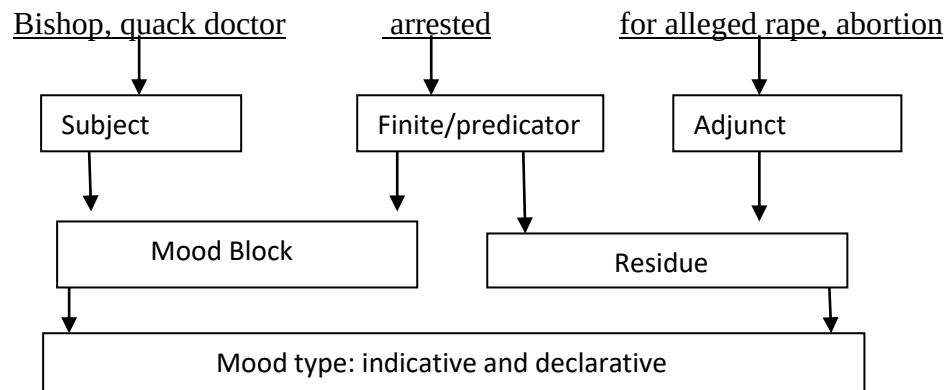
R. 3 (Vanguard; May 4th, 2017)



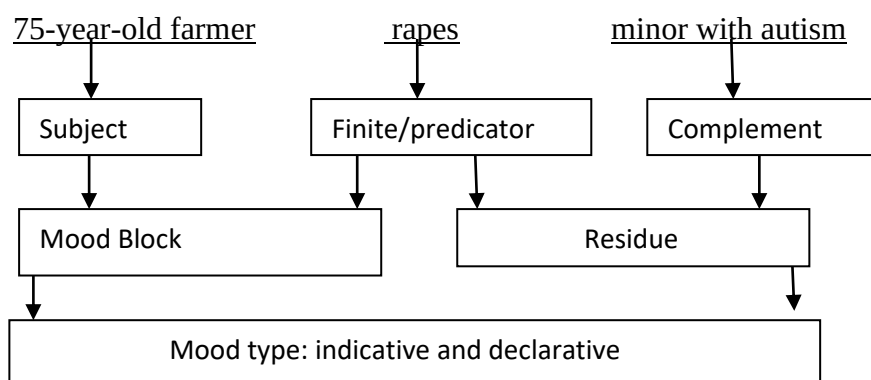
R. 51 (The Nation; May 13th, 2013)



R 52 (The Nation; July 3rd, 2013)



R. 101. (Punch; May 11th, 2016)



The mood type of the clauses of the headlines as shown in the analysis above is indicative and declarative. This is because all the clauses have the same order of subject and finite: the

subject comes before the finite. The reason behind all the clauses having the same mood type is that the clauses are all used to give statements on what is being reported. Each clause Mood elements are realised as subject and finite. The finite appears as fusion of the finite element and the predicator. With the Mood structure as demonstrated in the analysis above, the news writers give information on rape crime to the readers. The use of the fused finite in each of the clauses of the headlines underscores the need to foreground the action of the participants in the clauses of the news and the need for news writers to maintain some personal distance from the reportage. This is achieved by not using any modal auxiliary verb that could overtly indicate personal stance on the crime being reported.

4.2 Leads of Rape Reportage in Nigerian Newspapers

In the inverted pyramid structure of a newspaper reportage, the lead is the second most important part because it contains information like “what”, “who”, “where”, “when”, “why” and “how” of a news story which may not be given in an headline. Because the lead of a news story serves almost a different function, the way language is deployed for communicative and other purposes is different from headlines. The analysis done in this section concentrates on the leads of the reportage of the data.

4.2. 1 Information Structure in Leads of Rape Reportage

Unlike the information structure in headlines of the data where there is no given information, the information structure in the leads exemplifies what Halliday and Matthiessen (2004) describe as marked and unmarked information structure. The former is when new information comes before a given information, while the latter is when the given information comes before the new information. Out of the 150 clauses that make up the leads of news

reports, 68 have marked information structures while 82 have unmarked information structure. Table 14 shows information structure analysis of the clauses of leads in the data.

Table 14: Unmarked Information Structure in Clauses of Leads of Rape Reportage

R. N	Given Information	New Information	Newspaper and Date
26	Benin – A 27-year-old man, Austin Okonkwo	has been remanded in prison custody by an Evboriaria chief magistrate court for allegedly raping an 11-year-old Down syndrome girl.	Vanguard; Dec. 4 th , 2014
29	Lagos – A 23-year-old man, Animashaun Sodiq...	was yesterday granted N500,000 bail by an Ikeja magistrate court	Vanguard; Nov. 17 th , 2015
73	A 67 year old grandfather identified as Yahaya Umar	is presently cooling his feet in the custody of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Kaduna for allegedly defiling a six year old minor	The Nation: June 20 th , 2016
123	A teacher at the Ijegba community High School...	Has been apprehended for alleged serial rape of his daughter	Punch; Jan. 9 th , 2017

Table 15: Marked Information Structure in Clauses of Leads of Rape Reportage

R. N	New Information	Given Information	Newspaper and Date
27	Lagos – Sheriff Oyewole who allegedly got a family	was yesterday sentenced to 19 year imprisonment by a Lagos	Vanguard; Aug. 24, 2016

	friend's daughter drunk at a party and raped her	magistrate...	
28	For allegedly raping his three daughters, a 48-year-old man, Michael Ogbor	on Tuesday appeared before an Ikeja Chief magistrate court	Vanguard; June 2, 2016
75	Abeokuta Chief Magistrate court	yesterday remanded a 29-year-old man... in prison for allegedly raping his nine-year-old neighbour's daughter	The Nation: Sept. 10 th , 2015
125	A sixteen-year-old boy, Abdulmalik Yau of Durbi Takusheyi village in the Mani Local government area of Katsina	Has allegedly impregnated a fourteen year-old girl, Amina Ahamad, after allegedly raping her.	Punch; June 19 th , 2017

In the tables 14 and 15 above, the given and new information are both interpreted against the background knowledge which the news writers and the readers are assumed to already share from the information provided in their various headlines. For example, R. 75 has its headline as *Court remands man for alleged rape, infecting victim with HIV*. In the lead as seen in table 15 above, the new information is taken to be *Abeokuta Chief Magistrate court* because the information about the court and where it is located is not given in the headline. Rather, it is the information that is supposed to be considered as new that was given in the headline. It is the researcher's belief that since the information structure of any text is usually reader oriented, the news writers employed the structures in order to ideologically set an

interpretative path way for the readers: that is, what is presented as given or new information goes a long way to affect how a reader cognitively processes the information of the entire lead. In both the marked and the unmarked information structures of the leads of the data, the new information constitutes the information focus of the leads.

4.2.2 Thematization in Leads of Rape Reportage

Thematization and information structure work together in the clauses of the leads of our data in order to realise the function of a clause as a text. In the data, some of the themes of the clauses of the leads are unmarked because they are all realised as topical themes and serve as the subject of the clauses, while some are marked because they are realised by circumstantial elements. Table 14 shows the thematic structure of the clauses of the leads of our data.

Table 16: Thematic Structure Analysis of the Leads of Rape Reportage

R. N	Theme	Rheme	Newspaper and Date
30	Minna – Niger state police command (topical)	has arrested one Yusuf Suleiman, 25 year, for allegedly raping a two and half year old girl...	Vanguard; Nov. 17 th , 2015
31	A police sergeant of the Human Right Department, Meiran Police Station (topical)	has told justice Oluwatoyin Ipaye of a Lagos High court sitting in Ikeja, how a 29-year-old mechanic... raped a nine year old girl	
33	A 42-year-old tailor, who was arrested in Lagos for raping a 13-year-old girl	has denied rape, saying he was in a relationship with the girl.	Vanguard; March 30 th , 2017

	(topical)		
34	Ibadan – Oyo state police command (topical)	has arrested a man for allegedly raping a girl in the Oluyole area of Ibadan.	Vanguard; Sept. 17 th , 2013
76	A five-man gang who allegedly rape two ladies (topical)	were yesterday ordered to be remanded in prison custody by a Lagos chief magistrate court.	The Nation; Aug. 13 th , 2016
77	An Ado-Ekiti magistrate court on Wednesday (topical)	remanded one Olakunle Owoeye (32) in prison custody over alleged rape.	The Nation; Dec. 7 th , 2016
126	The Lagos state police command (topical)	has arrested a 20-year-old suspect, Bassey Johnson for allegedly raping a four year old girl.	Punch; Sept. 22 nd , 2016
127	A 54-year-old man, Gbenga Adebayo (topical)	has been remanded in prison custody by a magistrate court in Ado-Ekiti for allegedly abducting and defiling an 11-year-old girl	Punch; July 3rd, 2016

In a situation where the themes are unmarked in the leads of the data, the participants (police, court or rapists) like those in the clauses of headlines, usually constitute the signpost which the news writers take to bring the messages of the leads to the readers. A careful examination shows that, like the headlines, when police and court are taken as the topical themes in the leads, they seem to be used to foreground the readiness of the law enforcement agency in combating rape crime. When rapists or rape victims are taken as topical themes, they are either used to foreground the evil associated with a rapist or solicit sympathy for the rape

victims. But in a situation where there is a marked theme preceding an unmarked theme as seen in R. 30 and R. 34 in table 4.6 above, the marked themes are used to draw a reader's attention to the place where a particular rape crime took place. In the entire leads of the data, the police and court as topical themes appeared twenty-four (24) times (16%), rapists as topical themes in the leads appeared one hundred and thirteen (113) times (75.33%) while rape victims as topical themes appeared thirteen (13) times (8.66%). This is shown in table 15.

Table17: Frequency of participants appearing as topical themes

S/N	Participants as Topical theme	Number of Occurrence	percentage
1	Police/Court	24	16%
2	Rapists	113	75.33%
3	Victim	13	8.66%

The significance of this is that the rapists are taken more as the thematic focus of the leads of the news reports. Although the Theme is the main focus in any thematic analysis, the Rheme also carries some degree of significance in terms of conveying meanings and messages. In the clauses of the leads, the rheme very often carries the new information which a news writer wants the readers to get.

4.2. 3 Transitivity in Leads of Rape Reportage

The transitivity structure of the leads of the data of this work has two different structural patterns which are described simply as Pattern A and B: Pattern A has circumstantial element preceding every other element in the structure; Pattern B has

participant preceding every other element. Material process type which represents 91% of the entire processes in the clauses of the leads, as shown table 16 and figure10, constitutes the major process type, while others are verbal (6%) and relational processes (3%).

Table 18: Frequency distribution of process types in leads

S/N	Process Types	Number of Occurrence	Percentage
1	Material	136	90.66%
2	Verbal	9	6%
3	Relational	5	3.33%

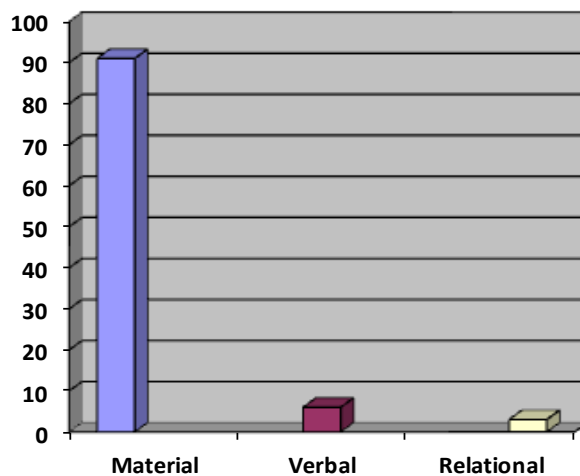


Figure 10: Distribution of Process Types in Leads

Material processes are dominant because with them various experiences related to rape crime are expressed by the news writers. Table 17 presents a transitivity structural analysis of some of the leads of the data for this work.

Table19: Transitivity Structure in Leads of Rape Reportage

R. N	Circumstance	Participant	Process	Participant	Circumstance	Newspaper and date
10	Ado-Ekiti	An Ado-Ekiti chief magistrate court (actor)	ordered (material)	the remand of a 55 year man (goal)	In prison for allegedly sleeping with his daughter	Vanguard, Sept. 19 th , 2017
17	Abuja	The Federal Capital Territory police command (sayer)	said (verbal)	it had concluded plans to dock a catholic priest... (verbiage)		Vanguard; Aug. 31 st , 2016
23	Calabar	A 70-year-old Moses Okon... (carrier)	is cooling (relational)	his feet at CIID... (attribute)	over the rape of his best friend's daughter...	Vanguard; Feb. 1 st , 2014
38		An Ikeja chief magistrate court (actor)	remanded (material)	one Abdulsalam Olayinka ...(goal)	in prison for allegedly raping a 14-year-old orphan	Vanguard; Feb.18 th , 2016
51		35-year-old man, Kareem Mandoju (goal)	has been arrested (material)	by the police (actor)	in Saki, Oyo state for raping...	The Nation; May; 13 th , 2013
54		An upper area court sitting at Pankshin in	remanded (material)	a medical doctor (goal)	in prison for alleged raping	The Nation April 28 th , 2017

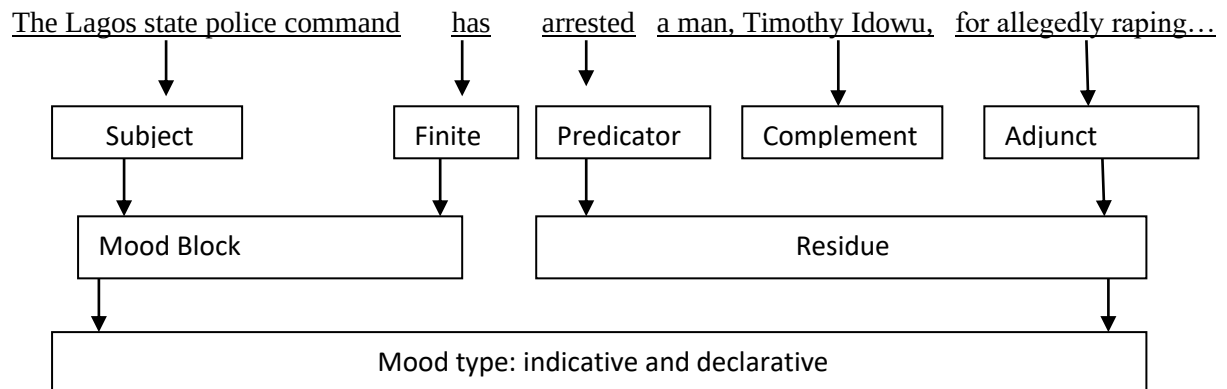
		Plateau (actor)			his patient	
101		The police in Ogun state (actor)	have arrested (material)	a 75-year-old farmer (goal)	for the alleged rape of an 11 year old girl	Punch; May 11 th , 2016

Like the material processes in the headlines of the data, the material processes dominant in the clauses of the leads of the data are attributed to rapists 60 times (43.7%), and legal institutions like police and court 77 times (56.2%), and they perform similar discursive functions of relating the rape act of a given rapist and the action taken against him by the police or the law court. For example in R. 10 and R. 25 in the table 19 above, the reader is made to believe that the law court is up and doing in administering justice in a rape crime. So, the entire process types in the leads elaborate on the experiences already foregrounded in the headlines of the reportage and overtly create a cohesive relationship between the headlines and the leads.

