

CONFLICTS AND CONFLICT RESOLUTIONS SIGNALS IN LANGUAGE USE AMONG LEADERS OF AGITATING GROUPS IN NIGERIA: A CASE OF HATE SPEECHES

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ABSTRACT: *Language and language use is not only a reflection of social realities but also acts as a recipe for shaping the social realities. Language use can make people perform a particular action, to make people think, say something in a particular way. Therefore, one can say that language can be used manipulatively by speakers to achieve their own self-interest and to influence the general interest of a social group who they represent. This paper was aimed at unraveling how these inherent potentials of the human language can be used to create inter-group conflict through hate speeches and stereotyping and how it can be effectively used to of checkmate conflict arising from hate speeches. Conflict arises when there are variations in these shared values of the two groups. This paper studied the manipulative use of language by leaders of various agitating groups in Nigeria like IPOB, Niger-Delta Avengers, and Boko Haram group. The paper x-rayed language use drawn from selected speeches of some social group actors with a view to analyzing its potentials to create a conflict situation or its resolution using the theoretical paradigm of speech acts theory and socio-cognitive approach of Critical Discourse Analysis. The findings of the study revealed that the social actors used their speeches manipulatively to portray the opposing group in the negative light with aim of influencing the way the group they represent view people outside their group. The study also revealed elements of stereotyping in social actor representations as witnessed in the speech acts of social actors, and also the deliberate attribution of negative actions to a group perceived to be a threat to the ideas of the group they represent. The researchers recommend that the study of language usages in the social media, novels, newspapers and other forms of text should be effectively applied in the study of other areas of research interest about social and national development issues. It's also recommended that government should set up a regulatory body to censure comments in the text meant for public consumptions.*

KEYWORDS: Conflict Resolutions, Language Use, Agitating Groups, Hate Speeches

INTRODUCTION

The importance of language to human affairs is not a debatable issue again. In the mainstream of social theory, language is downplayed as an effective tool for deconstructing existing social structures. Matthiessen (1997) was of the view that a text could be viewed from two perspectives; as a linguistic object that tells us what a text means or its functional values to its users or a text as an instrument that reveals something about the system of the language in which it is spoken or written. Critical Discourse Analysis as an aspect of social theory avails linguist such as opportunities for uncovering existing social realities through language. Language can serve as a connection between cognition and social realities. It can create social realities and serve as a vehicle of expression social realities by way of its tri-dimensional meta-function of ideational, interpersonal and textual meta-function. The study of the human language has gone beyond the mere study of its formal properties to what

functional purpose could it serve among its users. That explains why it has been effectively used by CDA scholars to uncover social phenomena like hegemony, racism, conflict and other issues that borders on social affiliations etc. According to Brown and Yule (1983), “language used in a particular context goes beyond communicating pieces of information or ideas to transmitting attitudes, ideologies, beliefs, perceptions, and other forms of intentional, factual and propositional information”(3). This transmitted propositional information has perlocutionary force on language users. By implication, the statements mean that language used by speakers influence people’s behavior and make people behaviours correspond with the intention of the speaker (Pickering & Garrod, 2007). Rosaldo (1982) affirmed that “every speech is fundamentally about purposefully doing things with words and it is a social act of doing” The speech acts of language use said to have locutionary, illocutionary and perlocutionary force. These speeches are mostly realized as performatives. Therefore, every instance of language use creates several instances of social realities around its users (Kramsch, 2006).

In other to emphasis the capacity of language to create social realities Gee opined that

Language has a magical property; when we speak or write, we craft what we have to say to fit the situation or context of communication, but at the same time, how we speak or write creates that very situation or context.... We continually and actively build and rebuild our worlds not just through language used but in tandem with actions (Gee, 1999).

