TRANSITIVITY IN KUFOUR'S 2008 FAREWELL SPEECH TO THE GHANAIAN PARLIAMENT

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ABSTRACT: *This study uses Halliday's transitivity theory to analyse the use of language in President J. A. Kufuor's farewell address to Parliament. The study uses the content analysis design to analyse all the clauses in the address. The study reveals that among the six process types under the transitivity model, the material processes are used maximally in the speech whereas the existential processes are used minimally. There was, however, no behavioural process in the address. The dominant use of material clauses suggest that Kufuor interprets the world in terms of his past and present "goings-on" happenings by recounting some of the concrete achievements recorded under his eight-year stewardship and making useful suggestions to the incoming government in order to ensure continuity in projects his administration has initiated. His choice of actors suggests that Kufuor attributes the achievements to himself which may be perceived as a feature of undemocratic leadership style; however his determination to share his wealth of experience with the incoming government corrects the impression that he is undemocratic. He also uses a majority of relational identifications to point out to himself and his administration as the main development players. Verbal processes have been used as markers of transition and topic shift; still, he refers to himself as the main sayer. The study concludes and affirms that material, relational and mental processes are the three primary processes often used in language since the three add up to about 90% (Halliday&Matthiessen, 2004).*

KEYWORDS: John Agyekum Kufuor, Ghana, Systemic Functional Grammar, Transitivity, Farewell Address, Parliament, Political Ideologies.

INTRODUCTION

His Excellency the former President of Ghana, Mr. John Agyekum Kufuor, delivered his farewell speech to the 4th Parliament of the 4th Republic before its dissolution on the 5th of January, 2009. He was first sworn into office as President of the Republic of Ghana on 7th January, 2001. His four-year mandate expired in 2004; however the electorates renewed his mandate through voting and gave him another four-year term in office as President.

Soon Kufuor's two terms in office ended and it behoved him as president to obey the relevant constitutional provision that enjoined him as the sitting president to address Parliament before its dissolution in order to pave way for the new House to be ushered in. Similarly, since it was the last time the former president was addressing the House, he was expected to present a summary of his eight-year stewardship: achievements and failures, challenges faced, and the way forward, some suggestions for the in-coming government, and a thank you message to the entire citizenry.

It is believed that in such political speeches, political leaders are able to influence the mental models, knowledge, attitudes and eventually the ideologies of their listeners (Van Dijk, 1993). This is so because political addresses have both linguistic and political purposes; linguistic in

the sense of examining the choices made by the speaker, and political in the sense that language has communicative underpinnings in all situational contexts.

In the analysis of political discourse, linguists particularly dwell much on coherent sequences of sentences, propositions, speech, persuasion or turns-at-talk. Contrary to much of traditional linguists, discourse analysts do not only study language use 'beyond the sentence boundary', but also prefer to analyze naturally occurring language in context. This helps to shape the meaning and the subsequent understanding of texts.

Charteris-Black (2005, p.1) argues that within all types of political systems, from autocratic, through oligarchic to democratic, leaders have relied on the spoken word to convince others of the benefits that arise from their leadership. One of these types of expressions is political speech (Martins, 2012). Political speeches are used by politicians to argue, to reason, to sustain their ideas, to continue in power, to oppress people and nations, to establish and perpetuate ideas, and or to defend people in their needs, to promote civil rights, and peace (Fairclough, 2000). According to Stubbs (1986), language is used to express beliefs and adopt positions in the process of interaction with the other. Levinson (1983, p. 9) establishes a strong connection between agency and pragmatic analysis, linking the meaning of an utterance to the intention behind it according to its place in a sequence of discourse, its attribution to one subject or another, or concealment of the agent.

Speech is a force or a power that is used to accomplish different ends or goals in different circumstances, and it is imperative to understand the purposes or goals of the communicator and the circumstances under which the communication is taking place (Medhurst, 2010). The goal of a given speech can be determined through its communicative function, which is rendered through the kind of speech acts performed (Trosborg, 2000), as speech acts constitute the verbal actions accomplished with utterances (Yule, 2002). With presidential speeches, Campbell & Jamieson (2008) assert that the communicative goals are diverse as the presidents attempt to perform a plethora of functions with their speeches.

