

**DISCOURSE STRUCTURE ANALYSIS OF SELECTED INTERVIEWS OF FORMER PRESIDENT
OBASANJO**

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ABSTRACT

Interviews have enjoyed a lot of attention in Discourse Analysis with studies investigating their peculiarities vis-à-vis the smooth flow often expected in conventional human talk. However, while focus has mostly been on the standard description of their discourse structure, this study pays attention to discourse patterns that seem to challenge the formulaic structure of interviews due to the idiosyncrasies of the interviewee. Using Sinclair and Coulthard's IRF model of Generic Structure Potential, transcripts of two interviews granted by Nigeria's ex-president Olusegun Obasanjo in 2002, accessed from the archives of *The Punch* and *BBC*, were analysed to reveal how the interviewee's interactional style impinged on the structure of talk. Initiation is often duplicated in the exchanges as the ex-president appears to take exception to certain moves perceived as offensive toward his person or his country. The second initiation thus serves both as check/challenge and negotiation of a new line of questioning. While the established initiation response structure largely holds throughout the conversation, the interviews display an unusually numerous instances of interviewee evaluation of questioner, interviewee elicitation and topic negotiation where informing and focus moves are expected. While the interviews are still reconcilable with the Initiation-Response-Feedback (IRF) structure of discourse, the study shows that personality of the interviewee, location and other sociolinguistic indices can vary the structure of interviews.

Keywords; Generic Structure Potential, Discourse, IRF structure, Interviews.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Everything in existence has a form, and hence, a structure. This fact explains why and how it is possible to understand the external world as well as the ability to conceptualise. The possibility of explanation through an exploration of structure is however not limited to concrete objects in the external world but also applicable to the immensely abstract tool used in conceptualising this world – language. Studies have shown for instance that language has a structure which is explained in units like the syllable, the word, the group, the sentence and ultimately discourse. How this structure is explained however depends on the researcher's locus-standi and of course what meta-linguistic theory they decide to align with (see Chomsky, Halliday, Pike, Chomsky and Halle).

What is however of importance is the truth of the notion that an entity is better understood in itself and in terms of its function and its relationship with other entities through an analysis of its structure. Such is the case with language which has a unit called discourse but which unit is yet capable of being dissected for a better understanding of its structure and by so doing throwing a lot of light on the nature of human interaction (conversation) and how meaning is encoded, passed across and extracted (both implicitly and explicitly) when people engage in interaction through language. This paper examines how the structure of linguistic interaction implicitly portrays power structure and the roles of discourse participants in shaping conversation. It, by extension, explicates how meaning is worked into the form of known conversations despite the occurrence of overlap, pragmatic failure, interruption, uncooperative conversational style in discourse and a lot of other infelicities that arise when two or more people engage in talk.

1.2 WHY DO A DISCOURSE STRUCTURE ANALYSIS?

As mentioned earlier, and as shall be demonstrated in the course of this study, an analysis of discourse structure not only helps to bring to the fore the intended message conveyed though the organisation of messages in texts but also explains how human interactions are patterned. Viewed from a slightly different locus standi, an analysis of the structure of a text helps to show the overall message in an exchange in terms of how each unit of component is related to the other, linked to the other and then linked to the overall message of the discourse.

Also, DSA helps linguists to predict the form of expression to be expected from speakers or writers in particular situations. Odebunmi (299) for instance helps to predict what to expect as the form used in editorials while Sinclair and Coulthard and Olateju go a long way in predicting the form of communication to be expected in the classroom situations to the extent that any form of communication that deviates largely and widely from the observed is easily

seen as alien to that particular genre or at best can be seen as very new and yet-to-be-established mode of presentation in that area of language use.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 DISCOURSE STRUCTURE ANALYSIS

Discourse structure analysis as a branch of Discourse Analysis includes any such study that investigates the components and arrangement of units of discourse or the rhetorical components of naturally occurring texts be it written or spoken. Such include Ansary and Babaiis' probe into the Generic structure potential (GSP) of editorials, Odebunmi's venture into same genre, Olateju's study of classroom discourse and a host of others. In essence, such a study does not only theorise on the possible component of texts and how they are organised both in structural and functional terms for the communicative purpose in the speakers' minds, but also analyses several 'real life' texts in order to substantiate its claims on the structure of discourse.

