

## **QUALITATIVE METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH TO BOKO HARAM ‘Jihad’: THE IMPERATIVE OF INTERVIEW METHODS IN UNDERSTANDING THE NATURE OF PERIODIC ATTACKS IN NIGERIA**

**Dr. Mustaoha Bintube**

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**ABSTRACT:** *This research examined the nature of the Boko Haram periodic attacks in Nigeria with emphasis on the imperative of interview as a qualitative method. It establishes a contemporary understanding of the appropriateness of qualitative method in the investigation of Boko Haram periodic attacks as a social phenomenon in the North Eastern Nigeria. In the same vein, research methodology, in the recent past, has appeared to be a course that garners very little interest or appears somewhat confusing to most students in colleges and universities in the application of, and distinction between qualitative (subjectivist) and quantitative (positivist) methods. Analysis of the qualitative field data revealed that, on the average, about 50 people were affected by Boko Haram periodic attacks per week in the year 2013 and 70 people in the year 2014 up to 80 people per day in the months of November and December of 2012, 2013, 2014 and up to early 2015 with higher casualties in Borno and Yobe States and relatively lower numbers recorded in Adamawa, Taraba, Bauchi and Gombe States compare to the former. The design employed in this research was descriptive qualitative (subjective) research method with purposive sampling method while grounded theory and inductive thematic analysis were employed as methods of data analysis. 63 respondents were interviewed and their age category fell within the class interval range of twenty-five to sixty-five (25-65). Based on the analysis of the qualitative field data, major findings were discovered in this qualitative research by the author as stages and typologies of Boko Haram ‘jihadist’ periodic attacks in Nigeria. Thus, two major classifications of periodic attacks were identified as Geoinformalized ‘jihadist’ periodic attacks and Geoformalized ‘jihadist’ periodic attacks. Arising from the two classifications, six (6) major themes emerged as stages and typologies of periodic attacks: 1) the Geomechanistic-Talibanism ‘jihadist’ periodic attacks; 2) the Geoconservative-Yusuffiya ‘jihadist’ periodic attacks; 3) the Geolone-Ya’anawa ‘jihadist’ periodic attacks. Whereas in contrast to the Geoinformalized ‘jihadist’ periodic attacks, the Geoformalized ‘jihadist’ periodic attacks were categorized as follows: 4) The Geoindigenous mixed-clan ‘jihadist’ periodic attacks; 5) the Geomulti-tribal configured ‘jihadist’ periodic attacks and 6) the Georganistic-Transnational ‘jihadist’ periodic attacks. It is imperative to first of all understand the basics principles of qualitative (subjective) research; secondly is how qualitative research works, and thirdly is the appropriateness and application of this method in research design while investigating social phenomena, which was what this paper seeks to exemplify. Also, the paper discussed the relevance of qualitative methods in the study of Boko Haram ‘jihad’ by asking specific questions with the aim of achieving the broad objective that seeks to investigate the nature of Boko Haram’s periodic attacks in Nigeria from a qualitative research perspective.*

**KEYWORDS:** Boko Haram ‘Jihad’; Periodic Attacks/Interview as qualitative (subjective) Method/Interviewee (respondents)/Quantitative (positivist) Method.

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### **OBJECTIVE OF THE PAPER**

Qualitative (subjectivist) research method, from the view point of this paper, remains the pivot upon which social scientific investigations revolve and is one of the two dominant methods in social science as opposed to quantitative (positivist) method. In the social science domain, the community of scientists, Briggs (1986), Woods (2011) and Brooks (2005), noted, recognized and addressed qualitative method as the ‘subjectivist’ or ‘humanist’ method.

The objective of this research, therefore, focuses mainly on two major interrelated themes in social scientific research; first is the phenomenon of the study i.e. ‘Boko Haram “jihad” vis-a-vis periodic attacks in Nigeria, and second is the application of basics principles of interviews (the qualitative method) in enhancing the reader’s understanding of the study.

Similarly, the author presents cutting-edge research in the methodological approach to the study of Boko Haram, while providing a contemporary understanding of the appropriateness of scientific methods in the investigation of the Boko Haram attacks as a social phenomenon in the North Eastern geopolitical zone of Nigeria. In the same vein, research methodology, in the recent past, has appeared to be a course that seems of less interest or is somewhat confusing to most students in colleges and universities in the application of, and distinction between qualitative (subjectivist) and quantitative (positivist) methods.

The crux of the matter is that, most students, nowadays, are faced with difficulties while handling interviews and applying the qualitative (subjectivist) method in social scientific investigation: first is understanding the basics principles of qualitative (subjectivist) research; secondly is how this type of research works, and thirdly is the appropriateness and application of this method in their research design while investigating social phenomena, which is what this paper seeks to exemplify.

It is disheartening to note that, most Nigerian undergraduate students have developed negative learning attitudes towards research methods and hold the belief that methodological courses are designed only to prepare them for final year dissertation writing and are to be forgotten after graduation, in spite of their strength in constituting an integral part of the every day problem-solving in the social world of the scientist. To add further to the lackadaisical approach to methodological research, most academic textbooks on the subject, especially qualitative (subjectivist) research methods, appear either to be abstract or theoretical rather than practical and illustrative in demonstrating contemporary phenomena in the readers’ environment.

Perhaps, therefore, this paper would impact positively on the learning process, especially the appropriateness and strength of interview (qualitative i.e. subjectivist) method crucial for generating data in research aimed at investigating social phenomena like the Boko Haram periodic attacks. This paper is not only a valuable addition to the existing body of knowledge but also an aid to problem-solving for qualitative (subjectivist) investigators.

## **INTRODUCTION**

In this research, the author employed interview as a qualitative (subjective) research method of data collection while inductive thematic analysis (grounded theory) was utilized as a method of data analysis. Much work has been done on Grounded theory by Strauss (1987), Glaser et al

(1967) and Corbin (1990). Nonetheless, the following were carefully taken into account by the author as part of a critical methodological consideration in this thesis: research design; descriptive qualitative (subjectivist) research method, population of study, sample frames, data type and sources, sampling plan and sample size, sample selection procedure, method of data collection: interviews as method of data collection, interview schedule as instrument for data collection, validity and reliability of instrument; double check of instrument. Others are: assurance of confidentiality, use of research assistants, informed consent and ethical values consideration and field observations. Hertz (1995) and Aliyu (1984) in their works, considered these as crucial in qualitative research, while, Hubbell (2003), Web (1997) and Hyman (1954) reinforced this view point,

Qualitative (subjectivist) research method attempts to explore further and add to the understanding of 'Why' and 'How' in studying the phenomenon of the Boko Haram periodic attacks in Nigeria, as it portrays the apparent negative impact to societal existentialism in the immediate social milieu. A piece by Beverley Hancock (1998) posits that, qualitative (subjectivist) method provides researchers with an in-depth understanding of why the Boko Haram 'jihad'ists believe in unjustifiable killings and the destruction of vital infrastructure, thus sowing seeds of acrimony among people of different cultural backgrounds and religious persuasions who hitherto enjoyed harmonious inter-ethnic and inter-religious relationships.

Again, through qualitative (subjectivist) research one can understand and also explain why youths in Nigeria are easily persuaded to join the Boko Haram 'jihad' and subsequently attack their fellow human beings despite the fact that the phenomenon Boko Haram has negative socio-economic and political implications both nationally and internationally. This qualitative (subjectivist) research in a bid to investigate the 'Why' and 'How' of Boko Haram 'jihad' periodic attacks, has generated sufficient subjective data on Boko Haram serial killings, suicide missions, periodic bombings, high profile assassinations and collateral damage, among other things, as they relate to the nature of their attacks.

Moreover, this research aimed to develop adequate description, explanations and provide a summary of the elements of the nature of the Boko Haram attacks in Nigeria as a social phenomenon under investigation. Furthermore, the researcher developed questions which were linked to show a significant relationship with the formulated statement of the research problem.

### **THE RELEVANCE OF QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS IN THE STUDY OF BOKO HARAM 'JIHAD'**

Qualitative (subjectivist) research methods are of different kinds and their utilization in the field is largely determined by, one, the nature of the research problem and what the researcher seeks to investigate, and two, what the researcher actually intends to achieve about Boko Haram 'jihad' periodic attacks in Nigeria. Research objectives must be explicit while formulating both general and specifics objectives for the study (Charmaz, 1991).

Examples of qualitative methods are interviews are further classified into a tripod of structured, semi-structured and un-structured, and this classification sub-zoomed into face-to-face, brief survey, extensive survey, in-depth interviews, monologue, narrative, focus group discussion

(FGD), which also includes screening interviewees, phone and panel discussion, serial interviewees, lunch and stress interviewees among others. Other qualitative methods other than interviewees include observational methods, categorized as either participant or non-participant observation. There is also constant comparative analysis, phenomenological study, grounded theory, ethnography, victimology and/or victim survey (Sa'ad, 2008; Brown et al, 1985). Others are case study approach, historical Research, mixed research, among other qualitative research methods as noted by Woods (2011) and Brannen, (1988).

It is practically impossible for the researcher to study all these qualitative methods one after the other in this paper, however, for better understanding of qualitative methodological approach in the study of Boko Haram's periodic attacks in Nigeria, interview was selected with a few other aforementioned methods as suitable in showing their appropriateness in the study of the subject matter of this paper (Douglas, 1976, 1985).

Worthy of note in this paper on qualitative methodological study of the Boko Haram periodic attacks in Nigeria is that the demographic characteristics of the respondents were considered by the author as crucial, and so were identified and outlined in the subjective data generated in thematic form. Categories, themes and sub-themes were identified and further classified into major and minor categories; while emerging themes, discovered by way of coding, were identified as major and minor findings with a view to generating qualitative (subjective) data aimed at developing new concepts and theories on the nature of Boko Haram periodic attacks in Nigeria (Woods, 2011; Clarke, 2005 and Gibbs, 2007).

The themes that emerged were critically investigated through 'back-to-field data back up' with a view to analyzing specific aspects of the themes that emerged in relation to the topic that formed the findings of this paper (Woods, 2011; Bugday, 2015 and Bernard, 2015)

Grounded theory as qualitative method of data analysis, was utilized by the author in an attempt to discover themes, new concepts and theories on the nature of Boko Haram 'jihadist' attacks through inductive thematic analysis along the lines of respondent's/interviewee's background characteristics such as simple percentage distribution of interviewees by age, sex (gender) educational qualification, socio-economic background, income etc.

Again, in this thesis, the author sampled competent interviewees (respondents) with knowledge or experience on the subject matter of Boko Haram and their periodic attacks in Nigeria, and qualitative (subjective) data generated about their feelings and specific independent opinions relating to the nature of periodic attacks. The description of Boko Haram's periodic attacks generated qualitative data which were collected through direct encounter with the respondents on the basis of face-to-face interviews, focus group discussion (FGDs) group interviews and observations including non-verbal responses of the respondents (Woods, 2011; Mishler, 1986 and Bugday, 2015).

Data collected were analyzed in an attempt to develop concepts that would enable the researcher develop new theories to better assist broaden the reader's understanding of the nature of Boko Haram 'jihadists' and their periodic attacks in Nigeria (Bugday, 2015).

The qualitative approach employed in the study of Boko Haram through interview methods can be described as inductive method as against deductive method used in quantitative (positivist) approach that mostly employ well-structured ‘closed ended’ questionnaire and quantitative statistical packages such as chi-square, spearman’s raw regression etc for data analysis in an attempt to further make predictions on the nature of Boko Haram as a social phenomenon (Lee,1993; Erinoshio et al, 2005; Heron, 1981; Liberman, 1999 and Locke, 1989). The qualitative data collected through interviews employed in this paper was an intensive and time consuming exercise compare to quantitative method.

Against this backdrop, although interviews were described as the most time consuming exercise in qualitative research, it nevertheless generated sufficient data for analysis, as it required the use of a small but competent sampled population (Weiss, 1994). Moreover, Elliott-Johns (2004), Gage (1989) and Garman (1994), posit that qualitative sampling method, most times, is ‘purposive’ than ‘randomized’ and qualitative research is concerned with seeking and gathering information from specific groups and sub groups within the study population who have an insight or knowledge of the subject matter.

Woods (2011), Mishler, (1986) and Bugday (2015)in their separate writings, argued that qualitative (subjective) data gathered for this topic would serve as guide for the researcher to employ ‘Grounded Theory Qualitative Method’ for analysis with a view to discovering new concepts and theories on the nature of the Boko Haram attacks as a social phenomenon in Nigeria.