Among other symbolic systems, language can be used as an effective tool to construct and deconstruct feelings, opinions, prejudice, stereotype, belief and thought people have about social realities around them. The hub of this paper is based on the paradigm of understanding of the nature of human language as having the capacity to serve as a social litmus test that can be used to uncover pre-existing social realities that are hidden in language use, and also to negotiate and constructing new social realities within text or discourse that explains the reason for associating the metaphor “double-edged to sword” to language in other to portray the capacity of language to serve as an effective tool for perpetuating anti-social practices like conflict, stereotype, prejudice, and racism while also being used as an effective tool for social integration (Cohen, 2007).

Language diagnosis of social cognition and hate speeches

Critical Discourse Analysis is a multi-disciplinary discipline which relates linguistics to sociology, philosophy, psychology, and anthropology. The link between CDA and psychology is substantiated in discursive psychology which is a linguistic approach to studying inter-group stereotypes, attitudes, racisms and other aspects of the social spheres influenced by social cognition (Tranchese, 2013). The resultant effect could be conflict, hatred, and ethnoreligious resentment. Language is both effective for reinforcing social practices and antisocial practices like conflict (McEvoy & Welker, 2000). A socio-cognitive model of CDA is a mental model that emphasizes that shared meanings or ways of making sense of social realities materialized in and through language. This explains why people of the same speech community have a patterned way of thinking and expressing social realities that influenced by the culture of the society (Tranchese, 2013) and (Weick, Sutcliffe & Obstfeld, 2005). This patterned or social knowledge of realities can shape individual members of the group perception, attitudes, social practices toward social happenings and people. These can lead to in-group and out-group distinctions which can culminate in war,

conflict and even genocide (Kelman, 1997), (Ignio, 2015) and (Ndiribe, 2016). In trying to explain how a privileged member of a social group influences how they socially conceptualize social realities Kalberg (1980), emphasized that “these patterned ways of thinking and talking sometimes align with the narrow self-interests of privileged social groups who can play a role in cultivating these patterns of thought and talk within broad segments of the public”. Although the perlocutionary force of language use is not only a determined by how a language is used in a context, it also can be shaped by the resources possessed by the language user in ensuring the performance of an action implicated in the language use (Cameron 2001).

This presuppose that language is subject to manipulative use to get people to act, think-out social realities in the way the language user presents it to the hearers, members of the group subconsciously internalize this thought pattern, views, perspectives, imposed on discourse structures by the dominant member as common sense even when such ideas may not align with their individual interest (Marrienne, 2002). However, one can see the relevance of discourse theory to conflict and peace studies in that language is not as transparent as conceived by scholars in the field of science and philosophy but can be conceived as a social structuring tool (Matheson, 2003). In studying how language use reveals conflict and violence between groups’ members of a group. Discourse analysts divide the act of violence cum conflict into structural and direct violence. Direct violence deals with the observable or physical expression of violence while structural violence deals with deprivation of basic human rights. The direct violence can be fuelled by incisive speech acts which breed violence, hatred, fear, mistrust, and conflict (Curtin & Litke, 1999). According to Karlberg (1980) “are often used as a manipulative tool by self-interested or ideologically driven leaders whose interest is perceived to be aligned with the interest of the group they represent” Discourse can also contribute to structural violence when they perpetuate the pattern of thought and talk that foster injustice, inequity, and oppression. To further support the claim that speech acts of an influential member of a social group such as Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), Niger-Delta Avengers (NDA) and Boko Haram in Nigeria, can gloss over the general perception of the other members, Karlberg opined that

“Discourses, thus conceived, can also embody and perpetuate the perspective, values and interests of privileged segments of society who, by virtue of their social positions, exert disproportionate influence on the articulation of discourse. Such influence need not be consciously exerted” (Karlberg 2012).

In a typical example of this is the case of the popular Jewish holocaust of Hitler. In Nigeria, religious leaders wield a lot of influence on the thinking pattern of their followers. They indirectly impose their views, and stereotypes against a group and the ordinary members are meant to subconsciously internalize this knowledge as common sense. That explains why Abubakar Shekau, gathered sympathizers to his cause because he was an Islamic scholar who had a lot of followers who believed in what he believed without asking questions. The same also applied to the spokesperson of the IPOB group and NDA respectively who made members see the justification for what they are fighting for.

