
Taxis and Logico-Semantic Relations in Selected News Articles On Insecurity in Nigeria

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Citation: Tolulope Akinseye , Emmanuel Oni and Kehinde Opaleye (2022) Taxis and Logico-Semantic Relations in Selected News Articles On Insecurity in Nigeria, *Global Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*, Vol.10, No.8, pp.1-19

ABSTRACT: *The media increasingly creates and reports peoples' experiences of insecurity in divers news reports on insecurity in Nigeria. Previous studies on media discourse and insecurity in Nigeria have focused largely on discourse construction and representations without full attention to clausal structures and logical sequence of information in the selected media reports. This study, therefore examines the clause complexes as the meaning domain and clause connectors as cohesive devices in selected news articles on insecurity in Nigeria with a view to establishing the inter-clausal structures and logical sequence of ideas in the reportage. The clause complex of Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) which sees clause as the meaning domain in a text, served as framework in the study. The main focus was on three categories: banditry, farmer/herders crisis and ethnic rivalry. Twenty-one news articles were purposively selected for their relevance to the study. The findings revealed the hypotactict constructions dominate the selected news articles. The dependent clauses were employed to amplify the meaning in the dominant clauses, and to give circumstantial information about the process rather than the participants. Also, status of clause was used to establish level of importance ascribed to the unit of information it depicted. Activities of the bandits, kidnappers and killers were often written in main clauses which gave credence to the act of insecurity in the country, while efforts of the government often came in subordinate clauses, apart from those that talked about the process. The paper concludes that news articles displays hypotactic structures than paratactic because it allows writers to describe and give circumstantial information.*

KEYWORDS: Clause complex, taxis, logico-semantic relation, news article, and insecurity

INTRODUCTION

Insecurity is one of the stumbling stones to national growth and development. Nwanegbo and Odigbo (2013) described security as the pillar upon which every meaningful development could be achieved and sustained. Nigeria as a country has undergone series of unrest from 1966 coup and counter coup, part of what led to civil war of 1967 to 1970. Recently, Nigerians have witnessed

unprecedented rise in the rate of insecurity of lives and properties. The media in Nigeria have however participated in reportage of various issues pertaining to insecurity under different headings and contents. Columnists have also written different articles on such issues that mainly surround insecurity from the populace perspectives, to the security agents' operation and the process involved. However, in all of these, language use often plays a vital role in addressing insecurity issues. In fact, one can say that insecurity is not a problem that is peculiar to Nigeria alone but a global phenomenon.

Insecurity in Nigeria

Like some other parts of the world, Nigeria has been faced with various human and natural distresses. This ranges from religious crisis, ethnic rivalry, environmental hazards, human desecration, disease outbreak, oppression and injustices which are inimical to both human and societal development. As a heterogeneous country, Nigerian society has experienced and still experiencing its own insecurity challenges. Nigeria has witnessed several phases of insecurity at one time or the other. Going down the memory lane, one would recur the communal crises during colonial and pre-colonial era, post independence political unrests, bloody coups, the civil war, the popular Aba riot and recently the Niger-Delta militancy, Boko-Haram insurgency, end-sars protest, farmers/herdsmen crisis, kidnapping, armed robberies, among others.

Insecurity in Nigeria historically could be traced back to the inception of the country at 1914 amalgamation. That is to say, insecurity in Nigeria is as old as Nigeria herself. At independence in 1960, the British parliamentary system of government was imposed on Nigeria by the British. According to Taiwo (2010), the intrusion of the military into governance, and the consequent imposition of military command decrees set the tone for the distortion of democratic rules in Nigerian. The January 15, 1966 coup, and counter coup led to instability in governance, and was the remote cause of ethnic crises that degenerated to 1967-1970 civil war. Since independence, the demand for true federalism, fiscal and political restructuring by different ethnic nationalities in Nigeria has been on the increase. These agitations have contributed to violent and rebellious reactions by aggrieved ethnic groups in the country, and thereby endangers the security, unity, and peaceful co-existence of Nigerians nationwide.

The agitation for the creation of a sovereign state of Biafra has given the heaviest shock to Nigeria's unity. It resulted in the Nigeria-Biafra civil war between 1967 and 1970. The emergence of Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) and Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) marked the resurgence of Biafra agitation. The resurgent Biafra agitators have often declared adoption of non-violent approach in achieving their objectives, but there have been series of conflicts between Nigerian security forces and the Biafra agitators, resulting in loss of lives and properties. The Nigerian government proscribed the IPOB in September 2017, declaring it a terrorist organization. Also, some other secession agitators in the western part of the country campaign for Odua Republic and they have held several rallies.

Ali (2013) asserts that insecurity challenges can be traced to the early years of military rule when large quantities of arms were imported into the country for the use of the military during and after

the Nigerian civil war, some of which got into the hand of the civilians. Soon afterward, these arms were used by civilians and ex-military men for mischievous purposes such as armed robbery, kidnapping, insurgence etc. The level of insecurity rose dangerously in the prolonged years of military rule beginning from 1970.