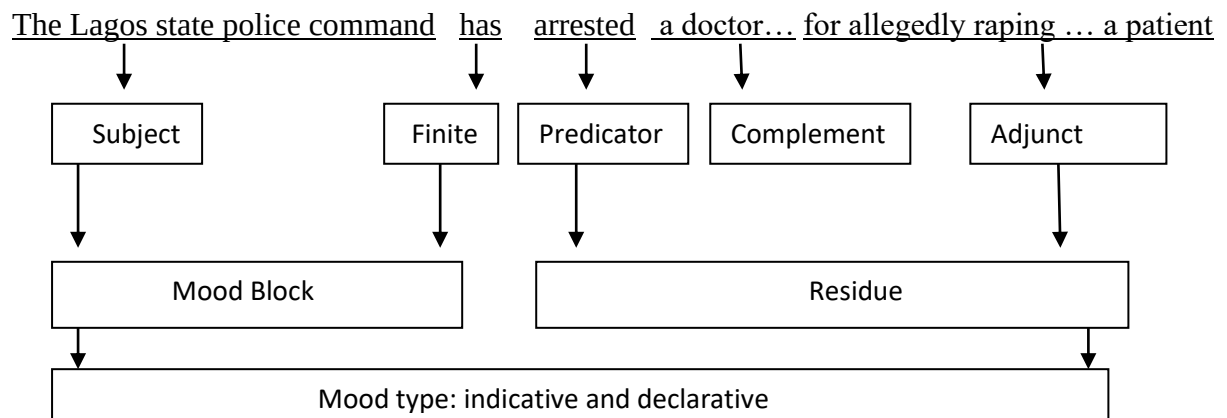
4.2. 4 Mood Structure in Leads of Rape Reportage

The mood structure of the clauses of the leads of the data is similar to that of the headlines because its mood choice is declarative and with it the news writers/newspapers give information to the readers. But unlike the mood block of the headlines where the finite element is solely realised as fused finite, the finite element in the leads have two patterns: fused finite and finite (realised by modal auxiliaries) plus a predicator. The latter is dominant in the clauses of the lead. This is so because the lead of a news report provides more room for more information to be exchanged and as such more room is also given for interpersonal function of clauses. R.141, R.135, R.133, R. 83 and R.35 present the mood structure analyses of the some clauses of the leads of the data of this work.

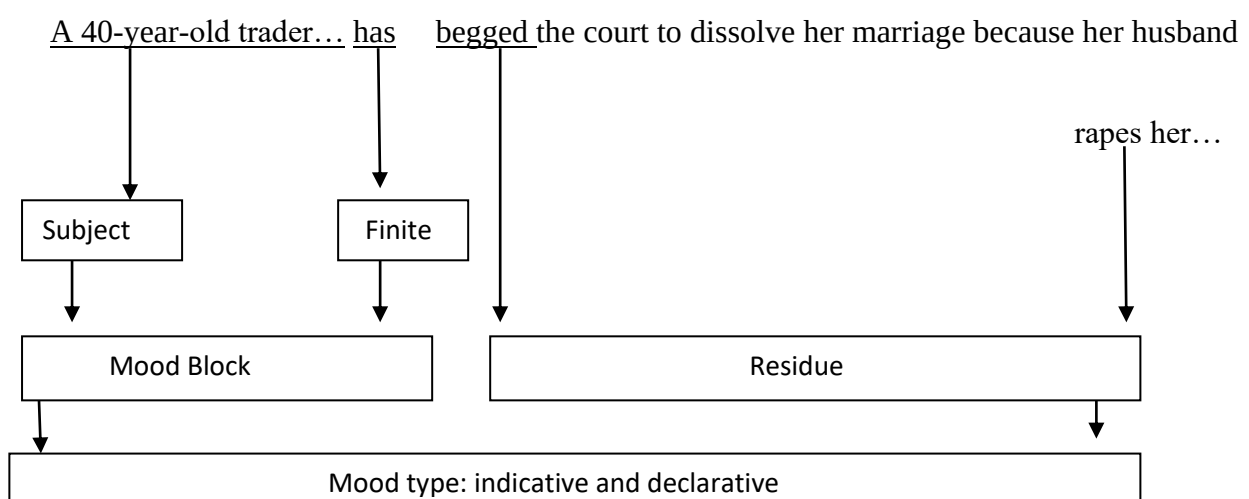
R. 141



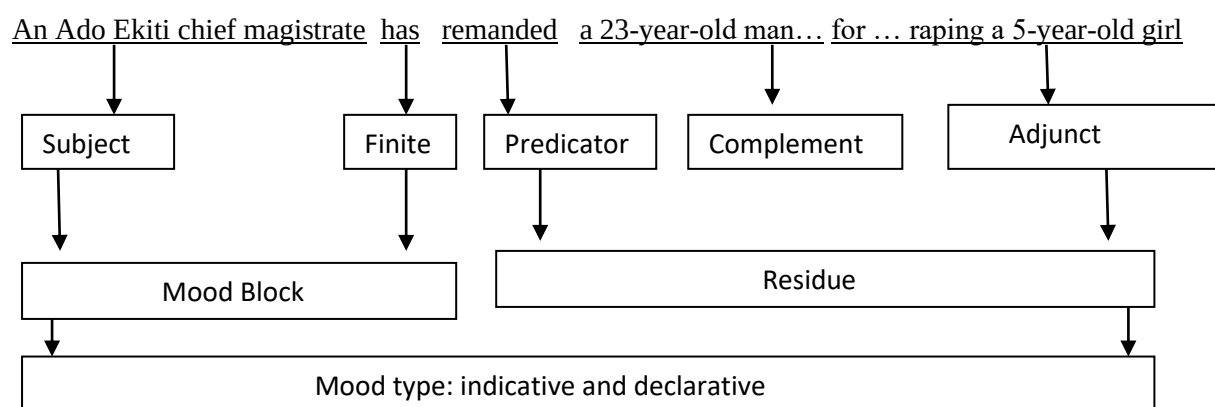
R. 135 (Punch; May 12th, 2016)



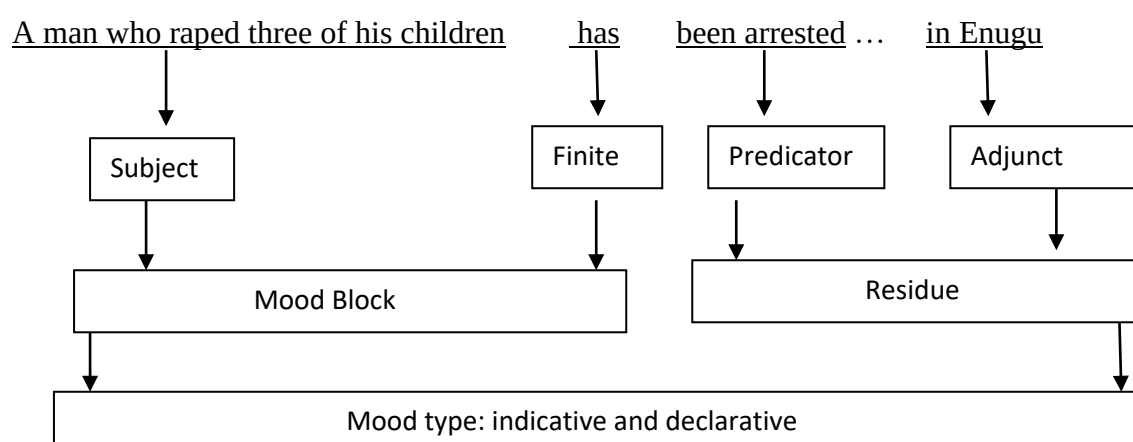
R. 133 (Punch; March 29th, 2017)



R. 83 (The Nation; Sept. 22nd, 2016)



R. 35 (Vanguard; April, 21st,2016)



In the above, the subjects are realised by complex noun groups while the finite are realised by auxiliary verbs. Both the subject and the finite constitute the mood block of the clauses. The residue parts of the structures are realised by other sentence elements like predicator (which is a verb), complement, and adjunct.

4.3 Body of Rape Reportage in Nigerian Newspapers

The body of the rape news reports of the data is different from the headlines and the leads because it is not saddled with the functional responsibility of getting readers' attention by giving answers to the 5Ws and 1 H seen in the headlines and leads. Rather, it is the part where the details of the news are given. This is why in the inverted pyramid structure of news report, the body is at the bottom of the pyramid. This position certainly affects the way

information units are structured and language used in the body because majority of the stylistic considerations, like making headlines short, and answering the 5Ws and 1H questions, that usually inform the language usage in headlines and leads do not inform the language of the body. The clauses of the body of the 150 reports of the data are analysed into 3679 clauses. Examples of the bodies of the news reports are represented by text 2, 3 and 4 which are the bodies of R. 40, 67, and 107, respectively. Text 2 is analysed for information and thematic structure, transitivity structure, and Mood structure. The analyses are therefore used to give a summary of the rest of the bodies of the data.

Text 2: Body of R. 40 (Vanguard; Feb. 22, 2017)

The accused, who resides at Ogba, near Lagos, is being tried for rape. The prosecutor, Insp. Clifford Ogu, told the court that the offence was committed on Jan. 26 at the residence of the accused. Ogu said that the victim, a 15-year-old girl was residing with her sister, the wife of the accused. “The accused raped the victim when his wife had travelled”, the prosecutor said. Ogu said the accused came home drunk and forcefully raped the victim. The offence contravened section 259 of the Criminal Laws of Lagos State, 2011. The accused, however, pleaded not guilty. The Chief magistrate, Mrs. Taiwo Akanni, granted the accused bail in the sum of N250, 000 with two sureties in like sum. Akanni adjourned the case till March 15 for mention.

Text 3: Body of R. 67 (The Nation; Sept. 9th, 2015)

Sarafa, who resides at Oregu, Ikorodu, is facing a single count rape charge. Prosecuting police Corporal Adegheshin said the accused committed the offence at the victim’s residence. She said “on September 5, at the about 2pm in Ikorodu, the accused had unlawful sexual intercourse with the victim, who is 15 years old”. The prosecutor added that the offence contravened Section 258 of the Criminal Laws of Lagos State, 2011. The accused pleaded not guilty. Sarafa’s lawyer, M. C. Bolowotan, told the court that there was medical evidence to show that there had been no sexual penetration by her client. She urged the court to grant Sarafa bail. Magistrate A. A Oshoniyi granted the accused N150, 000 bail with two sureties in the like sum. One of the sureties, she said must be a community or religious leader. The case was adjourned till October 15.

Text 4: Body of R. 107 (Punch; Dec. 8th, 2017)

Mba, who resides at Makoko Area of Lagos, is facing a charge of defilement. The prosecutor, Asp. Ibijoke Akinpelu told the court that the accused committed the offence sometime in July at No. 11 Makoko road, Yaba, Lagos. Akinpelu said the accused had on several occasions bought groundnuts from the girl and also told her to always bring her torn dresses for amendment. She eventually took her torn skirt to the accused for amendment and he had carnal knowledge of her without her consent. When she found out she was pregnant, she had no choice but to tell her mother what happened. The case was reported to the police and the accused was immediately arrested. The prosecutor said that the offence contravened Section 137 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015. Section 137 prescribes life imprisonment for offenders. The accused, however, pleaded not guilty to the charge. In her ruling, the Magistrate, Mrs. O. G. Oghre, granted the accused bail in the sum of N500,000 with two sureties in like sum and adjourned the case until Jan. 29, 2018 for mention.

4.3.1 Information and Thematic Structure in Text 2

Text 2 (R. 40) is made up of nine sentences. The information and thematic structure analyses of the sentences are presented in table20.

Table20: Information and Thematic Structure Analyses of Text 2

Sentence No.	Given Information Theme	New Information Rheme
1	The accused, who resides at Ogba, near Lagos [topical theme]	is being tried for rape
2.	The prosecutor, Insp. Clifford Ogu, [topical theme]	told the court that the offence was committed on Jan. 26 at the residence of the accused.

3	Ogu [topical theme]	said that the victim, a 15-year-old girl was residing with her sister, the wife of the accused.
4	“The accused rape the victim when his wife had travelled” [new information] [topical theme]	the Prosecutor said.
5	Ogu [topical theme]	said the accused came home drunk and forcefully raped the victim.
6	The offence [topical theme]	contravened Section 259 of the Criminal Laws of Lagos State, 2011.
7	The accused, [topical theme]	however, pleaded not guilty.
8	The chief Magistrate, Mrs Taiwo Akanni [topical theme]	granted the accused bail in the sum of N250, 000 with two sureties in like sum.
9	Akanni [topical theme]	adjourned the case till March 15 for mention.

In the above, there is the presence of given information and new information. The given information are shared by readers because they were earlier mentioned in the headline and lead of the report. The analysis also shows that the given information in each sentence in text 2 is taken as the Theme while the new information is taken as the Rheme. The Themes which are realised as topical themes serve two functions. They are used as cohesive devices and they serve as the point of departure of the messages of the sentences in which they appeared. As cohesive devices, the Themes help a reader to see the link that exists between the various clauses of the text. For example, the Theme in sentence one in text two creates a cohesive relation between the clause in which it appears and the preceding clause of the lead. The *accused who resides in Ogba, near Lagos* refers to *A vulkanizer, Wasiu Ibrahim* in the clauses of the lead. As the point of departure of the message, the Themes are used as the point

of focus of the messages of sentences. The Theme of sentence 4 in table 20 is an example. Ordinarily, the writer would have written the sentence as *the prosecutor said “the accused raped the victim when his wife had travelled”*. But for choosing to start the sentence with what the prosecutor said, the writer makes the *“the accused raped the victim when his wife had travelled”* the point of focus of the sentence. This in the researcher’s opinion is ideologically done in order to indirectly underscore the cruelty of the rapist. An examination of the entire clauses of the bodies of the data shows that apart from the cohesive ability, the Thematic structures of the clauses are ideologically constructed in such a way that the Themes either indirectly project the cruelty associated with the rapists or the pitiable state of the victim and the police zero tolerance of rape crime.

4.3.2 Transitivity Analysis of Text 2

Table 21 shows the transitivity analysis of text 2 (R. 40).

Table21: Transitivity Analysis of Text 2

Sentence No.	Participant	Process	Participant	Circumstance
1	The accused, who resides at Ogba, near Lagos [Goal]	is being tried [Material]		for rape.
2	The prosecutor, Insp. Clifford Ogu, [Sayer]	told [Verbal]	The court [Receiver] that the offence was committed on Jan. 26 [Verbiage]	At the residence of the accused.
3	Ogu [Sayer]	said [Verbal]	that the victim, a 15-year-old girl, was residing with her sister, the wife of the accused	

			[Verbiage]	
4	“The accused raped the victim when his wife had travelled” [Verbiage]	said [Verbal]	the Prosecutor [Sayer]	
5	Ogu [Sayer]	said [Verbal]	the accused came home drunk and forcefully raped the victim [Verbiage]	
6	The offence [Actor]	contravened [Material]	Section 259 of the Criminal Laws of Lagos State, 2011. [Goal]	
7	The accused [Actor], however [circumstance]	pleaded [Material]	not guilty [Goal]	
8	The Chief Magistrate, Mrs. Taiwo Akanni [Actor]	granted [Material]	the accused bail [Goal]	in the sum of N250,000 with sureties in like sum.
9	Akanni [Actor]	adjourned [Material]	the case [Goal]	till March 15 for mention.

