Metaphoricity in Conflict Resolution: A Study of *Sacrilege* by Nnenna Ihebom

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Abstract
Conflict arises when there is a disagreement between the parties involved. It is a situation where two or more independent parties are characterized by perceived differences, and these parties involved treat this situation as negative. Many times, conflicts result in negative emotional states and various degrees of violence. Conflict management is the hub of any sustaining organization laced with personal, cultural and social development of individual person, in Nigeria and African society as a whole. It defuses any strong emotional outburst which triggered the conflict situation, and also proffers solution for resolution. This paper looks at the textual metafunction of some metaphors used in conflict resolution, in Nnenna Ihebom's *Sacriledge*. Accommodation theory, with special recourse to convergence and divergence strategies, highlights inclusivity and therefore, helps in achieving the expected peace. Results show that metaphorical use of language influences the cognitive consciousness of the individual person or group involved in the conflict. Thus, this engenders peace and coexistence among the dissenting parties.

Introduction
Metaphors are cognitive structures that help individuals understand their world. In conflict management, metaphors can function as models for how conflicts should be negotiated. Lan (2005) is of the view that metaphor involves giving something a name that belongs to something else; transference being either from genius to species, or from species to genius, or from species to species, or on grounds of analogy. In 1980s, the study of metaphor took a new perspective as seen in 'Metaphors We Live By' by Lakoff and Johnson (1980), which looks at the studies of metaphor in Linguistic field, viewing the interpretation of metaphor system in the line of cognition, proposing that metaphor is a matter of thought and action rather than a device of poetic imagination and rhetorics. Emotions such as anger, pride and hatred are conceptualized structures in our everyday language (Kovecses,1988). Here, understanding metaphor is understanding how human language and cognition work. It is very important to the way humans operate on many levels. Metaphor is extremely useful, it can be used to persuade and manipulate. Moran (1986) notes that metaphor can be used to manipulate an audience in such a way as to make the audience see one thing as another. Metaphoricity has a number of dimensions such as contradictoriness, inexplicitness of comparison, conventionality and distance of transfer.

Conflict is a fact of life and it comes and goes as life moves on. It is a common feature of human society. Conflict, according to Johnson (Personal Communication, February, 08, 2022) is "an opposition to something such as disagreement between two people, genders, culture, nations etc., also a mental struggle resulting from incompatible or opposing needs, drives, wishes or external demand. Conflict is an expressed struggle between at least two independent parties, two or more social entities or parties who perceive incompatible goals, scarce resources and interference from the other party in achieving goals; it involves perceived divergence of interests, or belief that the parties' current aspirations cannot be achieved simultaneously.

The power of metaphor in conflict resolution cannot be overlooked. Conflict resolution is the process of managing conflict and negotiating solution. It is a communication process for changing the negative emotional states in a conflict to emotional states that allow working out solution to the conflict. The two processes involved in positive resolution of conflict are management and negotiation.(Neil Katz and McNuty, 1994). Metaphors organize and represent complex information. The conceptual structure

of metaphor makes it shape human thoughts and this is seen in the target domain which they are used to describe. (Lakoff & Johnson,1999; Sopory & Dillard, 2002). Cothen (2011), states that metaphors are essential devices for fostering collective understanding and forging political commitment across diverse constituencies. As such, communicating issues such as resolving conflict in homes, offices, states through framed metaphoric discourses could be beneficial.

There is always a bad feeling whenever there is a disagreement between parties, the parties involved are always sensitive to the choice of words used to manage the conflict situation. Language has its ways of avoiding hurtful words in conflict situations through the use of metaphor. People negotiating for conflict resolution, in order not to hurt the sensibility of the warring parties, choose to manipulate words to achieve peace. The conflict resolution negotiators use words diplomatically to include the dissenting parties, giving everybody a sense of belonging. This study, therefore is set to find out the inherent metaphors generated to represent conflict resolution in the selected text and to what extent these metaphors reflect possible resolution in the conflict's background experience?