Hate speeches could be defined as a form of language use or communication that dehumanize or denigrate people on the basis of their social affiliation or membership of a group. This form of language use is said to foster a climate of hostility, hatred, prejudice, intolerance, discrimination, violent attacks and inter-group and interpersonal conflicts (Donohue, 2012). Hate speech was defined in IFA workshop material tagged ‘defy the hate’ as “the expression

of conflicts between different groups within and across societies". Waldron (2012), Hate speech has the effect of dehumanizing members of a targeted group and letting others with similar views know they are not alone, reinforcing a sense of an in-group that is purportedly under threat. Benesch is a workshop material called "defy hate speech" outlined five models or factors that are considered when investigating the danger posed by a hate speech to include;

- i. The degree of the speakers' influence on the group they represent.
- ii. The general grievances or fears of the group that can be cultivated by the speaker.
- iii. Whether the speaker's speech acts calls for violence.
- iv. The effectiveness of the channel of propagating this hate speech.

Language and social-cognitive approach to conflict studies

Contrary to the perspective of cognitive psychology on man as an autonomous agent with authentic characteristics which have no link to his social relations with others during social interaction, social constructionist conceived that man and his social realities are inseparable. That man's world experience is constructed by his social group and culture. This is a social knowledge of realities and not individual knowledge, which is called social cognitive or shared knowledge. In the field of discursive psychology, social identity theory is viewed as an aspect of cognitive psychology and traces the roots of intergroup conflict to social and cultural phenomena (Fairclough, 2003). Social cognition is a socially attained knowledge by way of social relations within a social group. Thus, mental social knowledge can have a cumulative effect leading to intergroup stereotyping by way of racism, conflict, war, and other anti-social phenomena. To further stress, Jorgensen and Phillips reiterated that; Cognitive approaches to stereotypes and group conflicts attempt to understand the typical psychological processes that create conflicts between groups (Kakava, 2001). ... When people become members of a group they begin to identify with that group and view social reality with that group and view social reality from its perspective. They came to regard members of their own group as better than members of other groups (Krauss & Chiu, 1997).

In other words, social constructivism postulates that man is not an isolated, autonomous entity, but rather a product of dynamic interaction with the social world. His mind, self and identities can be influenced during social interaction by way of discourse. The above statement is further substantiated by the claim made by Sapir Whorf in his theory of Linguistic determinism that social structures create man's experience of the world. To study collective identity in discourse as an effective means of fostering intergroup stereotyping and conflict, we can use CDA socio-cognitive model. A socio-cognitive model of CDA can be used to analyse collective identity in discourse. The use of this model to analyse shared knowledge or identity among members of a group is predicated on the ground that collective identity is a mental model comprising of cognitive and affective components and can be influenced or negotiated in a discourse or text. Social theorists believe that identity is not inborn but is constructed within social interaction with others and through the social structures (Chilton, 2004). This is predicated on Marx weber's proposition that consciousness does not determine social being but on the contrary, self-identity is constructed within social life and practice. Koller, (2012) defined collective identity as "socio-cognitive representations, which are held by people who identify as members of a group. These socio-cognitive representations can be changed, constructed negotiated through discourse