The inability of the government to provide a secure and conducive environment for protection of lives, properties and the conduct of business and numerous economic activities has led to lack of interest and dissatisfaction among business investors, Adeleke (2013). This has resulted in communal clashes, religious violence and crime in different parts of the country, disrupted businesses and economic activities, and retarded economic growth and development in Nigeria. This is reflected by the nation's high rate of dependency on other foreign counterparts and high poverty rate in the country.

Some other scholars such as Lewis (2002), and Achumba et al (2013) have traced the trajectory and causes of insecurity in Nigeria. They broadly grouped the causes into external and internal causes. In Nigeria the internal causes of insecurity pose major challenge to socio-economic development than the external causes of insecurity. Other causes are ethnic rivalry, land crisis, political crisis, religious conflicts and so on. "The more frequent and persistent among them are ethnic rivalry and religious crisis" Achumba et al. (2013:12). This form of crisis is however traceable to leadership failure, unevenly distribution of resources and inability of Nigerian leaders to solve development challenges.

According to Eme and Onyishi (2011), national security is often threatened by political and economic instability. It is further referred to as political economy of violence. They noted that, in recent writings in the mass media, much emphasis is laid on the role of resources in generating conflict which is a major cause of economic-based violence across the globe and across political divide. Revenue sharing and resources management regularly cause uproar and discords amongst socio-political protagonists and antagonists. It likewise leads to violent agitations among the contending actors, for instance, the Niger-Delta militants who were agitating being marginalized in the area of revenue and infrastructural development. These violent agitations have claimed many lives of Nigerians and foreigners, military and para-military personnel, and properties worth billions of naira. It has also resulted in economic misfortune in Nigeria through loss of oil revenue as a result of shortfall in crude oil exports by the oil companies occasioned by disruption of oil exploration activities by the Niger-Delta militants.

Nwagboso (2012) argues that in the long sweep of history, security has been about people and without reference to the security of the individual, security makes no sense at all. Dike (2010) and Omede (2012) have taken this argument a step further by emphasising that Nigeria's security should be based on a holistic view which sees the citizens as the primary beneficiaries of every security and developmental deliverable that the state can offer. Thus, Nigeria's security will involve efforts to strengthen the capacity of the Federal Republic of Nigeria so it can advance its interests and objectives to contain internal and external aggression, control crime, eliminate corruption, enhance genuine development, progress and growth and improve the welfare and quality of life of every citizen. As Omede (2012) pontificates further, the nation's security should

include the preservation of the safety of Nigerians at home and abroad and the protection of the country's sovereignty.

According to Taiwo (2010) whose work focused on Boko Haram in Nigeria, it was under the leadership of the slain Mallam Muhammed Yusuf that Boko Haram became radicalized. Since 2009, Boko Haram has constituted a serious security threat in the Northern part of Nigeria. The first attack outside the zone was the bombing of the Nigeria Police Headquarters in Abuja. That attack was triggered off by the utterances of Hafiz Ringim-the then Inspector General of Police who threatened to smoke Boko Haram out in a press statement on his duty tour to Maiduguri where the sect launched an attack. The attack on the Police Headquarters was followed up with the bombing of the United Nation House also in Abuja on August 26, 2011 (Alojewu 2012). These crises have heightened tensions and insecurity in Nigeria and they have assumed a frightening dimension. Aside Boko Haram, insecurity in Nigeria is heightened by the activities of other ethnic militias such as the Niger Delta militants' etcetera, whose activities manifest in kidnapping, abduction, pipeline vandalism, and hostage taking. Other activities that have heightened insecurity in Nigeria also include human and drug trafficking, porous borders that allow infiltration of illegal aliens, arms and ammunitions, ethno-religious conflicts, political based violence, economic based violence and periodic outbreak of some deadly diseases with the most recent being "Corona". "Corona virus" was dreaded because of how it could easily be contacted. It was a major health challenge that Nigeria had to fight and overcame soon after it was discovered in the country.

Recently, however, other types of economy-driven conflicts have received attention in the media. Grazing and farming have tended to give rise to horizontal conflicts and insecurity that involve communities across the six geo-political zones. An attempt by the Federal government to cite Ruga (grazing settlement) across the country further deepened the crisis as many citizens objected. Different socio-economic and ethno-occupational groups like Meyati-Allah, Agbekoya are now formed or reawaken so as to prevent the interests of their members. Herdsmen which are deemed to be Fulanis who have come from Niger and Chad incessantly clash with farmers in the southwest, southeast and north central.

Media discourse on insecurity in Nigeria

The media are very essential assets a nation should have. The mass media as defined by Auwal (2015) is the whole gamut of information dissemination institutions and agencies in a political system. They dispense information to the people of the society on all aspects and actions of state and governance. Asemah (2011, p.18) defines mass media as "the channels or technological devices through which messages are conveyed to a large and heterogeneous audience. They are the vehicles that are used for conveying messages from a source to a large destination. In addition, mass media are the devices for moving messages across distance or time to accomplish mass communication." Osisanwo (2016) describes the media as a veritable tool that serves to inform the public in the propagation of views and ideas. With these definitions, we can therefore claim that the media reports are not just records of events that take place every day in a country, but they are also social, cultural and political records.