Transitivity in the body of the data is different from the transitivity in other parts of the data. This is because the body of a news report gives room for more experiences to be expressed. The transitivity analysis in Table 21 shows that there are five Material processes and four Verbal processes in Text 2. The processes captured the different experiences expressed by the news writers. The four Verbal processes are used to show what the prosecuting police said as regards the rape crime that was committed by the alleged rapist, while among the five Material processes four capture the actions of the Magistrate while one captures the action of the rapist. In the entire clauses of the body of the data, Material and Verbal processes are the

dominant process types while Relational process and others are the minor process types used. This is because Material process was used in the bodies of the news reports 2054 times (55.8%), Verbal process 1115 times (30.3%) while Relational and other process types were used 510 times (13.8). This is shown in table 22 and figure 11

Table 22: Frequency Distribution of Process Types in Body of rape news reports

S/N	Process Types	Number of Occurrence	Percentage
1	Material	2054	55.8%
2	Verbal	1115	30.3%
3	Relational and others	510	13.8%

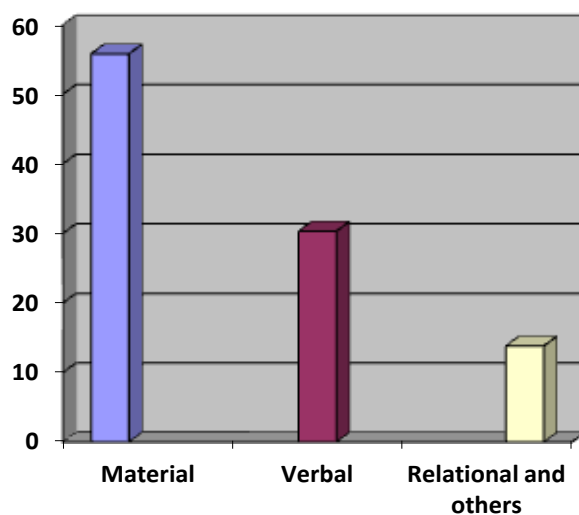


Figure11: Distribution of Process Types in Body of rape news reports

Among the 2054 occurrences of Material process, the police and law court (as represented by Magistrates) appeared as actor participants 1023 times (49.8%), rapists appeared as Actor participants 664 times (32.3%), while the rape victims and their relatives appeared 367 times (17.8%). This is presented in Table 23.

Table 23: Frequency distribution of participants as Actors in Material process usage in body of data

S/N	Actor participant	Number of occurrence	percentage
1	Police/Court	1023	49.8%
2	Rapists	664	32.3%
3	Victims and Relatives	367	17.8%

The significance of the information in Table 23 is that the writers want the readers to see that the government, as represented by the police and law court, is discouraging rape crime by being on top of the situation. This is shown in Figure 12.

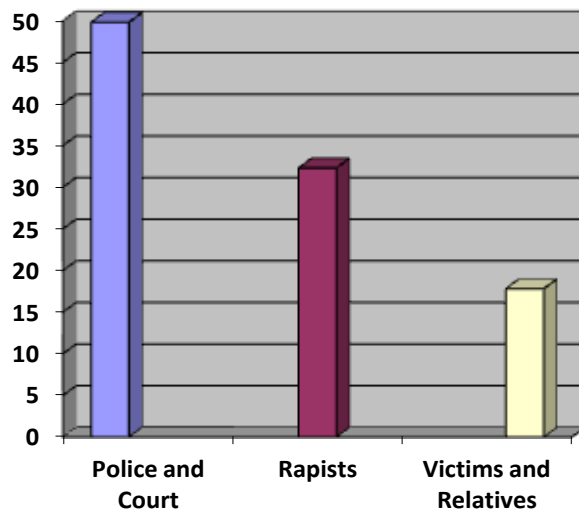


Figure 12: Distribution of Actors as participants in Material Process usage in Body of rape news reports

Also, among the 1115 occurrences of Verbal process, the police and court (as represented by Magistrates) as Sayers appeared 814 times (73%), rape victims and their relatives appeared as Sayers 287 times (25.7%) while rapists appeared 14 times (1.25%). This is shown in Table 22.

Table 22: Frequency distribution of participants as Sayers in Verbal process usage in body of the data

S/N	Participants as Sayers	Number of Occurrence	Percentage
1	Police/Court	814	73%
2	Victims	287	25.7%
3	Rapists	14	1.25%

The implication of the information in table 24 is that by foregrounding what the police and the court said, more than other participants, the writers indirectly want the readers to know that the police and the law court share a position that discourages rape crime. The frequency distribution is shown in figure 13.

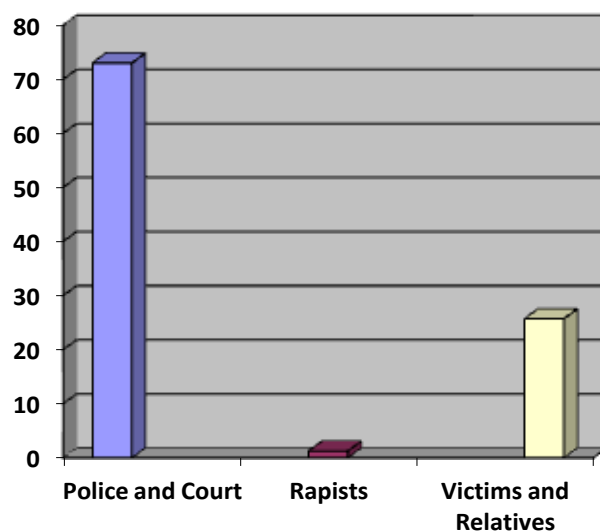


Figure 13: Distribution of Sayers as Participants in Verbal Process Usage in Body of Rape News Reports

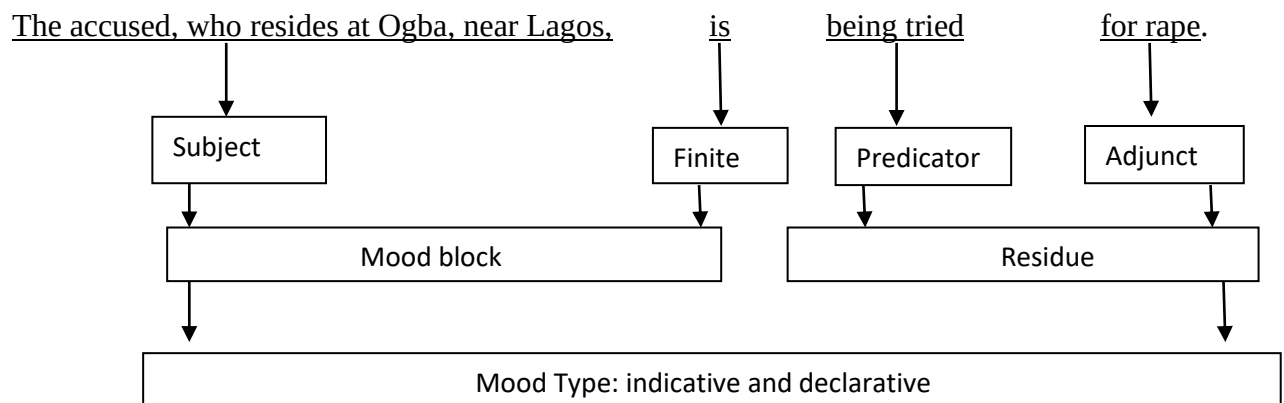
The significance of the frequency distributions in Figure 11, 12 and 13 is that the frequencies show that, in figure 4.4, news writers of rape crime use more of Material and Verbal processes because with Material process the action of the various Actors can be easily expressed and with Verbal process what the participants (Sayers) said can be easily presented. Figures 12 and 13 have some ideological significance. In Figure 12 and 13, that the Police and the Court are respectively presented as the Actor participants and the Sayer

participants with the highest percentage shows that the news writers want the readers to see the Police and the Court in good light. This is because the actions and the statements credited to them in the data show them as active and ready to serve justice in the rape crime. It is also significant to know that with the representation of rapists in Figure 13, the readers are indirectly meant to believe that the rapists said very little things while their arrest and investigation were ongoing.

4.3.3 Mood Analysis of Text 2 (R. 40, Vanguard, Feb. 22nd, 2017)

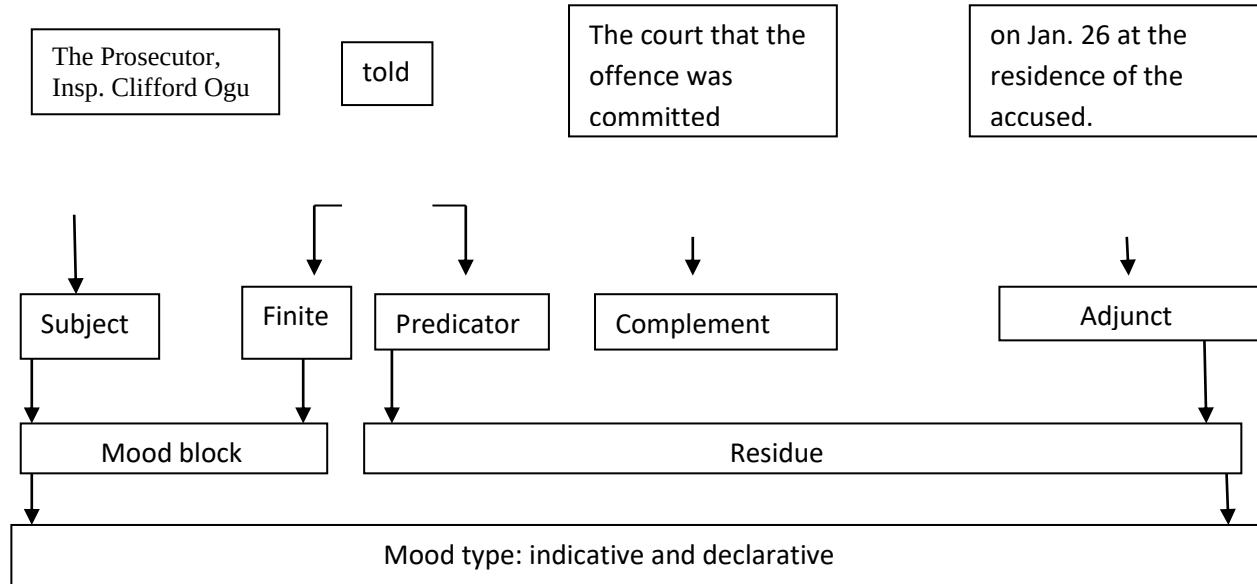
The Mood structure in the body of the data has the same form and performs the same function with that of the lead. The Mood type identified in the body of the reports are indicative and declarative and they are used to give information on what is being reported and with them, the news writers take on the speech role of giving information. The nine (9) sentences of text 2 are analysed for their Mood structure below.

Sentence 1



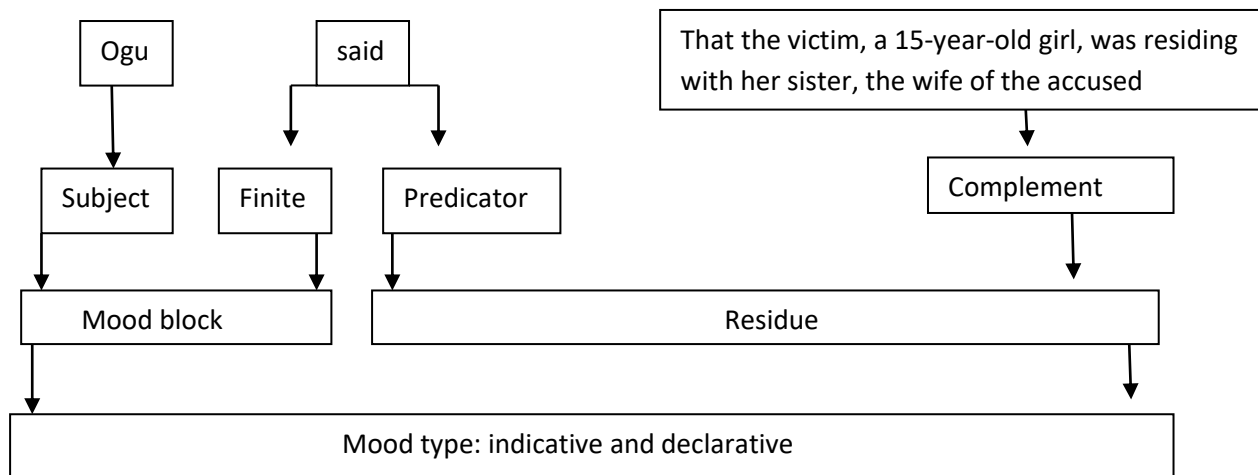
Sentence 2

The prosecutor, Insp. Clifford Ogu, told the court that the offence was committed on Jan. 26 at the residence of the accused.