interaction within and between groups. He also defined socio-cognitive representations as organized, coherent, socially shared sets of knowledge about an object or domain of objects which combine with effective structures and with inherent narrative and evaluative dimensions. In other words, it is the socially shared knowledge or perception of entities in the real world which is acquired during social interaction or membership of a group (Turner, 2009). Most time, this socio-cultural knowledge is defined by ones culture. It is a generalized knowledge and not an idiosyncratic knowledge. Stereotypes could be a form of socio-cognitive representations which are petrified knowledge structures which lead to the behavior of group members being explained by their membership of a group, while exceptions are ignored or explained by contextual factors. Stereotypes could help to make sense of perceived behavior, attributes and attitudes in others, they gloss over or reveal intra-group differences and the resulting prejudice is bound to be harmful for the social relations between and the self-esteem of members of a social group. This paper will adopt this approach in uncovering linguistic signals in discourse that perpetuate this socially shared knowledge structure of negative stereotyping test produced by spokespersons of agitating groups in Nigeria with a view to illustrating how language can reinforce negative stereotypes against another group, how this stereotypes can lead to conflict and how it can be manipulated within discourse. To achieve this, CDA will concentrate on describing linguistic features of texts and interpret them by analyzing discourse practice and social contexts. It will look out for social actors representation in the text by highlighting what groups or individuals are referred to and how they are referred, whether (generalized or specified), evaluation of actions or attribute ascribed to a group to uncover stereotypes, either negative or positive, and the use of transitivity to associate a particular actions to a group. The speech acts will be used to categorize the talk associated with the group.

Language use and conflict resolution

According to Adejimiola (2009), Conflict resolution is conceived as varieties of approach aimed at terminating conflicts through constructive solving of the problem. The same way language can be used to create conflict so it can also be used to resolve the conflict. When the language used is embellished with conciliatory terms; it fosters conflict resolution, but when incisive language is used it perpetuate conflict and possibly violence. Language could serve as an effective means of breeding nationalist ideas in the sense that it can be used to promote cultural values and norms of building a nation. Conflict resolution as a social integrative approach between inter group and intra-groups human relations varies across cultures. Social integration is possible when members of the group possess sets of shared meanings or similar social-cognition by way of their social relationships. Conflict evolves when the interest of two groups or individuals conflict with each other of which such interest is defined by one's affiliation to a social group (Krolikowka, 2015). Cohen (2007), asserted that "from the premise that language constitutes a community's shared stock of meaning, we can conclude that the study of language may provide an excellent entry point for investigating how members of the group understand and handle conflicts"(Suurmond, 2005). To further buttress the point, Crauss and Chiu reiterated; ...language is implicated in most of the phenomena that lie at the core of social psychology; attitude change, social perception, personal identity, social interaction, intergroup bias and stereotyping, attribution and so on. The incisive use of languages to create tension, a language should be used to reflect collective responsibly and national consciousness among the Nigerian people rather ethnic differences. Linguistic stereotyping should be avoided and the use of inclusive terms should be encouraged to include social actors in pursuing a task (Halliday, 2014).

METHODOLOGY

The focus of this paper is on uncovering how language use of influential members of a social group fosters intergroup stereotyping and how that can signal intergroup conflicts. To achieve the aim of the research, the researcher adopted a Micro-level linguistic qualitative analysis in to categorize social actors' representations in text into the positive description or negative description or stereotyping by identifying the social actor referred to and to carry an evaluation of how they are referenced. Also, Halliday (2014), transitivity process and construal analysis were used to construe the actions linked with each social group by the text producer. Finally, the speech acts Illocutionary performatives of Searle were used to uncover how a text producer manipulatively describes social actors represented in the text. The percentage frequency counts were used to study patterns of social actors' representation and description in the text as stated (Terkourafi, 2005).