Several studies have been conducted to analyze political discourses especially with reference to countries' presidents (Boakye 2014; Kondowe 2014; Naz et al 2012; Alvi&Baseer 2011; Wang 2010; Nadashkivska 2006). Presidents of countries have come to be known as common fathers of their citizens, burdened with the care of their children (Hinckley, 1990). They represent the people, and thus should speak for their people. The President's voice is taken as the voice of the people. The political ideologies encoded in presidential speeches and addresses, therefore, to a large extent reflect the political ideologies and realities of their parties.

In the analysis of political discourse, Halliday's transitivity model can be used as a means of revealing the hidden meanings concealed under the persuasive linguistic constructions by the speaker. Van Leeuwen (2012) argues that in the analysis of political discourse, relatively sparse attention is paid to grammatical phenomena. He argues that even when grammatical phenomena are analyzed, the focus is generally on linguistic means that can be used to hide agency, like nominalization, passivization and thematization. He claims that it can be fruitful in the analysis of political discourse to focus on other grammatical phenomena as well. The transitivity framework is a viable tool in exploring the encoding of experience in political discourse. It is used by linguists to investigate the art of linguistic spin in political speeches and other discourses, and to determine the association between linguistic form and function, and language manipulation. Transitivity can make a clause more understandable because the

reader will know the specific process(es) in the clause. Transitivity specifies the different types of processes that are recognized in the language, and the structures by which they are expressed (Halliday,1985b, p.101).

This study, therefore, is an attempt to explore the linguistic choices used in the farewell speech of former president Kufuor to the Parliament of Ghana with particular reference to the process types used and the communicative implications embedded in them. By studying this particular kind of political language in circumstances where all its functions and variations are taken into consideration, it is possible to learn more about how perceptions, convictions and identities are influenced by language.

Theoretical Framework

The study uses Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) as its theoretical framework. Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar sees the clause as the pivotal grammatical unit for construing our world of experience, enacting our world's interpersonal interactions, and managing the free flow of discourse across a text. This framework is termed as systemic because it is believed that language users have choices in language to select from in relation to a given context. This means that the selection made from a given register depends on specific selection from components of situational context. The above explains that individuals have alternative choices available for them to produce linguistic utterances and texts. The system is what combines the notion of choice in language through grammar which is the system network. The grammar offers language users a variety of options and choices (Kondowe 2014). Text and specific combinations of situational context, according to Christie (2002), is a condition of cultural context.

The theory is called functional because of the multiple purposes language is used for (Halliday, 1994). The function of language is to make meanings, and these meanings are influenced by the social and cultural contexts in which they are exchanged, and that the processes of using language is semiotic: a process of making meanings by choosing.

According to Halliday&Matthiessen (2004), every language has three meta-functions namely: ideational, interpersonal and textual. The three metafunctions together give rise to three strands of meaning in a clause: clause as representation, clause as exchange, and clause as message (Wang, 2008, p.58). The three strands of meaning further split in form and wording in the lexico-grammar with its meta-functional related systems of transitivity, mood and modality, and theme and rheme.

Under the ideational meta-function, Halliday&Matthiessen (2004) explain that the speaker or writer embodies in language his experience of the phenomena relating to the real world and this includes his experience of the internal world of his own consciousness, his reactions, cognitions and perceptions and also his linguistic acts of speaking and understanding. The ideational function considers transitivity and voice, in which transitivity consists of the six processes called material, mental, relational, verbal, behavioural and existential. The voice component consists of activisation and passivisation of clauses.

The interpersonal metafunction is concerned with establishing and maintaining the interaction between the speaker and the hearer. This means that language is used as a tool for creating social contact and interactions. Here, a relationship is established between a speaker and a listener. Halliday&Matthiessen (2004, p.29) refer to interpersonal metafunction as "a

proposition, or a proposal, whereby we inform or question, give an order or make an offer, and express our appraisal of an attitude towards whoever we are addressing and what we are talking about."

Relating to textual function, Zhuanglin (1988) is of the view that language has the mechanism to make any stretch of spoken or written discourse into a coherent and unified text and make a living passage different from a random list of sentences. Halliday&Matthiessen (2004) explain that textual function fulfils the requirement that language should be operationally relevant, having texture in a real context of situation that distinguishes a living passage from a mere entry in a grammar book or dictionary. In essence, the textual function of language concerns itself with the internal organisation of information in a text. As a semiotic system, language devotes some of its lexico-grammatical resources to establishing links among the tokens of meaning it expresses. These resources include intra-sentential and inter-sentential cohesive devices as well as inter-paragraph connectors. Generally, these resources maintain unity and continuity among the various ideational units in a text.