From various linguistic perspectives, several studies have been carried out on news articles on insecurity with different linguistic approaches ranging from stylistic, pragmatic and socio-linguistic to syntactic approach. Asemah (2011) proves that the mass media set agenda for national discuss in Nigeria. Information provided by news reports goes a long way in influencing societal change in all aspects of life thereby enhancing the quality of lives either positively or negatively. Asemah, however, focuses on how news report can influence the populace and almost neglected the fact that the people's desire can on the other hand influence news reports.

In view of these, this study aims at examining the levels of interdependencies and inter-clausal relations in these news articles using MAK Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar as a framework. The study will analyze the hypotactic and paratactic structures in the articles, as well, the logical connections of clauses by expansion and projection.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Widiastuti (2013) analyses the logico-semantic relation of clause complexes in breaking news of VOA, with focus on entertainment news. It reveals that the type of logico-semantic relation that is mostly used in the entertainment news of breaking news' VOA is Elaboration. Also, Ojo (2017) examines the contributions of media and security as source of information, while Sagheer Eid (2016) attempts a functional analysis of clause complex in the language of News Websites Texts. Nguyen and Thi Quynh (2020) examine how logical structure of clauses indicates the logical connection between experiential events. It was found out it brings smoothness and coherence to writings. Furthermore, Noviandari (2018) examines Logico Semantic Relation in CNN News text. The objectives of the study were to discover the types of Logico Semantic Relation of Clause Complex Used in CNN News and to know the dominant type of logical semantic systems interpreted in CNN News. The research revealed that the types of Logico Semantic Relation used in the five news texts of CNN were Expansion and Projection. The most dominant type of Logico Semantic Relation that appears in the text is expansion by elaboration. In addition, Hamza and Ali (2015) examine the impact of insecurity and poverty on sustainable economic development in Nigeria with special emphasis on the Boko Haram insurgency. They found a negative relationship between economic growth and insecurity and poverty. However, Adegbami (2013) examines the causes of insecurity, what government efforts at fostering peace as well as the effect of insecurity on human being and the nation economy. The study revealed that the power shifted from the northern hegemony to a minority geo-political zone of South-south which was then on top in the list of issues that were instigating groups.

Though many of the earlier researches have been carried out in this domain using different linguistic approaches, the aspect of inter-clausal relation is completely untouched in this sphere. This study, therefore, attempts to examine the tactic system (relationship of clause interdependence) and the logico-semantics(relationship of clause connectivity) in the clause nexus in some selected newspapers articles on insecurity. The effects of the syntactic structures shall be considered and examined in line with the clause connectors for better meaning realization.

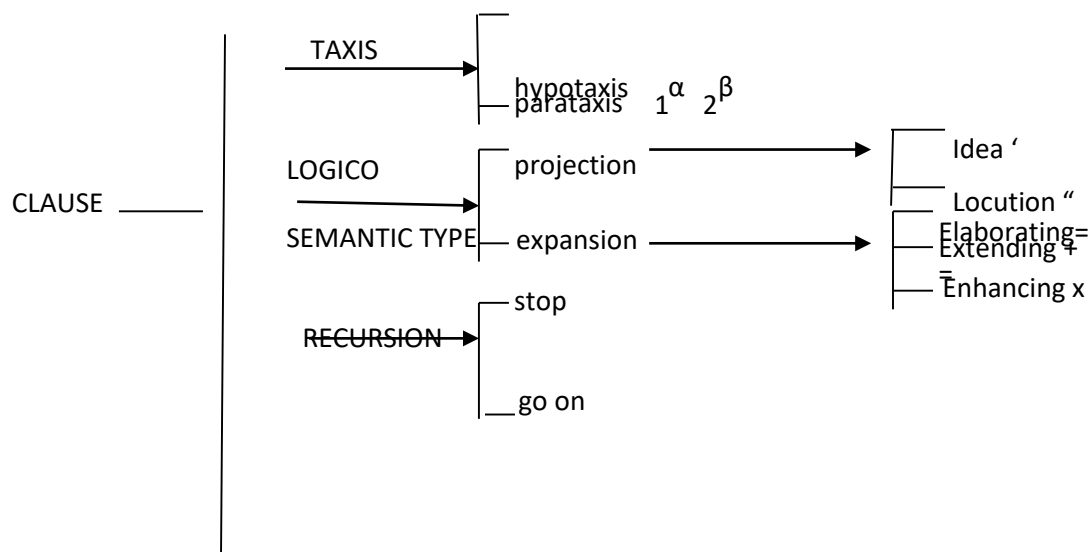
Theoretical framework

SFG views “a clause as the highest unit of grammar” and if there is a group of words consisting of two or more clauses, then it is referred to as a clause complex (Halliday and Matthiessen 2004:10). Therefore, clause is the nucleus processing unit in the clause complexes. According to Halliday, Matthiessen, a clause complex does not refer to a sentence; because it can be used for both spoken and written language whereas a sentence can be only used in written language. Halliday and Matthiessen (2014:430) further postulate that the meaning-making essence of clause complexes is “Semantically, the effect of combining clauses into a clause complex is one of tighter integration in meaning: the sequences that are realized grammatically in a clause complex are construed as being sub-sequences within the total sequence of events that make up a whole episode in a narrative”. The two systems they identified that are involved in the formation of clause complexes include the Tactic System or Taxis and the Logico-Semantic relation. Clause complex consists of two or more interdependent clauses which are paratactically or hypotactically related and connected in meaningful ways.