Micro-level of linguistic analysis

REFERENT	LANGUAGE OF REFERENCE	EVALUATION/DESCRIPTION	
		POSTIVE	NEGATIVE
IPOB	Unarmed members of IPOB	Non-violent Victims of attack from a violent group	Government as a perpetrator of the action
Government	The Islamic APC government of Buhari to incriminate IPOB members	IPOB(victims of blackmail)	Threat to integrity/psychological stereotype
Government	Their(APC) periodic genocidal massacre	IPOB(victims)	Threat to peace/psychological threat
Government	They want to spread terror, intimidation and instill fear	IPOB as victims	Threat to peace/psychological threat
IPOB	.... and cause our people to renounce or abandon their legitimate quest for freedom	Peaceful/non-violent	The Govt-Political exploiters Political bias/stereotype
Government	..... the plan is to bring the people of Old Eastern Region to submission before 2019 presidential election	(political slavery)	Political exploiters/Political bias/stereotype
Government	..... South East and South South by Hausa-Fulani controlled North as they did during the war and with abandoned property afterwards.	historical flashback of their civil war experience	Psychological stereotype/agent of disunity
Government	.... meeting of Arewa dominated Nigeria and Indigenous People of Biafra	IPOB- Emphasis sense of nationhood	Nigeria shown as been under political siege
IPOB	(IPOB) and it's leadership worldwide under the command and leadership of MaziNnamdiKanu the prophet of our time	Portrayed in the light of the Biblical Moses as political savior	
Government	Nigerian Army and Police who are in effect an army of occupation in	The Igbo land are portrayed as been	Threat to peace/Ethnic/religious

	Biafraland	under religious/ethnic siege	attack/psychological threat
Government	It is unacceptable that Hausa Fulani dominated Nigerian Army and Police are still attacking and killing innocent and law abiding citizens in Umuahia and Owerri for some weeks	Victims of ethnic attacks	Ethnic attackers/ Threat to peace/Ethnic/religious attack/psychological threat

Niger Delta Avenger Vs Nigerian Government

Government	.....that every successive government has refused to used and reapply the proceeds towards any development in the region since 1958.	NDA-Justification for their action	insincere commitment/ attitude of government to dialogue
NDA	This genuine spirit behind our struggle for the Niger Delta cannot be derailed on the basis of connivance by politician.....	NDA-Justification for their action	insincere commitment/ attitude of government to dialogue

Halliday's transitivity process used to identify Social Group Stereotypes

Process Type	Social Actors					
	IPOB			GOVERNMENT		
Identifying	Token	Value	Circumstance	Token	Value	Circumstance
	07(32%)	09(47%)		15(68%)	10(53%)	
Attribution	Negative	Positive		Negative	Positive	
	0(0%)	02(18%)		09(82%)	0(0%)	
Mental	Senser	Phenomenon		Senser	Phenomenon	
	14(61%)	15(60%)		09(39%)	10(40%)	
Material	Doer	Goal	Circumstance	Doer	Goal	Circumstance
	07(14%)	25(62.5%)	24(62%)	42(86%)	15(37.5%)	15(38%)
Verbal	Sayer	Target		Sayer	Target	
	06(60%)	06(60%)		04(40%)	04(40%)	

Process Type	Social Actors					
	BOKO HARAM			GOVERNMENT		
Identifying	Token	Value	Circumstance	Token	Value	Circumstance
	05(28%)	02(12%)		13(72%)	15(88%)	
Attribution	Negative	Positive		Negative	Positive	
	01(33%)	0(0%)		02(67%)	0(0%)	
Mental	Senser	Phenomenon		Senser	Phenomenon	
	02(29%)	01(14%)		05(71%)	06(86%)	
Material	Doer	Goal	Circumstance	Doer	Goal	Circumstance
	21(68%)	12(40%)	09(53%)	10(32%)	18(60%)	08(47%)
Verbal	Sayer	Target		Sayer	Target	
	05(71%)	02(33%)		02(29%)	04(67%)	

Process Type	Social Actors					
	NIGER DELTA AVENGERS			GOVERNMENT		
Identifying	Token	Value	Circumstance	Token	Value	Circumstance
	04(57%)	03(50%)		03(43%)	03(50%)	
Attribution	Negative	Positive		Negative	Positive	
	0(0%)	0(0%)		0(0%)	0(0%)	
Mental	Senser	Phenomenon		Senser	Phenomenon	
	08(73%)	04(36%)		03(27%)	07(64%)	
Material	Doer	Goal	Circumstance	Doer	Goal	Circumstance
	04(80%)	03(60%)	01(33%)	01(20%)	02(40%)	02(67%)
Verbal	Sayer	Target		Sayer	Target	
	06(100%)	01(17%)		0(0%)	05(83%)	