Transitivity Analysis Framework

Transitivity is a syntactico-semantic concept which refers to the way a writer or speaker represents, at the clausal level of language, his experience of the real world or his own world of consciousness (Halliday, 1971). Halliday (1985, p.101) also explains that "A fundamental property of language is that it enables human beings to build a mental picture of reality, to make sense of their experience of what goes on around them and inside them. ... Our most powerful conception of reality is that it consists of 'goings-on': of doing, happening, feeling, being."

The main argument of the transitivity system is that our most powerful conception of reality consists of "goings-on" of doing, happening, feeling and being. These goings-on are sorted out in the semantic system of the language, and expressed through the grammar of the clause (Halliday, 1994). The clause is, therefore, analysed for its potential to represent both the outer and the inner world of human beings (Kondowe 2014). The representation of reality is achieved by means of a set of processes along with their participants and the circumstances in which they unfold (Filho, 2004). It expresses what is happening, what is being done, what is felt and in what state it is (Yumin, 2007 cited in Kondowe 2014).

"Transitivity specifies the different types of process that are recognized in the language, and the structures by which they are expressed." (Halliday, 1985b, p.101). Transitivity basically presents how the world is perceived in three dimensions: the material world, the world of consciousness, and the world of relations. It categorizes the potential number of processes and the semantic roles assigned to the participants according to the nature and usage of the processes.

Transitivity system identifies three components of the grammar of the clause. The first is the process, which is the pivot of the experiential mode of the clause and is typically realised by the verb phrase. The second is the participant(s) directly involved in the process and is typically realised by noun phrases. The third element is the circumstances, which are attendant to the process, and thus not directly involved in it. The circumstances occupy the adjunct element in the clause structure and are typically realised by prepositional and adverb phrases (Simpson, 2004). Compared to the other two components of the clause, the

circumstance element covers a wide range of semantic class, comprising extent, location, manner, cause, contingency, accompaniment, role, matter, and angle, as well as their sub-categories.

Eggins (2004, p.214) refers to transitivity analysis as the organization of the clause to realize ideational meanings, meanings about how we represent reality in language. To conduct a transitivity analysis, it is necessary to identify every verb and its associated process. It is then necessary to identify patterns in the use of these processes. As for 'circumstances', Eggins (2004, p. 223) has explained that "circumstances are not only realized by adverbial and prepositional phrases, but can also include location, matter, manner, role, or accompaniment in the clauses."

Halliday divides the system of transitivity into six processes, namely: material, mental, relational, behavioural, verbal, and existential. The details of processes are indicated as follows:

METHODS OF ANALYSIS

The transitivity analysis of processes, participants and circumstances is done in line with the three steps developed by Burton (1982, p. 202) which are (1) isolating the processes, and determining which participant (who or what) is doing each process; (2) determining what sorts of processes they are, and which participant is engaged in which type of process; and (3) verifying who or what is affected or seems to be affected by each of these processes.

The analysis is also done in line with the three steps used by Kondowe (2014): (1) the text was parsed into its constituents clauses, (2) processes were then isolated, and we determined which participant is doing each process; finally (3) we determined what sorts of processes they are, and which participant is engaged in which type of process. A discussion focuses on the frequency of occurrence of the process types as they statistically appear in the address.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the analysis are explained first by identifying the process types used in the farewell address, followed by the results of the analysis of the communicative functions encoded in the process types used in the address. The table below illustrates the process types used in the address and their frequencies.

Table 1: Frequency of Occurrences of the Process Types Used in the Address

PROCESS TYPE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
Material	102	45.74
Relational	62	27.80
Mental	36	16.14
Verbal	16	8.52
Existential	4	1.80
Behavioural	0	0
TOTAL	223	100

As can be seen from Table 1, the total number of processes used in the farewell speech is 223. The process types that appear to be used the most predominantly are material processes with a frequency of 102 representing 45.74% of the data analysed. The second most frequently used in the speech are relational processes with a frequency of 61 representing 27.80% of the data analysed. The third most frequent used process type is the mental group with a total frequency of 36 representing a percentage of 16.14 of the total data analysed. The mental process type is followed by the verbal process with a frequency of 19 representing 8.52% of the corpus analysed. The existential process type follows with an insignificant frequency of 4 representing 1.80%. The behavioural process, however, did not record any occurrence in the corpus analysed. The results affirm that "Material, mental and relational are the main types of process in the English transitivity system" (Halliday&Matthiessen, 2004, p.171) whereas the verbal, existential and behavioural types represent the peripheral process types in the transitivity system.