### **STATEMENT OF RESEARCH PROBLEM**

Statement of Research Problem is a set of consistent and logically composed statements surrounding the problem to be investigated, the statement must be precise, definite, and present concrete issues clearly portraying the subject of Boko Haram attacks as a social problem. Fundamental philosophical questions raised in the course of the research provide specific and researchable answers on ‘WHY’ and ‘HOW’ of Boko Haram as a social phenomenon ought to be studied as a focus of research (Ifah, 1998; Burke,1990; Aliyu, 2000; Campbell et al, 1963; Cassell, 1978 and Smah, 2008), The Boko Haram attacks have engaged the attention of the society in recent times and government has established a number of controls to try and curtail the sect’s excesses ranging from declarations of state of emergency, deployment of the military to affected areas, house-to-house raids as well as mounting of security check points at designated spots along major highways.

These controls, however, did not record any noticeable degrees of success as the Boko Haram attacks are gradually eroding and wiping out the age-old trust and confidence among Nigerians from different cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds, who have for so long lived in relative peace and harmony as a nation. The question then is why is the Boko Haram ‘jihad’ happening in Nigeria?

Boko Haram attacks have touched all spheres of life; towns and villages have literally been sacked and people uprooted from their homes and made destitute, as evident from the records showing the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Borno State relocated to Maiduguri, the state

capital, from about 20 Local Government Areas (LGAs) out of the 27 LGAs that make up the state. Families have lost loved ones, wives have become widows and children orphans after every Boko Haram attack; children are denied education as their schools are constantly targeted, attacked and destroyed. Worth asking is why Boko Haram attacks are target-specific? Policemen and stations have been rendered almost non-functional; with a loss in police crime statistics due to destructions of police facilities, as valuable records were lost and arms and ammunition carted away after most attacks; prisons have been attacked, bombed and inmates set free time and again. Why are the Boko Haram attacks periodic? Even the academia has felt the brunt of the group's senseless killing and destruction of property. One might then ask what calls for a Boko Haram 'jihad'?

The aforementioned question pointed out in the statement of problem though, relevant appears too general and broad to be comprehensively and qualitatively investigated for the purposes of this research, and in an attempt to do so the researcher may run into difficulties in handling qualitative (subjective) data sorting, especially during data analysis. Therefore, the questions were collapsed into specifics and special emphasis given to those specific questions that relate to Boko Haram's periodic attacks in Nigeria. (Bogday et al, 1975; Bruner, 1996 and Cleary, 2005)

To this end, all of the above questions are worth asking as they relate to the Boko Haram 'jihad' and their periodic attacks. Nevertheless, since the focus of this paper is on the "qualitative methodological approach to the study of Boko Haram 'jihad': the imperative of interview methods in understanding the nature of Boko Haram periodic attacks in Nigeria", the researcher, therefore, concentrated on these specific questions that relates the nature of Boko Haram Periodic attacks and then presented a holistic description of all elements of the phenomenon of Boko Haram periodic attacks in Nigeria.

To further ensure that significant elements of the phenomena of the nature of Boko Haram periodic attacks in Nigeria were comprehensively addressed in a qualitative manner, the questions were then reduced in to two (2) specific ones.

**Research Questions:** What is the nature of Boko Haram attacks? How appropriate is the use of qualitative method in the study of Boko Haram 'jihad'?

An attempt to answer these questions required the establishment of the following, which constitutes the methodological significance of the research.

**The Broad Objective of the Research;** is to investigate the nature of Boko Haram's periodic attacks in Nigeria from a qualitative research perspective, while the **Specific Objectives of the Research;** is to examine the nature of Boko Haram's periodic attacks in Nigeria and investigate the appropriateness of qualitative methods in the study of Boko Haram periodic attacks.

**Methodology (Research Design): Descriptive Qualitative Research Method;** The design has the following critical methodological elements: type of research; descriptive, type of method; qualitative method, type of study; descriptive qualitative research method, study population were residents of the most affected areas, the informal control mechanism comprised of the cleric: ulamas, church leaders and traditional rulers comprising ward, village and district heads.

Others were members of the Joint Security Task Force (JTF) deployed to restore peace in Borno State, affected police and prison formation officials, the general public and Boko Haram sympathizers. Method of data collection was interview and while structuring the interview schedule the researcher took note of the format, content, wording, length, logical order flow, avoidance of double-barrel and/or double negative and ambiguous questions. (Spradley, 1979; Tagg, 1985; Ifah, 1998; Smah 2008 and Aliyu, 2000)

The researcher had established contact persons (personnel), sources of data; textual secondary data and interviews, reliability of data; well-framed semi-structured and un-structured interviewee schedule, double-checked and pre-tested, reliability and validity of the sources of data and type of data. The sampling method employed in this research was purposive sampling; proper sampling is necessary and is a guide in qualitative research to ensure representativeness. Ifah (1998), Smah (2008) and Aliyu (2000) noted that it is practically impossible to study the entire population established for the study, hence, the need to sample those that are competent from the population to answer the research questions. Pre-test and pilot study was emphasized to attain comprehension of questions composed to give a qualitative description of Boko Haram's periodic attacks in Nigeria.

Data collected on the phenomenon were critically analyzed through inductive thematic analysis and ethical value, confidentiality and informed consent were given serious attention in this study. The researcher sought the co-operation of the interviewee (respondents) as their participation was sine-qua-non to achieving the research objective. Nevertheless, they were also informed that all information provided would be kept strictly confidential and used for academic purposes only and while contributing to the existing body of knowledge.

Total number of interviewees (respondents) sampled for the Study of Boko Haram's periodic attacks in Nigeria, were Sixty-three (63) respondents and they were asked series of questions framed in the interview schedule designed for this research. Among other research questions were: Why Boko Haram 'jihad' in Nigeria? Why are Boko Haram attacks periodic? What is the nature of Boko Haram attacks? How appropriate is the use of qualitative (subjectivist) method for the study of Boko Haram 'jihad'? What are the implications of the Boko Haram 'jihad'? In attempting to answer these questions, the researcher required the establishment of crucial methodological components, and the co-operation of the interviewees is believed to have arisen from their perception that the interview would help to further promote their cause and make them heard by those in government.

#### **DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INTERVIEWEE (RESPONDENTS)**

The researcher conducted oral face-to-face interviews with some suspected pre-'jihad' Boko Haram members and data obtained was analyzed and interpreted finding and outcomes were presented in thematic form. Also, the researcher had interviewed competent respondents who have background knowledge of the subject matter and activities of the Boko Haram in Nigeria. Among the sixty-three (63) respondents interviewed, fifty-nine (59) were male; nineteen (19) of them married with an average of four (4) children per family while forty (40) were single. Five (4) among them were females and among the females only one (1) was married while three (3) were divorcees.

The age category of the sixty-three (63) interviewees fell within the class interval range of twenty-five to sixty-five (25-65). Only thirty seven (37) out of the sixty-three (63) members interviewed had an average fixed income of less than 30,000 Naira a month. Nineteen (19) of them had attained a level of literacy in western education. Thirteen (13) were deserters, four (4) were drop-outs. Twenty-eight (27) of them were from the neighbouring countries of Chad, Niger and Cameroun.

The respondents were sampled by purposive sampling method and their responses were analyzed by inductive thematic analyses integrated with constant comparative qualitative text review method of data analysis and the findings were presented accordingly. Again the researcher tried as much as possible to ensure that those sampled were representative of the study population.

**Scope:** the scope of the study needed to be clearly stated i.e. what area was covered by the researcher, because the activities of Boko Haram and their subsequent periodic attacks, as witnessed in recent times, have expanded beyond the north eastern states of Nigeria. However, this research considered Borno State as one of the states in the north eastern part of Nigeria where the most competent subject of analysis, the study population, is based and Boko Haram also draws its origin there. However, the Boko Haram's periodic attacks has proliferated and is spreading to a significant number of neighbouring states from its original stronghold in Maiduguri, the Borno State capital. Therefore, the author focused attention on it and presented an overview of places such as Yobe, Bauchi, Gombe, Adamawa, Taraba, Kano, Niger, Kaduna, and Plateau States of the north as well as Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory of the country. To cover all the other states mentioned above by the researcher had its limitations regarding data sorting and might give only a vague presentation afterwards, which could render the findings erroneous in the end.

### **THE RELEVANCE OF INTERVIEW AS QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHOD IN THE STUDY OF BOKO HARAM 'JIHAD'**

The basics of the interview have been emphasized in this paper as the researcher directed discussants and collected qualitative (subjective) data while in the field, listened to the interviewees (respondents), and recorded both verbal and non-verbal responses in the course of this research. Qualitative skills were employed at each stage of the interview situation to elicit data relevant to the subject matter, while bearing in mind the research objectives and questions that were specific and directed at the phenomenon of Boko Haram and its periodic attacks in Nigeria.

Ifah (1998), Smah (2008), and Aliyu (2000) posit that qualitative method is essentially a part of every day life as society acts subconsciously using this method through interaction. For example, calls are made every day and probably on 2015 Nigerian Presidential general election day people would want to ascertain security situations to ensure the safety or otherwise of the polling units officials against Boko Haram periodic attacks. The question could be, "Kindly tell us what is happening at Polling Unit A?" This question is open-ended and general as opposed to closed-ended specific ones. The respondent at Polling Unit A to whom such question was directed may give a situation report but his starting point can hardly be determined as he may start from the general atmosphere, the general behaviour of the voters and supporters of the various political parties at the voting centre, the nature of observation by law enforcement agents to ensure and maintain law

and order and the pattern of the queue whether classified according to gender etc. He may give a true situation report provided it is objective as the issues surrounding polling units are many.

The starting point has some degree of comfort-response, not minding where he starts giving his situation report, as any of the aforementioned issues would be perfect starting points as long as his responses are not closed as corollary. He cannot escape the fact that expected responses must be tied down to and generated from memory of events from within Polling Unit 'A'. The question asked and the kind of responses by the respondent is what is known as qualitative (subjective) data.

Similarly, what if one needs to know the safety of the polling clerks against the threat of Boko Haram periodic attacks. Closed-ended specific questions should be asked, which may come as a derivative of the 'bigger picture', open-ended as against closed-ended specifics. For instance, "is there intimidation of the electoral officers at Polling Unit A?" This one is specific and directed at electoral officer and no escape response on either clerical officers or preceding officer of Unit A. All of these questions and responses are bound to happen during social interaction but go unnoticed and recognised as qualitative scientific method due largely to their informality and accidental application. The deliberate formal applications of its basics principles define it as scientific method.

Qualitative research method is a 'must learn' subject especially for those undertaking social scientific research in the field of social sciences and humanities who mainly deal with 'social phenomenon' i.e. social situations, happenings or events occurring naturally in every day lives, as they constitute a researcher's subject of investigation. However, in the field, the interviewee was not aware of the views held by the researcher on Boko Haram's attacks in Nigeria, but was in the picture of the research situation and held the belief that the researcher was in the field to study the subject of Boko Haram in general. This research generated sufficient qualitative (subjective) data from the interviewee (respondents) on the phenomenon of Boko Haram in Nigeria (Gordon, 1987; Maxwell, 1996).

### **BOKO HARAM 'JIHAD': EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS OF QUALITATIVE DATA ON PERIODIC ATTACKS IN NIGERIA**

Residents of the most affected areas interviewed confirmed that the Boko Haram 'jihadists' on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2012, carried out an attack killing two people and injuring five at Shehu's Palace Gate towards Budum mini Market called Mairari Gate of the Palace in Maiduguri. Shortly after that, one eye witness added that on 14<sup>th</sup> of January 2014:

*"a twin bomb planted by the 'jihadists' at Post Office Roundabout killed a number of traders, passersby, and public servants, among them was Abubakar Alhaji Talba of Shehuri North Kofa Biyu who also died during the incident."*

Similarly, on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2012, another bomb explosion occurred at This Day Newspaper offices in Abuja and Kaduna State. A total of three people were killed, twenty-five others injured and several properties destroyed. Again on Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2012, the Boko Haram masterminded a bomb explosion during a church service in Bayero University, Kano State which killed seventeen people including two lecturers.

The Boko Haram sect in one of their numerous attacks clashed with the Nigerian Army from the Race Battalion, Nguru in Yobe State and 21 Armoured Brigade in Maiduguri, Borno State during which an interviewee (respondent) noted that: “the ‘jihadists’ and military had suffered severe injuries and casualties after the attack.”

In the same vein, interviewees (respondents) further confirmed during one of the semi-structured interviews, consisting of both open and closed-ended questions aimed at eliciting specific and elaborate data, that the group had lunched a similar attack on Dapchi Police Station, Babangida Police Station, Bursari Police Station, Gaidam Police Station and Kannama Police Station all in Yobe State. Buildings were destroyed and vehicles parked in the premises were burnt to ashes. The group carted away many arms and ammunition and using a snatched police van from Gaidam Police Station, overran Kannama Police Station.

Interview or qualitative (subjective) method as it is called, is an alternative way of getting data rather than using the quantitative method of asking respondents to read through a questionnaire and enter their own responses on the topic which has a relatively low return rate and the researcher runs the risk of being attacked on return to retrieved the instrument (Kuhn, 1970; Blumer, 1969; Kvale, 1996; Corbin et al, 2003).