Therefore, Systemic Functional Grammar is assumed to have effective tools to analyze clause complexes, and possibly resolve the difficulties in written language by providing functional and systemic analyses.

The Notion of Taxis

Taxis refers to degree of interdependency and the logico-semantic relation of clause complexes. Basically, we have two tactic systems, according to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), which can determine how clauses are related to one another. They include hypotaxis and parataxis.



he system of clause complexing, Halliday and Mathiessen (2014:438)

There are two basic systems which can determine how clauses are related to one another. They are tactic system (degree of interdependency) and the logico-semantic relation. Taxis relation simply

means the type of relationships that are between clauses in a text. The taxis system relationship reveals whether the relation of clauses is equal (parataxis) or unequal (hypotaxis). This relation can be further explained as “logical component of the linguistic system in which the functional or semantic relations that make up the logic of natural language” (Halliday M., 1994:216). The two levels of interdependency are illustrated in the table below

Interdependency relation	Primary clause	Secondary clause
Parataxis	1 initiating clause (independent clause)	2 continuing clause (independent clause)
Hypotaxis	α (independent clause)	β dependent clause

Primary and Secondary clauses in Clause nexus, Halliday and Mattiessen (2014:442)

Logico-semantics

Logico-semantic is the relation from a clause complex which shows the sequence of event in one clause in relation to another clause. It is the deductive system of thought and linear arrangement of ideas between the clauses in the use of language. According to Gerot and Wignell (1994), there are two broad types of logico-semantic relation through which clauses can be combined. They are: expansion relation and projection relation. In expansion, the meaning in the primary clause is expanded and enlarged while in projection, the content of the primary clause is projected or reported in the secondary clause. These two are further grouped into five: expansion: elaboration, extension, enhancement and projection.

METHODOLOGY

The data for this study were collected from published news articles on insecurity in Nigeria. The data were purposively selected from three widely read newspapers – The Punch, The Vanguard and Nigeria Guardian, and analyzed according to the number of clause complexes. The analysis was done using taxis and logico-semantic relation aspect of SFG. The study focuses on the inter-clausal structures and sequential connectives. The analysis includes the use of frequency and simple percentage method. Both qualitative and quantitative approaches were employed in the study.

Data Analysis

The clause complexes are discussed based on the three sub-categories of insecurity that the study centers on. They are: banditry and kidnapping, ethnic rivalry and regional security, and lastly, farmers/herders crisis. These sub-categories of insecurity were chosen due to frequent news reports on them in the recent years.

(1) Banditry and kidnapping

Guardian 10:2 *xβ*If bandits could dare to abduct police officers on assignment on an expressway, //there is no other signal [that can be picked] +//than that war has been brought to the doorstep of the security forces, but of the government.

T10:5 *xβ*When you encounter the police, +//therefore, you encounter the government in its awesome protective armour.

T10:21 They shot one man +//and fled with three other persons.

Punch T21:7, This is an undisguised vote of no confidence in the Buhari regime +//and its capacity to secure lives and property of Nigerians...

T21:10 Incidentally, as if to lend credence to the Sultan's lamentation, exactly 10 days later, Boko Haram gunmen on motorbikes slaughtered dozens of rice farmers near the village of Zabarnmari.

Vanguard, T9:18 Last month bandits raided several villages in the state// and killed 57 people.

T19:4 The best way I can put it is to say we (the military) are overwhelmed *xβ*/because the military and paramilitary agencies are over-stretched.

The abduction of police officers is in a subordinate clause. The hypotactic presentation shows that police which equally should be guarantor of protection now has depreciated in status to the victims of abduction. In T10:21, the bandit *shot* and *kidnapped*. All their actions are put in independent clauses, and this could suggest a kind of prominence given to the act of banditry. Boko-haram in T21:10 is in independent clause as well; in T21:7, people's lack of confidence in Buhari administration to curb insecurity was portayed in the independent clause, while government actions is still of no importance. The writers are either silent on government actions or passively reported them in dependent clauses.

In T9:18, the actions *raided* and *killed* are paratactically placed in two independent clauses. These actions took place in a simultaneous sequence where the villagers were the silent receivers of the bandits' actions. In another instance in T21:7, an assertion is placed in an independent clause to show its prominence in the structure. Meanwhile, some dependent clauses attached to some of these mains clauses are used as amplifiers. The Boko Haram's attack in T21:10 is amplified with a preceding subordinate clause *as if to lend credence to the Sultan's lamentation*. It reinforces the meaning relation by establishing a connection between the Sultan's lamentation and the Boko Haram's subsequent actions.