The results of analysis of each participant, their associated processes and their functions are discussed in detail with below.

Material Clauses

The predominant use of material clauses in the speech indicate that Kufour construes the world more in terms of physical actions of his past and future happenings. In the introductory part of the address, he uses material processes to comment on the constitutional obligation he has to fulfil as the President of the land before he leaves office. He again uses material processes to comment on the importance of multi-party system in a democratic dispensation. As a democrat, he also uses the material process to comment on his acceptance of the election results declared by the Electoral Commissioner in favour of the opposition party National Democratic Congress (NDC). He uses material processes to signal his departure from office after eight years at the presidency and his desire to share his repertoire of political and public experience with parliament. Most of the bitter political experiences and challenges are represented in material processes. These happenings are concrete, physical and tangible, and action is passed on from the actor to the goal. The material processes in the introduction also help to recount Kufour's past political experience and the resilience he had shown which had seen him at the pinnacle of his political career. This act of experience and knowledge sharing is indicative of the fact that Kufuor is selfless, and a real democrat.

Consider some material clauses used in the introduction below:

1.<1a> I have come to this august House as President of Ghana <1b> to address the House before the dissolution of the 4th Republic.

2. <5>As a democratic, I acknowledge this declaration.

3. <18>Political Parties bridge many divides within the nation.

4. <27a>As I leave office after eight years in the presidency….

5. <29b> I have served in Parliament twice.

The above examples indicate that Kufuor utilizes material clauses, at the onset of his speech, to honour a constitutional obligation, to declare his acceptance of the election verdict, to describe the unifying force of political parties and to signal his departure from active politics.

In the main body of the address, Kufuor uses material processes to point to some of the achievements recorded under his stewardship with regard to projects which were completed, those which need to be continued and other reforms which he would like to see in governing of the nation.

Through the processes of doings and actions, he affirms that his government has built a solid foundation upon which the in-coming administration can easily build on. He assures investors that the macro-economy has stabilized and this has led to the expansion of the financial sector. He recounts in material terms, some of the projects the out- going government had initiated, and called for a sense of continuity between the glories of the past and the challenges of the present. With this, the audience is of the hope that the transition to the new administration does not pose any threat to the nation's historic legacy (Korzi 2004). See the following material clauses in the main address:

1. <40a> I therefore recommend for the consideration of this House and the nation a system <40b> which will retain the absolute independence of the Commission, <40c> but also provide it with specific tenure.

2. <60> Transforming the nation cannot be effected under one presidency.

3. <65a> Government has already initiated action towards the creation of adjoining land banks in the Western Region <65b> to support investors in the petro chemical sector.

4. <67> The International Financial Services Centre of Offshore Banking that has already been launched should be developed further.

5. <72a> Government has worked extensively on this integrated project <72b> and much progress has been made.

6. <74b>That the in-coming administration will champion the realization of this strategic project.

7. <78> Progress made in education should be sustained.

The above clauses suggest that Kufuor's government made giant strides (as seen in the words: creation of adjoining landmarks, petrochemical, offshore banking, integrated project, etc) in social projects and he is entreating the in-coming government to show a sense of continuity in all the social interventions put in place by the out-going administration in order to avoid waste. He further makes recommendations that are useful for the in-coming government so as to safeguard the validity and integrity of our electoral process and also to resolve the functional overlaps in the work of ministers and legislators. Kufuor uses the material clause to comment on the importance of national, sub-regional, regional and global unifications in order for the nation to enjoy good international relations.

Choice of Actors in the Clauses

The study also examines nominal and pronominal groups that have been assigned acting roles in various material clauses of the speech. It is believed the choice of actors and their roles is ideologically motivated. The analysis shows ten main actors, namely: *I, we, my government/my administration, he, political parties& politicians, you, Parliament/House, Electoral Commission(er), people/ electorates of Ghana*.

However, some of the clauses are discovered to be agentless and have a representation of 15.65%. Such clauses are used by Kufuor to point to concrete projects his government initiated; but he distances himself from the continuity of such projects. He hides agency in such clauses resulting in empty slots for the agents. Therefore, entities that are responsible for the continuation of such good works is not given any mention in the address.