Conceptual Review
Metaphor
The dynamic way of using metaphor influences its functions and these functions depend on the context of usage and culture based on convention. If one looks carefully at the sentences of any fluent speaker, one finds that they contain a steady stream of metaphors. Metaphor is a cognitive phenomenon (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980, 1999) which has a significant impact on human reasoning abilities (Casasanto & Jasmin, 2012; Johansson Falk & Gibbs, 2012). Works in these areas have shown that metaphoric thought is central to the normal way we reason. Actually, Lakoff and Johnson (1999) say:

> If we consciously make the enormous effort to separate out metaphorical
> from non-metaphorical thought, we probably can do some very minimal
> and unsophisticated non-metaphorical reasoning. But almost no one
> ever does this, and such reasoning would never capture the full
> inferential capacity of complex metaphorical thought. (p. 59)

Also, Musolf (2016) notes that metaphors always express evaluations, persuade, and appeal to the emotions in a positive or negative way, or reassure people that new phenomena fit into existing patterns or experience and can be dealt with in familiar ways. As well as explaining reality, metaphors can also distort reality, by emphasising one aspect at the expense of another, by concealing some part of reality completely, or by fostering catastrophic thinking and disproportionate responses. Metaphor mediates human understanding and world view. (Lan, 2005). Metaphors are important in communication and cognition because they express, reflect, and reinforce different ways of making sense of particular aspects of our lives.

Besides, a metaphor is the combination of one familiar concept or object with another familiar concept or object. These two components have been given different nomenclature by different writers of which the more common ones are base domain and source domain (Fawson, 1994), and vehicle term and topic term (Goatly, 1997). In contributing to the use of metaphors to link up new information, Langacker(1999), states that we are able to conceive of one situation against the background afforded to another. In regards to new information, previous discourse functions as a background to the current expression, and when speaking of metaphors, the source domain serves as a background for structuring and understanding the target domain. Metaphors are inescapable in conflict resolution because they bring about changes in the ways which we act in the world. The topic term on the other hand, is the object or concept that is being described while the vehicle term is the object or concept that is being used to create an analogy between the vehicle term and the topic term. Goatly(1997) adds another element to metaphors, which he classifies as the ground term. The ground term helps to define, categorize, or label the similarities that exist between the vehicle and topic terms. The ground term is an optional element of the metaphor. Consider the metaphor "That person drives like a wild animal." Here, "that person" is the topic term and "wild animal" is the vehicle term. The effort is not to describe the vehicle term better but to get a clearer picture of the topic term through the linkage or analogy. By

creating an association between the vehicle term and the topic term, it is hoped that a new understanding of the topic term will be realised. In this particular example of metaphor, the association of the important characteristics between the topic and vehicle terms is left up to the listener. The listener, therefore, must determine how "the driver" and "the wild animal" are metaphorically salient. This leaves the metaphor open to a broad spectrum of interpretation and misinterpretation. To help clarify the saliency, a ground term can be added to the metaphor: "That person drives like a wild animal. He is out of control." Now, the characteristics of being out of control, which is a perceived important characteristic of a wild animal, is linked to the person's driving. With this explanation, metaphor generates an alternative perspective for viewing and understanding certain characteristics of the topic term.

Conflict and Conflict Resolution

Conflict is a fact of life and it comes and goes as life moves on. It is a common feature of human society. Conflict, according to T. Johnson (Personal Communication, February, 08, 2022) is "an opposition to something such as disagreement between two people, genders, culture, nations etc., also a mental struggle resulting from incompatible or opposing needs, drives, wishes or external demand. Abdulla et al, (2016), claim that the term conflict is so ambiguous and can be defined depending on the approach of each researcher and the field that concerns the researcher most. They reported that conflict is an expressed struggle between at least two independent parties, two or more social entities or parties who perceive incompatible goals, scarce resources and interference from the other party in achieving goals; it involves perceived divergence of interests, or belief that the parties' current aspirations cannot be achieved simultaneously. The Netherlands Organization for Social Research(NOSR, 2007), observes that conflict is a process that starts with an individual or group, parties perceiving differences and opposition between oneself and another individual, group or parties, about interests and resources, beliefs, values or practices that matter to them. Conflict refers to an incompatibility of goals or values between two or more parties in a relationship, combined with attempts to control each other and antagonistic feelings toward each other (Fisher cited in Fisher, 2000). Two things could be deduced from the above simple definitions/explanations of conflict: the first is that conflict emanates from relationships (social) and secondly, the conflicting groups, parties, individuals must reside in close proximity, whether physically or psychologically. Poku (1998 cited in Egenti and Okoye), is of the view that conflict could be interpersonal , inter communal and may range from person to person, community to community and nation to nation.