For this obvious reason, the researcher opted for qualitative (subjectivist) research method that employed interview as an appropriate method of collection of data from the interviewee (respondent). This ensured free interaction between the researcher and the interviewee (respondents) as several sets of questions were asked on Boko Haram and their periodic attacks in Nigeria. 48% of the interviewees (respondents), living in the areas mostly affected, noted that the Boko Haram struck in Damaturu, the capital of Yobe State where one police officer was killed and also carried out attacks in Bama and Gwoza Local Government Areas of Borno State destroying properties and vehicles. While conversing with an interviewee, the researcher revealed that the purpose of the interview was to gather sufficient information from the interviewee on the Boko Haram sect and its periodic attacks in Nigeria.

There is a saying that when carrying out an interview using the qualitative (subjective) method, one should "speak with your ears". In other words, when the researcher asked questions pertaining to the sect's periodic attacks it was only to get honest responses with a view to validating or falsifying what was already known on the subject matter of the investigation. During an interview conducted with fifteen (15) suspected Boko Haram ‘jihadists’ who lived at Shuwari of Bolori Ward, Wulari and Popommari Wards, all in Maiduguri the Borno State Capital, one of those interviewed said:

*“Yusuf said it long before now that the law enforcement were targeting to eliminate us. And that, we were made to understood by Yusuf during several of his preaching, and the same thing happened as you see today”.*

The interviewee (respondents) opinion may not necessarily be in tandem with the researcher's view point, hence the same questions were asked in different ways to double check their responses during previous interview sessions held. Qualitative data from interviewee (respondents)

confirmed that on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2011, the sect masterminded a massive bomb explosion at the United Nations building in Abuja which claimed many lives and destroyed several properties. On Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2011, the government ordered and demolished the house of Baba Fugu (a brother-in-law to late Yusuf the founding leader of Boko Haram) and subsequently the Boko Haram ‘jihadist’ trailed and killed Baba Fugu’s first son, Baba Kura.

Destruction of lives and properties continued into the Year 2012 as the Boko Haram group on Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2012 attacked Kawarmaila in Maiduguri and killed eight people; Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2012, the group attacked the members of the JTF on patrol at Budum Market and killed thirteen officers. The clash with JTF members according to Vanguard News (2010) Wakil, K. (2011) also led to the destruction of the Chief Imam of Borno’s house and the cars parked in the premises were burnt. A mobile policeman, Sergeant Sunday Badang, a bomb disposal expert, was killed at the Sultan Bello Mosque in Kaduna on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2012 while trying to detonate a bomb planted in a polythene bag. The impact of the blast damaged part of a pedestrian bridge nearby. Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2012, twenty men suspected to be members of the Boko Haram group attacked a Kogi Prison in Koton Karfe at about 7pm, broke down the entrance gate into the prison and freed an unspecified number of inmates. Two people were killed in the attack as some parts of the prison were bombed.

On Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2012, the ‘jihadist’ group attacked the home of Inspector General of Police (IG), killing some police officers and all the vehicles and motorcycles parked in the premises were destroyed. While on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2012, four explosives planted simultaneously in various parts of Gombe the capital of Gombe State exploded killing four people. Again on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2012, the Boko Haram burnt down Budum Primary School in Maiduguri; a total number of four classrooms and a store filled with books and instructional materials were destroyed in the aftermath of the attack. The Boko Haram also attacked the police headquarters in Adamawa State and Abba Ganaram Primary School in Maiduguri on Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2012. A total of twenty classrooms, five offices and a number of stores were destroyed in the school.

On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> of July 2009, the Boko Haram launched an attack on three police stations namely; Lamisula, Gamboru and Gwange Wards in Maiduguri Metropolis, destroying buildings and properties including vehicles parked in their premises. That same day, the ‘‘jihadists’ also launched attacks on the Maiduguri New Prison and Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) office leaving buildings and properties damaged beyond repair and burning vehicles parked in the premises Usman, Y.B (2010) Vanguard (2011).

In another instance, on Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2012, the group attacked the convoy of the Taraba State Commissioner of Police killing seven people and injuring five. The group carried out simultaneous bomb attacks on a number of places including the Assistant Inspector General (AIG) of Police’s office, Kano Command, State Security Service (SSS) office, Immigration office and Yenakwa Police Station in Kano State. A total of two hundred and fifteen people were killed, several left injured and properties worth millions of Naira destroyed in these attacks”. In a similar fashion on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2012, the insurgent group attacked and killed one youth corps

member in a bomb blast at Kawarmaila, and in a reprisal attack, over 30 thirty houses suspected to belong to Boko Haram members were burnt by the JTF.

Similarly, Trow (1957) pointed out that where the researcher's knowledge was sketchy, open-ended questions could be employed. When one interviewee (respondent) noted that the Boko Haram attacks in Nigeria was as a result of injustice, the researcher probed further to know if it was, economic injustice or bad governance associated with injustice, or social and political injustice that entrenched poverty. This was in an attempt to provide a perspective to the concept of injustice as stated by the interviewee/respondent. On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2010, the group attacked and killed Police Corporal Mohammed Yahaya of Gwange Divisional Police Station at Ngomari Custom Bus Stop by 8:30pm while he was on duty at the residence of retired Commissioner of Police Isa Kaita.

In the same vein, qualitative (subjective) data obtained in the field during interviews confirmed that the group carried out a similar attack on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2010, on the civilian population and another attack on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2010 at about 7:30pm, the Boko Haram attacked and killed a mobile police sergeant, Danbanjo at his residence in Bullumkuttu Abuja in Maiduguri, while on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2010, the sect attacked Corporal Masama of Bulabulin Divisional Police Station on duty at a microfinance bank near Maiduguri Monday Market, and his AK47 rifle was taken away. In a similar development, interviewees (respondents) confirmed an attack on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2010, at Bullumkuttu Divisional Police Station, where Inspector Shettima Mustapha and Corporal Ahamed were killed and five AK47 rifles carted away.

The researcher would ask open-ended questions such as asking the interviewee (respondent) to explain further if it was the nature of bad governance that had entrenched injustice into political institutions to create poverty which as a result those who felt deprived revolted and led to the present day precarious security challenges of the Boko Haram attacks? The researcher would then follow up with more specific closed-ended questions about what gave rise to the actual phenomenon of Boko Haram. Thirty-six respondents interviewed at Shehuri North and Jajiri Wards in Maiduguri, revealed that "we had no meaningful jobs and that was why we joined the Yusuf campaign of Boko Haram". One of the respondents who spoke on behalf of the others said:

*"Yusuf See reason in our existence as human beings, we were neglected by those in government. Yusuf has been so nice and helpful to us when in need. He attended our ceremonies and gave us tokens to meet our family needs. We believed in him and what he told us about the present day situation as a leader, may his departed soul rest in peace. He was killed simply because the government don't want to see Yusuf helping us. Why?"*

The rich people, another added:

*"...only help themselves and their families. They extended the same privileges that should be enjoyed by all to their relations and children. These are some of the opportunities given to them by the Western school. In fact, there is no justice under such system of governance and the system needs to be changed for the better."*

While granting audience to journalists on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2009 Mallam Mohammed Yusuf said:

*“Democracy and the current system of education, which breeds injustice and widened social inequality must be changed otherwise this war, that is yet to start will continue for a long time”*

It is imperative to note here that interview in social scientific research while employing qualitative (subjectivist) methods according to Song et al (1995), and Wolcott (1990) is classified in a Tripodal continuum of structured, semi-structured and un-structured and these three types of interview were employed at different stages of the research under different conditions and situations as deemed fit. In another development, the qualitative data confirmed that on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2012, the Joint Task Force, (JTF) attacked and killed two suspected Boko Haram members who went into Gwange Ward of Maiduguri to attend the wedding of one of their members, five other people were injured. On Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2012, Boko Haram suicide bombers attacked three churches at Alkaleri in Bauchi killing twelve people and injuring twenty-seven others.

The group struck again on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2012, attacking 4 shops which they burnt at Lawan Bukar junction in Maiduguri. On Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2012, the whole of Shehuri North in Maiduguri was deserted by the residents who had sought refuge in other parts of the town when Boko Haram and the JTF clashed. Both sides recorded casualties and a lot of cars and a number of houses were burnt during the clash.

Similarly, interviewees (respondents) further noted that, between 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of July 2009 there were severe clashes when the Boko Haram ‘jihadist’ group attacked law enforcement agents in Maiduguri the Borno State capital in a declaration of “the D-day for ‘jihad’” and subsequent reprisal attacks by the government to demolish their stronghold called *Markas*. The field research confirmed that, about 1,500 people were killed and the Boko Haram stronghold with about 300 motorcycles, 80 cars and valuable goods belonging to members of the sect were destroyed. Similarly, interviewee further confirmed that, on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2009 there were reprisal attacks by the Boko Haram at the State Low Cost Housing Estate in Maiduguri.

However, in reassuring the citizens, the Commander of the then Operation Flush reiterated:

*“We have taken over their enclave, they are on the run and we are going after them. The casualties include the police, soldiers, prison officials and civilians. The Headquarters of the group has been taken over by the security. In an effort to bring back normalcy, government officials, private business men and women, market men and women in various market places across the state are hereby advised to resume their normal businesses. All those internally displaced who left their houses and fled to take refuge in army barracks and elsewhere are also advised to return to their homes as normalcy has returned”*

In the cause of the field work, the researcher had composed and asked the respondents (interviewees) a number of open-ended questions linked to the research questions, bearing in mind the general and specific research objective with a view to solving the problem formulated in the ‘statement of research problem’ which calls for the study in the first instance.

Following this, on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2012, the group launched an attack in Potiskum, Yobe State killing sixty people and leaving one hundred injured, and eighteen cars and about one hundred and sixty-five cattle were burnt during the attack. On the same day (Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2012), the men of State Security Service (SSS), Kano Command impounded thirty-five drums of bomb-making chemicals in Kano from a suspected supplier to the Boko Haram. Most open-ended questions asked during the interview, were an off-shoot of the main topic (Qualitative Methodological Approach to the Study of Boko Haram 'jihad': the Imperative of Interview Method in understanding Boko Haram Periodic attacks in Nigeria).

From the open-ended questions asked on serial killings of the civilian population by the Boko Haram 'jihadist' group, the outcome of the data collected in the field indicated that, the violence spread from Borno to Yobe, Bauchi, Gombe, Adamawa, Taraba and Kano States where more casualties were recorded, but the military conducted what in military parlance is called a 'Show of Force' in Borno, Bauchi, Kano, Katsina and Yobe States assuring the civilian populace of their preparedness to curtail the activities of the Boko Haram. The qualitative data further confirmed that, the military action, which had been on for two days, finally yielded fruit for the military as soldiers moved into the 'jihadist' leader Yusuf stronghold 'Markas' in Maiduguri where they engaged members of the group in heavy gunfire Andrew et al, (2012) Anthonio G. (2007) Auwal M. (2008)

The field investigation confirmed heavy military action in the enclave, though the Boko Haram 'jihadist' group were confirmed to be fully armed and even inflicted injuries on some of the troops, killing a few in the process. The 'jihadist's' hideout was eventually taken over by soldiers and Mohammed Yusuf's house and other buildings in the premises were demolished in an operation that lasted over eight hours. The demolition was supervised by the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Armoured Division of the Nigerian Army, Jos in order to ascertain maximum security in the state. The GOC also directed the army to be vigilant and ensure that surviving 'jihadists' were tracked down and brought to justice. The attack on the stronghold resulted in heavy casualties on the side of the Boko Haram. Though, the military had taken control of the 'jihadist's' headquarters, fleeing members of the group still set ablaze the Makera Police Station in the suburb of Maiduguri few miles to the Maiduguri Monday Market.

Consequently, the researcher could not have concluded the interview in the field without taking into cognizance the general feeling of the interviewees (respondents) as it relates to their socio-economic and political well being, and how they were affected by the periodic attacks by the 'jihadist', with the aim of establishing a link between their response and the Boko Haram attacks themselves.

Series of open-ended questions were composed and asked by the researcher during the interviews and the questions were effectively covered while asking interviewees (respondents) who lived within the study area what they believed to be the factors responsible for Boko Haram periodic attacks in Nigeria.

It was revealed that, ignorance and lack of proper orientation was another powerful root cause of the Boko Haram menace. The first set of Boko Haram 'jihadists', they argued, were a group of

people who were not privileged to have obtained Western education or misunderstood what constituted authority was all about; neither did they have the opportunity to feel the impact of the government in any way beneficial to their existence. These set of people, the respondents noted, did not know the strength of government, they were ignorant of what the government was capable of doing in defence of keeping Nigeria's sovereignty as a nation.

