Conspiracy Theories and their Impacts on Peace and Security: A Case of Nnamdi Kanu

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Abstract
In as much as language is a free gift of nature and it is made specifically or mere importantly for communication, language users should endeavour to utilize its communicative functions wisely and not to deceive the populace or to put them into confusion or state of doubt. In the most recent time, it has been observed that language users no longer give or utilize the informative functions of language. At any societal events, a lot of fallacies go with it. These theories tend to deceive rather than inform. They tend to confuse rather than explain. These have made humans to lose count of useful information. This attitude has negatively influenced the society and therefore requires urgent intervention. Here lies the importance of this research which investigated the various conspiracy theories underlying Nnamdi Kanu and also analysed their security and peace impacts. Six coversations were selected from the conspiracies surrounding Nnamdi Kanu from the internet. They were analysed using the ideational theory of semantics and J.L. Austin's theory of "How to do things with words". After the analysis, it was discovered that most of these conspiracies were formed based on people's belief, to deceive people, and to create confusion, which can lead to anarchy in the society. Some recommendations, which include setting policies that will monitor what is posted on the social media, were made. Conclusions were also drawn.
Key words: Language, Communication, Conspiracy Theories, Peace and Security

Introduction
Language as a human phenomenon is so diversified in function that linguist like Hayawa (P.20) has described it as a two edged sword. It can be used to resurrect or to kill, it can be used to pacify or raise dust, it can be used to send people to the street and used to pacify the same people to go back home. Knowledge about the world is done through the use of language. Little wonder Sapir and Whorf in their hypothesis talked about 'linguistic relativism' and 'linguistic determinism' which is hinged on the fact that the structure of a language influences the way its speakers conceptualize the world, and also the same language and its structures, limit and determine human knowledge or thought as well as thought processes are processed. This means that humans do their thinking using the language available to them. Concepts are also formed using language. Language is the lens through which humans see the world and all that is around it including humans.

Nnamdi Kanu as a human being has been described by many in different ways using language. Some see him as a crusader of the Igbo group, some as a terrorist, some as propagandist, and what have you. In whatever form or way Nnamdi Kanu is being described has some effects either positive or negative on the people. Language abinitio is meant to pass information from one human mind to another. The information passed must be able to be interpreted properly by the listeners which they decode and utilize properly. Hence, the common saying that, "Information is power". But in the recent times, it has been

observed that language users no longer pass clear information that will enable the populace to be well informed especially in times of crises either religious, political, economic and so on. Rather, the masses are being deceived through the use of false information popularly known as propaganda. This propaganda and those who carry it have evil intentions, to deceive, cover up and falsify stories. Instead of empowering the people with by of saying, what should be said to enlighten the masses, they end up putting them in fears, putting them in agony, making them to be more confused when all these lies and false information spread like hay fire, the question in the minds of the hearers would be which of these information is the truth and which one do we take and which do we leave?" These are the stories referred to in this paper as conspiracy theories. These are theories that reject the standard explanation for an event and instead credit a covert group or organization which carry out secret plot. In these theories, the truth is withheld from people and they are filled with lies.

This is the case with Nnamdi Kami's life, his actions and arrest. In order to address the problems associated with the theories, six excerpts were sampled and analysed using four- research questions and the theoretical framework works by J.L. Austin (1972) "How to do Things with Words" and ideational theory of semantics. At the end of the analysis, it was discovered that once a concept is mentioned, people begin to form different ideas about the concept using the language available to them, hence a concept will be given different interpretations based on the perspective that one sees it. It also discovered that conspiracy theories are filled with lies and they deceive the populace. It can be also lead to conflict of ideas and opinions which prevent peace in the society just as we have in the case of Nnamdi Kanu. Some recommendations were made such as sanctioning all bodies responsible for conspiring. Conclusion was also made which suggests that learners should sieve their information before accepting it.

Conceptual Clarifications
Language is a tool of all human activities. Halliday defines language as "sophisticated tool for accomplishing a number of central tasks such as the need to represent the word, the others and ourselves, and the need to interact with other humans in the environment one finds himself/herself linguistically and socially. (Halliday, P. 23) Again, language is a systematic way of communicating ideas, feelings and conventional signs that are mutually intelligible to the user. In the words of Fromkin, Rodman and Hymans, language was described by them as:

> We live in a world of language, we talk to our friends, our lovers, our teachers, our parents, our rivals and even our enemies. We talk to bus drivers and total strangers, we talk face to face and over telephone and everyone responds with more talk. Television and radio further swell this torrent of words. Hardly a moment of our waking lives is free from words (248).