Most times, Conflict resolution is often confused with the term Conflict resolved but Conflict resolution is primarily not conflict resolved but it is a list of items or list of processes setting on peace principles thus Burton (1990) cited in Synder (2014) puts it that "Conflict resolution assumes that given a full understanding of shared goals and an appreciation of the environmental conflict constraints, the warring parties would arrive at realistic mean to resolve their conflict, rather than to endure its ongoing and escalating costs".

Supporting the view that conflict resolution is not conflict resolved, Miller (2003) explains that conflict resolution involves a variety of approaches aimed at terminating conflicts through the constructive solving of problems, different from management or transformation of conflict. Also, Miall et al (2001), mention that by conflict resolution, it is expected that the deep rooted causes of conflict are addressed, the conflict behaviour is no longer violent, and hostile attitude no longer there, while the structure of the conflict has been changed. To Mitchell and Banks (1996), conflict resolution is:

i.   an outcome in which the issues in an existing conflict are satisfactorily dealt with through a solution that is mutually acceptable to the parties, self-sustaining in the long run and productive of a new, positive relationship between parties that were previously hostile adversaries; and
ii.   any process or procedure by which such an outcome is achieved.

Conflict resolution is essentially aimed at interaction to change or facilitate the course of a conflict. Heitler (1990), suggests that conflict resolution is the attainment of a solution that satisfies the requirement of all seemingly conflicting forces and thereby produces a feeling for all participants. Supporting Heitler's view, Wallenstien (2008) sees conflict resolution as a situation where the

conflicting parties enter into an agreement that solves their central incompatibilities, accept each other's continued existence as parties and cease all violent acts against each other.

Albert (2001), suggests that conflict resolution serves three purposes which include: minimization of chances of destructive conflicts, stabilization of cessation of destructive conflicts so as to prevent escalation and prevention of outbreak of a full-blown conflict done by uprooting the basic reasons for the conflict. Heitler (1990), summarizes the cooperative process of conflict resolution as:
i.   the position: these are initial statements of the warring parties and should be made known as regards to what they want and are say.
ii.   explore underlying concerns: these are the concerns of the parties, these interests are lying behind the initial positions made known and act as stepping stones to addressing the issues at stake.
iii.   Joint-problem solving: this should be practical in the true sense of it, it involves selecting mutual satisfying solutions; this is when the two warring parties co-operatively explore their underlying concerns and work out ways of attaining a resolution.

In all these, the essence of conflict resolution is to uproot the major cause of the conflict. Conflict resolution is a process that involves more of a co-operative dialoguing and joint problem solving processes. It aims at resolving by focusing on efforts to increase co-operation among the parties to a conflict, deepen their relationship by addressing the conditions that led to the dispute, fostering positive attitudes and allaying distrust through reconciliation initiatives, and strengthening the processes through which the parties interact. It provides an opportunity to interact with the parties concerned with the hope of at least reducing the scope, intensity and effects of conflicts.

Metaphoricity in Conflict Resolution
Metaphor is a universal means of understanding phenomena in the world. This statement is based on the claim in cognitive grammar, a model which seeks an "accurate characterization of the structure and organization of linguistic knowledge as an integral part of human cognition". (Langacker 1999). Also, metaphor is a "…complex signifier that stands for an abstract signified by associating it with something concrete. It reveals the basic tendency of the human mind to think of certain referents in terms of others" (Danesi 2002). . Metaphors are structuring principles of thought that organizes most of our experiences through mappings between familiar (source) and unfamiliar (target) domains of knowledge. (Musolff, 2019). Musolff further explains that source domains are normally based on physical experiences that we start acquiring immediately after birth.

The conceptual theory of metaphor proposed by Lakoff and Johnson (1980), metaphors are seen as mappings, that is, sets of correspondences across different domains in conceptual structure. It involves the mappings of aspects of the source domain onto aspects of the target domain. Metaphors are pervasive; they are so important because they reflect and influence how we think about different kinds of experiences and which in turn influence our actions. The concept of metaphor is further defined by Kovecses (2002) thus "conceptual metaphor means that conceptual domain (A) is conceptual domain (B). The two domains seen in conceptual metaphor are called source domain and target domain respectively where source domain refers to the conceptual domain used to help understand another conceptual domain while target domain refers to the conceptual domain which we try to understand it through source domain.(12)

Conceptualization is the dynamic cognitive process involved in meaning construction as language, or image, connects with background knowledge to yield local mental representations (Evan & Green, 2006). Such background knowledge in conceptualization takes the form of image schemas, frames and conceptual metaphors. Metaphors help us in understanding abstract things. They are created when the referents are related to in one way or the other. While contributing to the use of metaphors to link up new information, Langacker(1999), states that we are able to conceive of one situation against the background afforded to another. In regards to new information, previous discourse functions as a background to the current expression, and when speaking of metaphors, the source domain serves as a background for structuring and understanding the target domain.