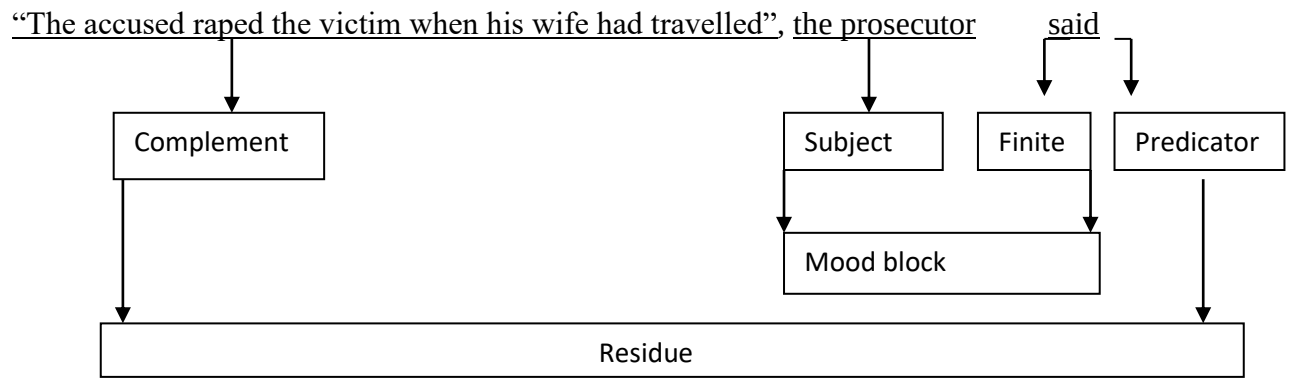


Sentence 3

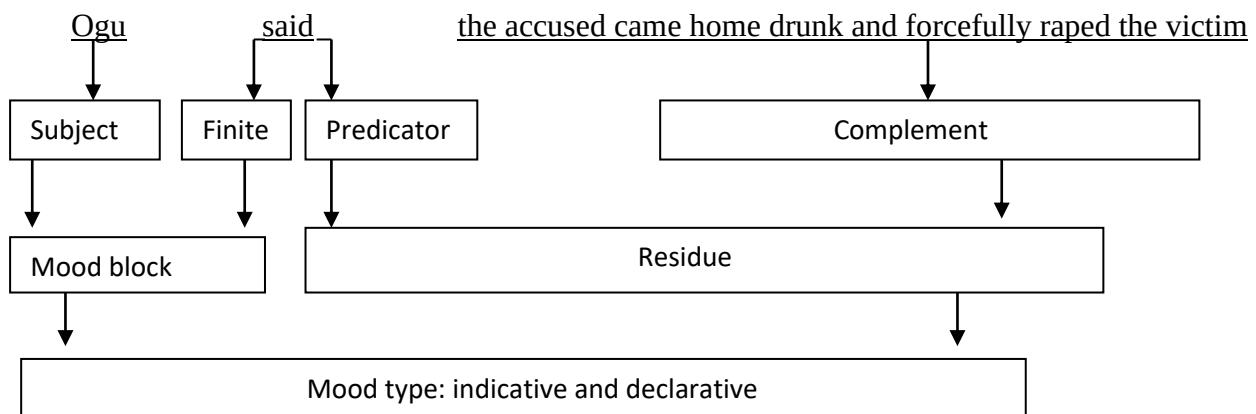
Ogu said that the victim, a 15-year-old girl, was residing with her sister, the wife of the accused



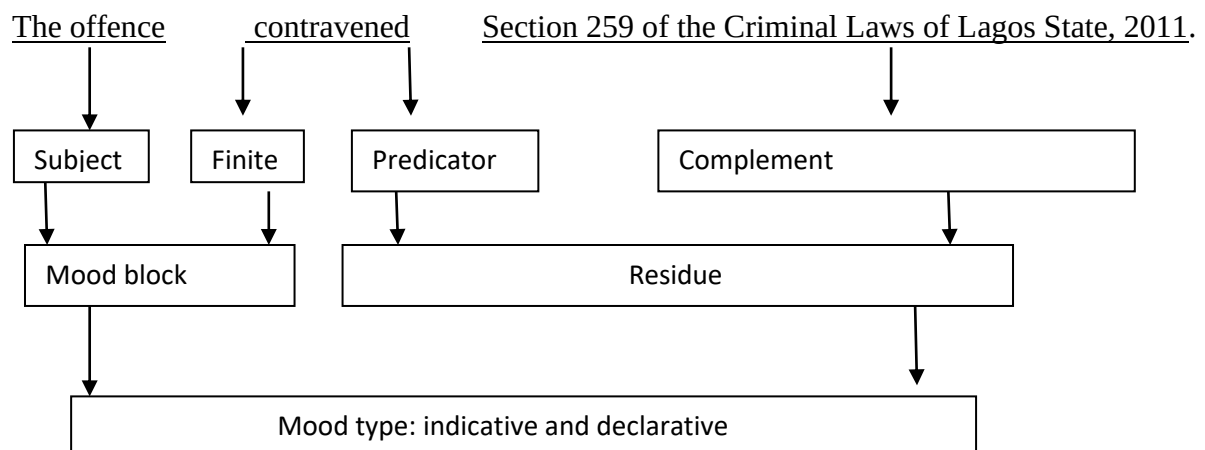
Sentence 4: Mood type is indicative and declarative



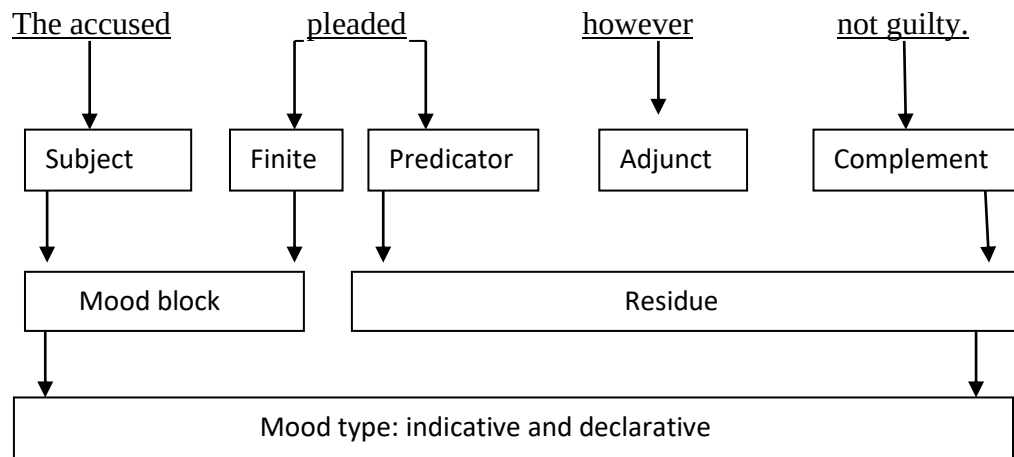
Sentence 5



Sentence 6

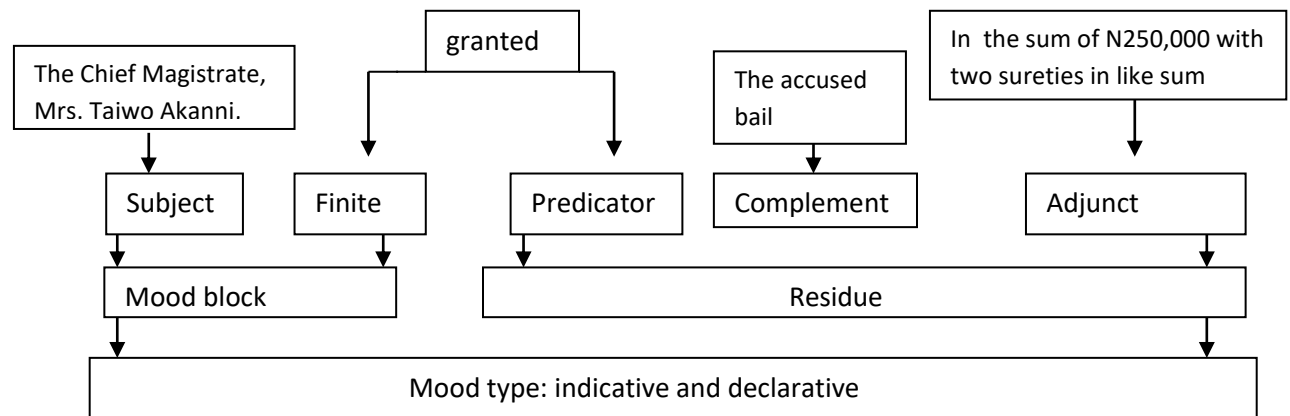


Sentence 7

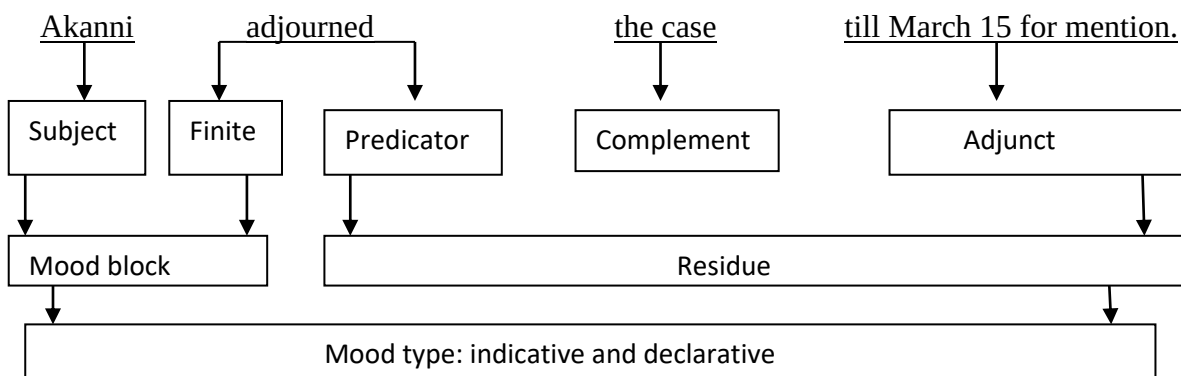


Sentence 8

The Chief Magistrate, Mrs. Taiwo Akanni, granted the accused bail in the sum of N250, 000 with two sureties in like sum.



Sentence 9



The analyses above show that the nine sentences of Text 2 have Mood elements of subject and finite, with the subject coming before the finite. It is only sentence one that has finite separated from the predicator. Sentences 2 to 9 all have their finite fused with the predicator. With the subjects coming before the finite, the mood type of all the sentences in Text 2 is indicative and declarative and it indicates a writer and reader relationship because the news writers assume the role of giving information to the reader. In the clauses of the bodies of the entire data, the news writers limited themselves to the use of declaratives. A careful examination of the data shows that out of the 3679 clauses of the body of the data, 2812 clauses have their finites and predicators fused while 867 clauses have the finite separated from the predicator. It was also observed that almost all the verbs appeared in past form. The obvious reason for this is that the news are reported.

4.4 Cohesion in Rape Reportage in Nigerian Newspapers

Cohesive relations in a text occur when the interpretation of some elements in the text is dependent on other elements: when cohesive ties are created in a text between elements or units. In the data, cohesion is mainly achieved through lexical cohesion and referencing, while few instances of conjunction as cohesive marker were also identified. Lexical cohesion manifests in form of reiteration of semantic items either through the repetition of the item or the use of a synonym while reference manifests in form of anaphoric reference. Each reportage of the data is filled with the repetitions of phrases like *The accused, the prosecutor, the offence, the suspect and the victim*. Although the repetitions are overtly used to create cohesive ties that will aid readers' understanding, their use often take up ideological role of using language to refocus and emphasise participants involved in a rape crime. Text 5 demonstrates this.

Text 5: Complete News Report of R. 67 (The Nation; Sept. 9th, 2015)

[1] Mechanic rapes girl, 15

[2] A 23-year-old auto mechanic, Wasiu Sarafa, was Tuesday arraigned in an Ikorodu Magistrate court in Lagos for allegedly raping a 15-year-old girl.

[3] Sarafa, who resides at Oregu, Ikorodu, is facing a single count rape charge. [4] Prosecuting police Corporal Adegeshin said the accused committed the offence at the victim's residence. [5] She said "on September 5, at about 2pm in Ikorodu, the accused had unlawful sexual intercourse with the victim, who is 15 years old". [6] The prosecutor added that the offence contravened Section 258 of the Criminal Laws of Lagos State, 2011. [7] The accused pleaded not guilty. Sarafa's lawyer, M. C. Bolowotan, told the court that there was medical evidence to show that there had been no sexual penetration by her client. [8] She urged the court to grant Sarafa bail. [9] Magistrate A. A Oshoniyi granted the accused N150, 000 bail with two sureties in the like sum. [10] One of the sureties, she said must be a community or religious leader. [11] The case was adjourned till October 15.

In Text 5, the word *Mechanic* in sentence 1, the phrase *A 23-year-old auto mechanic, Wasiu Sarafa* in sentence 2, *the accused* in sentence 4, 5, 7 and 9 are in a lexical relationship because they share the same reference. In sentences 4, 5, 7, and 9, the phrase *the accused* is used as a near synonym for *Mechanic*. Because of this, it is easy for a reader to interpret and understand the sentences. Apart from the cohesive role which the phrase serves, it appears to be deliberately employed to achieve the function of describing the alleged rapist in the best legal way: one who is being accused of committing a crime. Other words and phrases have lexical relation in text 5. For instance, there is a cohesive tie between the phrase *the offence* in sentence 4 and *a single count rape charge* in sentence 3. Collocation is another way in which lexical cohesion is achieved in Text 5. For example, in the text, words like *arraign* and *prosecute* collocate with *police*, words like *granted* and *adjourned* collocate with *Magistrate*, while words like *pleaded*, *guilty*, and *bail* collocate with *the accused*. Unlike repetition of

lexical items that has some ideological undertone, collocation as a lexical cohesive marker in Text 5 is used to ensure grammaticality and create texture among sentences of the text.

Reference is another cohesion type used in the data. Anaphoric-endophoric referencing is identified to be the only reference type in the data and it manifests in two forms: personal and demonstrative references. There are 924 instances of personal references in the data while there are 1013 instances of demonstrative references. The personal reference is achieved through the use of personal pronouns while the demonstrative reference is achieved through the use of definite article. The personal pronouns are used to keep track of participants in each reportage while the definite article *the* is used to identify a participant that has been mentioned earlier in a reportage. For example, the *she* in sentence 5 of Text 5 refers to the prosecuting police in sentence 4, while the *the* in the phrase *the accused* in sentence 5 marked the *accused* as already known by the reader.

4.5 Discursive Strategies in Rape Reportage in Nigerian Newspapers

Discursive strategies are strategies employed in a discourse to encode messages, drive home a point or project a particular stand on an issue. They are usually ideologically used because a discourse participant (news writers/ newspapers) chooses a strategy based on the view or belief he shares. In the data, the news writers/newspapers make use of different discursive strategies in the different parts of the reportage in order to achieve different communicative purposes. What follows is the analysis of the strategies.

1. Topicalisation

Topicalisation as a discursive strategy has to do with what a given speaker/writer considers as the point of focus in a discourse and how such point is projected. Topicalisation could influence the interpretative process of a given discourse. In the data, topicalisation is

mainly achieved through foregrounding of social status or positions of rapists and their victims, and the readiness of police and law court.

A. Foregrounding of Social Status

Foregrounding is a term used in stylistics, pragmatics and discourse analysis to refer to relative prominence in discourse. Foregrounding can be achieved when there are deviations from linguistic norms or when some words and phrases are used in such a manner that they appear prominent among other words in a given text (Crystal, 2008). It is a basic principle of aesthetic communication in any discourse (Leech, 2008). Foregrounding can manifest in different levels like graphology, syntactic, semantic, phonological and discourse levels. In the data, foregrounding manifests in syntactic and discourse levels through the use of words and phrases that syntactically thematize the alleged rapists and their victims and give prominence to their social statuses. Foregrounding of the social status of a rapist and his victim as a discursive strategy is used mainly in the headlines and leads of the data. Two aspects of the social status of a rapist and his victim are usually foregrounded and they are age and profession. Table 25 demonstrates this, with social status emboldened.