The analysis of actor indicates that the pronoun *I* tops in the majority of material clauses with a representation of 26.96% of the total 115 material clauses, seconded by the demonstrative *others* with 21.65%. *It* and structures which serve as dummy subjects in some relational clauses follow. This is distantly followed by the pronoun *we* with 8.70% representation. Other nominal phrases *Political Parties & Politicians, Parliament/ The House and People/electorate of Ghana* represent 5.32% each. The least used actors are *government/my government* and *Electoral Commission(er)* representing 4.35% each as shown in table 2 below.

Table 2: Statistical distribution of actors

Actors	Frequency	Percentage
I	31	26.96
Others	25	21.74
Agentless	18	15.65
We	10	8.70
Parliament/the House	6	5.32
People/electorate of Ghana	6	5.32
Political Parties/Politicians	6	5.32
Government/My government	5	4.35
Electoral Commission(er)	5	4.35
He	3	2.61
TOTAL	115	100

Actor *I* comes first in the speech and it reveals that Kufuor identifies himself as the main actor and sole doer of many of the main processes. This also indicates that he takes glory in what he is capable to do under his regime and accepts any blame as far as his stewardship is concerned. Actor *we* is also used by Kufuor in the minority of main clauses to construe his experience the material world. Pronoun *we* is traditionally associated with inclusiveness (Halliday, 1994 and Thompson, 2004) and Kufuor anaphorically uses it in the speech to represent himself and his administration.

The speech gives out the impression that Kufuor has stabilized the national economy and still has in store useful knowledge from which the in-coming government can tap to ensure continuous growth in the economy. He rarely includes the citizenry in the achievements he claims has been chalked acting contrary to ideal democratic principles of creating government of the people for the people and by the people. Just like Duran's (2008) study on Senator John Kerry and Kondowe's (2014) study on Bingu wa Mutharika would reveal, Kufuor similarly portrays himself as an active participant, a leader of actions who assures the masses that he has done his best to propel the needed growth the people were yearning for and charges the newly elected president to show commitment in the completion of projects his government could not complete due to inadequate time.

Relational Clauses

The analysis further shows, that Kufuor evenly distributed attributive and identification clauses in his address to provide definitions and explanations of his being in terms of status, and the current politico- economic state of the nation. He, therefore, renders himself an interpreter of the current situation that assigns attributes to the participants involved. Just like Obama's speech, as observed by Wang (2010 cited in Kondowe 2014), Kufuor chooses processes of being as an appropriate way to explain the complex relationship between some abstract items because they sound definite. These processes elaborate the relationship between ideals and speaker's beliefs and which can reach their aim of making the reasoning naturally and unconsciously accepted by the audience. Consider some relational clauses used in the address below:

1. <2a>This is also a very good occasion.

2. <17a> Political Parties are not only for elections.

3. <21> Parties become indispensable in a democratic dispensation.

4. <28> Indeed, I have a story to tell.

5. <38> The country has been fortunate with the current Commission

6. <42>This is one way of securing accountability to the people.

7. <55>The presidency is not without its drawback either.

8. <63>The first is the emerging petro-chemical sector.

9. <70>Its various components are bauxite mining, infrastructural rail link etc.

10. <91>It must have information.

11. <100> I am forever thankful.

12. <102> I am very grateful to all my compatriots.

Kufuor begins his speech by describing the occasion as "very good" for him to give account of his eight- year leadership and to bid members of the House farewell. He also outlines some visible entities that he and the House which is a representative of the people must possess for the benefit of all using possessive attributive relational clauses. These clauses have been signalled by main verbs *have* to indicate possession. For instance: "It (Parliament) must have information". "I have some story to tell".

Being a traditional man and the main carrier of the country's development, he uses relational clauses to show his appreciation and gratitude to the electorates for the opportunity given him to serve his nation as in "I am forever thankful" and "I am grateful indeed to all my compatriots".

Furthermore, Kufuor selects identifications with positive values to create good impression to the citizenry, and solidifies his image as an expert and strengthens his political image.