In the words of Olateju, "language never seems to exhaust the possibility in its structure thus leaving room for two features, which are style and change". (2) According to her, discourse structure "is the basic notion of linguistic exchange structure". In other words, the structure that a text can realise is not limited but varies with chosen style. In Sinclair and Coulthard's examination of classroom dialogue, they found that there is usually an initiation by the teacher, followed by a response from the pupils and then a feedback by the teacher (25). A classroom exchange thus has the structure Initiation – Response – Feedback (IRF). Even in the face of several objections and modifications to this structural framework (see Burton, Coulthard and Brazil, and Studs), it seems to be the most widely accepted for the analysis of interactions. It is pertinent to note that its suitability is mostly in the analysis of classroom discourse where the power relations are clearly defined.

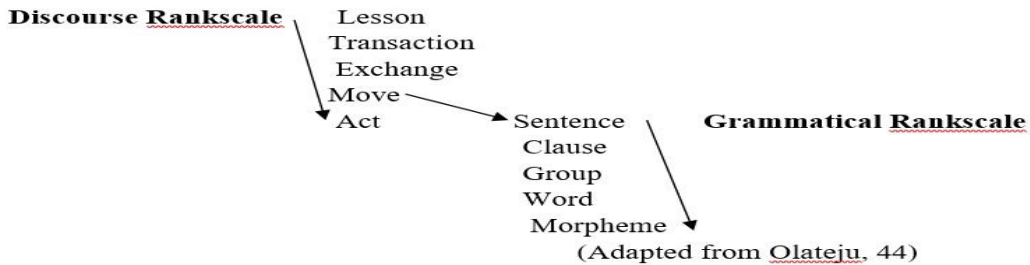
Burton's (62) introduction of challenging and supporting moves help together with the bound opening and re-opening moves to explain what happens especially in arguments or interviews where opinions may differ, interruptions occur or an interlocutor digresses during talk. Further insights into the concept of DSA shall be considered under the theoretical framework.

2.2 DISCOURSE ANALYSIS AND THE CONCEPT OF DISCOURSE STRUCTURE

Discourse Analysis, in the words of Brown and Yule *is, necessarily, the analysis of language in use, as such, it cannot be restricted to the description of linguistic forms independent of the purposes of functions which these forms are designed to serve in human affairs.* (Brown and Yule 1) Discourse analysis as posited in the foregoing is concerned with the explanation of how language is structured and used. In essence, it is an analysis of discourse – discourse being a unit of language beyond the level of the sentence. In other words, the analysis of discourse is a probe into the pattern of language use between a speaker/writer and their hearer/reader. It is important to mention that several theories exist on the analysis of language in use and what separates them from discourse analysis is their major interest as indicated by their names: social psychology, conversation analysis and critical discourse analysis.

As a take off point for this paper, a brief overview of the terms discourse, discourse analysis and discourse structure shall be done here in a rather integrative and congealed manner. It is important to note that interactive media discourse is the sole preoccupation of this paper, hence the emphasis on the interactive aspect of discourse analysis. Olateju's description of the hierarchy of discourse units *via-a-vis* grammatical units is apt in describing the breakdown of conversation in order to make for a simpler analysis of its structure (44). While a lesson is a whole unit of interaction (text), it is expected to consist of several exchanges which are a number of moves by interactants. While a move is a combination of acts, it is roughly equated to a sentence as people are often expected to use sentences (or other grammatical units capable of transmitting an idea effectively as situation dictates) to communicate their intentions as demonstrated below.

CONVERSATION AS DISCOURSE UNIT



Classes of acts, according to her, include frame (fr), focus (fo), additives (add), adversatives (adv), contrastive (con), elicitation (el), information (inf), directive (dir), hearing check (h/c), causative (cau), clue (cl), prompt (prom), cues (cue), bid (b), nomination (nom), comment (com) and accept (acc).

