

## **PRAGMA-STYLISTIC MANIFESTATIONS IN SPORT DISCOURSE FROM SELECTED RADIO STATIONS IN IBADAN METROPOLIS**

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**ABSTRACT:** *Language is a complex human-specific system of communication. It is the only means by which people in a speech community communicate among themselves. Pragma-stylistic is one of the types of context-oriented stylistics that has to do with speech act stylistics. Its contributions to the field of stylistics have made the study of language an interesting one. The need to ascertain whether sport presenters on the radio employ speech acts in their conversation motivates this study. A pragma-stylistic model of literary analysis is presented and applied to analyse the sport discourse from selected radio stations in Ibadan metropolis. The conversations are analysed as a cohesive chunk so as to examine the direct and indirect illocutionary acts, the perlocutionary effects, the various contexts and competencies that are inherent in the sport discourse. The major results of the analyses indicate that the participants engage in conversation so as to do things with words.*

**KEY WORDS:** language, pragmatics, stylistics, pragma-stylistics, utterance,

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Radio technology is an audio (sound) broadcasting service which uses special air as special radio waves from a transmitter to a radio antenna and, then, to a receiver (Udomisor, 2013; Tersoo, 2018). The radio was the first medium of communication to reach the Nigeria. This, according to the Federal Radio Corporation, was established in 1932 by the colonial government. The British Colonial government initiated the development of radio broadcasting to link them with their various colonies (Mwantok & Aikulola, 2020). The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) from the United Kingdom launched the world's first regulatory schedule short wave programmes service (Akasoro, Okidu & Ajaga, 2013). This broadcasting began full operation in Nigeria with the introduction of the Radio Distribution in the year 1933 in Lagos by the British colonial government under the Department of Post and Telegraphs (P&T) (Akasoro, et al, 2014; Familusi & Owoeye, 2014).

Today, radio broadcasting service remains the greatest means of news dissemination in Ibadan with FM (Frequency Modulation) which is most common, followed closely by AM (Amplitude Modulation) (Pate and Abubakar, 2013; Abuku & Iorngurum, 2017). In the present day Ibadan, there are government owned (public) and private radio stations. The institutes for media and

society and Omipidan (2019) compiled the list of radio stations in Nigeria on their websites. There twenty-two (22) radio stations in Ibadan as at May 2020.

Radio broadcasting, in Ibadan, has been useful for many purposes such as; news, entertainment, education, information and music. It is consciously employed for the purpose of helping people to better their lives. Radio could be used educationally, or in community development, religion or for economic purposes to bring about the required development. In any of these sectors, the target should be to bring about change to Nigeria (Abuku & Iorngurum, 2017). Radio, according to Omo Yooba (2020), has always served as a tool to check decision-makers. It is established to provide access to information and motivate and inspire the people. This made the researcher to use the sport programme that is aired on the radio to demonstrate if language is a peculiar prowess of the radio. The conversations of sport presenters on selected radio stations in Ibadan are therefore examined to ascertain the pragma-stylistic manifestations in their discourse.

### **Style and Stylistics**

The study of style came into limelight in the 1960s, and has become popular among different scholars and different vantages of linguistic studies. Several meanings and theories of stylistics exist in linguistic scholarship (Crystal and Derek 1992, and Wales 2001). Stylistics, according to Birch (1997), is an attempt to establish principles capable of explaining the idiosyncratic use of language and various societal variables that characterize the use of language. Black (2006) is of the opinion that the study of style of language is the aspects in the context in which the language is used; this may be linguistic or situational. Stylistics tries to describe grammar, lexis, semantics as well as phonological features (Williams, 1990). Bradford (1997) views stylistics as a branch of linguistics that deals with the study of varieties of language, its properties, and principles behind choices, dialogue, accent, length and registers. Fish (1981) cited in Alabi (2002) opines that stylistics as a linguistic field emerged from the reaction to be subjective and imprecise. It is an impressionistic approach to literary studies. Alabi professes that stylistics is an attempt to put literary criticism on a scientific basis. Unlike the impressionistic critics, stylisticians tend to substitute the traditional mode of language analysis with clear, though rigorous, and empirical mode of linguistic consideration which offers the possibility of moving from the level of formal description of substance to functional and interpretive levels (Wisniewski, 2007). Therefore, stylistics stands out as a language discipline which investigates into the linguistic choices made by a language user in the face of abundant choices, thereby providing an empirical basis for textual description and interpretation.