Metaphors are inescapable in conflict resolution because they bring about changes in the ways in which we act in the world. Metaphors organize and represent complex information. The conceptual structure of metaphor makes it shape human thoughts and this is seen in the target domain which they are used to describe. (Lakoff & Johnson,2008; Sopory & Dillard, 2002). Based on the above view, metaphorical structure helps in the representation of abstract semiotic knowledge (Boroditsky, 2000) and processing of complex issues (Landan, Sullivan & Greenberg, 2009; Hauser & Schwarz, 2014) by highlighting certain aspects of a target domain and deemphasizing others. Cothen (2011), states that metaphors are essential devices for fostering collective understanding and forging political commitment across diverse constituencies. As such, communicating issues such as resolving conflict in homes, offices, states through framed metaphoric discourses could be beneficial. Conflict normally arises when disputants cast issues incompatible ways and fail to create an acceptable joint solution.

Metaphor is often used to communicate complex topic by creating a concrete understanding of more abstract concepts. Conflict, war, and peace are often talked about outside the field of conflict resolution through the use of metaphor. Metaphor also eases the strain of expression by creating cognitive short cuts thus the use of Metaphor in Conflict resolution which is the thrust of this paper. For the fact that metaphors shape thought by tapping into structured knowledge of…source domain(s) to help people organise and draw inferences about…target domain(s), Thibodeau et al (2019) note that they are most effective in shifting repertoires when 'emotionally valent'. Moreso, metaphors can build safe spaces through indirect exposure to emotions 'that may be too painful to express directly…' (Shinebourne and Smith ,2010) and as such are used directly in exploring conflict issues which can normally be traumatising.

Metaphor is naturally ambiguous, allowing multiple simultaneous interpretations to coexist (Schirch 2005). This ability of metaphor to hold ambiguity is central in broadening rigid, narrow confict-repertoires (ibid), allowing participants to agree, to disagree, and 'suspend judgment to explore face and heart value' (Lederach 2005). Metaphor's connect into 'culturally shared meanings of a community' that 'carry deeply felt resonances such as love, fear or cultural identity', making metaphor an ideal means for critical analysis of conflict-repertoires (Deakin Crick and Grushka 2009)

Theoretical Framework: Accomodation Theory
Accommodation theory also known as Communication Accomodation Theory, attempts to explain how people adjust the way they talk depending on who the audience is. Accomodation Theory used widely in the field of social sciences accounts for a wide range of accommodative behaviours . (Soliz & Giles, 2012).It has become one of the most researched communication theories since its inception in the early 1970's. Accomodation theory began as a theory in speech communication and developed into a theory embodying a wide array of communicative behaviours (Soliz & Giles 2012), it allows to examine the acquired data from both speech communication and intercultural communication perspectives. Accomodation Theory looks at communication on both interpersonal and intergroup level, and explains changes in communication. It also allows to consider the relational, cognitive, and communicative outcomes of accommodative behaviours (25). The theory is well-known within social sciences and perceived as trustworthy (Griffin 2012, Soliz & Giles 2012). Much of the research on Accomodation Theory has centered on face-to-face interaction, but the theory has also been applied to a number of other contexts including computer-mediated communication (Riordan et al. 2012). This was another validation for choosing Accomodation theory because the observed group applied face-to-face interaction techniques in their communication. Having mentioned earlier, Accomodation Theory also provides the possibility to consider both interpersonal and intergroup levels of interaction. Accomodation Theory is contextually diverse, contains interdisciplinary usefulness, and is applicable to be used with various methodological patterns. (Soliz & Giles 2012). CAT has been used in diverse cultural contexts and found to be beneficial in intergroup communication situations (Knobloch 2008 in Baxter & Braithwaite 2008). So, given the cultural make of the interlocutors in the texts, the purposes of the study, and the theory's applicability, it was clear that Accomodation Theory is an excellent choice.