The Boko Haram 'jihadists' employed sporadic attacks and had actually fought the government in July 1999 in Borno State when they declared war and established strongholds and later attempted to extend same to other areas beyond Borno, as they targeted some civilian populace in their co-ordinated 'jihad' attacks and serial killings. All these were borne out of ignorance. Subsequently, the actions of the Boko Haram on people were noticed by the politicians who hijacked the group for use as instruments of political re-engineering and intimidation. Today, Boko Haram, they claimed, is 'many in one'. On the effects of Boko Haram activities, the response percentage distribution suggested that the modes are in the same category. The largest percentage differences in the distribution were found in the categories of gender male and female for the modal class.

However, a higher percentage of the respondents were recorded with 89.4 % male and 72.6% female who agreed that Boko Haram activities had severe negative effects on the structure of the society, especially on political institutions, social wellbeing and psyche, economic institutions and national prestige. Consequently, there are techniques employed in conducting an interview; it requires specialised skills by the researcher. In this paper, the researcher covered most of the basics that would add value in understanding the basic imperatives of using the interviewee as a qualitative method of understanding of Boko Haram 'jihad'. The Boko Haram on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2012, attacked a prison in Banki Town of Borno State, killing two and leaving several others wounded; an unspecified number of inmates were freed in the process.

Interview is generally an approach a researcher employs to elicit qualitative (subjective) data from targeted interviewee (respondents) concerning the phenomenon being investigated in this research, the Boko Haram, as the researcher accorded the subject matter of study a great deal of qualitative methodological and ethical considerations (Mostyn, 1985; Moustakas, 1994; Patton, 1989). The essence of interview as qualitative (subjectivist) method in social scientific research can not be overemphasized. The interview further revealed that on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2010 another incident was recorded when the 'jihadist' group attacked Usman Saidu Misali, an instructor at the School of Nursing and Midwifery, in Maiduguri". He was killed at Dala Alamdari beside Bullumkuttu Abuja at about 10.28pm. On Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2012, the group also attacked Christ Chosen Church, Rukuba in Jos, Plateau State killing two people and injuring forty-five others. There was also a fierce gun battle at a church in Biu Local Government Area of Borno State where four people were killed. Similarly, on Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2012, there was bomb blast in three churches in Kaduna, two in Zaria town: ECWA Good News Church in Wusasa, Christ the King Catholic Cathedral, Sabongari and Sharan Pentecostal Church in Kaduna town. A total of eighty (80) people were killed in these attacks Wale, D. (2007) Ayegba I., (2011) Ayuba R. (2010)

On Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2012, the United States (US) declared Abubakar Shakkau, Abubakar Kamar Adam and Khalid Al-Bornowi terrorists but stopped short of putting the group as a whole

on the terrorist list. Equally, Habib-Bama, mastermind of the Madalla church, UN House and Louis-Edet Police Force Headquarters bomb blasts was captured in Damaturu market of Yobe State. During an exchange of gunfire he was shot on the leg and died on the evening of the same day. Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2012, forty armed Boko Haram members attacked Damaturu Prison in Yobe State, killing four prison warders and one civilian. Barely twenty four (24) hours after, on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2012, the group attacked and detonated a bomb at Goron Dutse Police Station also in Yobe State.

Again on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2012, the sect masterminded a bomb explosion at Bannex Plaza, Aminu Kano Crescent in Wuse II Abuja. Although there were no casualties, two people were injured and they succeeded in instilling fear in the people doing business in the area as a number of cars crashed into each other out of sheer panic. On the same day, nine construction workers were slaughtered at Bolori Ward of Maiduguri by people suspected to be members of the Boko Haram 'jihadist' group. On Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2012, Boko Haram suicide bombers targeted the Shehu of Borno, Shehu Kyari Abubakar Umar Garbai and the Deputy Governor of Borno State, Zanna Umar immediately after Friday prayers. The JTF confirmed fifteen people dead at Maiduguri Central Mosque following the attack.

The importance of qualitative methods in the study of Boko Haram attacks cannot be over emphasized. This is because methods form the epistemological foundation of social scientific investigation as exemplified by this paper. Methodology remains the pivot upon which scientific study rotates. Method, according to Edwards (1990) and Ellen, (1984), is considered in the social domain of researchers as prerequisites for phenomenological investigation as this paper seeks to buttress.

Essentially, methods help researchers explore and discover new concepts for developing theories on Boko Haram 'jihad' and their periodic attacks in Nigeria (Charmaz, 2006; Goulding, 2002; Thomas et al. 2006; Glaser et al, 1994). This research therefore, presents the Boko Haram periodic attacks as a subject of investigation while methodological issues arising from interviewee as qualitative methods was carefully employed to enhance the reader's understanding of qualitative research.

Consequently, this approach brings to the fore interview as qualitative method of eliciting qualitative/subjective data as significant methodological consideration and focus of this research. Although, there are a number of methods and approaches in social scientific investigation and the approaches can be classified under two major themes namely: 'Qualitative' and 'Quantitative' research methods (Erinosho, 2008; Blauner, 1987; Cotter et al, 1982; Davis, 1984; Dey, 1993; Glaser et al, 1967).

However, this research focus on the qualitative (subjectivist) method employed interviewee as method of data collection and the interviewee (respondent) in the field confirmed that on Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> August at about 10pm, the group attacked and killed Bulama Mustapha (Ward Head) of Jajiri Ummarari Ngarannam for identifying and pointing out community members who belonged to the sect to police during a house-to-house search after the 2009 'jihad'. In a similar fashion on the same day, the Boko Haram 'jihadist' group attacked and killed Bulama Hassan (Ward Head) of

Bulabulin Alajiri in front of his House at about 8.30pm. Sequel to these incessant attacks by the Boko Haram, the government on Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2010 deployed 95 soldiers from the 231 Battalion and 331 Artillery Regiment in Biu Local Government Area, ordering the withdrawal of police patrol.

In the same vein, the Boko Haram sect struck again on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2010 and killed one Lawan Modu Kagu, the Ward Head of Karari Ward in Maiduguri at about 7:30pm. Baba, G.S (2009) further noted that, Two other people injured during the attack were taken to University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital. On the same day, in another instance, the Boko Haram attacked and killed three policemen at Shehuri North-Kawarla Maila at about 9.50pm, and left another person injured. They also attacked retired ASP Zanna Kyari in Bama Local Government Area. He was killed in front of his house in Bama as he returned from the mosque at about 10.00pm.

### **CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING METHODS: THE RELEVANCE OF MODIFICATION IN THE STUDY OF BOKO HARAM PERIODIC ATTACKS**

The Boko Haram periodic attacks as a social phenomenon is considered as a subject for sociological investigation, the method suitable for this study is qualitative (subjectivist) methods through interview. However, that does not in any way limit the use of quantitative (positivist) method for social scientific investigation as noted by Briggs, (1986), Woods (2011) and Brooks (2005). Some argue that quantitative (positivist) data on Boko Haram periodic attacks in Nigeria is considered to be easier to analyse and more 'reliable' than qualitative. Others hold the view point that qualitative data on the 'jihadists' periodic attacks is less structured, more difficult to analyze but the results are as valid as those in quantitative research.

Similarly, qualitative data may help to explain some very difficult questions or issues such as Boko Haram 'jihad' and the nature of their periodic attacks in Nigeria. Martin Woods (2011) Social science, unlike the natural science deals with natural phenomenon and is an active employer of quantitative methods in the study of natural phenomenon. Chemistry and physics, for example, deal mainly with matter as their subject of investigation. Controversy surrounding the two methods noted that the subject matter of the natural science rests on matter which is made up of elements and elements are made from combinations of atoms on larger scale defined as the smallest and indivisible particles of an element which was configured with properties such as neutrons, protons and electrons cannot be qualitatively interviewed, hence, the use of quantitative method such as laboratory experiment rather than qualitative method based on observation (Erinosho, 2002; Goldstein, 1995; Herod, 1993; Marshall et al, 1989 and McCracken, 1988).

Likewise, in social sciences, dealing with human being responses can be measured qualitatively (subjectivist) rather than quantitatively (positivist). The method suitable for the study of matter or an atom is quantitative (positivist) rather than qualitative (subjectivist). The two methods differ primarily in their analytical objectives; the type of questions they pose; the type of data collection instruments they use; the forms of data they produce and the degree of flexibility built into the study design (Hancock, 1998; Allan, 2003; Glaser et al 2003, 2005; Sabshin, 1964).

The debate is all about philosophical (epistemological) problems on how, for instance, Boko Haram 'jihad' periodic attacks can be known and fully understood as on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2010, the group attacked a block-making house and killed two people, a block fabricator, Idrissa and his brother, and left another two injured. The group had also on the same day attacked and killed one Alhaji Modu, a trader in Kaleri Maiduguri who was mistaken for a different target. Their plan was actually to kill the District Head of Kaleri.

The 'jihadist' group attacked Bauchi Prison on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2010 and freed more than 700 inmates. During the incident, six police officers and eight civilians were killed, and most parts of the prison were destroyed. Shortly after this on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2010, the group bombed the Divisional Police Headquarters at Old Maiduguri at about 9pm. One person was killed while two others were injured. The police station was completely razed down in the attack. On Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2010, barely two days after the Bauchi Prison break, the sect attacked and killed a soldier at the Post-Office Roundabout in the heart of the capital city in Maiduguri. In the same vein, on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2010, the Boko Haram killed Ba'Abdu, a kola nut seller in a brazen day light attack. He was killed around 1.00pm while sitting in front of the mosque during an attack on the Ward Head Bulama at Gwaidamgari behind Railway Terminus Quarters in Old Maiduguri. A grain seller nearby, Abba Kale, was injured during the attack.

The two methods, qualitative (subjectivist) and quantitative (positivist) differ significantly in their respective subject matters of investigation according to Morse (1994). However, in this paper, Boko Haram represents a 'social phenomenon' while the example given in the study of matter characterises it as 'natural phenomenon'. Qualitative (subjective) method was propounded by the humanists or subjectivists (as it is called) and pioneered by scholars such as Edmund Husserl, Harold Gafinkel, Martin Edger, and George Harberd Mead who argued against the 'unity of scientific method.' They further argued that, the natural science method which is 'quantitative (positivist) if it must be employed in the social scientific investigation must be modified in its application to cover explanation and description of sufficient elements of the social phenomenon. According to the humanist quantitative (positivist) method has to be modified to adequately answer substantial elements of the 'jihadist' attacks since qualitative method has the strength to do so.

Therefore, Boko Haram can be studied in either methodological direction, be it qualitative (subjectivist) or quantitative (positivist) provided quantitative (positivist) method is modified in its designs to adequately and comprehensively explain the 'jihadist' attacks in Nigeria. Thus, the relevance of 'Modified Quantitative Methods was emphasized in the study of social phenomenon'. The subjectivist maintains that the insurgent's periodic attacks in Nigeria can equally be studied by 'Modified Quantitative (Positivist) Methods' provided the research design can adequately give better description, understanding and explanation of all elements of Boko Haram's periodic attack.

On the other hand, the subjectivists, who were in support of the qualitative (subjectivist) method as having the strength of generating sufficient subjective data, can be appropriate in the study of the subject matter. The subjectivists have agreed on the utilization of 'Modified Quantitative (Positivist) Methods' as research design and therefore, it can equally be applied to the study of Boko Haram 'jihad' and its periodic attacks in Nigeria. The nature of interview appropriate for

qualitative (subjectivist) research is semi-structured and un-structured interviews through which the researcher generated qualitative (subjective) data.

On Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2010, a bomb that was planted by the ‘jihadist’ group was discovered and detonated by men of the ‘Operation Flush’ at Baga Road Roundabout at about 11.00am. The Boko Haram group’s attacks and wanton destruction continued throughout the month of October. On Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2010, there was a bomb explosion around Eagle Square in Abuja on Nigeria’s Independence Day celebration; 14 people were killed, 36 injured and 70 vehicles damaged. In another attack by the insurgent group on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2010, they invaded the residence of the Speaker of Borno State House of Assembly, killed two policemen guarding his gate, and made away with two AK 47 rifles.

At some stages during the interview, the researcher asked some questions in form of structured and semi-structure in an attempt to clarify some specifics areas. For instance, the schedules asked in the field research were: How did you get to know about Boko Haram? What do you have to say on Boko Haram’s attack? How often did you heard of Boko Haram attack? How periodic are Boko Haram’s attacks? What age group are Boko Haram members? How did Boko Haram plan these periodic attacks? In your opinion, can you tell us how Boko Haram coordinates their attacks? What are the reasons for Boko Haram attacks? Those questions in the field revealed that on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2010, the National Vice-Chairman of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), Alhaji Awana Ali Ngala was killed by the Boko Haram and on Thursday the 7<sup>th</sup> they attacked Mamman Zanna, a senior council staff of Bama Local Government Area. He was killed at his residence known as ‘New York’ around 8.25pm”.