(2.) Farmers/Herders crisis

Vanguard T5: 8. Usually, β if it is Fulani against Fulani =//they rustle the cattle of those β =[who have refused to participate in the attacks] //x2 so that they would cripple them, β xforcing them to participate in the ongoing carnage. **20.** These killers are slaughtering people in the farms all over the North East on a daily basis//+and nobody is reporting it.**15** If not why are the killings going on //+and he has not done anything to address it? **24.** β And unless this President changes his attitude towards his primary objective of governance β =which is providing security and welfare to his people, +//then we can say//xthis state has failed //+and this presidency has failed.

Punch T7: 11. Under the pretext of cattle grazing, herdsmen are executing daring crimes, killing and kidnapping for ransom in the South-West. **12** On a daily basis, multiple lives are wasted //and ruined. **13.** Several other less known people are being kidnapped regularly, especially on inter-state highways, β which are mostly not policed.

In T5:8, the first clause is subordinate, to mitigate the fact that some herders who are Fulani also faced the attacks. The action and motive of the rustlers, however, is put in *they rustle the cattle of those* (action) *so that they would cripple them* (motive). In T5:15, independent clauses are deployed to report cattle-rustlers/Fulani killers, and the negative actions of the president of Nigeria. Both clause complexes are in paratactic relation, the killers actions are equally linked to the lack of reportage and the inaction of the president.

(3.) Ethnic rivalry and regional security

Guardian T1: 42. For whatever reason, it seems β as though the supposed “leaders” of the South West have signed on to a secret pact β that permits the terrorizing of the people= β whom they are supposed to lead. **45.** β That they are able to sleep at night β while the people of the South West can’t even afford to entertain a wink of sleep // is troubling. **T10:57** He had said that it would be difficult for the Federal Government β /to provide security for the country from Abuja in view of the fact β that Nigeria had failed to meet the United Nations requirement of a policeman to 400 people.

Vanguard T15: 4. OPC will never allow Miyetti Allah β /to set our region on fire. **5.** Our group will never fold its arms β /to see the South West being overrun by herdsmen and marauders.

Punch T20: 1. I don’t think it is going to be very helpful or productive if Amotekun were subsumed under the police authorities. **2.** Now, what Amatekun is doing is like self-help effort β because the police appear to be overwhelmed in the Western states.

The agreement reached by the Yoruba governors with the Fulani’s representatives on grazing is put in hypotactic structure. Berating the governors’ action, the writer employed subordinate clause.

In T10:57, the failure of the government is as well put in the subordinate clause, the difficulty (insecurity) takes the prominence in the clause complex. Also, The OPC spoke person in T15:4 ascribed importance to their group by presenting the group's position and actions in independent clauses, while the invaders are downgraded in the subordinate that-nominal clause in T15:18 ...*that killers have invaded Lagos state*.

In T20:1, there was a reported thought in paratactic structure through mental process "*think*". Furthermore, this thought is placed in independent clause, stating the condition at which Amotekun might not be productive in a conditional dependent clause. He explains further the need for Amotekun in a dominant clause, and present Nigeria Police condition as *overwhelmed* in a causal dependent clause that begins with "*because*". Though he argued that Amotekun should not be independent, his clausal structure logically establishes his foremost premise that Amotekun should not subsume under the police.

The distribution of taxis according to individual newspaper

Table 1: Nigeria Guardian

Taxis Relationship	T1	T8	T10	T11	T12	T13	T18	Total	percentage
Parataxis	20	15	16	11	5	14	12	93	37.9%
Hypotaxis	26	16	29	25	8	27	21	152	62.1%
Total	46	31	45	36	13	41	33	245	100%

A total of 245 clause complexes were identified in the seven news articles analyzed in Nigerian Guardian newspaper. Hypotaxis has the higher number of frequency with 152 instances (62.1%), while parataxis account for 40% of the data. The atrocities of the bandits, kidnappers and killers are mostly placed in the dominant clauses while attempts of the Nigerian government to curb insecurity are most often written in dependent clauses. This suggests that the writers employed hypotaxis to present the dominant rate of insecurity in the country.

Table 2: Vanguard

Taxis Relationship	T4	T5	T9	T15	T16	T17	T19	Total	percentage
Parataxis	14	16	13	10	19	6	20	98	39.1%
Hypotaxis	27	29	26	15	22	10	24	153	60.9%
Total	41	45	39	25	41	16	44	251	100%

Also in the Vanguard newspaper, hypotactic construction still has over 60% percent of the clause complexes. Though the gap is less than that of the Nigerian Guardian, yet hypotaxis has the higher frequency in each of the seven news articles analyzed in the Vanguard.

Table 3: The Punch

Taxis Relationship	T2	T3	T6	T7	T14	T20	T21	Total	percentage
Parataxis	12	16	8	15	10	11	14	86	44.4%
Hypotaxis	16	14	10	18	17	15	18	108	55.6%
Total	28	30	18	33	27	26	32	194	100%

However, parataxis has a boost in The Punch newspaper with 86 instances, that's 44.4% of the total clause complexes with one of the seven news articles (T3) that has higher number of parataxis than hypotaxis. This may suggest that The Punch writers tend to use more of parataxis for exposition, exemplification and explanation; yet in the total, hypotaxis has the upper hand in The Punch too. It must be noted that the dependent clauses identified either gave circumstantial ideas or relayed a less important unit of information while compared to the independent clauses.