Since its beginning, Accomodation Theory has expanded into an "interdisciplinary model of relational and identity processes in communication interaction" (Coupland & Jaworski 1997). It has grown to a multifunctional theory that focuses on interpersonal and intergroup features, and views communication in both subjective and objective ways. The theory also allows for the consideration of discursive structures, nonverbal communication behaviors, and other communicative aspects of identity such as clothing and hairstyle despite the fact that language was its central focus. (Soliz & Giles 2012) The theory has been widely applied in various contexts and in various cultural groups. It has been applied in face-to-face interaction and in organizational settings. Intercultural and intergenerational communication in particular have received much interest and played a significant part in Accomodation Theory's theoretical development. Issues of identity, language, and context have always been at the core of the theory. (Gallois et al. 2005)

Accommodative behaviors are determined by the communicators' individual characteristics, social identities, the features of the situation, and the context. Accommodative behavior also plays a very important role in our adjustment to our surroundings. (Giles 2008) . Giles (1987), indicated that accommodation consists of two main strategic forms of communication, convergence and divergence. Accommodation on its own refers to changing one's communicative behavior to appear similar to others, which might by lowering one's voice to match the recipient's style of speech. Although convergence and divergence represent the opposite ends of the accommodation phenomenon, they are both used to convey attitudes toward others and as a result they can serve as an indicator of the level of social distance between individuals. They are often strategically applied, either semi-consciously or intentionally, to gain social rewards or to signal distinctiveness. (Soliz & Giles 2012). Accomodation Theory focuses on these coordination choices and challenges between communicators, and the communication strategies they choose(Knobloch 2008 in Baxter & Braithwaite 2008).

Soliz and Giles define convergence as a strategy individuals use to adjust their communicative behaviours in such a manner to appear more similar to others and their behaviour (2012). This can be achieved in a number of ways, such as changing one's speech rate or body language to match that of the other's. The aim of converging behavior is the desire to gain approval from others. To achieve a perceived level of similarity with others, individuals apply and adjust a wide assemblage of their linguistic, paralinguistic and nonverbal behaviour to match the other. Any a conversation can lead to convergence as long as the communicators have an interpersonal mindset whereby they regard themselves and the other as autonomous individuals representing only themselves(Griffin 2012). Successful convergence is deemed to have a variety of positive effects. Convergence can enhance the effectiveness of communication, which is known to improve the predictability of other's behavior. (Soliz & Giles 2012) The ability to predict the other's behavior in turn reduces uncertainty, interpersonal anxiety, and increases mutual understanding between communicators (Gudykunst 2005). Successful convergence can lead to being regarded favorably, and perceived as cooperative and efficient (Soliz & Giles 2012).

Divergence is a communication strategy of emphasizing differences in speech and nonverbal behaviour between communicators. Individuals often communicate in a divergent way to emphasize, either to themselves or to the other, that they belong in a distinct group which the other is not a part of (Griffin 2012). The aim is to signal distinctiveness and reinforce group identities (Soliz & Giles 2012). If two individuals are engaged in communication, and one or both come to think of themselves or the other as representatives of a group, they will diverge from one another. Also, if two individuals enter a discussion with an intergroup mindset, the conversation is more likely to diverge than converge. This will lead to emphasizing distinctiveness and the reinforcement of group ties. In other words, the need for distinctiveness leads to the reinforcement of group identity, which in turn leads to divergence. (Griffin 2012).

Accomodation Theory is adopted in this study because it looks at communication on both interpersonal and intergroup level. It explains changes in communication to adjust for the perceived inadequacies of language and also due to its pragmatic framework (Soliz & Giles 2012), it would serve best in data analysis. Furthermore, the theory is well-known within social sciences and perceived as trustworthy

(Griffin 2012; Soliz & Giles 2012,). Piaget (1937) determines that the speaker shifts to the metaphoric statements using accommodation and assimilation that attempt to link our language with our experience or environment. As he conceived it, assimilation occurs when an unknown element of our experience or environment is made understandable to us by assimilating it into existing knowledge structures called schemata. Accommodation occurs when we actually change existing language meaning in response to changes in the environmentor knowledge about experience. It also allows to consider the relational, cognitive, and communicative outcomes of accommodative behaviours .