In another account on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2010, the Boko Haram group killed a renowned Islamic cleric, Sheikh Bashir Mustapha, and one of his students, Alhaji Modu Sunoma at about 9.30am. They were killed at Gwange Ward in Maiduguri. On Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2010, thirty Boko Haram suspects were arrested at Maiduguri Monday Market and those previously released on bail were re-arrested by law enforcement officers. The insurgents on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> December, 2010 masterminded five bomb attacks which exploded almost simultaneously in Jos, Plateau State on Christmas Eve; thirty people were killed and several properties destroyed. Similarly, on Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> December, 2010 the group carried out another attack with a bomb explosion at Barkin Ladi also in Jos, killing one person.

The essence of open-ended interview as a qualitative method is to generate sufficient qualitative (subjective) data that would properly give description of the phenomenon of Boko Haram periodic attacks than exists qualitatively (Dexter, 1970). The researcher posed questions that moved from general to the specific and back to the general. Much was deduced from listening, verbal responses and probing, some of the simple comments made by the interviewee indicated an important area that was explored and linked to obtain qualitative data on Boko Haram attacks. There were often unforeseen topics raised as the conversation went on, some were relevant while others were filtered and quickly dismissed but not entirely as they had the strength of manipulating the questions to further cue into the problem under investigation.

In structuring questions for qualitative interview for social research, there were tips to signal open-ended questions. For example, if the interviewee/respondent could answer 'Yes' or 'No', then it was not an open ended question, which generate statements as response rather than 'Yes' or 'No' answers. If the interviewee/respondent provides a wandering answer, or a 'brain dump' offers a summary of the question, let the interviewee confirm the accuracy of such a question. "If I understand what you are saying..." allow ample opportunity for 'and also' issues to be raised at the end of the interview or afterwards (Geer et al, 1957; Bernard, 1994). People answering open ended-questions on Boko Haram attacks tend to remember facts as they go along provided they are relaxed due to the nature of the topic. Therefore, a researcher should try as much as possible to make the interview situation friendly i.e. as interactive as possible rather than a cross-examination. A relaxed and friendly interviewee, during the field research, revealed that:

*"The incessant bombings continued into the New Year, as the 'jihadist' group masterminded a bomb explosion on Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2011 at Mammy Market in Mogadishu Barracks, Abuja at about 7.00pm; four people died and thirteen others were injured".*

In an attack on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2011, the Boko Haram killed a gubernatorial aspirant of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), Engineer Modu Fannami Gubio, who was murdered at his father's residence in Lawan Bukar, Shehuri North. A total of eight people lost their lives in the incident. Again on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2011 the group masterminded a bomb explosion during a People's Democratic Party (PDP) political rally at Suleja, Niger State where ten people were killed and twenty-eight others injured. In another instance, on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2011, when INEC officials were moving from the polling booths to the collation centres in Suleja, two people were killed and fourteen others injured in a bomb blast masterminded by the insurgent group at the INEC office in Suleja.

Interviews using qualitative method can either be 'open' or 'closed-ended' although usually interviews are a mixture of both. (Rubin, 1995; Schram, 2003), however, the researcher in the course of this paper had employed both in the field research. Qualitative method of interview has its pros and cons especially, as regards 'open' versus 'closed.' Furthermore, managing an interview around 'open' and 'closed-ended' questions on Boko Haram attacks requires the interviewer's skill. Open ended interviews as qualitative method were designed and employed to allow both the researcher and the interviewee/respondent cover a broad range of areas on Boko Haram 'jihad' in Nigeria (James, 1947; Kahn et al, 1960; Kanter, 1977). One example of the open-ended questions asked during the field research was: 'Tell me about insecurity in the North Eastern Nigeria?'

The interviewees (respondents) in their responses provided qualitative/subjective data on the activities of Rahbeh's Attack on Borno in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century (1893), some talked at length about Maitasine of the early 80's (1984) while others provided detailed description of Boko Haram of today. In another incident on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2011, the Boko Haram attacked the Joint Task Force (JTF) at Kaleri, a suburb of Maiduguri and shot and killed thirty of the military personnel; eleven Boko Haram members were also killed in the clash.

During the months of September and October 2011, bomb blasts were recorded in different areas of Maiduguri Metropolis. About 162 shops and business premises were set ablaze or destroyed, 50 houses, 123 vehicles, 70 motorcycles and 24 bicycles were also destroyed with well over 498 casualties. On Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2011, in an attack by the 'jihadist' group, three policemen were killed while three of the group's members were arrested in Kano by the Police at Kofar Nassarawa in a Honda car. The group was also alleged to have robbed First Bank Plc, Saminaka Branch in Kaduna State".

Among other things recovered by the police were seven AK47 rifles, one Honda car loaded with 5 assembled drums of dynamites meant for suicide bombing missions, locally made bombs, empty gas cylinder, bags of ammonia nitrate used in making IED explosives, two jerry cans containing chemicals, and one hundred and twenty-five rounds of ammunitions.

It is up to the researcher to pin down the responses to specifics as some of these questions took the interviewees/respondents half an hour to answer. A close-ended question was also asked on whether the Nigerian security situation in the last 3 years was considered bad?' The response turned out to be either 'Yes' or 'No.' This question has taken the interviewee less than a minute to answer. Conversely, an unstructured interview does not require much instrument but the researcher may go into the interviewee situation with one or two specific topics in mind for thorough discussion and is expected to have background knowledge about the topic.

In one of the un-structured interviews conducted it was discovered from the data that, in a similar fashion, on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2011, a bomb explosion initiated by the Boko Haram injured two people in Kaduna near the National Eye Centre in Mahuta and on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2011, the sect attacked some areas in the city of Jos through a bomb blast; several properties were destroyed in the incident. In another attack on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2011, their planned bomb explosion at Happy Night Hotel, Kabala West Local Government Area of Kaduna State killed two people and left eight others injured. The group also set off an explosion on Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at Magaji Gari area of Kaduna at 11.30pm. There was mass destruction of private buildings and properties around Kaduna North Local Government Area during the incident.

In an un-structured interview setting, the researcher does not bring to the interview venue any pre-determined list of questions on the subject matter but instead enters the interview venue with one or more topical issues in mind as they relate to the topic and then develops the questions on the spot. This kind of interview requires even more skills and background knowledge of the subject matter than the semi-structured interview (Miles et al, 1984; Richardson et al, 1965). The interviewer had at some instances during the field research asked the interviewee/respondent one or two general questions on Boko Haram and its periodic attacks in Nigeria and then formed subsequent specific questions to generate a specific response.

On Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> May 2012, two people were injured in a bomb blast at Iyan Juma area in Zaria, Kaduna State masterminded by the Boko Haram. On Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2011 a policeman was killed during an attack on a police station in Bulkachuwa town, in Katagum Local Government Area of Bauchi State. There was a blast and shots were fired into the station, which was destroyed during the incident. The group also masterminded a bomb blast at the Police Force Headquarters

in Abuja on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2011. Approximately, twenty-two people lost their lives and seventy cars parked in and around the premises were destroyed in the incident.

Also on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2011, a planned bomb blast killed three teenagers at Damboa LGA, Borno State, and in a similar fashion one person was killed on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2011, in an explosion planned by the insurgent group at St. Patrick's Catholic Church along Kano Road, Maiduguri. Another bombing similar to this was carried out by the group on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2011, killing twenty-five people in a bomb explosion at about 5.30am at Dala Allamdari area in Maiduguri. Several others were also injured in the blast.

However, it was discovered in the field that unstructured face-to-face interviews were often time consuming and the interview goes with open-ended questions rather than closed questions as is the case of structured or semi-structured interview in qualitative methods (Silverman et al, 2004; Lynch,1997). Furthermore, it all depends on what the researcher already knows and further needs on the subject matter.

If researcher is absolutely confident or fully briefed on the topic or there is only one fact the researcher needs to determine on the nature of the Boko Haram attacks, a closed ended question is preferable because it generates specific answer. Following this, on Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2011 another explosion occurred at Modu Maduganari and in Tashan, Kano killing three people and injuring fourteen others.

These orchestrated bombings continued on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2011 as two people were killed in Maiduguri and eight others injured and in a similar fashion, three separate blasts were executed in Jere Local Government Area of Borno State on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2011. Many lives were lost and several properties destroyed. Towards the end of the month, on Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2011, the insurgent group masterminded a bomb blast at Mammy Market in Shadawanka Barracks, Bauchi State, thirteen people died and four were badly injured. The incident recorded substantial destruction of properties.

For instance, on October 10<sup>th</sup> 2013, recorded 20 people killed in Damboa LGA of Borno State. The Boko Haram 'jihadists' in their periodic attacks killed nearly 183 civilian and military men. The month of June 2012 recorded 19 people dead following simultaneous bomb blast in Kaduna State in which 20 people died when the 'jihadists' attacked Kogi State on the 7<sup>th</sup> of August 2012. On December 25<sup>th</sup>, about 27 people died in gun shoot out in Maiduguri and Potiskum. About 35 people were said to have been killed in Musari village on 28<sup>th</sup> of December 2012, while on 15<sup>th</sup> of February, 2014, over 106 civilians died during Boko Haram attacks in Izghe. Similarly, in the same month, 99 people lost their lives in Gwoza as a result of Boko Haram periodic attacks, and between September, 12<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 2012 an offensive attack by the Nigerian Army left 159 Boko Haram members and a sizeable number of soldiers dead. October, 29<sup>th</sup> 2013, 128 people were killed along with 95 'jihadists', 23 soldiers, 8 policemen, and 2 civilians killed and 121 inmates set free during an Ondo prison break. April 15<sup>th</sup> 2014 witnessed the kidnapping of about 276 Chibok Girls were kidnapped by the suspected Boko Haram 'jihadists'. In a related periodic attack, Umar, (2010) Ushelige, D. (2012) Usman, A. M. (2009) pointed out that, 56 innocent souls were attacked by the Boko Haram 'jihadists' during a school shooting on July 6<sup>th</sup> 2013, while on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2014 about 30 people were killed in Mainok. Similarly, 15 people died on 1<sup>st</sup>

of January 2013, 65 were also killed in Kano on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March during a car bomb blast. There was also the Baga massacre of April, 16<sup>th</sup> 2013 in which about 187 people were killed. On March 14, 2014 the ‘jihadists’ attacked Giwa Barracks in Maiduguri and freed a number of suspects from detention, about 600 detainees were killed in the attack. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 2014 about 22 people were killed by the Boko Haram in Chibok LGA. On November, 28<sup>th</sup> 2014, about 120 followers of the Emir of Kano died during a suicide bombing and gun attack. On August 12<sup>th</sup> 2013, 76 people were reported to have been killed during a mosque attack and 40 soldiers died in an ambush by the ‘jihadists’ in the same month. Nearly 161 people died in Banisheikh, killed by the Boko Haram on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September, 2013. June 28<sup>th</sup> 2014 recorded 11 killed in a Bauchi bomb blast. Similarly, on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2014 the Boko Haram attacked students of a government secondary school in Yobe and killed about 95 Students. On 13<sup>th</sup> of December, 2014 about 35 people were killed and 176 were kidnapped by the periodic attackers in Gumsuri Village of Borno State. The ‘jihadists’ in their periodic attacks, on 29<sup>th</sup> of Sept 2013, attacked Gujba, in Yobe State and killed about 50 Students. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2014, about 300 people were reported dead in Ngala LGA in Gamboru town close to Portocol Border.

On Nov, 2<sup>nd</sup> 2014, the ‘jihadists’ attacked Kogi Prison and released 99 inmates. Askira, A. (2012) Atiku B., (2011) Atiku B., (2011) posits, On the 27<sup>th</sup> of May 2014 about 49 security men and 9 civilian were killed when the Boko Haram attacked a military base in Yadin Buni in Yobe State. 40 people lost their lives in Mubi, Adamawa State and 200 died in Gwoza LGA of Borno State. On 2<sup>nd</sup> of June, 2014 about 274 inmates were said to have escaped Ekiti prison on 30<sup>th</sup>, November, 2014 as a result of an alleged ‘jihadist’ attack on the prison. On November, 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013, the ‘jihadists’ in their periodic attacks killed about 50 people in Damasak LGA, while on 22<sup>nd</sup> of December, 2014 a bomb blast in Gombe killed 77 people at a motor park. Between 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, December, 2014, 85 Civilian, 94 ‘jihadist’ attackers and 2 Cameroonian soldiers were killed following offensive attacks on Cameroon’s north region. On November, 26<sup>th</sup>, about 68 people were killed by suicide bombers in Maiduguri, Borno State. Between 20<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2014 about 75 were killed, 91 women and a sizeable number of children were kidnapped in Borno State.