Table 25: Foregrounding as topicalisation strategy

R. N	Headlines	Newspaper and Date
14	School proprietor jailed 10 years for raping 10 -yr-old girl	Vanguard; March 30 th , 2016
15	52-year-old HIV positive teacher rapes 12-year-old student	Vanguard; July 10 th , 2013

16	Unemployed man rapes 13 year old teenager in Lagos	Vanguard; Feb. 21 st , 2017
17	Catholic priest faces fresh charge over 10-yr-old girl's rape	Vanguard; Aug. 31 st , 2016
51	35-year-old man rapes minor	The Nation; May 13 th , 2013
53	Commercial taxi driver rapes female passenger	The Nation; July 13 th , 2015
56	Eight-year-old rape victim dies	The Nation; Nov. 24 th , 2017
101	75-year-old famer rapes minor with autism	Punch; May 11 th , 2016
111	60-year-old driver rapes mental patient	Punch; Oct. 17 th , 2016

The foregrounding of social status in the headlines overtly has two main effects. One, it helps to create the sense of news worthiness which the newspapers need to get a reader's attention. Two, it could indirectly activate, reshape or confirm a reader's social cognition in relation to rape crime. For example, a reader whose belief is that rape victims are vulnerable people and rapists are opportunists will have his/her cognition confirm by the foregrounding of the social positions of both the rapists and the victims. This will go a long way in influencing the way he/she interprets the messages of the reportage. But in a situation where that belief is not shared by a reader, the consistent foregrounding of the social positions and statuses of rapists and rape victims in news reportage could reshape his/her belief. The way the strategy is consistent in the data, shows that the news writers/newspapers intend to lead the reader through a particular interpretative path. For example, in R. 14 the foregrounding of the positions of a proprietor and vice principal of a school makes it inevitable for a reader to first

condemn the involvement of the rapists in the rape crime before sympathising with the victims who will obviously be considered as vulnerable.

B. Foregrounding of Police and Law court Readiness

Foregrounding of police and law court readiness to stamp out rape crime is also a common strategy in the data under analysis. It seems the news writers/newspapers deliberately employ this strategy in order to ideologically present the two institutions in good light before the readers. A careful examination of the data shows that the strategy could be used in any part of the reportage, as demonstrated in the following examples.

R. 9 (Vanguard; July 8th, 2016)

Court jails 40-year-old man for raping his 17-year-old daughter (headline)

An Egor chief magistrate court in Benin, Edo, on Friday sentenced 40-year-old lucky Idahosa to 14years imprisonment for raping his 17-year-old daughter (lead)

The chief magistrate... jailed the accused after he pleaded guilty to the charge (body)

R. 18 (Vanguard; March 30th, 2016)

A magistrate court sitting in Kano, yesterday, remanded a 55-year-old labourer,

Muazu Abdullahi in prison custody for allegedly raping his 16-year-old daughter (lead)

R. 30(Vanguard; Nov. 17th, 2015)

Niger state police command has arrested one Yusuf Sulieman...for allegedly raping a two and half year old girl at Dutsen Kura Minna, the state capital (lead)

R. 57 (The Nation; Nov. 27th, 2013)

Ekiti police arrest man for rape of woman, 75 (headline)

The strategy of foregrounding the readiness of the police and the law court in stamping out rape crime in Nigerian society seems to be used by news writers/newspapers to indirectly warn potential rapists to desist from rape crime and to encourage any rape victim to believe in the police institution by reporting rape crime to the police and seeking justice in the law court. The strategy is rooted in the active form of verbs attributed to the police and the law court. Verbs like *arrest*, *arraign* and *remand* as seen in the examples above demonstrated this.

2. Name mentioning and Name Omission

This is the discursive strategy used in the data in which the news writers/newspapers mention or omit names of the persons involved in a rape crime. The use of this strategy is ideologically oriented because the act of mentioning and omitting of names in a reported rape crime can serve ideological function of exposing an individual for condemnation or protecting an individual from condemnation or stereotype associated with rape crime. A careful examination of the data shows that the names of rapists and some law enforcement personnel are mentioned while those of the rape victims are omitted. This discursive strategy is common in the lead and body of the reportage of the data. The examples below demonstrate the use of this strategy in the data.

R. 104 (Punch; March 24th, 2017)

A 32-year-old security guard, **Kenechukwu Okonkwo**, was on Friday sentence to 14 years imprisonment for raping a 29-year-old virgin (lead)

R. 107 (Punch; Dec. 18th, 2017)

A 58-year-old tailor, **Kalu Mba**, was on Friday charged before a Yaba chief magistrate court, Lagos for allegedly raping a 15-year-old groundnut hawker and in the process got her impregnated.

Mba is facing a charge of defilement (Body)

R. 112 (Punch; March 16th, 2016)

The Lagos state police command has arrested a deacon, **Obina Aneke**, for allegedly defiling a seven-year-old girl. (Lead)

Aneke, 44, was alleged to have slept with the victim six different times in his apartment... (Body)

R. 88 (The Nation; Jan. 15th, 2016)

A native doctor, **Babatunde Ajisloye**, was on Friday charged before an Ikeja High court for alleged sexual assault and rape. (Lead)

Ajisloye whose age and residential address were not given, however denied the two count charge. (Body)

In the above examples, just like other reportage in the data, the names of the rape victims are obviously missing while the names of the alleged rapists are given. The reason for this, as hinted earlier, may be the need to protect a rape victim from societal stigmatization and stereotype, and expose the rapists to shame and public condemnation. Out of the 150 rape news reports that made up the data, 144 (96%) of the reports have the names of the rapist mentioned while 6 of the reportage gave pseudo names for the rape victims. This particular strategy used in the data confirms Taiwo's (2007) view that no reportage is ideologically free.

This is because objectivity and sense of news balancing demand that the names of both the rapist and his victim are mentioned. The strategy therefore indirectly reveals the attitude and disposition of news writers/newspapers towards a rape crime: they are sympathetic with the rape victims.

3. Phrasal Modification

Phrasal modification in this analysis is used to mean the modification of the head word of a group or phrase. The modification can be a pre-modification or post-modification when the modifying items appear before or after the phrasal or group head respectively. This grammatical phenomenon is used as discursive strategy for deliberately giving additional information that may be capable of influencing a reader's interpretation of a rape crime. Abdullahi-Idiagbon (2010) calls this strategy over lexicalisation. The strategy finds relevance in the three parts of the news reports of the data. The examples below demonstrate the use of phrasal modification as a discursive strategy in the data.

R. 7 (Vanguard; Nov. 12th, 2016)

22-yr-old-*man* standing trial for rape rearrested for another rape case

(Headline)

A 22-year old *man* Chibuzor Okechukwu who had earlier been detained at State Criminal Investigation Department, SCID and is now standing trial over a rape case has been arrested again for forcefully abducting and raping another girl... (Lead).

R. 5 (Vanguard; March 23rd, 2017)

A 17-year-old undergraduate of the University of Lagos, Ugochukwu Daniel, who allegedly gang-rape a 17-year-old girl with others still at large, was on Thursday released on N500, 000 bail... (Lead)

The chief magistrate, Mrs. A. Ipaye Nwachukwu, who gave the ruling also granted the accused two sureties in like sum (Body)

R. 21 (Vanguard, Dec. 15th, 2017)

A 40-year-old security guard, Salisu Yakubu, who allegedly rape a teenager appeared before an Ikeja chief magistrate court on Friday. (Lead)

Yakubu who resides at No. 1 Chike street Ipaja, a suburb of Lagos is being tried for rape (Body)

R. 56 (The Nation; Nov. 24th, 2017)

An eight year old victim of rape who suffered from rectovaginal fistula as well as a sexually transmitted disease is dead. (Lead)

R. 55 (The Nation; July 10th, 2017)

A 29 year old bus driver, Folarin Olorunto, who threatened his sister-in-law with a knife to be able to rape her, on Monday appeared before an Ikeja chief magistrate court (Lead)

In R.7, focus is on the noun group *22-yr-old-man standing trial for rape*. The head of the noun group is *man* and it is premodified by *22-yr-old* and post modified by *standing trial for rape*. The lead of R.7 has a long noun group – *A 22-year old man Chibuzor Okechukwu who had earlier been detained at State Criminal Investigation Department, SCID and is now standing trial over*. The head of the noun group is *man*. The group head is premodified by *A*

22-year old and post modified by *Chibuzor Okechukwu who had earlier been detained at State Criminal Investigation Department, SCID and is now standing trial over*. A look at the post modification shows that more information about the head is embedded in it. For instance, his name is given, and his previous criminal record is also given in addition to his age given at the premodification part.

Also, in R.5 the head of the highlighted noun group is *undergraduate*. It is premodified by *A 17-year-old* and post modified by the prepositional phrase *of the University of Lagos, Ugochukwu Daniel, who allegedly gang-rape a 17-year-old girl with others still at large*. In R. 21, the head of the highlighted noun group is *guard* and it is premodified by *A 40-year-old security*. The head of the group is post modified by *Salisu Yakubu, who allegedly raped a teenager*. The head of the noun group in R. 56 is *victim*. It is premodified by the phrase *An eight year old* and post modified by the prepositional phrase *of rape who suffered from rectovaginal fistula as well as a sexually transmitted disease*.

In the examples given earlier (R. 7, R.5, R. 21, R. 56 and R. 55), the head of the noun groups (which respectively are *man*, *undergraduate*, *guard*, *victim* and *Bus driver*) are excessively modified. Overtly, a reader may take it as a normal grammatical usage. But a closer examination of them shows that their modification is a deliberate strategy employ to give information that ordinarily will not be too necessary, in order to stir emotions that could influence a reader's interpretation. For example in R.7, regardless of the journalistic need to use few words in a headline, the news writer decides to post modify the group head *man* with the subordinate clause *standing trial for rape* even after the pre-modification, in order to project the fact that the arrested rapist is in the habit of raping people having been standing trial for a previous rape crime. The intention of the news writer/newspaper therefore, may be not just to report the rape crime alone but to stir up emotion against the rapist and tacitly calls

for his condemnation. The same analysis goes for other examples. In R. 56, the premodification of *victim* by the phrase *An eight year old* and its post modification by the prepositional phrase *of rape who suffered from rectovaginal fistula as well as a sexually transmitted disease* is ideologically done to garner sympathy for the rape victim. In the entire 150 reports of the data of this work, this strategy is used 37 times in the headlines, 104 times in the leads and 74 times in the body of the reportage: this is presented in table 26.

Table 26: Frequency distribution of Phrasal modification usage in the data

S/N	Data part	Number of occurrence of phrasal modification	percentage
1	Headlines	37	24.6%
2	Leads	104	69.3%
3	Body	74	49.3%

This frequency distribution shows that the lead of the reportage is the dominant place where the strategy is used. The information is represented in Figure 14.

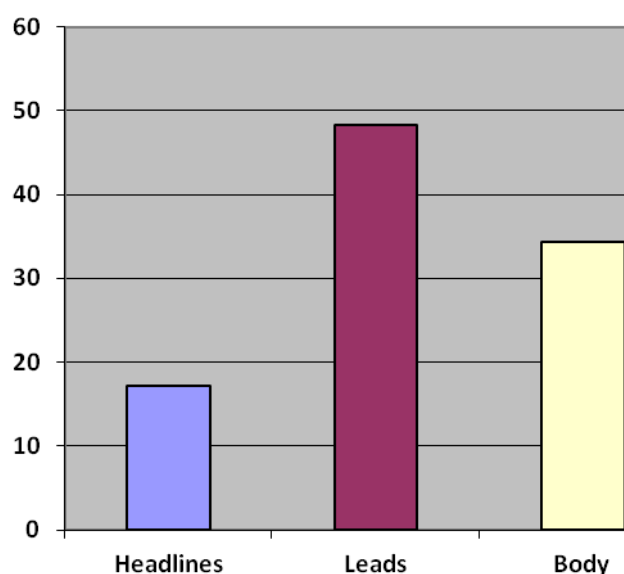


Figure 14: use of phrasal modification as discursive strategy

4. Selective Quotation as Strategy

Selective quotation as a discursive strategy in the data has to do with the way evidences are presented to support rape news stories. This is done through the quoting of individuals and authorities like police, magistrates and persons involved in a rape crime, like the rape victims or relatives of rape victims. A careful examination and analysis of the data shows that the use of quotation to support news stories in the data is done in such a way that only statements that directly or indirectly support and sympathise with an alleged rape victim and condemn an alleged rapist are quoted. In this way, the views or narrations of what happened by an alleged rapist are hardly given and as such are shot out of the news reports. The use of this strategy may be informed by the view of the news writers that the alleged rapists are actually guilty of the rape crime and quoting authorities like the police and persons like the rape victims and their relatives will help in projecting that view to the readers. In the examples in table 25, quotations from police, law court, rape victims and other persons

sympathetic to rape victims demonstrate the use of selective quotation as a discursive strategy.

Table 27: Selective Quotation in Rape Reportage in Nigerian Newspapers

R.N; Newspaper and Date	Reportage Part	Selective Quotation
1: Vanguard; June 9 th , 2017	Body	“the accused covered the girl’s mouth so that she will not shout and took turns to rape her. The girl wept profusely and reported the incident to her mother who was praying inside the church...” Donny (the prosecutor) told the court.
2: Vanguard, May 4 th , 2017	Body	The prosecutor, Inspector Clifford Ogu, told the court that the offence was committed on March 26 at Mega Fund Hotel, Alagbado.
57: The Nation; Nov. 27 th , 2013	Body	Prosecuting police, Corporal Abosede Adegeshi, said the accused committed the offence at the victim’s residence. She said “on September 5, at about 2pm in Ikorodu, the accused had unlawful sexual intercourse with the victim who is 15 year old.
60: The Nation; Oct. 5 th , 2015	Headline	“my granddaughter bled for eight days after being raped.”
57: The Nation; Nov. 27 th , 2013	Body	Madam Asaolu said “ Lawrence Adedapo is my neighbour. He invited me to his room to collect plantain but instead, he pushed me on his children’s bed and forcefully had carnal knowledge of me...”
101: Punch, May 11 th , 2016	Body	Bose [victim’s relative] said “she came from the farm with N1,050 and was crying. I asked her what happened. She said an old man forced her to lie on the floor and put his manhood in her private part... I told her to take me to the man’s house and she brought me to Mr. Koleosho.

103: Punch; Nov. 11 th , 2017	Body	According to the girl [rape victim] “there was a time madam was in the sitting. He came to where I was and carried me to his room. I tried to struggle but he held me down and said he would stab me if I made any noise...”
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In the table 27, the quotations used as a way of supporting the reports with verbatim statements of persons involved in rape crime and its prosecution shows that the views of rapists are hardly favoured. The discursive strategy could be ideologically motivated because beneath a rape reportage is the belief that rapists are already guilty of rape crime by being involved in the crime at all. So, by not presenting a rapist’s view, the news writers exercise their power of gate keeping on what a reader should see and also indirectly suggest that it is only the views of persons like the police and the victims that should be considered in interpreting a rape news report. This covertly shows compassion for the victims and judgement for the rapists. The use of this strategy is mainly seen in the body of the data because the functional nature of headlines and leads do not always favour its usage.

5. Vagueness as Discursive Strategy

Vagueness is, taken from van Dijk (2004) perspective to mean, the use of expression that does not have well defined reference in a discourse. It is a hedging strategy employ by discourse participants, especially text producers in order to be evasive or imprecise in giving information. Vagueness is a common discursive strategy in the data and it is used by news writers/newspapers to shade some of their sources of information or present personal opinion as if it were not personal opinion. The strategy manifests in the choice of words and expressions used in different parts of the reportage of the data. The examples below

demonstrate the use of vagueness in the data, with the words or expressions that carry vagueness highlighted.