The examinations of the peculiarities of undermining human communication are grouped in the study of stylistics so as to ascertain consistent usage in specific fields. This is done using linguistic properties. On a general perspective, the study of style goes beyond a mere categorization of peculiar use of language. The study of style delves into unearthing the functional value of peculiar use of language in an institutionalized societal context. All these arguments point to the very fact that style is important to the study of stylistics (Babajide, 2002;

Romano 2000). Stylistic devices make the texts more understandable, for example, the reference of sentences forwards or backwards makes the texts cohesive and coherent (Wisniewski: 2007). According to Osundare (2003), style as choice is author-oriented because it goes beyond the arrays of physical ties of language use to the various dynamics and imperatives that style offers. The word style refers to the choice of words or expressions in a given context by a given person, for a given purpose, and so on. Thus, studies on style have shown that the uses of foregrounding of certain linguistic elements are used to show the peculiarities of the style a person adopts (Alabi, 2002). There are different approaches to the study of style and each of these approaches X-rays the use of language in peculiar way to communicate effectively and to send certain cryptic messages. Lawal (2003) explores the specific approaches to the study of style to include: style as choice from variant forms, styles as deviation from the norm, style as idiosyncratic and constant forms and style as dialectical relationship between message and medium.

Style as deviation focuses on the description of the variations and deviations from the norms of the operational language. According to Sharndama and Mohammed (2013), stylistics is the description and analysis of the variability of linguistic forms in actual language usage. Style study also delves into explaining the idiosyncratic and constant forms of writers and how this authorial signet aids effective communication (Bossan and Oyediji 2018). Style as choice is a cogent approach adopted for this study. This approach to style tends to provide information about how the users of language deploy language effectively to communicate to the people; the means and modes that they select for effective communication.

### **Pragma-stylistics**

Pragma-stylistics or pragmatic stylistics is also known as speech act stylistics (Zyngier, 2001; Onoye, 2014). Speech act theory which originates from Austin (1962) explains the use of language in relation to the context, the attitude of the speaker and its effect on the hearer. These aspects are germane in understanding the entire meaning of utterances and their consequences (Lawrence, 2006). To Zyngier (2001), pragma-stylistics is one of the types of context-oriented stylistics. Pragma-stylistic approach to meaning is a linguistic approach that examines the intended meaning and the distinctive style of the speaker. According to him, every individual has a distinct mode of expression and linguistic features that characterize them from others (Eromosele, 2012). It is believed that individual's mode of expression is distinct and therefore, comprises features that characterize it from the contexts. Pragmatic analysis of language according to Leech (1981) seeks to investigate that aspect of meaning which is derived from the semantic point of view are not from the formal properties of words and constructions but from the way in which utterances are used and how they relate to the context in which they are uttered (Eromosele, 2012). Abushihab (2015) is of the view that pragmatics operates with conversational rules that deal with the systematic uses of utterances. The pragmatic theory draws mainly upon philosophy of language and the theory of speech act (Ayodabo cited in Lawal, 2003). The theory stresses the speech act theory, the analysis of conversations and cultural differences (Abushihab, 2015). Pragmatics and discourse analysis deal with the communicative use of language which is

conceived as an intentional human action. Adebija (1982) is of the view that at every stage of discourse, both speaker(s) and hearer(s) have to mobilize appropriate areas of the pragmatic, social, syntactic, semantic and lexical competencies in order to be able to participate effectively in the ongoing interaction.