A particular type of social action is ascribed to a group in course of the discourse by the text producer to influence how people construe social realities in a constrained way. In analyzing the text for this research, different social actors' representation was discovered which was geared towards making them perceive a particular group in a patterned way as laid down by the text producer. This comes in form of political, ethno-religious and socio-economic stereotyping. The appropriateness of the use of Halliday's Transitivity to uncover this patterned way of thinking, by extension social cognition is justified by his statement that;

The fundamental property of language is that it enables us to conceptualize and describe our experience, whether of actions and events, people and things of the external world or of the internal world of thoughts, feelings and perceptions. This is done through transitivity.

Identification of the process types within the text would help us uncover actions associated with a specific social group. This parameter helps to investigate patterns of transitivity in texts. Percentage counts of the number of times a social group is associated a particular process type in the text in relation to other social group can help us uncover the stereotype which could foster inter group antagonism which by extension can lead to conflict.

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF RESEARCH FINDINGS

IPOB and Government

The table of transitivity analysis associated with IPOB versus government, reveals (32%) token-type of IPOB against government (68%) token-type. This reveals attempt by the text producer to emphasis government as the major opposition to the actualization of its dreams. (61%) sener-type of IPOB as against government (39%) is an attempt by the text-producer to portray the group they represent as the major emotional victims of violent attacks and social injustice by government to win more sympathizers. (86%) government doer-type as against IPOB doer-type reveals the intension of the text producer to portray government as the major agent of violent attack against the group. The IPOB (60%) sayer-type as against government (40%) sayer-type reveals the intent of the speaker to inform people about their plight. This explains while the group had a high frequency of use of assertive speech acts. Government (82%) negative attribution-type as against IPOB (18%) negative-attribution type reveals the text producer intension of perpetuating negative stereotype against government actions. That reveals why government painted in the light of ethno-religious, political and socio-economic bias and also as being violent.

Boko Haram versus Government

(88%) token-type of book haram as against government's (12%), reveals the intent of the text producer to portray government as the major opponent or enemy to its goals and to also claim responsibility for actions. (67%) negative attribution-type of government as against book haram's (33%) reveals the txt producer intension of portraying government in the negative light as being incapable of stopping its actions which is consistent with their propaganda approach. Boko haram's (29%)sener-type as against government (71%) puts government in the light of major emotional casualty of the action of the group. This is consistent with the psychology of the group to create fear in public sphere. (86%) phenomenon-type of government also reveals how the text producer portrays government as the worst hit emotionally. Boko haram (68%) doer-type as against government (32%) reveals the intension of the text producer to emphasis their capacity to carry out their threat with a view of creating fear in public sphere. This they do by de-emphasizing government's capacity to stop them from carrying out actions. Government (60%) goal-type as against book haram' (40%) portrays governments as major target of the actions of the group. (71%) verbal- type of the book haram as against government's (29%) reveals the propaganda approach of the group of always making counter-statements against government claim of achievement against the group.

Niger Delta Avengers (NDA) versus Government

The (57%) NDA token-type as against government's (43%) reveals the stance of the group of claiming responsibility for actions and to portray the nature of the group as fighters of a just cause. NDA (73%)sener-type as against government (27%) reveals of inner workings of the

psychology of the group of being boastful and unfazed by the amount of threat posed by government to its actions while (64%) phenomenon-type of government as against NDA's (36%) portrays government as worst hit in the emotional struggle. The (80%) doer-type of NDA as against government (20%) reveals that the group has the resources to carry out its actions while de-emphasizing government capacity to stop its actions. The aim is to achieve psychological edge over government and make government do their biddings. The (100%) sayer-type of NDA reveals how the group tries to verbally defend or justify the reason for its actions.