R. 7 (Vanguard; Nov. 12th, 2016)

According to source, one Achumba Chima who claimed to have employed the victim... as his house girl reported to the police. (Body)

R. 53 (The Nation; July 15th, 2015)

The Nation gathered that all the entreaties made by the lady to the driver not to rape her as she claimed to be a virgin fell on deaf ears as he went on to force himself on the lady and defiled her. (Body)

R. 56 (The Nation; Nov. 24th, 2017)

According to a source, Ababy was serially abused by unknown men. (Body)

R.62 (The Nation, Sept. 22nd, 2017)

It was also learnt that little Favour moved to her maternal house where her aunt Martha Enya lives after the death of her parents. (Body)

R. 108 (Punch; July 13th, 2016)

Punch Metro learnt that the rapist broke the girl's lower jaw and blinded her right eye... (Body)

In the above examples, the highlighted parts contain the expressions that are vaguely used. Ordinarily, a news writer usually foregrounds the sources of her information for the purpose

of credibility. But the highlighted parts have no definite reference in the news stories. For example what the “source” in R. 7 and 56 is referring to cannot be inferred by a reader neither can a reader infer who “gathered” or where information is “learnt” from in R. 53, 62 and 108 above. Analysis shows that this strategy is mainly used in the body of the reportage of the data.

So far, the researcher has shown the different discursive strategies used in rape news reports in Nigerian newspapers and their discourse functions. Table 26 shows the summary of the discursive strategies used in the data.

Table 28: Summary of discursive strategies used in the data

Parts of the reportage	Strategies used	Discourse functions
Headline	Topicalisation/foregrounding	Foregrounding information that could influence reader’s interpretation
	Phrasal modification	For giving additional information that could influence reader’s interpretation
Lead	Topicalisation	To expose rapists to public stigmatisation and protect rape victims from stigmatisation
	Phrasal modification	
	Name mentioning and omission	
Body	Phrasal modification	To mob up emotion against rapist and elicit sympathy for rape victims
	Name mentioning and omission	

	Selective quotation	
	Vagueness	To keep away the identity of news source from readers

Table 28 gives the different discursive strategies used in the different parts of the data. It shows that the strategies have different discourse functions that they are used to achieve. For example, topicalisation and phrasal modification are the discursive strategies used in the headlines of the data and their discourse function is foregrounding of information that could influence readers' interpretation. Three strategies are used in the leads of the news reports and they are topicalisation, phrasal modification, and name mentioning and omission. Their discourse function is to expose rapists to public stigmatisation and protect rape victims from stigmatisation. The table shows that while the body of the data shares the strategies used in other parts of the data, it has one which is almost restricted to it. The strategy is selective quotation. The reason for this is that the need to use quotation is important almost only in the body of a news story.

4.6 Ideology in Rape Reportage in Nigerian Newspapers

Ideology in this section is taken to mean social beliefs, conviction and attitude which news writers and newspapers tacitly built into their reportage. The ideologies inherent in the language of the data are informed by the Nigerian societal belief that rape crime is condemnable and unacceptable regardless of the situation surrounding it. To this end, the following ideologies are identified in the data: ideology of rape victims as vulnerable people; ideology of rapist as people who take undue advantage of their victims; ideology of police and court zero tolerance to rape crime.

Ideology of Rape Victims as Vulnerable People

In the data, victims of rape crime are presented as vulnerable people. This is done through the social identity created for them by the language of the reportage. The victims are presented as people who occupy powerless positions in relation to their rapists. An asymmetrical power relation exists between the rapists and the victims in the data and it foregrounds the vulnerability of the victims. The examples below demonstrate this.

Headlines

R. 101 (Punch; May 11th, 2016)

75-year-old farmer rapes minor with autism

R. 111 (Punch, Oct. 17th, 2016)

60-year-old driver rapes mental patient

R. 112 (Punch, March 16th, 2016)

Deacon, 44, rapes seven-year-old, blames evil forces

R. 114 (Punch; Oct. 5th, 2017)

Guardian, 41, rapes 14-year-old

R. 119

Man, 20, allegedly rapes beggar's five-year-old daughter in Agege

R. 54 (The Nation: April 28th, 2017)

Court remands doctor in prison for raping patient

R. 77 (The Nation: Dec. 7th, 2016)

Man remanded in prison for raping a stranded woman.

In the examples above, the choice of words/phrases of the headlines and the social situations in which the rape crimes took place, as revealed by the body of the reportage, creates the vulnerability of the rape victims. If the victims for instance had chosen to be resistant to their

rapists, their powerless positions would have made them defenceless. For instance, in R. 101, the power relation that exists between the rapist and the rape victim obviously made it clear that a minor cannot struggle against a 75-year-old, more so the minor is an autism patient. In like manner, a 14-year-old girl is certainly not going to be able to put up a resistant against her guardian nor a beggar's five-year-old daughter, apparently begging with her mother, resisting a 20 a year old man. This powerless position of rape victims which foregrounds their vulnerability is made more obvious in the communicative situations presented in the entire reportage of the above headlines. This is exemplified below with the entire reportage of R. 54

R. 54 (The Nation; April 28th, 2017)

Court remands doctor in prison for raping patient [headline]

An Upper Area Court sitting at Pankshin in Plateau on Friday remanded a

medical doctor, Philemon Brazil, in prison for allegedly raping his patient [lead]

Brazil, however, pleaded not guilty to the offence. The judge, Mr. Joseph Chollom, ordered the remand of Brazil in custody and adjourned the case to May 22 for further mention. The prosecutor, Sgt. Singbon Hosea, told court that the defendant committed the offence on April 25 at the home of his victim. Hosea explained that the rape victim had a history of miscarriage and had been a patient of the doctor before the incident. "But my lord, on that fateful day, April 25, when he visited the patient as usual, he went too far by forcing himself on her and ended up raping her... [body]

The communicative situation between the rapist (the doctor) and his victim in the above report shows that the rape victim automatically occupies a vulnerable situation considering

the power relation that exists between a doctor and a patient. The victim, out of being a patient, submits herself to the doctor who capitalised on his professional position to take advantage of the victim. By reporting this fact from the view of the prosecutor of the case, in the body of the reportage, the newspaper intends to make a reader to see how innocent, defenceless and vulnerable the victim was during the rape crime. This vulnerability of a rape victim becomes an ideological projection in the entire reportage of the data and it seems indirectly aimed at exonerating rape victims from guilt and protecting them from any form of societal stigmatisation which rape victims are usually subjected to in Nigerian society.

Ideology of Rapists as Cruel People Who Take Undue Advantage of their Victims

A cruel person in this section is taken to mean someone who is mean and heartless to another person. The cruelty of a person can manifest in forms of sexual violence, disregard for morality, lack of empathy and power abuse. In the data, the rapists are ideologically presented to have the above features. These features are ideologically embedded in the reportage through the language used. The following examples demonstrate this.

R. 3 (Vanguard; Jan. 31st, 2017)

Teacher allegedly rapes his 9-year-old pupil after lesson. (Headline)

The prosecutor, Sgt. James Oriola, told the court that the accused had unlawful

Carnal knowledge of the pupil between September 2016 and Jan. 2017 (Body)

R. 36 (Vanguard; Jan. 22nd, 2016)

Man, 37, rapes mentally-challenged girl (Headline)

Vanguard gathered that the suspect took advantage of the victim's mental

Health and had anal sex with her. (Body)

R.37 (Vanguard; June 3rd, 2016)

5 men rape 10-yr-old girl comatose in Owerri (Headline)

*Vanguagr*d gathered that the accused... reportedly lured the young girl to a lonely part of the market where she was locked up in one of the shop directly behind the Dan Anyiam Stadium complex, before they serially rape her until she became unconscious. (Body)

R. 39 (Vanguard; Sept. 11th, 2015)

Unical Prof. suspended over alleged rape of student (Headline)

R. 135 (Punch; May 12th, 2016)

Lagos doctor rapes, impregnates 26-year-old patient (Headline)

R. 141

Teenager flees home over dad multiple rapes (Headline)

In the above, when the personality of the rape victims are considered in relation to the rapists', it automatically becomes obvious for a reader to see that the rapists are not just sexually violent by forcefully having carnal knowledge of their victims, but disregard the very moral uprightness expected of them because of their social positions in relation to their victims. In R. 36 in the examples above, the fact that the rape victim is mentally challenged is enough to earn her sympathy and protection from any well meaning individual so that her rape underscores the height of moral bankruptcy and a total lack of empathy. R. 3, 39, and 41 demonstrate a total abuse of power which is associated with rapists in the entire data.

Ordinarily, an asymmetrical power relationship exists between a teacher and a pupil, a professor and a student, and a doctor and a patient. This power relation is further exploited through the act of rape. This ideology is directly or indirectly projected in different parts of the reportage of the data and it appears that the purpose behind the projection is to indirectly take side with rape victims and condemn rape crime in its entirety.

Ideology of Police and Law Court Zero Tolerance to Rape Crime

This ideological position has been hinted at in earlier section in this analysis. The analysis done here is a follow up to the hint given earlier. The way police and the law court are presented in the data creates an ideological stand that shows the police and the law court to have zero tolerance for rape crim. The ideological presentation is meant to reinstate or restore the belief of Nigerians on the institutions of the police and the law court because a good number of Nigerians do not have faith in the police and court in tackling and prosecuting crime offenders (Dunu & Okafor, 2017). In the data, the ideology is demonstrated through the language used in the various parts of the reportage, as seen in the examples below.

R. 40 (Vanguard; Feb. 22nd, 2017)

Police arraign vulkanizer for allegedly raping sister-in-law (Headline)

R. 24 (Vanguard; Feb. 1st, 2016)

Court reminds 3 accused for alleged gang-rape of 19 years girl (Headline)

R. 54 (The Nation; April 28, 2017)

Court remands doctor in prison for raping patient (Headline)

R. 57 (The Nation; Nov. 27th, 2013)

Ekiti police arrest man for rape of woman, 75 (Headline)

R. 64 (The Nation; Sept. 30th, 2017)

Police arrest commercial driver who raped student of Ekiti college (Headline)

R. 65 (The Nation; Nov. 25th, 2017)

Police arraign herdsman over alleged rape in Benue (Headline)

In the above, police and court are presented as active participants who are up and doing in relation to the rape crime committed. They are the actors that carried out the actions in the material processes of the clauses of the headlines. The verbs used in the material processes underscore the zero tolerance to rape crime which the news writers/newspapers want the readers to see. In the 150 reportage of the data, 11 headlines clearly present the ideology by making the police to be active participants and attributing verbs that capture action to them, 37 headlines indirectly present it by using passive constructions in which the verbs can easily be attributed to the police or the law court, as demonstrated in the examples below.

R. 2 (Vanguard; May 4th, 2017)

Teenage girl arraigned for allegedly luring her girlfriend for gang-raping
(Headline)

R. 4 (Vanguard; March 16th, 2017)

6 varsity students charged with gang-rape: get N9M bail

R. 8 (Vanguard; Jan. 27th, 2016)

Teenage remanded over gang-rape of minor

In the above, even though the police and court are not overtly mentioned and acting as actors because of the passive nature of the clauses, the verbs of the clauses of the headlines still point to the activeness and readiness of the police and the law court. This is because it is only the police and the court of law that have the powers to arraign and remand a crime offender. So, by using the verbs “arrest” “charge” and “remand” which are common in the entire reportage of the data, the news writers/newspapers foreground the readiness of the police and the law court to stamp out rape crime and its offenders in Nigerian society. The examples below show the manifestation of the ideology in other parts of rape reportage as different from the headlines of newspapers.

R. 3 (Vanguard; Jan. 31st, 2017)

An Ibadan chief magistrate court on Friday remanded a 40 year old teacher, Sampson Eyo who allegedly rape his nine year old pupil. (Lead)

R. 9 (Vanguard; July 8th, 2016)

An Egor chief magistrate court in Benin, Edo, on Friday sentences 40-year-old Lucky Idahosa to 14 years imprisonment for raping his 17-year-old daughter (Lead)

R. 73 (The Nation; June 20th, 2016)

Spokesperson of Kaduna police command, DSP Zubairu Abubakar, who confirmed the arrest of the suspect to journalist yesterday in Kaduna, added that available medical report indicated that the victim had been earlier abused by another man... (Body)

The effect of presenting the police and law court as active and ready to give justice in reportage of the data seems to be to reinforce the readers' confidence on the institutions and also to indirectly warn potential rapists to desist from rape crime. The ideological manifestations in the data echoes a tenet of social structural model of CDA which submits that social issues like ideology, power relations, dominance and resistance are products of discourse participants' social positions.

4.7 Power Relation in Rape Reportage in Nigerian Newspapers

Power relation in any discourse has to do with the degree of power/authority possessed by discourse participants, which can further condition their use of language and behaviour in a given discourse. Power relation is therefore influenced by so many factors like social positions and physical strengthen of discourse participants. When there is an imbalance in power relation between two discourse participants, it may bring about a situation where one participant dominates the other: a situation described as asymmetrical power relation. Power relation can be symmetrical when discourse participants share equal status which may be social, political, or official status, or equal physical power etc. In the data, asymmetrical power relation is identified to be the only power relation type represented in rape reportage of Nigerian newspapers. Although the conversations of the participants in the rape reports were not given, the researcher is able to infer the power relation through the way the participants are presented in the reports. Asymmetrical power relation is analysed from two different perspectives in the data: rapists and rape victims; police/law court and rapists/victims' relationship. The asymmetrical power that exists between the former manifests via social and physical power because the rapists in all the reports have higher social and physical strengthen than the victims, while the latter manifests only inform of social-official position.

4.7.1 Asymmetrical Power Relation between Rapists and Victims

Asymmetrical power relation exists between rapists and rape victims in the data in that the rapists are considered to have higher powers which they use to dominate their victims. The power of the rapists is inherent in the social positions they occupy and their physical strengthen in relation to their victims. In all the reports of the data, none has a situation where the power of the rape victim is higher than that of the rapist. Texts 6 and 7 which are the complete reports of R. 54 and 58, respectively, are used as examples to illustrate the power relation between the rapists and their victims.

Text 6: Complete Report of R.54 (The Nation; April 28th, 2017)

Court remands doctor in prison for raping patient

An upper Area Court sitting at Pankshin in Plateau on Friday remanded a medical doctor, Philemon Brazil, in prison for allegedly raping his patient.

Brazil, however, pleaded not guilty to the offence. The Judge, Mr. Joseph Chollom ordered the remand of Brazil in custody and adjourned the case to May 22 for further mention. The prosecutor, Sgt. Singbon Hosea, told court that the defendant committed the offence on April 25 at the home of his victim. Hosea explained that the rape victim had a history of miscarriage and had been a patient of the doctor before the incident. “But my lord, on that fateful day, April 25, when he visited the patient as usual, he went too far by forcing himself on her and ended up raping her. By that action, the accused has committed offences of rape and act of gross indecency, contrary to and punishable under Section 283 and 285 of the Penal Code.” He said that after the arrest of the doctor, the police conducted HIV test on him and that the result was negative. The prosecutor asked court to remand the accused in prison, pending completion of investigation on the matter.