2.3 THE IMPACT OF GENRE AND REGISTER ON DISCOURSE STRUCTURE

The impact of the genre of register of a particular discourse cannot be ignored if a meaningful analysis of same is to be done. Infact, the genre and register of a particular text ultimately (sometimes subtly) determines its structure. As mentioned earlier in the discussion of discourse structure, it is clear that a teacher asks questions, gets a response from students and immediately evaluates thus giving a discourse within the genre of teaching its IRF structure. Largely too, the genre and register determine the classes of acts and moves employed apart from providing a template for their structuring. As the analysis would demonstrate in this study for instance the register being one of politics and the genre being an interview, it is expected that a lot of question skirting and begging occur, hence the need for many re-opening and bound opening moves, elicitation acts and some challenging moves. However, this section shall examine what genre and register are having been opened with a note on their impact on the analysis of discourse structure.

While genre refers to forms of communication as indexed by language, register is language according to use (Odebunmi “Meaning in Language” 4). It will however be difficult to distinguish between the two until we consider Firth’s location of genre within culture and register within situation. In other words, genres represent the context of culture while register is the context of situation. An easy way of exemplifying this is to say that the transactions analysed in this paper are in the registers of politics, health, sports and other areas of national life the president and the press were interested in but the genre is that of interviews and media interaction. This genre thus requires a possession of the scripts and schemata of this genre for a full understanding of the discourse while the registers require a knowledge of lexico-semantic aspects of language (for more on scripts and schemata see Schank and Abelson; Abelson 23 and Van dijk 1981: 141).

Further, studies have shown that the dimension of genre manifests in three ways viz

- (i) register configuration
- (ii) schematic structure or generic structure potential (GSP)
- (iii) Generic realisation patterns

This study demonstrates the GSP that the interview genre induces though slightly different from those posited by Ventola given his examples on high scale of delicacy.

Another very important stand on the role of genre in discourse analysis is that of Osisanwo who drew a parallel between discourse genres and language varieties. According to him, discourse genres are “real life situations of language use with different features which distinguish them from one another” (9). He mentioned two functional categorisations in support of Brown and Yule’s transactional and interactional discourse genres. This paper however posits that the two genres can overlap and, infact, be meshed in a single transaction where the interlocutors’ intention include both the passing of information and the sustenance of social relationship as observed in ex-president Obasanjo’s media chats (and interviews) analysed in this paper.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

For the purpose of this paper, two samples of full transcripts of interviews granted by ex-president Obasanjo were obtained from the archival sections of the websites of *The Punch* and *BBC*. The participatory method of data collection was used although the Obasanjo regime was already history.

For the analysis, as earlier hinted, this work relies heavily on Sinclair and Coulthard's Generic Structure Potential which proposes an Initiation-Response-Feedback structure for classroom discourse. The model as adopted in this study has been fed conceptual and methodological insights from Olateju. Burton's model has also been found useful given its veer into 'non-classroom discourse'. The moves are labeled according to the types of acts used by both the interviewer and interviewee before summarizing tables for each transaction are presented to represent the discourse structure of the interviews.

On the whole, the overall political situation of the country then combined with the idiosyncrasies of the president places the work in perspective against other earlier works in this area.

4.0 DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

TRANSACTION 1

A.

Robin lustig: [INFORM]

My guest today is president Olusegun Obasanjo (FRAME). He is one of the most powerful politicians in Africa. The man who leads the continent's most populous nation. He was elected three years ago after 15 years of military rule and he was himself in the late 1970s the unelected military ruler of Nigeria. It was then he gained an international reputation as the first military leader in Africa to hand over power voluntarily to an elected civilian administration (FOCUS). So how does he feel now as a democratically elected politician? (EL) how does he answer his critics who say too little has changed in Nigeria since the return to democracy and what does he think the role of the military should be in a country that's still suffering from so much violence and corruption? (EL)

We've had a huge number of e-mails and phone _call from all over the world –in this programme president Obasanjo will be answering some of them (INF)

Mr. President, thank you very much indeed for joining us on talking point (PHATIC). As I said, there are great many people who are hoping to have the chance to talk to you directly. Our first caller is Kolade Akinyele who is in London. He wants to ask you about that terrible arms dumps explosion in Lagos last month which resulted in the deaths of more than 1,000 people (INF).