Yalcein (1996) is of view that the standards of textuality relates to pragmatics and discourse analysis as text processing centers on how utterance occurrences are connected to others. The connections are through grammatical and conceptual dependencies in the text and in the textual world. He stresses the intentionality and acceptability of the utterance through the extent to which the occurrences of the presented text are examined. This is exhibited through the varieties of the setting as well as the mutual relevance of separate text (intertextuality). This is corroborated by Davy and Crystal's (1983) notion that the effectiveness of a mode of expression is dependent on the style adopted by the speaker. That is why Babajide (2000) defines stylistics in its simplest form as the study of style. Simpson (2004) explores style from the perspectives of; style as choice, style as deviation, style as situation, style as temporal phenomenon and style as individual. The style adopted by an individual is the linguistic behaviour of his/her characters as this gives the insight to the circumstances in which individual uses language.

Therefore, it is worthy to conclude that pragmatics is the theory of appropriateness and stylistics is the theory of effectiveness. The combination of the two concepts will enhance the appropriateness and effectiveness of language in analyzing them based on contexts. Zyngier (2001) is of the view that pragmatic-oriented stylisticians look at everyday conversation as a means to understand literary discourse. He stresses further that at a more superficial end of linguistic, illocutionary or pragmatic theory leads to the study of explicit manipulative constructions like; imperatives, interrogatives, responses. Implicature, presupposition and other assumptions are highly promising for literary theory and analysis at a more abstract level. Onoye (2014) corroborates the statement above by saying that the communicative behaviour of the speaker is seen in such a way that his/her everyday conversation is peculiar as a means to understand discourse. The pragmatic theories provide the stylisticians with tools to analyse, contextualize, compare, contrast and comment on text paving their investigations on pragma-linguistic forms and socio-pragmatic functions of the various linguistic elements (Zyngier, 2001; Onoye, 2014). Therefore, it is necessary to explore the pragma-stylistic analysis in studying sport discourse on radio so as to explore meaning for appropriateness and effectiveness through the linguistic framework of speech acts theory.

## **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

This study adopts Bayo Lawal's Pragma-stylistic Model of Literary Analysis. The theory was formulated in 1997 as its contribution adds a novel and useful dimension to the development of pragmatics. The theory tried to accommodate some elements of the theoretical methods of Austin (1962), Grice (1975), Searle (1976), Bach and Harnish (1979), Levison (1980), Adebija (1982)

and Lawal (1992). The model identifies two hierarchical structures. These are the surface and background structures of utterances. The structures are made up of four major constituents of context, competence, background information and speech acts with each feeding the one immediately next to its right through a sub-set of hierarchical contextual levels. The linguistic, situational, psychological, social, sociological and cosmological, are the hierarchical levels in that order. These six hierarchical and inter-connected contexts are also referred to as the model of the aspect of a pragmatic theory (Zakariyah, 2016).

At the level of the context of an utterance, Ayodabo (2003) explains that the most fundamental is the language itself. This is the linguistic context. It is the primary of all because all other contexts can be said to be related to it. It covers aspects of language such as phonological, lexical, syntactic structures as well as semantics (Zakariyah, 2016). This linguistic context is followed by the situational context which is the topic of discourse and the factors of the physical events, including concretes objectives, persons and location. The psychological context, according to Lawal (2003), refers to the background of the mood, attitudes, and personal beliefs of the language user. The next on the order of hierarchy is the social context; this is said to be concerned with interpersonal relations among the interlocutors. The fifth is the sociological context. This describes the socio-cultural and historical settings. The ultimate context, which is the cosmological context, appears to be broadest, this refers to the language user's world-view, and the implicit references to the world or aspects of it and to certain universally established facts.