Text 7: complete report of R. 58 (The Nation; June 29th, 2017)

Vice Principal bags life jail for raping 12-year-old pupil

An Ekiti State High Court has sentenced former Vice principal of St. Mary's Girls Grammar School, Ikole-Ekiti, Taiwo Ajaiyi, to life imprisonment for raping a 12-year-old student.

The court sitting in Ado-Ekiti, the state capital, found Ajaiyi guilty of raping a minor contrary to Section 31 (2) of the Child Right Laws of Ekiti State 2012. The convict was the Vice principal (Academics) at the time he committed the offence on March 18, 2014. Ajaiyi lure the girl into his office, locked the door from behind and rape her on the table while blocking her mouth with a cloth. One of the teachers knocked the door but the convict refused to open the door and threatened her not to tell anybody.

In texts 6 and 7, the social positions and the physical strengthen of the rapists and their victims overtly signal the asymmetrical relation that exists between them. The rapist in text 6 is a medical doctor and his victim is his patient, while in text 7 the rapist is a school vice principal and his victim is his student. Although the news reports did not give the readers detail information about the conversation that took place before the rape was committed, one can easily infer that the victims must have been overwhelmed by the powers which they think their violators possessed. For instance since the victim in text 6 had been a patient of the doctor before, chances are that she submitted to the doctor with the belief and trust that he will only do his professional duties. Also in text 7, the 12-year-old pupil could not have been able to struggle with her principal: the principal would have used his physical powers to make her succumb. In the entire rape news reports of the data, asymmetrical relation between rapists and their victims becomes a tool that facilitates the rapists' criminal act. This is because the relation places the victims at a disadvantage position.

4.7.2 Asymmetrical Power Relation between Legal Institutions and Rapists

While the asymmetrical power relation that exists between rapists and their victims can be said to be negative because it facilitates the rape crime, the asymmetrical power relation that exists between Legal institution like police and court is positive because it helps to facilitate prosecution of the rape crime. In the relationship between police/law court and rapists, the police and the law court exercise higher power over the rapists and their victims. This is demonstrated in the arrests, investigations, and prosecutions carried out by the police and the judgements given by the law courts. The relation therefore between the police and the rapists is a relationship between a police officer and a criminal where by the police officer does all the questioning of the criminal and presentation of exhibits and investigation findings in court when necessary. This may be one of the reasons why it is the views of the police that are always projected in the news reports of the data because the police have the power of prosecuting a crime suspect. The entire data is replete with instances where the asymmetrical power relation between the police/the court and the rapists/their victim is demonstrated. Text 8 contains some of those instances.

Text 8: Extract from R. 141

Teenager flees home over dad's multiple rapes

The Lagos State police Command has arrested a man, Timothy Idowu, for allegedly raping his 15-year-old daughter in the Aradagun, Badagry area of the state.

Our correspondent learnt that the matter got to the attention of the police after the victim, packed from her father's apartment to put up with a family friend in the Ikotun area...

Punch Metro learnt that Idowu was arrested on Thursday, June 23, by the Badagry police Division... The Lagos State Police Public Relation Officer, SP Dolapo Badmos, confirm Idowu's arrest. "Investigation is still ongoing", she said.

In text 8, the fact that the police arrested the suspect directly or indirectly shows that an asymmetrical relationship exists between the police and the suspect, with the police being the powerful one because of its power to arrest.

4.8 Discussion of Findings

The analysis of data has produced some research findings. The findings are therefore discussed in this section in order to show their closeness or departure from the different views of available literature on rape reportage or rape discourse generally. One of the findings is that information is structured in rape reports in Nigerian newspapers in such a way that the headlines have new information while the lead and the body of the reports have both Given and New information. The significance of this is that the finding underscores the view, shared in available literature, that headlines in newspapers are attention getter while the lead and body of news reports elaborate on the news report generally (Taiwo, 2011).

Another finding of the analysis is that there is a deliberate thematization of participants involved in rape reports for different communicative purposes. For instance, it was discovered that alleged rapists were thematically foregrounded in the reports of the data in order to indirectly solicit condemnation for them. Although it agrees with Dahunsi and Babatune's (2017) position that thematic structures can be used to bring a particular phenomenon into prominence in a discourse, the finding nevertheless is a total departure from other view of available literature that media reports on rape crime is done in such a way that it tacitly protect the rapists by shifting blame to the rape victims (Benedict, 1992; Dunu & Okafor, 2017).

Also, a finding of the analysis revealed that Material and Verbal processes are the major processes employed by news writers who report rape crime. Material and Verbal

processes respectively manifest in the data in form of verbs that express rape actions and what was said by participants involved in the prosecution of rape crime. The dominant use of the processes was, therefore, deliberately employed in order to foreground the rape experience encountered by rape victims. This finding re-echoes the position shared by Womersley and Anastasia (2009) that there is need for the violent sexual experiences of rape victims to be projected so that concerned authorities can come to the aid of the victims.

It was also in the analysis that rape news writers employed different discursive strategies in their reports. Five discursive strategies (like Topicalisation, name mentioning and omission, phrasal modification, selective quotation, and vagueness) were identified in the data and it was discovered that their communicative goal is mainly to foreground information that could influence readers' interpretation of rape news in a manner that will favour the rape victims. This finding is another major departure from the views shared by available literature because it did not only disagree with Nwabueze and Oduah's (2015) claim that the media still re-victimize rape victims in their reportage, it rather went further to show that in an attempt to bring news on rape crime to readers, news writers employ discursive strategies that are geared toward protecting rape victims. The finding therefore reveals that directly or indirectly, newspapers have attended to Matoesian's (2001) plea that the press should find a way of sympathising with rape victims in their reportage.

Another finding of the analysis of this work is that the language of rape reportage in Nigerian newspapers presents the rapist as cruel and their victims as vulnerable people. This finding is in line with other findings because it points to the fact that the language of rape reportage in Nigerian newspapers is capable of making readers to sympathise with rape victims while condemning the rapists. The finding re-echoes Grant and Woodhams' (2007) take that more often than not, rape victims are usually vulnerable people in the hands of their

abusers. But the finding particularly shows that there is a great need to revalidate some claims in available literature, like Egbo's (2012, p. xi) submission that "the contribution of Nigerian newspapers in tackling the problem of sexual violence against women and children is not impressive".

Closely related to the above finding is the ideology in rape reportage of Nigerian newspapers. Three ideological positions were identified during the analysis of the data and they are: rape victims are vulnerable people, rapists are cruel people who take undue advantage over their victims, and law enforcement and legal institutions like the law court have zero tolerance to rape crime in Nigeria. It was discovered that the ideological positions have different discourse functions in the news reports. One of the functions is that the law enforcement agents and legal institutions in Nigeria are presented in good light; as always up and doing in prosecuting rape crime. Technically, this points to the fact already made by Benedict (1992), Amnesty International (2005), Macleod (2010), and Chiazor, Udume and Egharevba (2016) that law enforcement agents and legal institutions do not give the appropriate attention for proper prosecution of rape crime. Advancing an ideological position that presents law enforcement in good light, may therefore be taken as a deliberate attempt by the newspapers to help restore readers' confidence in law enforcement agents like the police, and legal institutions like the law court, vis a vis rape crime in the Nigerian society.

4.9 Summary

This chapter has carried out analysis of the data of this work. Taking SFG and SSM of CDA as theoretical framework, it analysed the data by looking at the functional impart of the language of the data, communicative strategies employed in the reportage, ideological commitment and power relations in the entire data. It also discussed the findings of the data

analysis. The next chapter presents the summary of this work, the findings of the data analysis and the conclusion of this work.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

5.1 Introduction

This chapter is the last chapter of this work. It, therefore, gives a summary of the entire work so far, the findings of the analysis of the data done in chapter four and the conclusion reached by the researcher. The findings are presented and discussed in relation to the aim and objectives stated in Chapter one.

5. 2. Summary

This work has so far carried out a critical discourse analysis of the language of rape reportage in Nigerian newspapers. The role of newspapers in the campaign against the increasing rate of rape crime in Nigerian society had been emphasised (Amnesty International, 2005; Macleod, 2010; Chaizor, Udume and Egharevba, 2016; Dunu and Okafor, 2017). But regardless of the role of newspapers, it is almost a common view in available literature that newspapers reports on rape are disadvantageous to rape victims and tacitly defensive of rapists. The need to critically analyse the language of rape reports in Nigerian newspapers in order to justify or debunk the claim, necessitated this work.

So, the objectives of this work were mainly to analyse the language of rape reportage in Nigerian newspapers from the perspective of critical discourse analysis and determine the communicative purposes behind its usage. In addressing the objectives therefore, the work used qualitative content analysis and quantitative methods as research design, and Social Structural Model of CDA and Systemic Functional Grammar as the theoretical framework. The data were analysed with focus on information, transitivity, thematic, and mood

structures, discursive strategies, ideologies and power relation. The analysis gave birth to some research findings.

5. 3. Findings

The findings presented in this section addressed the aim and the objectives of this work and answer the research questions which were presented in Chapter one. The findings are presented and discussed one after the other in relation to the stated objectives.

Following the first objective of this work which is to identify the linguistic structures used in Nigerian newspapers' rape reportage, the following linguistic structures were identified: Information, Thematic, Transitivity, and Mood structures. The researcher found out that these structures were used in different parts of the reports of the data and they have different functions. The finding shows that information is structured in the headlines of the data in such a way that only new information is contained in the headlines. This is because none of the news reports of the data is a follow up report on a previous news report. But in the leads and bodies of the reports of the data, the researcher found out that the information structure contained both given and new information.

For the thematic structures in the rape news reports, the researcher found out that thematisation is ideologically used to make the Actor and Goal participants of the news reports prominent. In the headlines and the leads, the rapists are the Actor participants that are mostly thematised and it was discovered that this is ideologically done in order to solicit condemnation of the rapists and the rape crime itself. In terms of Transitivity structures, the researcher found out that Material processes were the main process type used to capture rape and other experiences relating to rape crime in the data and they are mainly attributed to the rapists in the headlines and the Police and the law court in the leads and bodies of the news

reports, in order to underscore the effort being made by the police/Court in combating rape crime in the society. In terms of the Mood structure, it was discovered that the indicative-declarative mood type is the only mood type used in the data and its function is to give statements on the rape crime being report in the data.

On the second objective which is to identify and explain the discursive strategies used in Nigerian newspapers' rape reportage, the researcher found out that five discursive strategies were used in the data and the strategies are Topicalisation, Name mentioning and omission, Phrasal modification, Selective quotation, and Vagueness. The finding further revealed that the discursive strategies were used to achieve the following discourse functions in the data: foregrounding information that could influence readers' interpretation of the rape news reports; giving additional information that could influence readers' interpretation; exposing rapists to public condemnation and protecting rape victims from public stigmatisation; and stirring emotions against rapists and eliciting sympathy for rape victims. It was also discovered that among the discursive strategies, only selective quotation seems to be restricted to the body of the data because that is the only place where it could be used effectively. Other strategies were used freely in the three different parts of the data.

In addressing the third objective which is to explain how the language of rape reportage presents the rapists and the victims to the readers, the researcher found out that the language of the reportage presents the rapists and their victims in a manner that the readers are made to sympathise with the victims while condemning the action of the rapists. This was achieved in the data through the use of the different linguistic structures, different discursive strategies and the ideological positions inherent in the language of the reportage.

Also, following the fourth objective which is to identify the ideologies inherent in the language of Nigerian newspapers' rape reportage, the data analysis revealed that the language

of rape reportage in Nigerian newspapers is ideologically committed to protecting and empathising with rape victims on the one hand and on the other hand soliciting condemnation for the rapists. This finding is contrary to two popular views in available literature: that the language of rape reportage in newspapers is conditioned by societal stereotypes which are biased and often constructed to the disadvantage of rape victims; that media coverage of rape cases poses a great deal of concern because they may serve to indirectly perpetuate sexual violence through creating beliefs and attitudes about sexual assault that distort the definition of sexual assaults and shift the blame to victims, influence readers' perception of sexual assaults and may further perpetuate rape culture in the society (Dunu & Okafor,2017).

The finding further revealed that three ideological positions are projected through the language of the reports and they are: that rape victims are vulnerable people in the hand of their rapists; that rapists are cruel people who take undue advantage of their social position over their victims; that police and the law court, as institutions responsible for prosecuting rape crime, are always up and doing in ensuring that justice is served in any rape crime. These ideological positions have different functions in rape reportage in Nigerian newspapers. The researcher found out that the ideology of rape victims as vulnerable people is meant to elicit readers' sympathy for rape victims, and it is therefore targeted at helping to, indirectly, speak against any form of societal stereotype associated with rape victims in Nigerian society. The ideology that rapists are cruel people serves the function of condemning rape crime and soliciting condemnation for rapists while the ideology that police and law court are always ready to ensure justice is done in a rape crime serves the function of presenting the institutions of the police and the law court in good light before the readers. It was also discovered that all the ideological commitments inherent in the language of the reportage were indirectly done because the ethics of news writing and reporting do not allow

the news writers to overtly present their ideological opinion on what issues being reported as news (Keeble, 2006).

On the fifth objective which seeks to identify and explain what power relations are demonstrated by the language of Nigerian newspapers' rape reportage. The researcher found out that asymmetrical power relation is the only power relation demonstrated by the language of rape reportage in Nigerian newspapers. The finding revealed that asymmetrical power relation exists between the rapists and their victims, and between police/court and the rapists/victims. It was discovered that the asymmetrical power relation between the rapists and their victims is a tool that facilitates the rapists criminal acts because the relation places the rapists in some advantage positions over the victims while the victims are in disadvantage positions where they are not able to struggle with the rapists. For the asymmetrical power relation between the police/law court and the rapists/victim, the finding shows that the police/law court possesses some powers which they use to arrest and prosecute the rapists/victims in the law court.

Apart from the findings presented above, other important findings were discovered. One of them is that cohesion is mainly achieved through lexical cohesion and referencing, and that cohesion creates cohesive ties that are capable of enhancing readers' understanding of the rape news reports. It was discovered that lexical cohesion in the data manifests in form of reiteration of semantic items either through repetition of an item or the use of a close synonym, while referencing manifests in form of anaphoric reference. Another finding is that the form and structure of the reportage plays an important role in ensuring that the language of the reportage achieved the news writers' communicative goals of getting the readers' attention and influencing their interpretation of the reportage.

5.4 Conclusion

This work has so far carried out a critical discourse analysis of the language of rape reportage in Nigerian newspapers. Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar and Social Structural Model of CDA have been used as the theoretical framework for analysing the data and the communicative purpose behind the usage of the language. Insights from the theoretical framework have been helpful in analysing for issues like information structure, thematisation transitivity and modal structures, discursive strategies, ideologies and power relations in the different structural parts of the reports of the newspapers.

It is hoped that the findings of this work will serve as useful premises for other language researchers who may wish to research on rape discourse in newspapers and the media in general. This work, therefore, concludes that the language of rape reportage in Nigerian newspapers takes side with rape victims, solicits condemnation for rapists and fights rape crime in the Nigerian society.