B

Kolade Akinyele: [TOPIC INITIATION]

Good afternoon, Mr. President (PHATIC). Following the recent bomb last blast in Lagos on 27th January, why has no one taken any political responsibility officially following the fact that over 1,000 people, mainly children, lost their lives as that incident and on one has taken any political responsibility for that event? (EL)

C

President Obasanjo:

Well, Kolade it depends on what you mean by political responsibility (EL). When I am the political head and the chief executive of this country anything that happens, good or bad, I am in charge and if there is any responsibility to be taken, I don't shy away from talking the responsibility. But in this case, there was an ammunition dump in a military containment and in that military containment where the explosion took place; so far I have not received a report of any lives being lost. About 5 or 6 kilometers away, out of panic, out of stampede. People were running for their lives because of the explosion, of course, they ran into the swamp and lost their lives. (INF) If there is any immediate responsibility to be taken that something has gone wrong, of course I will take it. But what of course also must be done in that situation is what really has gone wrong. My military experience and training has taught me that when anything like that happens we first of all investigate _ the military will set up an inquiry and this has been done to find out what is the cause of that explosion (INF)

D

Robin lustig: [RE-OPENING]

Can I just ask you Mr. President, will the result of that inquiry be published? Will everybody be able to see what the conclusions are? (EL)

E

President Obasanjo:

The result of that inquiry will be made public. (INF)

F

Robin Lustig: [BOUND-OPENING] And if it concludes that somebody was at fault, that the condition in which those munitions were being kept were not adequate, that safety precautions were not adequate can you give an undertaking that action will be taken somebody? (EL)

G

President Obasanjo:

If somebody has to be punished – somebody will be punished (INF). So Kolade (NOM), that is the way it goes. (INF)

H

Kolade Akinyele: [FEEDBACK]

I believe in a democratic country and in democratic process (INF). The Minister in charge of the defence- which I think the Defence Secretary in this case, which is, the retired General Danjuma – should have taken responsibility for the way in which the ammunition dump was not maintained for so many years (EV). I believe although you have said there is an investigation talking place at the moment that the way the ammunition dump has been left without any due maintenance and care has led to the explosion which took place and led to the death of over 1,000 people (INF).

I

President Obasanjo:

That may also not be not be absolutely correct (EV). Now at this point we are not saying everything because an inquiry is at present going on (INF). The army chief of staff told me that when he took up his new job as army chief of staff, not long ago, the first station he visited was Lagos and one of the places he visited was this ammunition depot and he saw the condition and he asked the divisional commander in charge of that containment and asked what can we do. The divisional commander said – we need three and a half million naira and that is not more than six month ago (INF). So you cannot talk of absolute neglect. But this is not the time to say all that. Let us have an inquiry. Let all the facts be made available to the panel of inquiry and let the absolute position of things be known (DIR).

J

Robin Lustig: [BOUND-OPENING]

There must be many other munitions dumps around Nigeria, Mr. President (FOCUS: INF). Have you given orders that the condition those dumps are being held in must be urgently reviewed and action taken if required? (EL)

K

President Obasanjo:

Not only have I given that instruction to the military and to the ministry of defence, I have even asked the governors in whose jurisdiction those ammunition depots may be, that they should also be part of it. (INF)

L

Robin Lustig: [TOPIC CHANGE]

Philip Mogbock, Houston, USA: Mr. President, my question is about elections in 2003. with the level of security that Nigerians are experiencing now. How are we guaranteed that the 2003 elections will be conducted fairly and freely? (EL)

M

President Obasanjo:

That is not an unreasonable question. Some people in Nigeria are also asking that question and I am aware of that concern and that's what's led me to call for a retreat which ended only last Sunday. We called all stakeholders-elected men and women at the national level, at the street level, at local govt. level-party officials and party activists. We got together and we looked at what were the causes what we can do and what must we do. It was a very exciting and interesting four days when people came up and spoke their minds and a number of things came out of it. (INF)