The next column houses an equal number of hierarchically patterned levels of background knowledge or competence necessary for the production and interpretation of language in use. The various levels of contexts mentioned earlier are symmetrically related to the corresponding competencies. Some or all these competencies can be employed as pragmatic mappings to interpret or decode and classify an utterance into a particular speech act type, and to give an appropriate response or reaction. In doing this, the language user deploys his competencies through inference to identify and understand presuppositions, implicatures and mutual contextual beliefs (MCBs). Conversational maxims (of the cooperative principles) – whether observed or flouted – and Face Maintenance are hereby acknowledged as part of the MCBs which language users invoke to understand presuppositions, implicatures and other aspects of hidden meaning (Lawal, Ajayi and Raji, 1997).

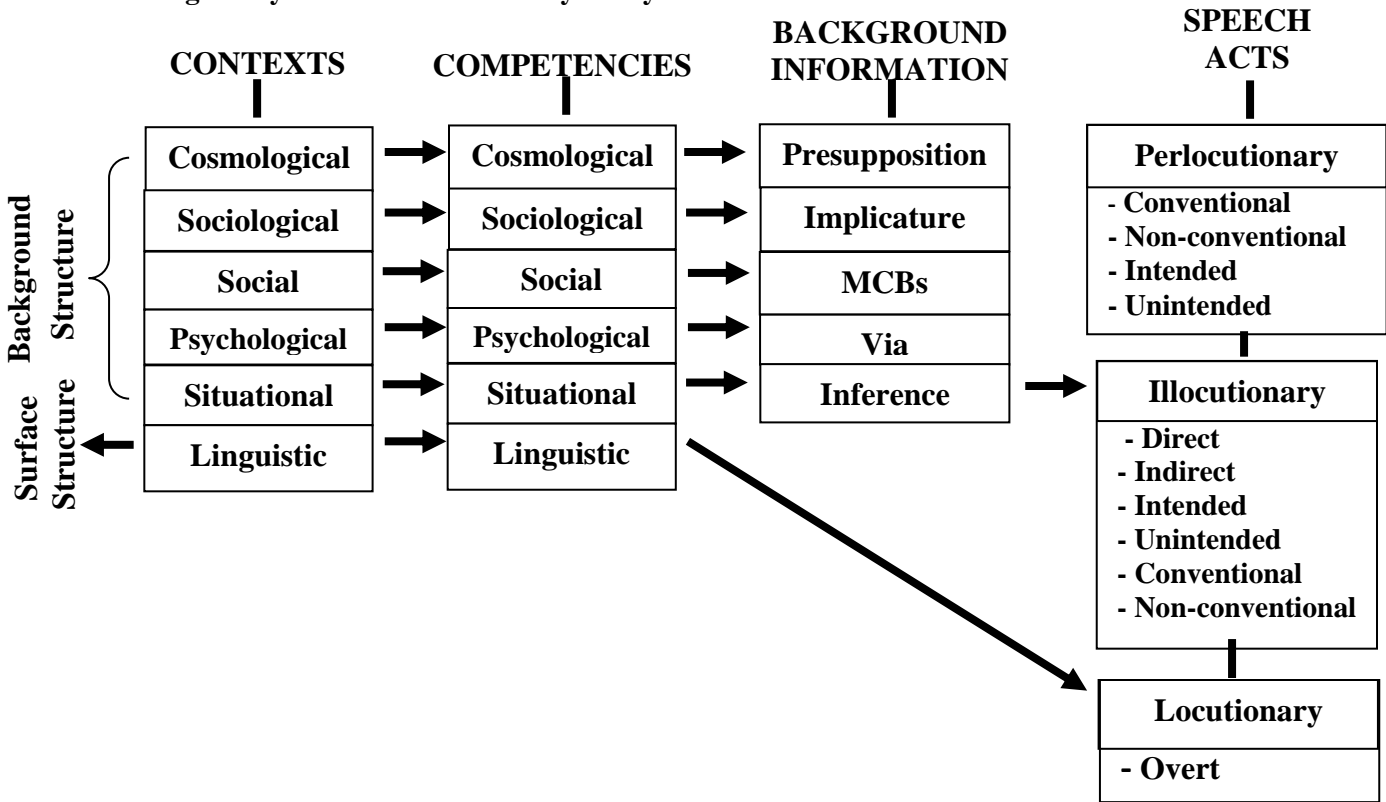
Speech acts are also hierarchically organized and are somewhat related to the contexts and competencies that produce them. The most basic is the locutionary. Its identification and comprehension depend on the purely linguistic constraints of the lexical, morphosyntactic, phonological, phonetic and macro-semantic structures of the sentence. Locutionary act is described as the speaker's overt linguistic behaviour.