Methodology
This study adopts a qualitative research design. Its concern is the textual analysis of the text in terms of meta-function, through transitivity system/analysis. Moreover, qualitative study is a kind of interpretative inquiry which affords researchers the opportunity to interpret what they see, read and understand. These interpretations are based on the investigator's backgrounds or prior knowledge, context and history. The system of analysis is two pronged: performance and language and the level of communication involves both the interpersonal and the intergroup.

Analysis and Discussion
The text was analyzed based on the transitivity patterns of the clausal representations of experience, ideas, message; it also conveys information which expresses content. It is a structure that has tools that include performance (non-verbal communication) and language (linguistic communication) of transitivity. These clauses in transitivity system represents real-life experiences such as conflict from relationships, the conflicting groups, parties, individuals that reside in close proximity, whether physically or psychologically. The analysis comprises the linguistics communication: language (vocabulary and grammar use) and non-verbal communication: performance (facial expression and body language).

1. **"…**Please take care of the clothes I washed if you do not want a serious fight when I return." "Yes , madam. Just make sure they do not use your head for pepper soup over there . I hope you know that *love can be very costly.*"(19)
   Conceptual Metaphor-- love is costly
   Target Domain-- love
   Source Domain—costly
   The above highlighted expression *love is costly* is used by Alicia when she felt her friend Angela was already angry from a discouraging conversation on visiting Angela's boy friend, Fillima. Using the conceptual metaphor LOVE IS COSTLY, the relationship is now seen in an expensive, valuable and pricy domain, Alicia was able to calm down the already risen angry voice of her friend , Angela , who thanked her and brought the argument to an end. She was able to achieve peace in the conversation because she changed her use language to converge with her friend's own.

2. An idea struck Fillima. "Ogara let's go back to that shrine ." "What? Are you nuts?" "Hear me out, please. Remember that Ojukwu is a god of Justice. … *We are fighting on the side of justice,* so we can seek refuge in his shrine." (36-37)
   Conceptual Metaphor…Justice is war
   Target Domain—Justice
   Source Domain—War
   The cross domain mapping involved in this metaphor accounts for the understanding of the concept of justice and its essence. Many of the things done in seeking justice are partially structured by the concept of war thus the metaphorical statement *we are fighting on the side of justice* used by Fillima to bring about peace between him and his friend, Ogara.

3. "Okay, see eh, my friend. We are sorry for taking your game," Fillima cut in. "Truth is, we are starving. We are in serious distress and *we just have to survive*. …" (46)
   Conceptual Metaphor—Hunger is a battle
   Target domain: hunger
   Source domain: battle

The metaphor survive, draws the source domain of battle which involve conflict, fight ,struggle , resist , even withstand. The employment of the metaphor survive shows that a struggle or conflict is going on. There was already a heated verbal exchange amongst the three Boma, Fillima and Ogara about a stolen game. The use of the metaphor in the background helped create a picture of pity to Boma and doused the heated verbal exchange and Boma forgave the duo (Fillima and Ogara) for stealing his game.

4. "Haba , Akalla , abeg no vex. I don't mean it like that. It's not as if I don't feel you. What I mean is that *your family name is a door opener* everywhere in this country. And for this our contract business, connection is everything. …'' (73)
   Conceptual Metaphor— Good name is an opportunity
   Target domain: good name
   Source domain: opportunity

Family name and door opener metaphors are drawn from the lexical field of good name and opportunity. The popular family name of Akalla is seen equated hear as an opportunity to succeed in business. Akalla's friend Opebi employed this metaphor eye opener to convince and calm the already angry friend of his, Akalla who was already angry from the discussions between. Opebi succeeded in making him relax back to their discussion.

5. "I'm truly sorry, my kinsmen. *The night has travelled far* and I suggest we all retire and seek some wisdom in the solitude and comfort of our beds. …" (79)
   Conceptual Metaphor—Night is a journey
   Target Domain: Night
   Source Domain : journey
   In number five above , the metaphor *Night is a journey* is used to show that it is too late for the discussion to continue the discussion and that they should go home but the speaker Priye will not be so plain to tell the elders he is talking with that they should go because it will be so disrespectful coupled with the misunderstanding amongst them, so Priye's use of metaphor while discussing brought a calming effect among them.