Everybody at that meeting took a pledge, the pledge that they ensure that as far as they are concerned, not only will they not participate in violence-they will fight against violence in politics. A decision was taken that the independent

electoral commission and the registered political parties should work on it. Thirdly, that the three registered parties should meet- and I think they are meeting on next week Tuesday – to work out how they will decide against violence in the electoral process. And the first thing they want to do is to come out with a resolution of their own and they say that anybody who is known to engage violence in the electoral process will be banned from contesting in an election. If he is banned from one-party, he will not be allowed to join another party. We are also thinking of taking a deal with the National Assembly that will be take care of whatever they are putting across. So Phillip your concern is also the concern of many of us. But I *am very* hopeful that will have a fair, free and non-violent election. (INF)

N

Robin Lustig:[TOPIC CHANGE: OPENING MOVE]

Mark Dixon, UK: Obviously your Excellency has made inroads in to the battle against corruption but now many generations does it really take such an entrenched cultural system is changed? (EL)

O

President Obasanjo:[CHALLENGING MOVE]

It's not a question of generations- It's a question of critical mass of people (INF). Now are we getting a critical mass of people who are changing- whose attitude and orientation is changing- that's what really matters? I won't talk in terms of critical mass. Don't forget what we are trying to do (DIR)- some people say, how many have been sent to jail but how many minds have we changed(INF).

P

Robin Lustig: [FEEDBACK/ BOUND-OPENING MOVE]

But sending people to jail surely is the best way to send a message that corruption is not acceptable- convicting people who have committed criminal acts.(INF)

Q

President Obasanjo:

Right now we have a judge of a high court who is standing trial for three charges (INF). Now that is a high court judge-if that can happen to a high court judge then you know that it can happen to anybody.(INF)

R

Robin Lustig:

You set up a human rights violations commission when you became President (FOCUS: INF). You testified for the commission yourself- as it happens on September 11th when other important events also happened. But three former military rulers of this country, General Babangida, General Buhari and General Abubakar, all refused to testify. What does tell the people of Nigeria about towards these kinds of questions? (EL)

S

President Obasanjo:

For me and as you rightly said, I went before the oputa panel and testified (INF). We have been clear what has been lingering on, I used the opportunity which the Oputa Panel afforded them. (INF)

T

Robin Lustig:

You think they should have testified? (CHECK) But do you know what are saying- they are saying that what it shows is that the army is above the law.(INF)

U

President Obasanjo: [FEEDBACK MOVE]

No they are not army. (INF)

V

Robin Lustig:

The military. (CHECK)

W

President Obasanjo:

The military head of... They are not military because they are retired.(INF). If I am not above the law, nobody in this country can then claim to be above the law. So I think we must get it right. If you are talking of them as military- they could not be more military than I am. Now if you are talking of them as former heads of state-they could not be more former head of state than I am. If you are talking of them incumbent-there is nobody who is more incumbent than I am. It is in their own best interests to have gone before the oputa panel to lay to rest some of the accusations. Some of them are unfounded. Like the one that has been laid on my own administration when I was state (INF).

X

Robin Lustig: [closing exchange]

Well, I must thank you for coming on the programme Mr. President (PHATIC)

Y

President Obasanjo: It's my pleasure, Robin. (PHATIC)

TRANSACTION 1: TABLE 1

Exchange type	Initiation	Further move type	Act	Response	Further move type	Act
Inform/opening	a	Frame focus	Inf/el	-		Act
Elicit	b	Opening	el	c		Inf
	d	Re-opening	el	e		Inf
	f	Bound-opening	el	g		Inf/nom/Inf
	h	Feedback	Inf/ev	I		Ev/inf/dir
	j	Bound-opening/ focus	Inf/el	k		Inf
Elicit	l	Topic change	El	m		Ev/inf
Elicit	n	Topic change/ opening	El	o	Challenging	Inf/dir
	P	Feedback	Inf	q	Bound- opening	Inf
Elicit	r	Focus	Inf/el	s		Inf
	t		Inf/el	u	Feedback	Ev
	v		Ch	w	Repair	Inf
Closing	x	Phatic commu.	Ach(phatic)	y	Phatic	Inf/ack

TRANSACTION 2

Washington, D. C. _ over the weekend, Charles Cobb, Jr. and Reed Kramer interviewed Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo at Blair house, the presidential Guest House across the street from the White House in Washington, D.C. The Nigerian head of state had just completed three long days of back – to back meetings with Bush administration and congressional leaders, the heads of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, and array of business and industry representatives. En route to the united state the President visited Angola, DR Congo and Rwanda, where he discussed the progress of peace efforts.