From the various theories of speech acts, it is inferred that illocutionary act is a higher-order act which can either be direct or indirect, intended or unintended and conventional or non-conventional, depending on the highly variable vagaries of the context of communication. Illocutionary acts occupy a primary level of non-linguistic functions which language users performed with words. The ultimate level of the speech act is the perlocutionary acts which are the conventional or non-conventional, intended or unintended consequence of utterances.

Locutionary act, which is the speaker’s overt linguistic behaviour, and the competence and context relative to their interpretation are also referred to as ‘the surface structures’ while the illocutionary and perlocutionary acts form the background information of the speaker which are his situational, psychological, social, sociological and cosmological competences and contexts are the background structures.

The model is represented in the diagram below as an updated version of Lawal’s (1994, 1997) aspect of pragmatic theory used for literary analysis in pragma-stylistics. The model shall be adopted for pragma-stylistic analysis in this study.

**A Pragma-stylistic Model of Literary Analysis**



## METHODOLOGY

This study is a descriptive research of the survey type. It aimed at analyzing sport discourse of radio presenters in Ibadan using pragma-stylistic instrument of linguistic analysis. Descriptive survey, according to Daramola (2006), is the systematic attempt to describe the characteristics of a given population or areas of interest factually. Probably that is why Best and Kahn (1986) observes that it is a research method which aims at describing, analyzing and interpreting existing conditions that yield valid and reliable education research result. Also, Fajemidagba (1995) and Sambo (2008) state that descriptive research aims at estimating as precisely as possible the attributes of a population. The presentations of selected radio presenters were recorded. Their conversations were recorded in tape and transcribed by the researcher. The illocutionary acts, the perlocutionary effects as well as context and competences at the level of the utterances were examined.

### Data Presentation and Analysis

#### DATUM I

A: O kay guys, moving on. Anthony Joshua later on this evening.

C: Ah ah! I dey very happy though...

B: I do call him the great guy.

A: A J.

B: Yeah!

A: Ajegunle?

B: No o. Anthony Joshua,

C: A J O Obafemi.

A: Why are you staring at me like that?

B: I just love this guy.

C: He's a guy who has focus.

B: And he has actually driven his way into the path of success.

A: And he's coming up against Ruiz this, ah this night.

C: Everything is going to be a huge success for him. It's going to be a walk over for him. Though I know.

B: It's going to be a walk over for him

C: He will still get in there to get the deserved victory because..

A: The fight will be around 4am. Omo Baba Onipako, what are we looking forward to?

C: I dey look forward to the great boxing from Great Anthony Joshua.

B: Well, I no see Ruiz dey do anything special from Anthony Joshua. Before sixth round, he go don commot for ring.

A: But then,

C: Anthony Joshua don really fight boxing for heavyweight because, look, every heavyweight

A: Boxers

C: Champions, you go see them with that aggressive kind of look but Anthony Joshua no be that kind guy. He be cool guy. It's hin jab na him go show you say no.

A: While you are considering this, while you are all considering Joshua, it might interest you guys that Joshua has never fought in the United States. This is his first fight.

B: That one no mean.

C: He mention am for something. He said his fans are waiting for him fight at Russia. He said he's not going to keep them waiting for long.

B: That means Ruiz is going to be in so much trouble. It can either a kill win in the first round or second round.

C: God bless you.

A: He's not Anthony Weilder.

B: Make we dey look

A: Weilder no gree o !