6. "Forget that one abeg. They are just as ignorant as I was when I took that *dangerous leap* years ago. (134)
   Conceptual Metaphor –Decision is a jump
   Target domain: decision
   Source domain: jump
   The choice of the metaphor 'leap' in the comparison above is a deliberate one intended to calm the already heated conflict between the hair dresser and Akalla's girlfriend, Beky. This metaphor presents the decision of marriage taken by the hairdresser years as a hurried one and used to encourage Beky that her decision to remain single is the best.

7. ''I want you all to rejoice with me. Our enemies have been deceived. The foolish man they call Priye has finally appeased the land. That means that *the obstacle have been removed. …''* (145)
   Conceptual Metaphor—Priye is an obstacle
   Target domain : Priye
   Source domain: obstacle
    The representation of Priye as an obstacle connotatively implies that Priye is a thing that blocks one's way or hinders one's progress. Akalla was in a sad mood resulting from the inability and argument from him and his men when the news , he used metaphor to buttress the fact that what was preventing his chieftaincy title has been dealt with . Priye here is seen as an obstacle by Akalla to support the discussion he is having with his men bringing calmness amongst them.

8. '' Please , Your Majesty, don't abandon me now. You were friends with my father, remember.'' ''Yes, I was , and my people *are paying dearly for it.''* (157)
   Conceptual Metaphor—Friendship is suffering a misfortune
   Target domain: Friendship
   Source domain : valuable commodity
   The conceptualization of their friendship as **paying dearly** is a subtle way of indirectly telling Akalla that the friendship between his father and the speaker (His Majesty) is not a good , that

the villagers suffered from it very well. Using the above metaphor remedied the heated argument that would have ensued .

9. ''Akalla , my son , threatening me will not solve any problem. Moreover, if I die now , nobody will say I died too soon . *Go home and get some rest. The night is half spent* .''(157)
   Conceptual Metaphor—Night is an object

10. ''…Your Majesty , the youths of this community are *boiling hot right now*. They would have acted rashly but for your intervention….''(161)
    Conceptual Metaphor—Anger is a boiling water
    Target Domain---Anger
    Source Domain---boiling water
    In number 10 here, one of the youth leaders use the metaphor, *boiling hot right now,* to douse the already tensed speech environment. The youth leader was talking to His Majesty on the situation of the community amidst the conflict situation His Majesty was already in, the use of that metaphor succeeded in making the His Majesty stay calm in his speech and this brought calmness also to the audience.

11. ''… My people, Ogbuku has *survived a major storm that threatened to wipe* us out completely , so we have a reason to celebrate . By this time last year, we were *grappling with three deadly diseases that visited us in quick succession. …*In previous years, people *traded our children's future for momentary monetary gain. Our health and wealth were bided for and treated like merchandise. …*''(170-171)
    Conceptual Metaphors—a. Freedom fight is a storm.
    Target Domain: freedom fight
    Source Domain: storm
    ----b. Sickness survival is a war .
    Target Domain: Sickness
    Source Domain : war
    ----c. Destiny is a market .
    Target Domain : Destiny
    Source Domain : Market
    In number 11 above, three metaphors are employed by the leader of the Ogbuku clan and they are *freedom fight is a storm*, the speaker employed the characteristics of storm which include violent disturbance of the atmosphere to create a picture of what the Ogbuku plan passed through in trying to get back their stolen freedom. Also ,in the metaphor *Sickness survival is a war.* The speaker used the word *grappling* to bring to the understanding of the villagers the struggle , commitments they made to survive not dying .Of course, *Destiny is a market* is also a metaphor used by the leader which shows how the past Ofijaku title holder carelessly peddled with the destinies of people in the community. All these metaphors used by the helped in calming down the tumultuous crowd who were already angry by the circumstances surrounding them.

Conclusion
The best and reliable medium through which conflict could be resolved is using metaphors to appeal to the minds, emotions and rational thoughts of humans. To the emotional humans, the metaphors appeal to their emotions and to the rational humans, the metaphors appeal to their reasonings and bring about conflict resolution and peace at last.

Recommendation
More studies should be done on Metaphoricity in conflict resolution using literary texts for the purpose of complete acceptance. This study is also recommended for conciliators and mediators as this will help them choose the appropriate language that will appeal to the minds and emotions of people involved in conflict.

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