Table 4: The distribution of the total clause complexes in the news articles

Taxis Relationship	Nigeria Guardian	Vanguard	The Punch	Total	percentage
Parataxis	93	98	86	277	40.1%
Hypotaxis	152	153	108	413	59.9%
Total	245	251	194	690	100%

The table shows the number of parataxis and hypotaxis relationship of clause complexes in the texts. The twenty-one news articles analysed in the research are given the code T1 to T21 as indicated in tables 1,2 and 3 above. The level of frequency of hypotaxis 413 (59.9%) cases and parataxis is 277 (40.1%) cases out of the total number of 690 cases. The used hypotaxis is more than parataxis. This fact indicates that writers of news article tend to present their ideas using unequal status in which they applied hypotactic relationship to present circumstantial information. The main clause (dominant) can be preceded and/or followed by dependent clause(s). This fact also indicates that the taxis relationship either parataxis or hypotaxis used by writers showed clauses relationship.

Logico-semantic relation

Logico-semantic relationship is the relationship that concerns logic (cause and effect) and semantic (meaning) relation. Both the initiating clause and continuing clause have logical meanings and thus connected semantically. It relates to basic features of clause complexes in terms of circumstantial meanings and their sequential arrangement. Halliday and Christian (2004) broadly grouped Logico-semantics into expansion and projection; which further extends to elaboration, enhancement, extension, locution and ideas.

Extension

T1:10 additive positive extension

<i>For such people, they tend to thoughtlessly surrender themselves,</i>	and <i>sheepishly bow down</i>	and <i>worship any Jack, Dick or Harry...</i>
1	+2 additive positive	+3 additive positive

The three clauses are independent but the subject in the preceding two clauses is elided. The additive “and” as used in the example above does not only signify addition, but also a temporal connector that weaves up the three actions chronologically. The actions followed a sequence in a way that “*surrender*” came first, leading to “*bow down*” and finally “*worship*” whoever showed up to assist them. It is however logical to expect such from the people having surrendered themselves to him at least to get his assistance. The people’s conditions of helplessness subject them to accepting any kind of offer from anybody who shows up to help them.

T4:27 Additive negative extension

<i>Soyinka’s compound is neither a farmland</i>	nor <i>is the international scholar a farmer.</i>
1	+2 additive negative

The type of additive in this example is negative. The unit of information supplied in the continuing clause expresses the fact that nothing should have warranted such intrusion; the relationship between the two clauses presents the continuing clause in term of no justification for the cows or the herders who went to Soyinka’s compound.

T2:24 Adversative extension

<i>The Federal Government had on several occasions engaged constructively with neighbouring countries like Cameroon, Niger, Chad, to curb terrorism</i>	but <i>this has not yielded expected results...</i>
1	+2 adversative

The representation of **but** is used to mark contrast between the initiating and continuing clauses. Government’s positive actions which could have given the populace great hope fell through and yielded no result in relation to the people’s expectation. The government is fronted in the initiating clause, however the **but** that follows signifies a dash of hope initiated by the government’s deed.

T5:2 Additive hypotactic extension

<i>He alleged</i>	<i>that the killings in the far north were being carried out by Fulanis against the indigenous Hausa</i>	<i>while those attacking the middle belt were doing it for the purpose of land grabbing.</i>
	β	+ β addition

Another case of meaning extension by addition is *while those attacking the middle belt were doing it for the purpose of land grabbing*. The second clause has already projected the Fulanis as the killers in the far north, and the killing in the middle belt is being attributed to them in the third clause. This proposition simply implies that killings in the far north **plus** killings in the middle belt (logical addition) are traceable to the Fulanis.

Elaboration

T10:51

<i>We have seen and governors themselves have experienced over the year, this is only on paper</i>		
<u>CLS NO</u>	<u>Logical relation</u>	<u>Clauses</u>
(i)	1	<i>We have seen</i>
(ii)	+2	<i>and governors themselves have experienced over the year</i>
	=3	<u>Upgrading</u> <i>this is only on paper</i>

There are three clauses in the clause nexus with two different logical relations, namely: additive extension and upgrading elaboration. The second clause *and governors themselves have experienced over the year* is an addition to the first clause. However, the third clause *this is only on paper* upgrades both the two preceding clauses. There is a kind of explanation the third clause that describes what is seen in the first clause, and what is experienced in the second clause as mere paper work.