Identification of Social Actor's speech acts in the discourse

SPEECH ACTS	SOCIAL ACTORS			
	IPOB	NDA	BOKO HARAM	TOTAL (100%)
COMMISSIVES	01(6%)	09(53%)	07(41%)	17
EXPRESSIVES	03(21%)	06(43%)	05(36%)	14
DIRECTIVES	01(7%)	05(33%)	09(60%)	15
ASSERTIVE	54(54%)	07(7%)	39(39%)	100
DECLARATIVE	04(44.5%)	03(33.3%)	02(22.2%)	09

The percentage figures in the table above reveal a lot about frequency of use of a specific speech acts or language strategies of the social groups presented in this study. In the commissive speech acts category, NDA has the highest frequency of use of (53%) as against book haram's (41%) and IPOB (6%). This reveals Boko Haram and NDA approach of emphasizing capacity or commitment to carry out actions against IPOB stance of informing the public about their plight. The high frequency of NDA(43%) expressive use as against book haram's (36%) and IPOB(21%) reveals NDA and Boko Haram stance of boasting of their capacity to carry out to achieve psychological edge over government actions. The high frequency of use of directives by Boko Haram reveals their intension of seeking attention of the public to their actions and emphasizing capacity to do their threat. According to the percentage figures in the table above, the Boko Haram use these language strategies more often than other groups. The chart also reveals IPOB as the group that adopt assertive and informative strategies more than other groups. This is consistent with their intention to reveal, make claim and report inform the public of their plight. The table also reveals that the IPOB group has the highest frequency of use (44.5%) declaratives as against (33.3%) and (22.2%) of NDA and Boko Haram groups respectively. This reveals that IPOB stance of revealing the reality of their plight or government actions against them with aim of gaining more sympathizers.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this research, the researcher recommended that a study of this nature should be carried out to reflect other areas social life like gender discrimination, racism, political ethnicity and moral issues e.t.c. The researcher also recommended that a committee should be set-up to censor how language is used in the social media. The study reveals that Language as a shared semiotic system or medium of making sense of social realities can be manipulatively used by influential members of a group to perpetuate their self-interest even

when it does not serve the interest of the general group. It can perpetuate negative stereotyping and resentment against members of an external group. This can lead to anti-social practices like conflict and racism. In the same vein, we can also use language as an effective tool to construct a positive perception of people or a group which can cumulate into conflict resolution.

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APPENDICE

MATERIAL PROCESS

In same vein, the Niger Delta Avengers strike team 7(ACTOR-NDA) at same time 2200hours Thursday, May 5, 2016,(CIRCUMSTANCE) blew up Well D25(GOAL-GOVT)

The Niger delta avengers(ACTORS-NDA) are going to activate its elite unit the niger delta air force code name(GOAL-NDA) strike team 1.the international oil companies will be our first target, all oil facilities including their offshore platforms egbongafpso, ea field and their tank farms such as bonny tank farm, escravos tank farm and forcados tank farm. {COMMISSIVE}.

That every successive government (Actors-GOVT) have refused to used and reapply the proceeds(Goal-NDA) towards any development in the region since 1958 (Circumstance-NDA). If they refuse to heed to our advice

We (Actors-NDA) will result to sinking of two their mother vessel (Goal-GOVT) as an examples to others (Circumstance-GOVT).

We(Actors-NDA) are going to redirect and reactivateall our activities(Goal-NDA) if the government, oil companies and their services firms don't heed to these modest warnings of not carrying out any repairs works and suspend the buying of crude oil from our region as we await the right atmosphere that will engender genuine dialogue (CIRCUMSTANCE-GOVT) .{COMMISSIVE}

MENTAL PROCESS

But we(NDA-SENSER) want you public to know that despite the heavy present of military operatives our activities can't be stop and it just waste of fund and time to let the Nigeria military protect oil installations.(PHENOMENON-GOVT)

Those (NIGERIAN-SENSER) who believes taking sides with federal government to fight Niger Deltans is the best option. Avengers are here on ground, neither you nor the federal government can stop us (PHENOMENON-GOVT). If you don't stay clear and let us to carry out our activities we will bring the fight to your individual doorsteps. {COMMISSIVE}

Our major goal (SENSER-NDA) is to cripple the Nigerian economy(PHENOMENON-GOVT).