In summary, President Kufuor uses the relational processes to assert himself as the out-going president by virtue of the power that he had held, and to identify himself with the people, and to indicate his new position that will prevent him from carrying out certain policies which hitherto, he would have been able to do. This sums up the fact that he is not constitutionally obligated to carry out any major development after the delivery of his farewell message. Kufuor's use of relational processes is an effort to create a very positive image of himself in the minds of the masses. His use of the relational processes is in line with Halliday's relational assertions of 'being' and 'having' (Halliday&Matthiessen, 1999). Kufuor's use of these relational processes explains how he had used his presidential position to propel development in Ghana.

Mental Clauses

First, he had the perception that his party's flag bearer would succeed him after his exit from the presidency but unfortunately in politics, hopes are concretised by votes and are declared by the constitutionally mandated electoral commission. He again perceives that many factors will militate against the House to be convened because the House lacks a clear majority and therefore appeals passionately to the House to help expedite action in consensus building. By so doing, he believes it is possible to work together to restore hope to all Ghanaians. He further reminds Ghanaians not be oblivious of the massive changes his administration has brought to the financial sectors. He also thinks that if the incoming government pursues policies of continuity, then the country will become an industrial hub as Kwame Nkrumah dreamt to have it. Though his tenure of office has ended, he enjoins Ghanaians to rally behind the new administration.

Kufuor senses that parliament knows the turbulent times he has passed through as a politician. Those turbulent periods under which he served has made him all knowing as far as politics in Ghana is concerned. He has garnered a wealth of experience and repertoire of political knowledge to share with members of the House and beckons the president-elect not to ignore the suggestions he is making to his administration. He endeared the people for giving him the opportunity to serve, and accepting him through thick and thin and giving him their moral support and affection. From the analysis, it can be concluded that mental processes have the potential of arousing the emotions of our audience (Kondowe, 2014). Here are examples of mental clauses used in the address:

1. <3> I had hoped
2. <4c> The electoral commission of Ghana has decided otherwise
3. <9> He, more than anyone else, should know
4. <15> I wish them better luck next time
5. <29a> As you must know
6. <31> I have seen the rise and fall of three republics.
7. <44> The Constitution of the fourth Republic recognises in Parliament a majority side and a minority side.
8. These developments will help realise the dream of Kwame Nkrumah for industrialisation.
9. <77>We have already noted the developments in the financial sector.
10. <101> I owe this enlarged vision and more to the good people of Ghana.

From above examples, we can see that mental process, as a process of sensing, appeals to the audience's inner heart to connect the political beliefs, ambitions with their expectation, hope

in a clear and emphasized way. In this way, the audience's emotion of promotion and willingness to devotion is aroused and strengthened.

Verbal processes

Unlike Kondowe's (2014) study that has recognized verbal processes to be the third in rank, this study conforms to findings in other political discourse studies (Wang, 2010), that have recognized verbal processes to be the fourth in rank. We see in the address that Kufuor often refers to himself as a direct sayer of verbal processes using the pronoun *I*. The analysis indicates that there are very few clauses which have been said by 'others' as Table 2 indicates. This further explains that most of the key political declarations are made by the sitting president. His declaration that he accepts the Electoral Commission's declaration of the election results in favour of the opposition party calms nerves in the country. This is a clear affirmation of Kufour's readiness to hand over the political mantle to the in-coming president. Kufuor shows his political maturity and democratic fortitude by openly congratulating the president-elect J.E.A. Mills on his victory. He takes advantage of these processes to express his inner most feeling towards his departure from active politics. Kufour's use of the verbal process "to bid" is ample evidence that he is leaving office as the president of the Republic of Ghana.

Kufuor uses verbal processes for other reasons: to *thank*, *express his appreciation* and *make recommendations and suggestions* to the in-coming government and the people in general. He also uses the processes to mark a shift in topic. For example, *I wish to discuss three strategic programmes* is a direct signalling device of topic shift. According to Kondowe (2014) the signalling device of topic shift is so useful in holding the speech together and his audience all along. Kufuor also uses verbal clauses to emphasize his proposition on the effective workings of state institution, for instance, *I would want to emphasize.* These clauses are meant to capture the attention of audience as he makes his address. He asserts himself as a man of his words and an agent of change who had delivered on his promise. He says *Let me cite just the example of the free maternity care.* The processes also concretize what could otherwise be viewed as abstract activities in making them appear more vivid by appealing to the audience's sense of hearing. To buttress this he can be quoted as saying "*Some of us will continue to advocate for some reasonable support by the state for the sustenance of parties with credible track record*". Kufour continues to mention himself as the main sayer of the main verbal clauses throughout the address.

