

A Critical Discourse Analysis of President Muhammad Buhari's Speeches

Authors : Joy Aworo-Okoroh

Abstract : Politics is about trust and trust is challenged by the speaker's ability to manipulate language before the electorate. Critical discourse analysis investigates the role of language in constructing social relationships between a political speaker and his audience. This paper explores the linguistic choices made by President Muhammad Buhari that enshrines his ideologies as well as the socio-political relations of power between him and Nigerians in his speeches. Two speeches of President Buhari -inaugural and Independence Day speeches are analyzed using Norman Fairclough's perspective on Halliday's Systemic functional grammar. The analysis is at two levels. The first level of analysis is the identification of transitivity and modality choices in the speeches and how they reveal the covert ideologies. The second analysis is premised on Norman Fairclough's model, the clauses are analyzed to identify elements of power, hesitation, persuasion, threat and religious statement. It was discovered that Buhari is a dominant character who manipulates the material processes a lot.

Keywords : politics, critical discourse analysis, Norman Fairclough, systemic functional grammar

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