5.5 Recommendation

This work gives the following recommendation:

1. Nigerian newspapers should continue to use the language they used in reporting rape so that rape victims will be encouraged to speak out and seek justice.
2. There is need for the views of the rapists to be properly reported so that a balanced story can be presented before the readers.
3. Newspaper readers should learn to read in between the lines so that things that are taken for granted but are often ideologically used in the reports can be identified.

5.6 Suggestion for Further Studies

The following areas are suggested for further studies for researchers who may be interested in rape discourse.

1. Forensic studies of rape discourse can be carried out by studying the utterances of participants involved in rape and the interrogation of the law enforcement agencies. The utterances could be in form of recorded conversation or interviews. Courtroom proceedings of rape cases under litigation can also yield interesting results through forensic analysis.
2. An in-depth study of rape discourse can be studied using the three functions of language as espoused in Systemic Functional Grammar.
3. A comparative study of rape discourse in Nigerian newspapers and newspapers in other parts of Africa, and the world at large can be done.
4. A Critical Discourse Analysis of rape discourse in news media like blogs can also be carried out.

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Appendix

The Headlines of the rape reports used in this work, the names of the newspapers and the date in which they were published in the official websites of the newspapers are presented in the table below.

S/N	Headlines	Newspaper and Date
1	Two Worshipers gang-rape during church fellowship	Vanguard; June 9 th , 2017
2	Teenage girl arraigned for allegedly luring her girlfriend for gang-raping	Vanguard; May 4 th , 2017
3	Teacher allegedly rapes his nine year-old pupil after lesson	Vanguard; Jan. 31, 2017
4	6 Varsity students charged with gang-rape; get N9M bail	Vanguard; march 16 th , 2017
5	Unilag student gets N500, 000 bail for alleged gang rape	Vanguard; March 23 rd , 2017
6	Kogi famer rapes, neighbour's wife	Vanguard; August 9, 2016
7	22-yr-old man standing trial for rape rearrested for another rape case	Vanguard; Nov. 12 th , 2016
8	Teenagers remanded over gang rape of minor	Vanguard; Jan. 27, 2016
9	Court jails 40-year-old man for raping his 17-year-old daughter	Vanguard; July 8 th , 2016
10	Father, 55, remanded in prison for sleeping with daughter	Vanguard; Sept. 19, 2017
11	12-yr-old girl exposes father: "he serially rape me, aborted my 4-month-old pregnancy	Vanguard; April 3rd, 2016

12	Olamide rapes, impregnates girl at Ajegunle	Vanguard; Oct. 26, 2017
13	Mechanic slaps teenage girl at party, rapes her before she recovers from daze	Vanguard; Jan. 15, 2014
14	School proprietor jailed 10 years for raping 10-yr-old pupil	Vanguard; March 30th, 2016
15	52-year-old HIV positive teacher rapes 12-year-old student	Vanguard; July 10, 2013
16	Unemployed man rapes 13 year old teenager in Lagos	Vanguard; Feb. 21, 2017
17	Catholic priest faces fresh charge over 10-yr-old girl's rape	Vanguard; August 31, 2016
18	Labourer rapes 16-yr-old daughter	Vanguard; March 30 2016
19	Barber, 37, rapes 7-yr-old girl	Vanguard; March 31, 2016
20	Husband rapes step-daughter after wife turned him down	Vanguard; March 8, 2017
21	25-yr-old lady stabs, rapist in Kano	Vanguard; Feb. 14, 2014
22	2 Charged with raping, procuring abortion for 14-yr-old girl.	Vanguard; July 13, 2017
23	70-yr-old man rapes friend's 9-yr-old daughter	Vanguard; Jan. 5, 2014
24	Court Remands 3 accused for alleged gang rape of 19 years girl	Vanguard; Feb. 1, 2016
25	Teacher jailed 14 years for raping student in Delta	Vanguard; June 18, 2014
26	Man, 27, rapes 11-yr-old with Down's syndrome	Vanguard; Dec. 4, 2014
27	Man jailed 19 years for raping friend's daughter	Vanguard; August 24, 2016
28	Man arraign for sexual abuse on 3 daughter	Vanguard; June 28, 2016

29	Man accused of raping neighbour	Vanguard; Sept. 26, 2017
30	Man rapes mother and child in Minna	Vanguard; Nov. 17, 2015
31	Man, 29, rapes neighbour's 9-yr-old daughter	Vanguard; March 15, 2013
32	Man, 25, rapes friend's 6-yr-old daughter	Vanguard; Jan. 2, 2017
33	Man, 42, rapes, impregnates 13 yr-old plantain hawker	Vanguard; march 30, 2017
34	Father catches man raping daughter	Vanguard; Sept. 17, 2013
35	Man rapes his children aged 5, 7, 9	Vanguard; April 21, 2016
36	Man, 37, rapes mentally challenged girl	Vanguard; Jan. 22, 2016
37	5 men rape 10-yr-old girl comatose in Owerri	Vanguard; June 3, 2016
38	Man remanded in prison for allegedly raping orphan on Valentine's day	Vanguard; Feb 18, 2016
39	UNICAL Prof. suspended over alleged rape of student	Vanguard; Sept. 11, 2015
40	Police arraign vulkanizer for allegedly raping sister-in-law	Vanguard; Feb. 22, 2017
41	Fulani herdsmen rape woman to death in Edo	Vanguard; March 22, 2017
42	Woman dies after rape by neighbour	Vanguard; Nov. 19, 2013
43	Police arraign native doctor in court for alleged rape of tenant's daughter in Enugu	Vanguard; April 2, 2015
44	Man, 45 rapes daughter's friend, 15	Vanguard; Dec. 2, 2013
45	Tailor rapes 14-yr-old girl in Makurdi	Vanguard; Oct. 6, 2017
46	Plantain seller hospitalised after rape by 2 men in Nasarawa	Vanguard; Jan. 2015
47	Police arrest serial rapist in Aba	Vanguard; Aug. 8, 2013.

48	Pure water hawker raped and impregnated in Owerri	Vanguard; June 11, 2014
49	Man, 53, arrested for alleged rape and death of physically challenge girl in Benue	Vanguard; Sept. 19, 2017
50	Police arraign man for raping physically challenged girl	Vanguard; March 4, 2014
51	35-year-old man rapes minors	The Nation; May 13th, 2013
52	Bishop, quack doctor arrested for alleged rape, abortion	The Nation; July 3, 2013
53	Commercial taxi driver rapes female passenger	The Nation; July 13th, 2015
54	Court remands doctor in prison for raping patient	The Nation; April 28th, 2017
55	Driver charged with raping sister-in-law	The Nation; July 10th, 2017
56	Eight-year-old rape victim dies	The Nation; Nov. 24th, 2017
57	Ekiti police arrest man for rape of woman, 75	The Nation; Nov. 27th, 2013
58	Vice principal bags life jail for raping 12-year-old pupil	The Nation; June 29, 2017
59	Trader in court for alleged rape of neighbour's daughter	The Nation; March 1, 2017
60	My granddaughter bled for eight days after being raped	The Nation; Oct. 5, 2015
61	Teacher In court over alleged raping of neighbour's daughter	The Nation; Jan. 22, 2013
62	Septuagenarian arrested for repeatedly raping minor in Ebonyi	The Nation; Sept. 22, 2017
63	Pregnant woman bites rapist's genitals	The Nation; Jan. 10, 2014

64	Police arrest commercial driver who raped student of Ekiti college	The Nation; Sept. 2017
65	Police arraign herdsman over alleged rape in Benue	The Nation; Nov. 25, 2017
66	Motorcyclist docked for allegedly defiling neighbour's minor	The Nation; Feb. 22, 2017
67	Mechanic rapes girl, 15	The Nation; Sept. 9, 2015
68	Man rapes girl, 16, after luring her with job offer	The Nation; May 5, 2016
69	Man held for raping wife's sister for 10 years	The Nation; April 13, 2016
70	Man docked for allegedly raping own daughter	The Nation; April 20, 2015
71	Man arraigned in court for raping neighbour's daughter	The Nation; May 15, 2017
72	Landlord, tenant rape girl, 13	The Nation; Aug. 23, 2017
73	Grandpa defiles 6-year-old girl in Kaduna	The Nation; June 20, 2016
74	Consultant allegedly rapes colleague twice in office	The Nation; Dec. 2015
75	Court remands man for alleged rape, infecting victim with HIV	The Nation; Sept. 2015
76	Court remands five for allegedly raping Lagos model, one other	The Nation; Aug. 13, 2016
77	Man remanded in prison for raping a stranded woman	The Nation; Dec. 7, 2016
78	Impersonator paraded for rape in Calabar	March 11, 2016
79	Girl, 15 accuses uncle of raping her	The Nation; Feb. 18, 2016
80	Man, 51, remanded for raping NYSC member to death	June 16, 2015
81	Police arrest man for raping daughter in JSS 3	The Nation; Sept. 24, 2016

82	Court remands man in prison for raping mother	The Nation; Aug. 4, 2016
83	Ekiti court remands man for raping girl, 5	The Nation; Sept. 22, 2016
84	Pastor remanded for alleged rape	The Nation; Dec. 29, 2016
85	Peace corps cadet arrested for raping 17 year old student	The Nation; Oct. 26, 2016
86	11-year-old housemaid raped to death in Abia State	The Nation; March 17, 2015
87	Oyo NURTW boss nabbed for rape in Ibadan	The Nation; July 2016
88	Native doctor arraigned over alleged rape	The Nation; Jan. 15, 2016
89	Commercial taxi driver rapes female passenger	The Nation; July 13, 2015
90	Inspector rapes 15-year-old girl at gunpoint	The Nation; July 21, 2016
91	Tricycle rider abduct girl, rapes her	The Nation; Oct. 23, 2016
92	Man rapes twin sister	The Nation; May 12, 2017
93	Carpenter rapes 15 year old orphan in Enugu	The Nation; May 24, 2016
94	Woman demands justice for her daughter rape by clergyman in Asaba	The Nation; Oct 1, 2015
95	Court jailed bus driver for raping passenger	The Nation; June 12, 2016
96	NURTW staff allegedly rapes stranded passenger in Ondo	The Nation; Jan. 17, 2017
97	Man, 65, gets life imprisonment for rape of a minor	The Nation; Sept. 30 2014
98	Pastor's son and friends rape 15-year-old girl in school	The Nation; Aug. 25, 2016
99	Alleged serial rapist jumped bail in Warri, rearrested in Aba	The Nation; Nov. 17, 2017

100	Man, 41, bags 15 years imprisonment for raping neighbour's wife	The Nation; July 3, 2013
101	75-year-old farmer rapes minor with autism	Punch; May 11, 2016
102	50-year-old man rapes, impregnates 15-year-old girl	Punch; Feb. 13, 2017
103	Husband rapes housemaid at knifepoint, wife forces her to drink concoction	Punch; Nov. 11, 2017
104	Man rapes 29-year-old virgin, bag 14 years jail term	Punch; March 24, 2017
105	Man rapes only daughter, 15, for three years	Punch; Oct. 20th, 2017
106	Man rapes, kill reverend sister, dump her body into dam	Punch; June 2, 2013
107	Man, 58 allegedly rapes, impregnates 15-year-old groundnut hawker	Punch; Dec. 8th, 2017
108	Wanted Lagos rapist rapes 60-year-old, blinds daughter	Punch; July 13, 2016
109	Alfa abducts, rapes Dubai returnee in Lagos	Punch; June 6, 2016
110	30-year-old scrap collector rapes pupil, gives her N200	Punch; April 20, 2016
111	60-year-old driver rapes mental patient	Punch; Oct. 17, 2016
112	Deacon, 44 rapes seven-year-old, blames evil forces	Punch; March 16, 2016
113	Father rapes 15-year-old daughter, drugs her to prevent pregnancy	Punch; Sept. 25, 2016
114	Guardian, 41, rapes 14-year-old	Punch; Oct. 5, 2017
115	I have been raped by my stepfather since I was 10 – 14-year-old girl	Punch; July 15, 2017

116	Lagos trader rapes nine-year-old boy	Punch; Feb. 23, 2016
117	Man rapes three-year-old stepdaughter after wife denies him sex	Punch;
118	Man rapes wife's 13-year-old sister	Punch; March 19, 2017
119	Man, 20, allegedly rapes beggar's five-year-old daughter in Agege	Punch; Sept. 2013
120	Motorcyclist lures, rapes pupil in hotel	Punch; Dec4. 2015
121	Pastor rapes five-year-old girl in Ekiti, remanded in prison	Punch; Dec. 28, 2016
122	Policeman rapes 10-year-old for a year with mother's consent	Punch; Jan 7, 2014
123	School teacher rapes 16-year-old daughter for four years	Punch; April 9, 2015
124	Septuagenarian rapes girl, 12, after luring her with N200	Punch; Oct. 8, 2016
125	Teenager rapes, impregnates 14-year-old girl	Punch; June 19, 2017
126	Trending: school leaver rapes four-year-old girl in her brother's presence	Punch; Sept. 22, 2016
127	Man, 54, Abducts, rapes 11-year-old girl in Ekiti	Punch; July 3, 2016
128	How police inspector raped girl, 15, at gunpoint in A'lbom	Punch; July 7, 2016
129	Computer teacher gives schoolgirl N30 after rape	Punch; May 12, 2015
130	Salesgirl in comma after rape by hoodlums	Punch; Nov.20, 2013
131	Man Rapes, impregnates 15-year-old daughter	Punch; June 6, 2017

132	Uncle Raped me four times a week for years	Punch; April 10, 2016
133	My husband rapes me in the presence of our children, woman tell court	Punch; March 29, 2017
134	Man, 67, rapes childhood friend's eight-year-old daughter in Kano	Punch; Sept 20, 2013
135	Lagos doctor rapes, impregnates 26-year-old patient	Punch; May 12, 2016
136	Man gets 15 years for raping neighbour	Punch; July 4, 2013.
137	Dangote truck driver rapes girl, 15, in Masaka	Punch; Dec. 1, 2014
138	Doctor injects, rapes patient in Niger	Punch; Feb 21, 2017
139	Man, 38, rapes minor in Kaduna	Punch; May 29, 2016
140	55-year-man allegedly rapes 17-year-old daughter nine times	Punch; Aug. 15, 2017
141	Teenager flees home over dad's multiple rapes	Punch; July, 3, 2017
142	65-year-old man rapes daughter in Sokoto	Punch; Dec 11, 2013
143	Teacher, 35 rape pupil, 13, after school hour	Punch; March 6, 2015
144	Police arrested alleged serial rapist in Akwa Ibom	Punch; Feb. 14, 2017
145	Court jailed 70-year-old grand pa for raping grand daughter	Punch; Jan. 18, 2016
146	Court sentence clergyman for raping church member, in Edo	Punch; Jan. 5, 2013
147	Salesgirl raped and beaten by unknown men in Imo	Punch; Aug.9, 2014
148	My daughter deserves justice mother of rape victim cries out	Punch; June 3, 2017
149	Police arraign man, 54, for raping 10 –year-old girl in	Punch; May 10, 2014

	Akure	
150	Local chief arrested for rape of 14-year-old girl in Delta	Punch; July 14, 2013