Table 3: Examples of verbal processes identified in the address

Sayer	Process	Target	Verbiage
The Electoral Commissioner	has declared		that the electorate of Ghana has decided otherwise.
I	Congratulate	Professor John Evans Attah Mills	once on his election
I	Wish to discuss		three strategic programmes
I	Should [also] congratulate	The NPP Flag bearer	
I	*would want to emphasize*		
All humanity	is called upon		to be each other's keeper
I	Thank	You	

Existential clauses

In these types of clauses, the word *there* is the dummy subject and therefore has no representational function in the transitivity structure of the clause. However, it serves to indicate the feature of existence, and it is needed interpersonally as subject (Halliday&Matthiessen, 2004, p.257). Kufuor uses few existential clauses in his address as follows:

<39a>There is no doubt, however, <39b> that generally it is risky to have a referee <39c> that enjoys permanent tenure.

<47a> There is no doubt <47b>that to carry any measure <47c> there must be compromises, sensible accommodation, in short, constructive consensus building.

<61>There should be a succession of presidents working towards the same goal over time.

The President is worried about an existent, that is, the permanency of the tenure of office of the electoral commissioner and calls for immediate action, since such a phenomenon casts a slur on the validity and fairness of the electoral process. This can further dent the image of Ghana in the face of the international community that hails Ghana for good democratic practices. Similarly, he is of the view that there will be a hung parliament in the next House to be convened. This means that the House will not have a clear majority and that calls for effective consensus building in order to enhance the work of Parliament. He is also of the view that there should be in place a legislative instrument that will compel incoming governments to stick to the good policies initiated by previous governments to ensure continuity in developments. This will prevent incoming administrations to begin camouflaged projects just for political expediency and cheap popularity.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Results of the study indicate that material processes by far dominate the address, distantly followed by relational and mental clauses respectively. Verbal clauses come fourth.

The pronoun *I* has been the major actor of the address, while *others* comes second. Material processes and clauses suggest that Kufuor interprets the world in terms of his past records basically by recounting his bitter political ordeals and atrocities. In addition, he recounts the successes chalked under his eight-year rule as president and makes recommendations for implementation by the incoming government. Kufuor thus, wants reforms to be in the Electoral Commission, Parliament and at the presidency in terms of function and tenure of office.

He continuously identifies himself and his administration as the main development players. In principle, the address shows some autocratic and individualistic leadership trails in Kufuor; however one cannot deny the fact that he has been the father of the nation for eight years and thus, has to accept responsibility for both positive and negative economic development issues. Similarly, his willingness to share his political experience with the opposition as seen in his use of material clauses, and his move beyond rhetoric to make certain vital recommendations to the in-coming government is enough to justify that Kufuor is a mature democratic leader with democratic credentials.

In relational clauses, Kufuor is depicted as an interpreter of the "goings-on" in the past eight years and he assigns attributes to the participants involved, by tactically choosing identifications of positive values to create good impression to the citizens, and to draw them closer to himself in order to solidify his political image. Verbal processes have been used as markers of transition and topic shift, which have been very successful in binding the speech and holding the audience throughout the address. They are also used to express gratitude, farewell, and to make declarations, proposals and recommendations. Still, Kufuor refers to himself as the main sayer of the processes.

Halliday & Matthiessen, (2004) aver that material, relational and mental processes are three primary processes in language use since the three add up to about 90%. As a farewell address for an out-going President, it must fulfil the traditionally and ritually required functions: to state facts of the domestic or worldwide situations or problems objectively and the relevant policies forcefully, to conduct reasoning related to the relationship between traditional beliefs such as freedom, democracy, justice, equality, principles, union, happiness and Ghanaian dreams and citizens' participation, responsibilities, sacrifice and the needed reforms in economy, Medicare, or other fields, (Yumin, 2007cited in Wang, 2010). These are the issues that Kufuor's address actually address and thus, confirm Yumin's (2007) viewpoint.

This study has been an analysis of Kufuor's 2008 farewell address to the Ghanaian parliament, and does not include his other addresses. Future studies may try to compare and contrast Kufour's first farewell address to Parliament in 2005 and his final farewell address to Parliament in 2009. These two addresses are essential because they will show how Kufuor construed his world of experience in his first and second terms in office.

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