In January 2014, more than 138 people were reported to have been killed in Boko Haram periodic attacks in Chakawa. In February, 2014, the Boko Haram ‘jihadists’ killed about 221 civilian in Konduga LGA. On the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2014, about 100 Boko Haram ‘jihadists’ were killed by the Nigerian Army during raid on the group’s stronghold in Borno State. 18<sup>th</sup> of July 2014, 18 people were killed by the Boko Haram ‘jihadists’ in Damboa LGA during their periodic attacks. On 21<sup>st</sup> of October 2014 4 people were killed, 38 injured and properties worth millions were destroyed at a bus stop in Gombe State. Similarly, a twin suicide bombing in Yobe claimed 15 lives between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of November, 2014. While, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December, 2014, 5 people were said to have died from an attack by female suicide bombers at Maiduguri Monday market. Minna Prison break took place on 6<sup>th</sup> of December, 2014 in which 270 prisoners were said to have been freed by the ‘jihadist’ attackers. Furthermore, Auwalu U., (2011) Awart, B. (2004) claimed in a related periodic attack around Kano market, at least 4 people were killed and 7 injured by female suicide bombers. An attack on 13<sup>th</sup> of December, 2014, claimed about 40 lives and many houses were destroyed by the ‘jihadist’ periodic attackers in Gajiganna in Borno North.

## **ANALYSIS OF QUALITATIVE (SUBJECTIVE) FIELD DATA**

## **Inductive Thematic Analysis: Stages and Typologies of Boko Haram ‘jihadist’ Periodic Attacks in Nigeria**

**Introduction:** Analysis of qualitative field research on Boko Haram’s periodic attacks confirms the evolving nature of the ‘jihadists’. Boko Haram can best be described, at present time, as a gradual but steady growth of a hitherto simple monolithic hierarchical religious group in north-eastern Nigeria to a complex but sophisticated morally decadent phenomenon in what **Durkheim (1912) in his thesis on *Elementary Forms of Religious Life (1912)*** described as ‘**periodic transition to moral crisis**’. There are a number of other insurgent groups who share the same ideologies as the Boko Haram operating in countries like Afghanistan, Iraq and Palestine, among other hubs of ‘jihadist’s’ around the Globe.’ Similarly, **Hammes (2009) in his study entitled *Armed Group: Changing the Rules*** portrayed Boko Haram as an armed group which can best be described as a ‘**Coalition of the willing**’. Examination of the qualitative data on Boko Haram and its periodic attacks in Nigeria classified these attacks under two major categories: ‘**formalized periodic attacks**’ and ‘**informalized periodic attacks**’. Similarly, comparative analysis of these two classifications further split them into six (6) major themes as stages and typology of the ‘jihadist’ periodic attackers, with a number of minor emerging themes.

In the same vein, ‘Geo’ was frequently used in this paper in order to give an adequate description of the emerging themes as stages and typology of the ‘jihadist’ periodic attacks as the subject matter of analysis. The basis for theoretical underpinning ‘Geo’ in the sense of the ‘jihadists’ is to depict the spatial characteristics of the human environment of the attackers and their social relation to the community within the same environment.

Grounded theory method is a systematic methodology in social science involving the construction of theory through the analysis of data (Strauss, 1993; Corbin, 1990). Inductive thematic analysis as qualitative (subjectivist) method of data analysis is a research approach or method that calls for a continual interplay between data collection on Boko Haram ‘jihad’ periodic attacks and analysis of same data to produce a theory and concepts on the nature of the ‘jihadist’ attacks during the research process (Glaser, 1990; Strauss, 1993; Corbin, 1990)

A grounded theory is derived inductively through the systematic collection and analyses of data pertaining to a particular phenomenon. Parton (1980) maintains that grounded theory is a way of thinking about and conceptualizing data while Bowen (2006) is of the view that grounded theory involves comparing collected units of data against one another until categories, properties that are relations between these categories and properties emerge. Bugday (2012) and Merriam et al (2002) in their separate theses argued that, they are tentative and suggestive. This process, Woods (2011) posits, is called theoretical saturation while arguing that a detailed examination of codes by means of constant comparative analysis and their conversion into bigger codes, enables the emergence of a core integrating category, or what he further called a core variable. Consequently, this paper through presenting a grounded theory and constant comparative perspectives identified and discovered the following categories of stages and typologies of Boko Haram ‘jihadist’ periodic attacks as follows:

- 1)The Geomechanistic-Talibanism ‘jihadist’ periodic attacks;

- 2)The Geoconservative-Yusuffiya ‘jihadist’ periodic attacks and
- 3)The Geolone-Ya’anawa ‘jihadist’ periodic attacks.

Whereas in contrast to the Ge-oinformalized category of ‘jihadist’ periodic attacks, the Ge-  
oformalized category of ‘jihadist’ periodic attacks are categorized as follows:

- 4)The Geoindigenous mixed-clan ‘jihadist’ periodic attacks;
- 5)The Geomulti-tribal configured ‘jihadist’ periodic attacks and
- 6)The Geoorganistic-transntional ‘jihadist’ periodic attacks.

According to Strauss and Corbin (1990), Stebbin (2001), Kelle (2005) and Mey et al, (2007), inductive analysis is the principal technique used in the grounded theory method. Inductive analysis means that the patterns, themes and categories of analysis come from the data; they emerge out of the data rather than being imposed on them prior to data collection and analysis (Patton, 1980; Strauss and Corbin 1990; Bowen, 2006; Glaser and Strauss, 1967). It is also said to be a general methodology, a way of thinking about and conceptualizing data (Cauhape, 1983; Broadhead, 1983) among other methodological issues considered in this paper as research design.

Woods (2011) in his thesis on “Interviewing for research and analyzing qualitative data” highlighted sufficiently steps for data analysis from the perspective of grounded theory. He posits that, data collection can only stop when the researcher decides that no new material or new codes are being generated on Boko Haram periodic attacks in Nigeria. Each code, he added, is gradually merged into bigger codes or conceptual units until main codes, or categories of the nature of the ‘jihadist’ periodic attacks emerged.

Every incident of attacks by the ‘jihadists’ within each new category is compared to the ‘dimensions’ or properties of the phenomenon of Boko Haram to allow adequate integration. Boyatzis (1998) had identified five elements of a good coding system as labels or definitions of what each theme constitutes, citing its characteristics or issues constituting each theme, descriptions of how to know when each theme occurs, referred to as flagging themes, descriptions of any qualifications or exclusions of identifying themes and to eliminate possible confusion when looking for such themes.

Similarly, the codes, themes and categories of the ‘jihadist’ periodic attacks that emerged during data analyses in this research were defined, characterised, and adequately described to give the phenomenon of Boko Haram attacks a sense of theoretical footing. The paper identified two (2) major categories with six (6) minor ones and a number of themes and codes. Their properties were examined for what Woods (2011), called ‘underlying uniformities’.

## **MAJOR FINDINGS: THE SIX MAJOR STAGES AND TYPOLOGIES IN THE EVOLUTION OF BOKO HARAM PERIODIC ATTACKS IN NIGERIA**

From the periodic attacks carried out in Borno, Yobe, Adamawa, Gombe, Taraba and Bauchi States by the Boko Haram, at least, **Six Million (6,000,000)** residents have become victims only in the North Eastern region of Nigeria, according to United Nations (2015) Statistics. Similarly, between May and December 2013, the United Nations Humanitarian Agency provided the numeric strength of affected victims. The UN statistics showed that **One Million, Two Hundred and Twenty Four Thousand (1,224,000)** people had so far been killed by Boko Haram.

However, in contrast to the United Nation's statistics, John Hopkins University African Programme, tagged 'The Nigeria Social Violence Project' recorded the deaths of only **Eleven Thousand One Hundred and Twenty One ( 11,121)** people since the beginning of the Boko Haram insurgency, this figure is far less than the UN's statistics.

On internal displacement quagmire, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) set up a displacement tracking matrix (DTM) in July 2014 to support the Nigerian government's effort in collecting and disseminating data on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). As at April 2015, the displacement tracking matrix (DTM) revealed that **One Million, Four Hundred and Ninety One, Seven Hundred and Six Thousand (1,491,706)** persons had been displaced from their homes in the North Eastern Region of Nigeria (NEMA, April, 2015).

The years 2013 and 2014 recorded the most deadly Boko Haram massacre in the North Eastern region since July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009, when its founder, the late Mohammed Yusuf, conceived the idea of a 'jihad' (unholy war). The design employed in this research was descriptive qualitative (subjective) research method. The data were analysed using inductive thematic analysis. Based on the analysis of the qualitative field data, the following major findings were discovered by the author as typologies of Boko Haram attacks in Nigeria. Thus, the attacks were classified into Geoinformalised 'jihad' periodic attacks and Geoformalised 'jihad' periodic attacks.

Arising from the two classifications were six (6) major themes which emerged as stages and typologies of these periodic attacks. The six themes are further classified into three each, in accordance with Geoinformalised 'jihad' periodic attacks and Geoformalised 'jihadist' periodic attacks. Under the former, there are; **Geomechanistic-Talibanism 'jihadist' periodic attacks; the Geoconservative-Yusuffiya and the Geolone-Ya'anawa 'jihad'ist' periodic attacks. But under the Geoformalised 'jihad' periodic attacks, there are Geoindigenous mixed-clan 'jihadist' periodic attacks; the Geomulti-tribal configured 'jihadist' periodic attacks and the Georganistic-transntional 'jihadist' periodic attacks.**

**1) The Geomechanistic-Talibanism 'Jihadist' Periodic Attacks:** This is the first stage or typology in the evolution of the Boko Haram attacks. Whereas it had existed among few homogenous sets of people since 1992, it became pronounced in 2001. Geomechanistic-talibanism at this stage of its evolution seemed to be homogenous, particularly in terms of its composition. The geomechanistic-talibanism formed the foundation of the Boko Haram phenomenon in Nigeria. Their weapons of attacks at the time were largely crude. These included bows and arrows, sticks, cutlasses, swords, den guns and AK47 rifles which were either bought from regional bandits or snatched from local policemen among other weapons found in their possession.

This stage also witnessed the insurgent group being nicknamed Boko Haram. Referred to as the Nigerian Taliban, Katz and Devon (2006) pointed out the group was likened to the Afghan and Pakistan Taliban. The geomechanistic-talibanism 'jihadists' tended to be a sub-national or national group that operated within a specific geographical area and their emergence was spurred by government's failure in its basic social contract of providing security to its civilian population. Their form of attacks was an asymmetrical warfare, though at times, they used conventional arms that were similar to what was obtainable in the western world.

Therefore, it would have been much easier at this stage for law enforcement agencies to manage, detect, fight and defeat the geomechanistic-talibanism 'jihadists'. But this was not achieved and thus created the suspicion that the government lacked the political will to end the crisis. Schultz (2009) identified '**The Echo of 'Jihad',**' and a document entitled '**Jihadist's Seven-Stage Plan for the Next 20 Years**' as some of the electronic materials relating to the operations of Boko Haram geomechanistic-talibanism 'jihadists' line of offensive attacks. Through such avenues, he maintained, Mohammed Yusuf succeeded in his *Daa'awa* to mobilise and deceive a significant number of followers. He also noted that Yusuf ensured he secured their loyalty and dedication to the course by giving them tea and date nuts refined with cocaine and heroine; they were thus brainwashed and willing and ready to stake their lives for his mission of destruction.

Among the Boko Haram geomechanistic-talibanism 'jihadists', there were members who rejected death and hence failed to follow Yusuf to the battlefield in 2009 despite selling their properties including their wives' jewellerys and handing over the monies to Yusuf as their contributions to the 'jihad' campaign. This set of people constituted 'geomechanistic-talibanism'. However, before the launch of the 2009 'jihad', the Boko Haram geomechanistic-talibanism 'jihadists' had been called to gather for a sermon by their leader, Yusuf, on the night preceding the launch. They were excited by this last minute sermon. At the same time, one of the group's followers, a retired prison official, while actively following a manual on bomb making, tried to put together an improvised explosive devices (IED) but was blown up along the railway crossing by Flour Mills in Maiduguri. This caught the attention of the government whose uniformed personnel discovered the bomb making factory.

While indoctrinating his followers, Yusuf asked the Boko Haram geomechanistic-talibanism 'jihadists' who were ready to die for the cause to remain at the *markas* while he directed those that were afraid to fight to leave the premises. He thereafter asked them to remain calm and await instructions on planned attacks as 'civilian fighters'. He told members of the group that their financial contributions to the 'jihad' were duly recognised and would be used for the crusade. Having said that, a sizeable number of Boko Haram militants calmly left the premises because they lacked the will to fight, the sermon was adjudged to be harsh as he called on followers to be ready to die while fighting a 'jihad'. This situation was similar to the Guyana massacre in the United States in which Jim Jones, the leader of the People's Temple ordered about 1,000 of his followers to commit suicide.