Here are excerpts from the conversation.

1

You have just come from Rwanda, where you said that you would push President Bush for more support for the efforts to settle the Congo conflict. Mr. Bush and his people have also expressed a great deal of interest in Nigeria's role in securing and extending stability, both regionally and continentally in African. Have you been talking with administration officials about an expanded role for Nigeria?

2

The word I would have used would not be 'push'. It would have been that I would brief him and then see how we could move forward together and that's exactly what I have done. I realize that the US, as the leading nation of the world today, has, or must have, interest in what happens virtually everywhere in the world –must have global interest and global concern. As a result, I did make sure that I have the up –to – date situation at my fingertips in all the conflict areas of African, so that I could discuss these situations with President Bush, which we did.

President Bush, of course, expressed appreciation on behalf of the USA, and on behalf of the world, for role Nigeria has been playing in peacekeeping and peacemaking and conflict resolution in West Africa. We also looked at what we need to move thing forward in Democratic Republic of the Congo. Where I got first hand reports that the Lusaka

Agreement is generally on course. We've been slow - as even the people on the ground or even the main participants admitted - but it has not been derailed. That's important. One of the things I noticed when I was in Kinshasa/Kigali was that there is a great desire to get on with it and get peace, enduring peace and security in the sub-region.

3

Did the question of debt come up? Nigeria has expressed concern about this issue for some time now.

4

Debt, the issue of debt, must come up, because the issue of debt is not the issue of debt for the sake of issue of debt. It is tied up to a number of other things. If we have a revenue of 12 billion dollars a year, and we have to forced a spend 30-40% of that to service debt - some of which is doubtful in origin - it affects all the other things on which democracy hangs, particularly the ability to give our people what I call the "democracy dividend", which is basically the enhancement of their quality of life. And if people cannot have improvement of their quality of life, sooner or later they will be questioning the basis of what you call "democracy". Yes, they embrace democracy because of the very bad experience they have had with an oppressive dictatorship, but also they embrace democracy because they believe that it has more for them than just its intrinsic value.

5

What is the position of your government on this issue: debt forgiveness, debt cancellation, or what?

6

Well, some people don't like debt forgiveness. I don't why they don't like the word "forgiveness", because as a Christian I pray to God, "Forgive me my sins as I forgive those who trespass against me. " Some say rather than "forgiveness" they would like "remission". Okay. What I'm asking for is reduction in the quantum of debt, so whether you call it debt cancellation, debt remission, debt relief, debt reduction, whatever you call it, just reduce the burden of debt that I am carrying. Simple.

7

Do you like you've been able to progress in that direction - a democracy dividend and international understanding and support - in the time that you've been in office?

8

Yes, at the political level, almost everywhere that I have been, including President Bush the understanding and the sympathy is there. Even at the level of the multi-lateral financial institution like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, the understanding this there. Of course, they say, well we cannot wholesale debt forgiveness; we can have, if like, partial debt forgiveness. They call it debt remission, but whatever it is, if say I owe you 100 and you manage to reduce it to 50, then the burden I am carrying becomes 50% of the burden.

Then it's more manageable. Then the 50% that has been reduced can be used by me in providing medical care, health care for my people, potable water for my people.[We can begin to address] all the social needs, to improve the life expectancy - Which is abysmally low, and now has even been reduced with malaria coming on, with HIV/AIDS coming on and, TB. At one time, some years back, I was told that TB had been eradicated; it now has come back with a vengeance, with HIV/AIDS and all the infection disease that take their toll on our people. We must be able to have means of treating, preventing, and curing.

9

There are a number of questions that pertain to Nigerians internally that we do not have time to get into, but, most immediately, the states in northern section of the country increasingly seem to be adopting shar'ia law. How does a person like yourself, in charge of a federal government, manage a nation in which a chunk of it seems to be governed by a different set of laws?