C: Forty something seconds.

B: Make I tell you something. You dey talk about him fighting for the first time for the United States of America, but no forget that this same guy, na him be the IBO Champion, the WBA, IBF and all that.

A: In fact, he is still the best. He holds majority of the belts.

B: Heavyweight title holder right now.

C: Weilder has no one with him

B: Wetin you come dey talk? You want make him come meet you for house? He go show you now.

C: He go beat you for there.

### **Illocutionary Acts:**

- a. Direct: i. Constative (asserting) – stating, questioning, claiming, declaring, maintaining.
- ii. Constative (informative) – informing, insisting and disregarding.
- b. Indirect: Constative (predictive) – predicting, concluding.

**Perlocutionary Effects:** Enthusiastic and hopeful

### **Contexts / Competencies:**

- a. Linguistic: Basic knowledge of sport registers especially on boxing is required to understand the conversation.
- b. Situational: Two heavyweight champions are going to have a bout in the night. Anthony Joshua who resides in England will be going to USA to engage David Ruiz in a bout.
- c. Psychological: The analysts are fans of Anthony Joshua who is of Nigerian origin. They believe that David Ruiz is no match for Joshua because Joshua had challenged other heavyweight champions and he had won their belt so Ruiz will only be a pushover for Joshua within few rounds.
- d. Social: The relationship between Joshua and the analysts is native and ethnic loyalty. They have been blinded by their love for Joshua.



e. Socio-cultural: The discussants are not interested in what David Ruiz can offer because Joshua, his contender, is the current heavyweight champion and he had won three belts in the championship. They have concluded that Joshua will easily defeat Ruiz in the ring before the bout.

#### DATUM II

A: Let's tell you that Newcastle will be letting eleven players go this season.

B: The season is about to start.

A: Exactly

C: The money is coming in. I see the money coming in.

B: It looks like that ah ah!

A: Where is that guy, that man that wants to buy Newcastle, where is he from?

C and B: Qatar

A: That man is gradually coming in.

B: It looks like the Qatari money is gradually coming in. though it has not been actually announced that he bought the club but then.

C: It looks like they are already smelling it.

B: For them to want to shelve eleven players, trust me they are bringing in.

A: They are not selling o. they want to let them go whether by sell or just go anyhow.

C: Anyhow, just get out of here.

B: I think they won't just let eleven players go without having any backup.

C: Do you know the kind of players they will buy to replace the eleven players?

A: Definitely!

B: Trust me if that should come in, they will set priority for Raphael Benitez to probably finish in the Europa League or.

C: Which I believe Benitez will do if they could pull off what he did with this season.

B: With this set of players.

A: You fight relegation twice back to back?

C: I'm telling you. He will pull off Europa League squad to get the right players.

#### **Illocutionary Acts:**

a. Direct: i. Constative (asserting) – stating, claiming, declaring, maintaining.

ii. Constative (informative) – informing, insisting

b. Indirect: Constative (predictive) – predicting

**Perlocutionary Effect:** Expectant

#### **Contexts / Competencies:**

a. Linguistic: Semantic competence is basic at the sentential level. Especially, listeners needed to understand the meaning of such lexical items as 'Newcastle,' 'season,' 'Europa League,' 'players,' and 'squad' with regard to their sporting connotations especially football.

- b. Situational: A club in the English Premiership League has struggled from relegating to the lower league twice because most of the players are not proactive enough. The club management had directed that the service of eleven of her players are no longer needed as the club is about to be bought by a new owner.
- c. Psychological: The speakers believe that if the new owner takes charge of the club, there will be more funding to run the club and a higher target will be set for the coach.
- d. Social: The relationship between the presenters and the listeners is that of sport analyst and football fans.
- e. Socio-cultural: The speakers and the listeners believe that if the club is bought by a new and richer owner, many new players will be bought by the club and the club will perform in the league so as to qualify for UEFA Europa League.

### DATUM III

A: Under 20 World Cup. Today is Argentina – Mali.