T8:5

<i>The traditional rulers are to provide security for their subjects which is the primary responsibility.</i>			
CLS No	Logical relation		Clauses
i	α		<i>The traditional rulers are to provide security for their subjects</i>
ii	=β	Upgrading	<i>which is the primary responsibility.</i>

From the example above, it can be seen that there are two clauses which is categorized as a clause complex. In term of tactic system, the first clause, *The traditional rulers are to provide security for their subjects*, is called dominant clause and it is signified by α . Also, the second clause, *which is the primary responsibility* is called dependent clause and it is signified by β . This clause complex is included into hypotactic clauses because the dominant clause (α) can stand by itself alone as a complete thought; while, the dependent clause (β) cannot stand alone and it has incomplete meaning. These two clauses have unequal status because there is a conjunction ‘which’ that connect the second clause to the first one. The dependent clause β needs the dominant clause to create complete meaning. Therefore, the dependent clause can have clear meaning. Based on that fact, it can be concluded as hypotactic clause. The *primary responsibility* is put in the subordinate amplify the semantic focus of the main clause, and to further argue his point that security should not be left for the federal government alone.

Also, in the logico-semantic sense, this clause complex is concluded into elaboration and it is signified by =. It can be categorized as elaboration because the dependent clause, *which is the primary responsibility*, elaborates the dominant clause (α) *The traditional rulers are to provide security for their subjects*. In specific way, the dependent clause tried to elaborate “security” in the dominant clause to make it more understandable towards the readers even if they are not into governance. This elaboration specifically includes into clarification (upgrading) because the dependent clause also gives some explanation about “security” and “traditional rulers” roles. Therefore, the dependent clause comes to elaborate the dominant clause, and the type of logico-semantic relation can be concluded into elaboration.

Enhancement

T4:45 “if” “that”

But if our interest is to first sort out the issue of attacks by herders on farmers	it is gratifying	that in the last one week, everyone appear to be moving towards the same page	that herding by open grazing is obsolete
x β	α	x β	x β

The contrastive connector *But* at the beginning of the clause complex contrast the whole proposition in the clause complex with the opinion stated in the preceding clause complex(sentence). That will be taken care of later in the section that deals with logical connectors. However, the inter-clausal relationship of enhancement is depicted with an ‘if conditional’ clause showing that what can be *gratifying* is if their *interest is to first sort out the issue of attack*

T4:19 “before”

The other day, many people attacked Governor Rotimi Akeredolu of Ondo State for expelling Fulani from his state	before it became clear	that the quit order was neither on Fulani in general nor on Fulani herders
α	x β	x β

In term of taxis, this clause complex is included into hypotactic relation. It is indicated by the dominant clause that is signified by (α) is independent clause because it can stand alone as a complete meaningful thought, while the independent clause that is signified by (α) cannot stand by itself to create a complete meaning. There is a subordinating conjunction “*before*” that shows the characteristic of the dependent clause. Based on that fact, these two clauses have unequal status. The dependent clause (β), *before it became clear*, needs the dominant clause *The other day, many people attacked Governor Rotimi Akeredolu of Ondo State for expelling Fulani from his state*, to create complete meaning. Here, it is explained that there was a kind of misconception on the order gave by Ondo State governor which was later made “*clear*”. It is, therefore, agreeable to conclude that this clause complex is hypotactic in nature.

In term of logico-semantic relation, this clause complex is including into enhancement, it is seen that the dependent clause (β), *before it became clear* enhances the meaning of the dominant clause (α), *The other day, many people attacked Governor Rotimi Akeredolu of Ondo State for expelling Fulani from his state*, by giving temporal clause (clause of time) with the conjunction “*if*”. The time factor tense as the dependent clause enhances the information of the governor’s order in the dominant clause. Moreover, the dependent clause gives a sequential order in which the governor’s order and *many people attack* on him, and it acts to show when it became clear and well understood to the people; so, it uses the word “*before.*” In addition, the dependent clause provides explanation of the time and sequence in the actions of the two entities in the dominant clause, i.e the governor and many people. It shed more light on the time circumstance of the cause and effects of actions of the two entities involved. Therefore, it suffices to say the type of logico-semantic relation in the clause complex can be concluded into enhancement.

Locution

T1:12 “said”

The people of Ibarapa said //“Enough is enough”

<i>The people of Ibarapa</i>	<i>said</i>	<i>“Enough is enough”</i>
Sayer	Verbal process	
α Reporting		α Reported

Locution is employed to intimate the readers with the exact expression from the people of Ibarapa. The stative (reporting) verb “said” is a verbal process that accounts for the fact that the second clause “*Enough is enough*” projects the role, impact, voice and opinion of the Ibarapa people.

T2:2 “asked”

The residents of the North-East Nigeria have asked “how can we stop it?”

The residents of the North-East Nigeria	have asked	“how can we stop it?”
sayer	verbal process	
α Reporting		α Reported

An interrogation is reported in the clause complex with verbal process ‘*have asked*’ which projects the type of questions and agitations that are going on in region. This verbal projection further opens the proposition of whole article to the persistent questions on several attacks that the North East Nigeria is faced with.

Idea

T5:4

...but we believe, within the Middle belt, //that these killers are into a primary objective of land grabbing

<i>...but we ..., within the Middle belt</i>	<i>believe</i>	<i>that these killers are into a primary objective of land grabbing</i>
conceiver	mental process	
α Reporting		β Reported

T1:36

Who do the people think they are fooling?