Similarly, Boko Haram geomechanistic-talibanism 'jihadists' who declined to confront the Nigerian military in pursuit of 'jihad', moved out of the *markas*; they can simply be described as advocates of 'geo-mechanistic-talibanism pre-'jihad' bounced-out Boko Haram'. However, those who listened and accepted the 'sermon of death' in its entirety went to the battle and accordingly partook in the 2009 'jihad', but many of them took to their heels when it became obvious that the might of the military was stronger. They were subsequently arrested during a house-to-house raid in 2010.

**2) The Geoconservative-Yusuffiya 'Jihadist' Periodic Attacks:** This is the second stage or typology. The qualitative field data suggests that the targets of the attacks were largely concentrated in densely populated zones and the casualties were wretched Nigerians and the law

enforcement officials whom they felt had collaborated with the government during house-to-house arrest of Boko Haram members in 2010 who participated in the 2009 ‘jihad’ ‘Unholy War.’ Therefore, these people were tagged as enemies and killed, following their inability to support Boko Haram, and hence, they declared war against them.

At this stage, the geoconservative ‘jihadist’ attackers lost a sizable number of members during the 2009 ‘jihad’ and subsequent destruction of their stronghold *markas*. Hence, they resorted to diversifying methods such as championing prison jail breaks to recruit new members. A typical case worth recalling was the attack on Bauchi Prison on Tuesday, 7th September, 2010 during which the insurgents freed more than 700 inmates who were believed to have followed the geoconservative Boko Haram attackers. Barely four days after, the group had gained more members from the Bauchi prison jail break.

On Saturday, 11th September, 2010, the ‘jihadists’ bombed the Divisional Police Headquarters in old Maiduguri at about 9pm; one person was killed while two others were injured. The police station was completely razed down in the geoconservative attack, similarly, the geoconservative-Yusuffiya ‘jihadists’ in their periodic attacks slaughtered traditionalists including a princess. Qualitative primary field data from Borno Emirate Council Secretary, according to Waziri Ballama Mala (2015), revealed the killing of Abba Mukhtar Abba Tujja, the district head of Mairari in Guzzamala LGA, Bukar Abba Ali, the district head of Borno Yesu in Magumeri LGA, Shettima Ka’ami the II, (Mala kaka) and the district head of Gwange I in Maiduguri. Also killed were Kachalla Ali Mosu’a, the district head of Dusuman, in Jere LGA, Mala Kamar; the district head of Mbalala in Chibok LGA and Zanna Yaudima Mustapha Shettimari, the district head of Galangi, in Kaga LGA. These district heads were perceived to be well-respected in their locality with considerable power of control or influence over their subjects. Those who died in attacks were directly or indirectly linked to the throne either by lineage or because they paid homage and allegiance to the rulers in expression of their loyalty and obedience to the Kingdom of Borno.

The killing continued as they also killed Zanna Baba Zarabe, the district head of Gazama, in Damboa LGA, Zanna Yerima Aji Gumsumi, the district head of Damboa, Zanna Mai Modu, the district head of Bego in Damboa LGA. In the same vein, scores were killed by the geoconservative Yusuffiya ‘jihadists’. The qualitative field data obtained showed that this kind of attacks could best be described as ‘geo-conservative’ attacks on zones and traditionalists who by their social status and disposition, were seen by Boko Haram geoconservative ‘jihadists’ attackers as local enemies and in their perception, and were believed to have lost touch with ‘modernity’ as an offshoot of ‘globalisation.’

Owen (2009) sees ‘globalisation’ as the dynamic worldwide process of capitalist economic integration and irresistible expansion of global capitalist market that is synonymous with the present day epoch. Conversely, however, from the foregoing, the nature of traditional landscape of Borno where the Boko Haram geo-conservative-Yusuffiya ‘jihadist’ periodic attackers emerged was in short supply of modern variables referred to as ‘modernity’ and the crucial features of Owen’s definition of ‘globalisation’ seems to be thinner or completely non-existent there.

Consequently, due to the Boko Haram ‘jihadists’ protracted attacks on various ‘custodians of traditional power of Borno’, they invariably eliminated ‘the assets of the kingdom’s cultural norms

and value systems including what was regarded as ‘informal control mechanisms. Also killed by the geoconservative Boko Haram group were Wadaima Abba Ahamad, the district head in Damboa, Zanna Malilima Abba Ibrahim, the district head of Gudumbazi in Guzamala LGA, Muhammad Muhammad Kafelloma, a member of the Borno Emirate Council, Mala Shettima, Baba Mai Abba Kaza, Prince Abba Anas who was killed in Gangamari, of Shehuri North in Maiduguri, Abba Zaru Shehu Umar, Waziri Kyari Umar, Prince Abba Liman, Shehu Umar Baba Gana Waziri Kyari, Abba Nguru killed in Limanti Ward of Maiduguri and Baba Shehu Abba Bukar, among numerous princes, district heads, Emirate Council members and king makers of Borno Kingdom who were butchered by the geoconservatives Yusuffiya ‘jihadist’ attackers at this stage of their evolution.

The criminality, acts of banditry and brigandage by the Boko Haram geo-conservative-Yusuffiya ‘jihadist’ periodic attackers were synonymous with what Frances Fukuyama referred to as **‘The Passing Away of Kingdoms And Empires’** as the ‘jihadists’ also killed the district head of Bama Local Government Area (LGA), Abba Masta Shehu Umar, Aja kachalla Abba Chima, the district head of Kote, in Bama LGA, Mai Ngalama, the district head of Ngala LGA, Abba Kadur Abba Jatau, the village head of Maidu’uri, Mustapha Ahamad, Lawan Waziri Village head in Bama LGA.

In the same vein, the geoconservative Boko Haram ‘jihadist’ attackers struck again on Thursday 5th September 2010 and killed one Lawan Modu Kagu, the Ward Head of Karari Ward in Maiduguri at about 7:30pm. Two other people injured during the attack were taken to University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital. On the same day, in another instance, the Boko Haram group attacked and killed three policemen at Shehuri North-Kawarla Maila at about 9.50pm, and left another person injured. They also attacked retired ASP Zanna Kyari in Bama Local Government Area. He was killed in front of his house in Bama while returning from the mosque at about 10.00pm.

Furthermore, the qualitative (subjective) field data on the subject of Boko Haram ‘jihad’ and its periodic attacks suggested that the Boko Haram geoconservative attacks on ‘Non-Integrating Gaps’ led to the collapse of most conservative zones and shanty settlements and consequently eroded socio-cultural norms and value systems of the people in Borno, Yobe, Bauchi, Gombe, Adamawa and Taraba States. According to Owen (2009), these kinds of periodic attacks were preponderantly perpetrated against people and zones where globalisation were skeletal or just plain absent with wide spread poverty and seeming lack of social security and effective governance. For instance, in Nigeria, those living in settlements pressurised by Boko Haram geo-conservative attackers had since migrated to the state capital for protection and the numeric data of the internally displaced persons from these places at the end of 2014 was put at 6,000,000 including victims of the Sambisa Games Reserve aside those who lost their lives in 2015.

**3) The Geolone-Ya’anawa ‘Jihadist’ Periodic Attacks:** This was the third stage in the evolution of Boko Haram and had existed since early 2011 in the North Eastern region. The kind of attacks perpetrated at this stage by the geolone-ya’anawa ‘jihadist’ was carried out by one single Boko Haram ‘jihadist’, a kind of ‘one man squad unto himself’ that was similar to ‘street corner gangsters’. The Boko Haram ‘jihadist’ attacker sought to perpetrate geolone-ya’anawa attacks.

Qualitative field data obtained showed serial attacks by a single person appearing on the street with an AK47 rifle or pistol targeting and killing the perceived enemies of Boko Haram in a particular location or street, he would attack a group popularly called *Majalisa*, a group of young men. The geolone-ya'anawa attacker approached the targeted victim with a word of caution to those around to steer clear, saying he was there to accomplish an assignment. He would eventually kill his target and escape from the scene of the attack. Geolone-ya'anawa attack, according to the qualitative field data, showed that he was from the same community where he carried out the attacks and could therefore be described as community-based geolone-ya'anawa attacker.

Moreover, the *majalisa* was mostly found on the streets of Northern Nigeria, it is a group of young men relaxing and engaging in informal discussions on a wide range of topics from local politics to private issues. *Majalisa* was formed mostly in the mornings, evenings or at nights; every member of a *majalisa* in Borno had suffered a degree of Boko Haram 'jihadist' geolone-ya'anawa attacks, particularly within Maiduguri. No *majalisa* was spared the 'jihadist' attacks which habitually occurred in informal settings within communities of the affected zones.

The attackers were presumed to be familiar with the local settings and had specific knowledge about the environment and the targeted victim. They were also good at street manoeuvres and therefore could easily escape after each attack. However, in contrast to the geoinformalised 'jihadist' periodic attacks, the geoformalised 'jihadists' were categorised as follows:

**4) The Geoindigenous Mixed-Clan 'Jihadist' Periodic Attacks:** This category of 'jihadists' was classified as the fourth stage in the evolution of Boko Haram as a social phenomenon. The group membership was drawn from a predominantly heterogeneous set of aboriginal Boko Haram 'jihadists' who were deceived by Mohammed Yusuf to join the bandwagon of his crusade. This later had devastating consequences as they slaughtered thousands of innocent souls. Members of the group were said to have been under the influence of hard drugs, an act used to co-opt most of them into carrying out killings. This can be compared to what Mamdani (2004) referred to as '**Blacks on Blacks War**' influenced by the warlords. Similarly, on Boko Haram's slaughter of innocent civilians, Shultz's (2009), labelled the geo-indigenous mixed-clan 'jihadists' who slaughtered innocent souls as '**Butchers of the Dessert**' which is reflected in his work, entitled '**Virtual Sanctuary Enables Global Insurgency.**'

The geoindigenous mixed-clan 'jihadists' at this stage began to be highly destructive as Boko Haram bombed Louis Edet House, headquarters of the Nigeria Police, on Thursday June 16, 2011. This was followed by the suicide bombing of the United Nations (UN) building on Friday, August 26, 2011. Between 26th and 29th July, 2009, Boko Haram insurgents had free reign in the capital city of Maiduguri, Borno State, killing or maiming innocent citizens as they battled law enforcement officials and subsequently claiming ownership of most parts of the city until the federal government sent the military to dislodge them.

The geoindigenous mixed-clan 'jihadists' were believed to have come from different clans within and outside Borno and were familiar with the terrain of the affected region and scenes of attacks. This was largely aided by their backgrounds from mixed clans of diverse socio-cultural life of the

people of the region and its neighbouring countries of Chad, Niger and Cameroun. They were more or less an opportunistic group that evolved to take advantage of an existing vacuum to take laws into its hand. This was a criminal group that had been part of the civilian population for years. The geo-indigenous mixed-clan 'jihadists' progression was evident in their possession of weapons which enabled them to confront the well-armed local police as evident in the July 2009 gun duel between Boko Haram and the police. Consequently, the police force was overwhelmed by the militant group.

While examining the Boko Haram geo-indigenous mixed-clan 'jihadist' group, Hammes (2009) identified the point of divergence in terms of geographical coverage and expansion. He pointed out the *Mara Salvatrucha's* capability to control non-contiguous terrain in several nations of Latin America, an east coast suburb or a neighbourhood of Los Angeles as a point of departure from the Nigerian Boko Haram, whose predominant area of operation extended to Niger, Chad and Cameroun.

The geoindigenous mixed-clan 'jihadist' Boko Haram group was believed to have obtained formal training in the production of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), vehicle borne improvised explosive devices (IEDs) as well as suicide bombing which made it possible for them to inflict heavy casualties on the civilian population and the nation's armed forces.

**5) The Geomulti-Tribal Configured 'Jihadist' Periodic Attacks:** This is the fifth Stage of the development of the Boko Haram. Attacks from this group were accomplished mainly by at least three groups of Boko Haram 'jihadists' who mostly attacked semi or formal zones and had expanded beyond the affected region to significant geographical areas in Nigeria and outside of the border. Members of this group were drawn from heterogeneous tribes within and outside Nigeria and were believed to have masterminded attacks on formal institutions such as schools, military and police facilities in Nigeria. During the attacks, the geomulti-tribal configured 'jihadists' would come in their numbers in cars or tricycles, well-equipped to carry out planned attacks.

This typology of 'jihadist' attacks targeted strategic security institutions, military outposts, base stations and communications facilities among other places of national importance as revealed by qualitative empirical field data. This kind of indiscriminate acts by geomulti-tribal configured Boko haram 'jihadists' is similar to what Hammes (2009) in his study, entitled: '**Armed Group: Changing The Rules,**' portrayed as the '**Coalition of the Willing**' and is assumed to have a kind of remuneration with unifying command towards the direction of their specifically targeted zones of attacks to achieve their set objectives of a pirated kind of 'jihad' (unholy war). The geomulti-tribal configured Boko Haram 'jihadist' attackers sprang from almost all tribes in the troubled North Eastern geo-political zone. It has a lot of affiliations such as 'Yusuffiya Boko Haram', 'Shekkau Boko Haram', 'Mamman Nuri Boko Haram', 'Ya'anawa Boko Haram', 'Political Boko Haram', 'Community Based Boko Haram', 'Bank Breakers Boko Haram' etc.