B: I'm not saying that Mali is able to give it a day.

C: Because we saw what USA was able to do against the mighty France.

A: They played 3 - 2 before.

C: eh eh!

B: With the physicality, I'm not sure if Mali can defend. I'm talking about the technicality of the game.

A: Senegal – Nigeria

B: I'm not giving it to Nigeria.

C: Aigbogun no be the best coach. I no fit vouch for Nigeria.

A: Now, funny enough, I see a chance for Nigeria in this game.

C: Aigbogun no really good.

B: I'm not giving it any chance.

### **Illocutionary Acts:**

a. Direct: i. Constative (asserting) – stating, claiming, maintaining.

ii. Constative (informative) – informing,

b. Indirect: Constative (contemplative) – contemplating, doubtful

**Perlocutionary Effect:** Pessimistic

### **Contexts / Competencies:**

a. Linguistic: Basic competence in the grammar and semantics of the sentence is required.

b. Situational: The male Under 20 World Cup competition is on. Two matches are expected to be played in the day: Argentina against Mali and Senegal against Nigeria.

c. Psychological: Two of the analysts believe that Malian players in the competition cannot defeat their USA counterpart because the USA players defeated the French players in their last game due to their technicalities. They are also doubtful if Nigerian representatives can spring any surprise against their African counterpart, Senegal because the Nigerian coach is not artistic.

- d. Social: The relationship between the presenters is informal as they engage in pidgin not minding that they are on air and people are listening to their conversation at home.
- e. Socio-cultural: The listeners should not expect any spectacular performance from Mali and Nigeria in the matches because they will be playing against countries that are artistically better than them.

#### DATUM IV

A: Let's talk something new this morning. The quarter final is set. The guys are there in France. I love what I'm seeing. Muyiwa, I love the quarter final clearance. The men's single not the women's single. I love what I've seen in it.

B: Yeah! True as we speak.

C: Yeah! Em may be we've not been. May be we're waiting for this event to come but thank God that Nadal is still with Dalling to make sure he makes the team.

B: And please, Kei Nishikori latest gist.

A: Kei, at a point, Kei was actually out.

B: I think Kei was in the US open last year.

C: Was it not Australian open?

B: No, I think it was US open.

C: His first grand slam was in there.

A: He will be facing Nadal and that is going to be a big one for him to face someone like Nadal, king of play.

B: Now, I really don't know if he is an African man.

C: I will say you know

B: I will actually say the people in his village are pushing him forward to keep advancing.

A: But last year, he won by three set to one.

B: That was a tough one for him

C: Three set to two

A: Against Benoit Paire.

C: Close game too.

A: But waiting for Stan Wawrinka and Federer

B: That is all Swiss affairs.

A: That will be the first game today

C: Yeah!

B: Quarter final first game.

A: Stan Wawrinka against Roger.

B: That is the game we need to watch out for. We know that Roger Federer has not been in the last four edition of the French open because then he was managing his boil.

C: He select?

B: He was selecting games. He just decided to pull out of the French Open and Shalin Shavarinka, 2017 that injury was actually a big cause on his career but he's still bouncing back all way from I think three fifty?

C: Yeah!

B: I think he's now won about twenty-eight metre

A: He has been dealing with ATP.

C: Yeah!

A: That means he's been impressive.

C: I think he will get this one.

A: yeah!

B: Basically.

A: what about Roger?

B: I think.

A: Or you think he'll to all those five set

C: All go five set

B: on the flip chart, I'm looking at the exhaustion against Tsitsipas, and I'm feeling there that Rogers might screw him. I mean it could be three set, four set.

A: You know, depending but, I think that he might be exhausted

C: Away from the exhaustion, I think he's got the momentum going for him.

B: Yeah! I have to speak. I saw the first two rounds of Stan Wawrinka, and then, there was a constant formula of using the drop shot. Something that Rogers struggles with.