The Nigerian state(SENSER-GOVT) is seeing what is happening to chevron and shell(PHENOMENON-GOVT), the Nigerian elites(TARGET) will suffer

In same vein (SENSER-GOVT) know that chevron and shell is just the beginning (PHENOMENON-GOVT)

If the international oil companies and federal government of Nigerian (GOVT-SENSER) thinks the Niger delta avengers are criminal (PHENOMENON-NDA) be our first target, all oil facilities including their offshore platforms egbongafpso, ea field and their tank farms such as bonny tank farm, escravos tank farm and forcados tank farm. {COMMISSIVE}.

WE only want (SENSER-NDA) a genuine attitude and conducive atmosphere that will make us commit to any proposed dialogue and last peace talk (Phenomenon-NDA).

We (Senser-NDA) want the federal government to commit members states of the multinational Oil Corporations to commit independent mediators to this proposed dialogue (Phenomenon-GOVT);

We (Senser-NDA) believed that it is only such environment that will engender genuine dialogue (Phenomenon-NDA) that will be aimed at setting up a framework for achieving the short, medium and long term demands of the Niger delta to de-escalating this conflict and bring about a lasting peace.

Finally, if need be we(Senser-NDA) may review our earlier stance of not taking lives(Phenomenon-GOVT).

“ We(Senser-NDA) Want a peace with Honour not a Peace of our time”(Phenomenon-NDA)Thanks

VERBAL PROCESS

This is a clear warning (SAYER-NDA) to the all niger delta politicians, traditional rulers, community leaders, and the likes of tompolo to mind their business and leave the liberation of the niger delta people to the avengers (VERBIAGE-NDA).

We are using this medium to (SAYER-NDA) ask all Niger deltans to take the war to all oil installations in their various communities because this is your war(VERBIAGE-GOVT). (DIRECTIVE)

So all we(SAYER-NDA) are asking is let our people go (Niger Deltans).(VERBIAGE-NDA)

The high command of the Niger Delta Avengers (NDA) is using this medium(Sayer-NDA) to restate that there are no new items to put on the table for dialogue(Verbiage-GOVT)

The NDA high command (Sayer-NDA) is restating our commitment to attack the interest of oil corporation and international refineries operators that bring in vessels to the Niger delta territory to buy our oil(Verbiage-GOVT)

We (NDA-Sayers) are using this medium to warn and condemn the activities of all brands of social media agitators being peddled around by some politicians to promote their criminal ways in affairs of the Niger Delta (Verbiage-GOVT).

We(Sayer-NDA) are warning this government of President muhammaduBuhari, not to turn the essence of genuine peace talk and dialogue to political jamboree that is prevailing now where all manner of social media agitators and criminals have being sponsored by the job seeking corrupt political class to safe faces before the government of the day.(Verbaiage-GOVT).

IDENTIFICATION

The Nigerian state(TOKEN-GOVT) is like the biblical Egypt(VALUE-GOVT), the government of the federation(TOKEN-GOVT) is like the biblical pharaohs(VALUE-GOVT), President Buhari(TOKEN-GOVT) is like the egyptian pharaoh ramesses(VALUE-GOVT),

The Niger delta people(TOKEN-NDA) are like the Jews (VALUE-NDA)

While the Niger delta avengers(TOKEN-NDA) is Moses(VALUE-NDA).

(TOKEN-NDA) our struggle for the Niger Delta (VALUE-NDA) cannot be derailed on the basis of connivance by politician, traditional rulers, settled ex- agitators and criminals moving around to fill their pockets.

The issues of the Niger delta(TOKEN-NDA) are as old and as new as the days of Pa(VALUE). DappaBiriye, Major Jasper Isaac AdakaBoro, to Ken SaroWiwa and the government of President Musa Yar' Adua.