<i>Who do the people</i>	<i>think</i>	<i>they are fooling?</i>
Thinker	Mental process	
α Reporting		α Reported

Generally, the examples above show the type of projection that expands meaning by reporting idea. Ideas in the continuing clauses are projected by the use of mental process with markers such as *think* and *believe*. The writers use very few of this type of projection due to the nature of the texts because projection by idea often probes into the inner mind and consciousness. For instance, “believe” as used in T5:4 is not fully assertive but shows a certain level of conviction about the idea expressed in the second clause. This becomes more uncertain with the word “appear” in T6:21 which implies that it seems to the writer that the government have totally misunderstood their purpose. The few instances of idea projection in the texts analyzed in this research therefore suggests that mental process has very limited influence in this type of text because the article writers can actually state their own mind, and only predicts what goes on in the mind of others.

Table 5. The distribution of logico-semantic relations in the selected news articles

Logico-semantic relation	Expansion			Projection		Total	Percentage
	Elaboration	Extension	Enhancement	Idea	Locution		
Parataxis	54	179	29	4	18	284	41.2%
Hypotaxis	85	54	243	10	14	406	58.8%
Total	139	233	272	14	32	690	
Percentage	20.1%	33.7%	39.4%	2.0%	4.6%	100%	
	644 (93.3%)			46 (6.7%)			

Table 5 shows the number of logico-semantic relations in the data. Hypotactic enhancement has the highest degree of frequency with 243 cases (35.2%). In the logigico-semantic dimension, projection and expansion are used to show a very wide range of possible logico-semantic relationships between clauses. While a percentage use of enhancement, 272 cases (39.4%) is higher than others, the lowest frequency is projection of idea, which has 14 cases (2.0%) in the whole data. This indicates that there is low level of reported thought in the texts. Meanings of propositions are mostly enhanced with necessary details such as time (temporal relation), reasons(causal relation), condition(conditional relation) and lots more.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

This work was aimed at analyzing *clause complex* and *logico-semantic* relations in the selected news articles on insecurity in Nigeria with a view to finding out the most frequent types of taxis and clause connectors, and to discuss their significance. Below are the findings of the study:

- a. The total number of the analyzed news articles is twenty-one of which the length range from 18 to 46 clause complexes per text. It is found out that the larger number (690 cases) of the sentences in the texts are in clause complex. It's observed that clause complex enables the writers to construe their argument with logical connections of events, and thereby give semantic sequence to writing, rather than using related but unconnected sentences.
 - b. In terms of taxis system, both parataxis and hypotaxis are used to establish logical relations and connections between clauses in the texts, but there are more clauses in hypotactic relation than those in paratactic relation, establishing that most of the arguments are presented in unequal clause status. The malicious deeds of bandits, kidnappers and killers are mostly presented in the main clause of the hypotactic structures. Although, paratactic interdependency indicates the logical relationship between two clauses of equal status, hypotactic relation where clauses relate to each other in a modifying or dependency relationship has more preference.
 - c. Furthermore, the reports provides details on process and actions that led to insecurity in the country than the participants through hypotaxis which can give circumstantial details on the process of action in the dominant clause. The dependent clauses in the hypotaxis either amplified the dominant clauses or give circumstantial information about (manner, condition, concession, time, cause, degree, effect, place etc. in a sequential order. This further corroborates Eging's (2004) claim that written texts often have higher percentage of hypotaxis.
 - d. 40.1% of the data is paratactic type. Paratactic type is mainly employed to present their messages in the clause complexes of equal status in order to show equal importance to the unit of information in both clauses. Actions such as killing and kidnapping are equally placed independently, and it suggests the level of dominance they have on the populace and even government security agents.
 - e. In the case of logico-semantic relations, the analysis revealed that both expansion and projection types are employed though the dominant type is expansion. Projection is less used because there are little instance of reported speech or thought in this type of text being persuasive texts where writers attempted to explain some "facts" and thereby present their own thoughts and opinions in a convincing manner.
 - f. In addition, enhancement, in the expansion type, has the highest number of frequency with 272 cases (39.4%) of the total use; and it's closely followed by extension with 233 cases (33.7%). This suggests the writers prefer semantic sequence which gives priority to the process and the participants. The process of igniting and fueling insecurity zoom large.
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CONCLUSION

By examining the interdependence relations of the clauses, particularly the study of taxis and logico-semantics employed in selected news articles on insecurity in Nigeria. The tactic system of the selected news article structurally paints the dominant status of insecurity in Nigerian society nowadays. As shown in the findings, it is suggested that potential news articles' writers could preferably choose larger amount of clause complexes because clause complex system will supply them with structural resources to establish logical connections between different participants, events, processes and circumstance of affairs in a cohesive way. In addition, the news articles' writers expand the meaning of another clause by adding a new piece of information, offering an alternative; commenting, exemplifying; or referring some circumstantial features like: time, place, condition, cause, purpose or manner etc. to make their arguments more logical, meaningful and easier to comprehend. Thoughts and words of some stakeholders on insecurity were as well projected and logically faulted or justified.

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