C: You know, I think it's age. That's why. So the ability to run forward that pays

A: Just take the drop shot before it drops to the net.

C: Exactly! So I really think Rogers will struggle with this but may be experience might come up to or come in play, to play very well.

### **Illocutionary Acts:**

- a. Direct: i. Constative (asserting) – stating, questioning, claiming, declaring, maintaining.  
ii. Constative (informative) – informing, insisting and disregarding.
- b. Indirect: Constative (verdictive) – judging, assessing.

**Perlocutionary Effects:** Expectant and optimistic

### **Contexts / Competencies:**

- a. Linguistic: Basic knowledge of sport registers especially on tennis is required to understand the conversation.
- b. Situational: A renowned tennis tournament tagged the 'French Open' is taking place at Paris. The tournament is at the quarter final stage and a match is expected to be played later in the day between Stan Wawrinka and Roger Federer, both from Switzerland.
- c. Psychological: The speakers believe that the quarter final encounter between Stan Wawrinka and Federer is a match to watch out for. One of them believes that Roger Federer is getting old and his absence at the last four editions may affect his reflex but he believes he will pull through with his experience.

- d. Social: The relationship between Stan Wawrinka and Roger Federer is that that of two contestants in a competition that arrest the interest of the entire world in which the better contestant is expected to emerge as the winner and qualify for the next stage of the competition.
- e. Socio-cultural: The discussants believe that the match will be an interesting one as Stan Wawrinka will give a good fight against Roger Federer but they believe Roger will win the match because of his performances in the previous editions.

#### DATUM V

- A: Right now, Juventus is offering Paulo Dybala, Douglas Coasta and Alexandro for Paul Pogba.  
B: Hun! A club just offered you Paulo Dybala, Douglas Coasta and Alexandro for a waste.  
A: En!  
B: Yes! Somebody I can refer to as one of the waste. One of the problems of the club. That is like offering me heaven to solve my problem. This guy has proven to so far to be the problem if not on the pitch or off the pitch.  
A: Really?  
B: And they are offering us three players.  
A: Well, on the part of Manchester united, I think this is a very fantastic offer.  
B: Paulo Dybala will be useful. Alexandro, left back. Luke Shaw is off and on. Douglas Coasta, a winger.  
A: Even any of them, any of them will be useful for Manchester united.  
B: Just about right now, and em you have been offered the three of them at a time just for ooo. Just for the transfer.

#### **Illocutionary Acts:**

- a. Direct: i. Constative (assertive) – stating, claiming, and declaring.  
ii. Constative (informative) – informing, and insisting.  
b. Indirect: Constative (verdictive) – judging and assessing.

**Perlocutionary Effect:** Reflective

#### **Contexts / Competencies:**

- a. Linguistic: Basic knowledge in the grammar and semantics of the sentence is required.
- b. Situational: The football transfer window is opened. Players across the world can move from one club to another depending on the nature of agreement that they signed with their club and players in a club can be used as exchanged for another player in another club by the management of the club.
- c. Psychological: The analysts are of the view that Pogba is the player that is causing the rancor among the Manchester United players. They see Pogba as the problem of the club.
- d. Social: The analysts are fans of Manchester United who dislike Paul Pogba.
- e. Socio-cultural: The analysts are not enticed with the performance of Pogba in the club and are interested in his exit from the club. They believe the offer made by Juventus to exchange three players for him is an offer that Manchester United should not turn down.

## CONCLUSION

The data presented above have indicated that commentaries in sport discourse have pragma-stylistic theoretical implications. The analyses tend to validate the theoretical stand on the interrelationship that exists among contexts, competencies and speech acts in the analyses. The analyses in the study imply that every utterance has some background information which are exhibited through inference. It was discovered that inference can be understood through implicature, presupposition and mutual contextual beliefs (MCB). This background information provides the parameters for understanding the contexts and competencies exhibited through the interlocutors which in turn are instrumental to the performance of certain acts that eventually have definite perlocutionary effects on the listeners.

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