When we look at this definition, we will, observe that everything we do in life involves language. Language is a life wire to all human beings. Without language, it will be difficult for humans to live.
They went further to provide more answers to the question of what language is? By saying that "Language is whatever people may do when they play, fight, make love or make automobiles". They concluded by asserting that we are the only animals that do this talk.
From this explanation of language, we can observe that the totality of human existence is language based. Language also involves all bodily movements referred to as non-verbal language. Both the verbal and the non-verbal language are important in human communications.

Language according to Bernstein, in Nwala and Ube, is one of the most important means of initiating, synthesizing and re-enforcing ways of thinking, feeling and behaviour which are functionally related to the social group (109) Fisherman, in Nwala and Ube sees language as a symbol of contra-national ethnic-cultural identification on the part of smaller groups, who, resisting fusion into the larger nationality, develop a localized nationality consciousness of their own (109). From fisherman's definition, we can say that language is also a vehicle that drives the history of a nation, a link with the glorious past and a mirror of the unknown future. Language permeates all aspects of human, provides different ways of looking at the world in addition to empowering the users.

It is language that empowers the propagandists to report same concept in different dimensions. Their basic intention is to create problems and confusion to the populace. All the complex interaction and co-operation among the members of a society is unthinkable without language. Language is therefore an attribute of socio-political historical, cultural and spiritual milieu. In this study, effort is geared towards looking at the- various functions of language, its communicative value, Nnamdi Kanu as a person, semantic theory, conspiracy theory, ideational theory and any other thing that can lead to the understanding of the topic which is language based.

Language Functions
They are lots of functions that language performs in human existence. Language is the most important tool in the society without which human society cases to exist. Humans use language to perform activities in areas like education, worship, business, adjudicating cases, interpersonal relationships (Conversation, literacy writing politics) and so on. In all these, activities, there are peculiar ways that, language functions and this peculiarity has given rise to what is called varieties of language in linguistics. All the functions of language have been put or addressed by MAK. Haliday into three categories. These are ideational, expressive and textual functions of language. These functions will be discussed below:

1. **The Ideational Function of Language:** This is the one that is commonly used by humans for communication of ideas as the name implies. We use this type of language when we want to find out, gain or gather information from others. Some writers refer to the ideational function as information, referential or propositional use of language. We use this kind of language in areas like education, conversations, the adjudication of cases and politics and so on.

2. **Expressive Function of Language:** This type of language is used when we want to express our emotions, feelings weather in anger or in pleasure. It is also one of the commonest ways of using language. When language is used in this way, we are said to use language expressively or emotively. The place where language is used emotively or expressively are in poetry (literary works) religious worship, quarrelling and cursing and swearing.

3. **The last is the Textual Function of Language:** This is the use of language in the record of facts which can be retrieved for future use. The use of language demands that the language should be clear, concise and unambiguous for easy decoding in the future. Places where language functions textually are in all kinds of record keeping like historical records, business accounts and scientific reports. This area of language function is very important because of future references. This conditions help in social development according to David Crystal quoted in (Onwukwe:4).

Having seen the various functions of language, we can agree that the ideational and textual functions of language are very relevant to this study. It is the different ideas shared by different people on the same concept that gave rise to conspiracy theory. Also based on the fact that this research is on textual materials from the internet, it functions textually, as it provided the sources for the analysis of the work.

Communication
The primary function and most significant use of language is for communication. Most often, people define language as a means of communication thereby making language and communication inseparable. In the actual sense, language is not the same thing as communication. One may have a language but find it difficult to communicate with it.

Communication as a concept has so many definitions. It is seen as a process of passing information "from one person to another through any means which could either be linguistic, para-linguistic or extra-linguistic. Communication is not a one-way traffic. It involves two or more persons who are expected to behave in one way or the other during the communication exercise. In the words of Ngonebu, communication is any transmission of information from one person to another in order to elicit a response (Ngonebu 53). It is the response that shows whether the listeners understand or do not understand the message. Again, Ijeoma defines communication as an interaction by means of signs fond symbols. These symbols may be gestures, plastic or verbal or any other which would serve as stimuli to behaviour (Ijeoma, 213). Eyre in Sybil et al. P. 3) defines communication as not just the giving of

information, it is the giving of understandable message. This definition has a lot to do in the information given by propagandist. This will lead to so many questions as to how understandable their information are here lies the problem of the study.