10

Well, Shar'ia law is not a thing new in Nigeria. At the very rural and local level, we have always been governed by what is called customary courts- in the north, what they call area courts. These area courts, in the area of personal law, marriage, inheritance, divorce, they have been dispensing Shar'ia law. That has been there. And even in our constitution, we have a Shar'ia Court of Appeal that can be empanelled out of the Court of Appeal. We must have people who are learned in Shar'ia law among the judges in the Court of Appeal, so that if there's need, if an appeal comes from Shar'ia, they can empanel a Shar'ia Court of Appeal to hear the case. So this has always been part of Islam; it has always been part of the way of the way of life among Muslims in Nigerians, and it's nothing new.

It is what I call political Shar'ia to achieve political ends it will not hold. It but it not hold. The genuine Shar'ia, Islamic Shar'ia, is part of the religion and is part of the way of life of a Muslim and part of the way of life of Nigerians. We have existed in that way from the time that Islamic religion arrived in our land.

11

Why this new political Sahr'ia?

12

Well, you know, people normally want to use anything they can use for political domination-religion, language, education-people use anything. But unless you use what is right, whatever else you use doesn't last.

13

Oil plays a major in Nigeria's economy. In the Niger Delta region there is a report [a recently declassified CIA study] about the environmental effects of the oil and gas industry. The report equated the oil spills in that region to about a dozen Exxon- Valdez oil spills over a two or three-year period. What kinds of steps can a country like Nigeria, which clearly needs the oil industry, take to?

14

Well it's a step that we all have to take together, all of us who have a stake in the oil industry: the federal government, the state government, the local community and the oil companies. We must ensure that the pollution aspect, the environmental aspect, of the oil industry is taken care of. We have now a ministry of Environment, which devotes itself to nothing other than improvement of the environment, watching the environment, monitoring what goes on. One section of that ministry does nothing other than looking after the pollution: how do we deal with pollution? How do we remove it? How do we improve the oil producing areas of our country? As I said, it's an allhands on deck exercise – the community, the local government, the state government, the federal government, and the oil producing companies. We all have to work together, barring sabotage, when an oil spill does come, doing what needs to be done and making sure that where compensation has to be paid, it is paid; Where people have to be protected, they are protected.

TRANSACTION 2: TABLE2

Exchange type	Initiation	Further move type	Act	Response	Further move type	Act
Inform/elicit	1	Focus	Inf/el	2	Challenge	Inf/ev/inf
	3	Topic initiation/opening Focus	el/inf	4		Inf
	5	Bound- opening	el	6		Inf/dir
	7		el	8		Inf/dir
Inform/elicit	9	Topic negotiation	Inf/el	10	Topic negotiation	Inf/ev
	11		el	12		Inf/ev
Elicit	13	Focus	Inf/el	14		Inf/dir

FINDING AND NOTES

The following are keys to interpreting the table.

1. The patterns of interruptions observed show instances of digression or topic challenge by the 'interviewee' while the interviewer does same to re-establish the topic and re-claim him turn.
2. The further move types/comment column explains when a move functions beyond mere initiation or response as well as the conversational description of the turns.
3. The symbol “-“ indicated non-verbal response (tacit agreement)

4. Lastly, and most importantly, it should be noted that being electronic media interviews (genre), the discourse participants include the non-contributing audience as well and most informative acts by the interviewer are directed at them rather than the 'interviewee'

5.0 CONCLUSION

It is evident from the analysis that the structure of these interviews involves transaction made up of exchange with the generic IR form. The initiation moves are usually elicitation (using directive acts of questioning). The responses however sometimes take the form of interruption, sometimes topic negotiation or challenging moves thereby making the panelists/questioners resort to skip-connecting, bound-opening moves and re-initiations as seen in a media chat example excerpt.

Although such digressions and counter-questionings are parts of the genre of heated argument; this paper submits with the notion that the interviews with OBJ parade examples of peculiar structures of discourse where responses are sometimes meshed with initiation in the same move producing variants in the form of IIR, IRR or I I (without response). These represent examples of adjacency pairs with unusual or undesired/ marked second pair parts. Given the register too, turn-taking is fossilised as each question is meant for the president. Devices of nomination, Phonological cues, socio-centric sentences, drop in volume, drawl and structural pattern of the initiation / elicitation moves are employed in turn allocation barring the cited cases of interruptions which are indexical upon the power situation in the contexts.

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