The geomulti-tribal configured 'jihadists' were indiscriminate in their recruitment and they possessed sophisticated weapons as dictated by their role descriptions and allocations with the intention to achieve optimum performance in their assigned roles. The geomulti-tribal configured

Boko Haram ‘jihadists’ at different stages of their evolution, received commands from their leaders who exercised authority over them according to their hierarchical strata of leadership.

The geomulti-tribal configured ‘jihadist’ groups were coordinated in such a way that their roles were corresponding and supplementary as allude to by Kinsley Davis and Wilbert E. Moore in their thesis: **‘Stratification System.’** They argued that in a highly stratified complex group like the geomulti-tribal configured ‘‘jihadist’s,’ roles were allocated to the ‘jihadists’ who could effectively perform them. The ‘ge-o multi-tribal configured attack’ again, alluded to by Davis and Moore can be described as **‘Role Allocation and Effective Performance’** as the ‘jihadist’ sneaked in to perpetrate attacks on a number of formal institutions especially worship centres and at the same time escaped being apprehended due to the formal technicalities involved in their operation

Geomulti-tribal configured Boko Haram ‘jihadists’, for instance, attacked the Multinational Joint Task Force (MJTF) in Baga Local Government Area of Borno State in which about 185 people died and a number of houses were burned. The geomulti-tribal configured Boko Haram ‘jihadists’ also on September, 19, 2013, attacked Banesheik, claiming 161 lives. Also, 50 students were killed in an attack on a college in Gugba, Yobe State. Similarly, the geomulti-tribal configured Boko Haram ‘jihadists’ between September 29, 2013, and October 10 2013, attacked Dambo LGA and killed about 20 people.

The attacks by geomulti-tribal configured Boko Haram ‘jihadists’ have not been limited to Borno State alone but have also spread to other states in the North-east of Yobe, Bauchi, Adamawa, Kano and Kaduna in the North-west and beyond. The Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, was also not left out in the wanton destruction of lives and property by the geomulti-tribal configured Boko Haram ‘jihadists’. Moreover, the kind of attacks by these ‘jihadists’ had an elevated intensity, especially in the red zones and as a result, recorded higher levels of damages there because they are well stratified with assigned roles and the attacks were believed to have been well supervised by leaders of the militant group. The attacks were well coordinated and had the tendency to displace a sizeable number of victims. This led to migration and unwarranted social mobility within the affected zones. The new settlements of the victims of Boko Haram geo-multi-tribal configured ‘jihadist’ periodic attacks experienced overstretched facilities that brought about hunger and hardship and diseases associated with communal life. The statistics of the dead, especially infant mortality increased rapidly.

**6) The Georganistic-Transnational ‘Jihadist’ Periodic Attacks:** This is the sixth stage as far as the evolution of Boko Haram attacks. At this level it require certain degrees of sophistication due to their conspiracy with parent headquarters beyond national borders, a complex network was established of swapping funds, ammunition and training in a way that could be tagged **‘gangsterism with technical know-how of asymmetric warfare.** The nature of the georganistic-transnational attacks was such that had national, regional and international implications and the severity of the attacks recorded high casualty rates. For example, georganistic-transnational ‘jihadist’ periodic attacks included the attacks carried out between the 3rd and 7<sup>th</sup> of January, 2015 when this group razed the whole of Baga town and about 2,000 dead bodies were seen on the streets. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of January, 2015, more than 100

transnational 'jihadist' attackers overran several towns and captured the military base in Baga LGA of Borno State.

Also January 9, 2015, the criminal activities of the Ge-oorganistic-transnational 'jihadists' attained an alarming rate as refugees fled Borno State following the massacre in Baga in which about 7,300 fled to neighbouring Chad while over 1,000 people were trapped on the island of Kangala in the Lake Chad. Consequently, Nigeria's army vowed to recapture the town from the transnational 'jihadist' attackers while Niger and Chad withdrew their forces from the transnational joint force assigned to combat insurgency. On January 10, 2015, a member of the georganistic-transnational 'jihad' group, a female suicide bomber, blew up herself and 19 others at a market in the city of Maiduguri, the Borno State capital and on 11<sup>th</sup> January, more female suicide bombers along with other victims perished in Potiskum in Yobe State.

On 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2015 the georganistic Boko Haram raided Kolofalta in Cameroon, however, the military killed about 300 Boko Haram attackers in the incident. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of January 2015, following the January 16 Chadian authority's decision to send troops to Nigeria and Cameroon to fight the georganistic-transnational Boko Haram 'jihadist' periodic attackers, on 16<sup>th</sup> of January, 2015, the Chadian forces stormed Cameroon to assist the country in fighting the group.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of January, 2015, the georganistic-transnational 'jihadist' attackers kidnapped 80 people and killed three others in some villages in Northern Cameroon. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of January, 2015, Abubakar Shekau, the leader of Boko Haram, claimed responsibility for attacks on the town of Baga in Nigeria. The number of casualties could not be ascertained. On January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015, about 15 people were killed in Kambari, a village in Konduga LGA near Maiduguri. On the 25<sup>th</sup> of January, 2015 at least eight civilians, about 53 georganistic periodic attackers and countless numbers of soldiers were killed in an attack when the 'jihadists' attempted to capture the strategic town of Monguno, with 1,400 soldiers were stationed there. As a result of these attacks, the georganistic-transnational attackers were in control of about four out of five roads leading to Maiduguri, the Borno State Capital. On 29<sup>th</sup> of January, 2015, the Nigerian military, in collaboration with Chadian soldiers, recaptured the border town of Michika.

Chadian forces claimed to have killed 120 georganistic Boko Haram fighters, losing only three soldiers in a battle which took place in the north of Cameroon. Also on 4<sup>th</sup> of February, 2015, the Chadian army claimed to have killed 200 georganistic-transnational Boko Haram attackers, losing only nine soldiers as the insurgents attempted to capture the border town of Gamboru Ngala. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of January, 2015, Boko Haram attacked Bosso and Diffa towns during which the Chadian forces killed about 109 'jihadists'.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of January, 2015, Nigeria postponed its general election for six weeks to allow its armed forces combat and recover towns controlled by the 'jihadists'. On 12<sup>th</sup> of January, 2015, the West African Allied Forces led by Nigeria and supported by Cameroon, Chad and Niger, invaded the Sambisa Forest in Borno State, a stronghold of the georganistic-transnational Boko Haram 'jihadists', killing a significant number of them. A warplane also reportedly bombed a funeral ceremony in Niger killing 37 civilians; the warplane has remained unidentified till date.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of February, 2015, the Boko Haram killed 34 people in attacks across Borno State, killing 21 from the town of Chibok and on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015, the Nigerian military recaptured Baga town that had been in the control of the 'jihadist's. On the 24<sup>th</sup>, of February 2015, about 24 Chadian soldiers were killed by the georganistic-transnational Boko Haram in a battle which claimed over 200 Boko Haram 'jihadists' near Garambu, Nigeria's border. In addition, the Chadian military recaptured the town of Dikwa, also in Borno State. On the 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, five suicide bomb blasts left 54 dead and 143 wounded in Maiduguri, the Borno State Capital. It has been observed that Boko Haram georganistic attacks on prisons and the forceful recruitment of young men from attacked villages and towns has given rise to crimes and aid recruitments into the georganistic-transnational Boko Haram.

## CONCLUSION

The researcher conducted a series of interviews on the subject of Boko Haram 'jihad' periodic attacks in Nigeria. An average of 25 minutes was spent with each of the interviewee in a bid to elicit primary data. Those interviewed were Ulamas, the Imams who reside at Shehuri North, Budun, Limanti, Lawan Bukar, Wulari, Post office, Gamboru and Umarari Wards. In summary, it is imperative to note that interview as a qualitative (subjectivist) method for social scientific investigation has non-experimental design and was carried out to achieve an objective, which in this research, aimed at fostering understanding on the nature of Boko Haram 'jihad' periodic attacks in Nigeria. While Woods (2011), noted that interview as a qualitative method provides either qualitative or quantitative data, the emphasis of this research is to understand Boko Haram's periodic attacks in Nigeria from the qualitative perspective.

Constant comparative analysis of the respondents' responses and observation of periodic attacks revealed the identification of various themes, codes and categories which classified the nature of Boko Haram attacks into the Geomechanistic-Talibanism 'jihadist' periodic attacks, the Geoconservative-Yusuffiya 'jihadist' periodic attacks, the Geolone-Ya'anawa 'jihadist' periodic attacks; other classifications are the Geoindigenous mixed-clan 'jihadist' periodic attacks, the Geomulti-tribal configured 'jihadist' periodic attacks and Georganistic-transnational 'jihadist' periodic attacks. During the interviews, a number of ideas came up on how to improve and explore new areas in subsequent research on this subject matter. Qualitative data analysed in this research originated from the interview transcripts conducted and observation notes that were taken in the field. This became the summary of representation of the series of interviews carried out and it was reworked to represent the categories which emerged as major and minor themes, codes and categories which described the nature and stages of Boko Haram's periodic attacks in Nigeria.

In his presentation, Woods (2011) noted that interview has advantages, disadvantages and limitations. He added that it requires some degree of preparation as it has stages of qualitative method of primary data collections which in this research sought to give better understanding of periodic attacks in Nigeria. Woods submits that the following are crucial in the use of interview: arrival process, introductions, background noise checks, getting to know each other, setting up audiotape recording equipment and settling down, among others. These points were observed during the interviews on Boko Haram 'jihad' periodic attacks in Nigeria with some competent and well informed ward and district heads in Bulabulin-Ngarannam, Alajiri, Shokari, Goni-Damgari, Mashamari and Jajiri.

Other places where interviews were conducted were Salari, Dusuman, Kayamla, Malari and Baram-Karuwa'a, in the district of Konduga, Mafa, Jere, Damboa and Bama. Residents of the most affected areas of Bulabulin, Shehuri North, Gamboru, Limanti and Ngarannam were also interviewed.

Some members of the general public (a cross-section of population in the study area) also contributed to the interview sessions, especially the residents of Gamboru, Dandal, Gwange, Lamisula, among other areas. Journalists were also interviewed and substantial qualitative data were gathered, analysed, interpreted and findings presented.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

During the research, it was discovered that Boko Haram attacks in North Eastern Nigeria were grossly under reported; it is therefore recommended that there should be a standard recording system with sources to keep the trend and patterns of periodic attacks with a view to keeping government focused and informed about the sect's activities in Nigeria. The scientific recording system is important to help government possess comprehensive data on attacks as a guide for policy making on classification, compensation, family welfare needs and the number of actual victims expected to benefit from government's relief package such as internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Maiduguri, Borno State.

Today, non-displaced persons as well as the deserted families of Boko Haram members partake in welfare meant to alleviate the suffering of the affected women and children who were victims of Boko Haram attacks in Nigeria. Although all the attacks reported in this thesis cannot, in their entirety, be credited to the members of Boko Haram, one fact that is sacrosanct is that the acts of Boko Haram are intertwined with organised crimes and sophisticated transnational armed robbery operating under the cover of Boko Haram insurgents across Nigerian borders. It is therefore recommended that a study be carried out with the aim of differentiating between the criminal activities of Boko Haram insurgency and armed robbery.

There should be a scientific method of distinguishing between patriotic Nigerian people in the troubled region and members of Boko Haram who are perpetrating criminal acts there. At the moment, no one can in precise terms state the exact number of Boko Haram's periodic attacks or the number of casualties involved. This is due largely to non-availability of an experienced team of analysts from the government to keep analytic expertise focused on the insurgency. When a team is empowered to dissect and study the Boko Haram attacks at national and regional levels, it will help in formulating better policies that can speed up moves to stamp out Boko Haram in Nigeria.

The civilian participation in the move to thrash terrorism does not appear to be encouraging. Therefore, the government should endeavour to co-opt the civilian population into the process of managing Boko Haram attacks as almost the entire process has been militarised. The inability of policy makers to explore the dynamics of the menace through effective research militates against efforts to solve the problem.

A pertinent question that arises at this level is what is the investigative community's knowledge about the leadership of the 'jihad' group, its financing, operations as well as the battle against security forces? This area needs to be explored to enhance a better understanding of Boko Haram's periodic attacks in Nigeria. Other emerging questions include: What is the impact of Boko Haram attacks on the global economy? Why are Boko Haram victims predominantly the masses?

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- Young-A Lee, Iowa State University, 1073 LeBaron Hall, Ames, IA 50011 – 1121 ; email:ylee@iastate.edu. *Family and Consumer Sciences research Journal*, Vol, 43, No. 1 July 2014 94-97