Communication is also the transfer of message to another party, so that the message can be understood and acted upon. Communication is the interaction in one form or the other, either by visual or auditory symbol. People are continually interacting with themselves and with their environment by talking to their friends watching television, listening to the radio, reading printed pages, calling or sending away domestic animals. Communication involves the interactions of one or more people saying or doing something which attracts reactions in the minds of other people. Symbols such as words or gestures are the major means that people use to communicate.

There are some common features in these definitions of communication - that communication involves more than one person, that messages are passed through different means and that there is always reactions in the minds of people involved in the communication exercises. These reactions could either lead to co-operation or conflict in conspiracy theory, the information communicated are questionable because there are always so many versions to the stories. This is the crux of this work.

Conspiracy Theories and their Meanings
Here, the researchers will make a distinction between conspiracy theory and the main theory for this study. Conspiracy theory in this paper is not a framework, rather it is all the fake news that people carry along and report same based on their interest and belief in a particular issue. The major frameworks for this study are Ideational Theory and Speech Act Theory.

Having differentiated between these theories, Conspiracy Theory is technically an attempt to explain harmful or tragic events as the result of the action of a small powerful group. Such explanations reject the acceptable narrative surrounding those events. Indeed, the official version may be seen as further proof of the conspiracy.

According to Quassim Cassam, conspiracy theories are forms of propaganda and their function is to promote a political agenda. They do more harm than good, with some resulting in the deaths of large numbers of people. Conspiracy theory according to the dictionary of conspiracy is a theory that rejects the standard explanation for an event and instead credits a covert group or organization with carrying out a secret plot. Conspiracy theories increase in prevalence in periods of widespread anxiety, uncertainty or hardship as during wars and economic depression and the aftermath of natural disasters like earthquakes, pandemics and tsunamis. Conspiracies emerge when people believe that government, large organization or companies are withholding truth from the public. At this point, the conspiracist tries to cover the truth behind the news items.

The content of conspiracy theories is emotionally laden and its alleged discovery can be gratifying. The evidentiary standards for corroborating conspiracy theories are typically weak and they are usually resistant to falsification. The survivability of conspiracy theories may be aided by psychological biases and by distrust of official sources.

Furthermore, conspiracy theories resist falsification and are reinforced by circular reasoning both evidence against the conspiracy and absence of evidence for it is re-interpreted as evidence of its truth. The Wikipedia dictionary, defines conspiracy theory as an explanation for an event or situation that involves a conspiracy by sinister and powerful groups, often political in motivation when other explanations are more probable. The term has a negative connotation implying that the appeal to a conspiracy is based on prejudice or insufficient evidence.

Research suggests that conspiracist ideation belief in conspiracy theories - maybe psychologically harmful or pathologically harmful and that it is correlated with lower analytical thinking, low intelligence, psychological projection, paranoia and Machiavellianism.

Historically, conspiracy theories have been closely linked to prejudice, propaganda, witch hunts, wars and genocides. They are often strongly believed by the perpetrators of terrorist attacks. All these definitions point to the fact that conspiracy theories are theories that carry fake news, peddled by rumous mongers to cause conflict and destroy peaceful co-existence of people. Conspiracy theories at extreme cases can lead to death. The examples of conspiracy theories in the recent times are COVID-19 Pandemic, Nnamdi Kanu's issues, End SARS, GBOKO Haram issues and many others. Again, conspiracy theories are always politically motivated or oppressive in intent. This work is particularly interested on Nnamdi Kanu and all the conspiracies surrounding him which hamper peace and causes conflict.

Theoretical Framework
Two theories were used for this work by the researchers. These are theories of JL Austin's Speech act, and the Semantic theory of ideation. We will begin by working at the speech act theory by JL Austin, an Oxford philosopher in 1962. It is often said that "action speaks louder than word". This is an exaggerated statement as speech is action. When people say things, they are actually doing things. This was what gave rise to the speech act theory by JL Austin in 1962. This was celebrated in his (William lectures delivered at the Harvard University. (J.L. Austin) as quoted by (Emezue 26). In these lectures, Austin described a lot of things people do when they use language. According to him, speech act falls into three main categories. These are the locutionary, the perlocutionary and the Elocutionary acts.
The Locutionary Act: This is the production of any identifiable grammatical utterance in the language. It is performed merely to communicate. It is the production of a meaningful and sensible utterance for example:
a. Mazi Nnamdi Kanu is an Igboman
b. His name is Mazi Nnamdi Kanu
The interpretation of these two sentences are done intra-linguistically. One does not go outside to look for extra-linguistic sources for their interpretation based on the perspective of studies in figurative use of language.
If for example the sentence goes like;
a. Mazi Nnamdi Kanu is a women
b. Mazi Nnamdi Kanu is pregnant.
It means that they did not perform a locutionary act. Semantically, the sentences are seen to be abnormal because Mazi Kanu cannot be a woman, neither can a man be pregnant. There is a context that these sentences would appear and they become meaningful and these will take us to the second type of the speech act theory known as perlocutionary Act.
Perlocutionary Act: This act is concerned with the effect that an utterance has on its listeners or addressees. What follows after a locutionary act. This effect is, oftentimes, not easily predicted. But according to Sadock, there is always an escape route should the addressee feel insulted. In his words, "we may always deny that a particular perlocutionary act was intended by saying these things like 1 don't mean to embarrass you.
Illocutionary Act: This is an act performed in saying something. In this case, saying means performing, for example, if someone says, "I do" in response to the question, "Do you take this woman as your wedded wife? At a wedding ceremony, has performed an action. He is no longer a bachelor. Saying "I do" has performed the act of marriage.
An utterance may be a warning, a command or a promise and may also perform an act of Christening. The ability of an utterance to attain the status of a promise, a request, a command or threat and so on is what is known as illocutionary force.
Among these speech acts theory, the researchers are more interested in the locutionary and the perloluctionay acts. This is because the texts under study are statements made concerning
Nnamdi Kanu, which were meant to communicate to people about the life of Nnamdi Kanu. These statements communicated, have a lot of influences on the learners or listeners and these influences have made them react to issues concerning the person upon whose life communicated to the populace.

Ideational Theory
This is a semantic theory of meaning developed and favoured by early modem empiricist philosophers, especially John Locker. These philosophers believed that thoughts consist in sequences of ideas in the minds of thinkers and that thought is strongly independent of language and that language serves chiefly as a means for the communication of thoughts from one thinker to another. This is to say that meaning originates from the mind of man in the form of ideas and man uses words to communicate these ideas in the form of language use.

In essence, what this theory is saying is that before propandists use language to pass or communicate to the populace, they had already formed the idea of what they want to pass or deliver in their minds eye. They had already formed a mental image of what they want to pass across to the people. Language, now becomes a tool through which these ideas are communicated. This is also what happens to the learners or listeners. When these messages come to them (listeners) they interpret it differently and the reasons why people react differently to the same situation.

Peace as a Concept
The concept of peace will be taken wholistically in this paper. But before the researchers give a wholistic definition, the simplest definition of peace will be provided. Peace ordinarily is defined as the absence of trouble, that is anything that makes one not to be pressured, be in the home office, state or nation, we say, there is peace. According to Howard in Bakutwah (234) peace is the creation and maintenance of a just order in the society. Miall in the same work subdivided peace into six different meanings which provided a wholistic definition of peace and these sub-divisions are:
   i.   The absence of war (absence of direct violence)
   ii.   Justice and development (absence of structural violence)
   iii. Respect and tolerance between people
   iv.   Gaia (harmony or balance in, and within the ecosystem, ecosphere)
   v.   Tranquility or inner peace (spiritual peace)
   vi.   Wholeness and making whole (being complete)

Peace again can be defined based on what John Galtung tagged component of understanding peace in Bakutswah: (234). These are negative and positive aspect of peace. Peace is said to be negative when the peace in existence includes only the absence of direct violence, war, fear and conflict at individual, National, regional and international levels on the one hand. While on the other hand, peace is said to be positive when that peace in existence, in addition to the above, also includes the absence of unjust structures, unequal relationship, justice and inner peace at individual level. This is referred to as the real peace because it includes both the absence of war (direct violence) and absence of unjust structure (direct violence).
There is no society that does not have the concept of peace. Peace is important in the development of our families, state, nation and other aspect of human life. Peace therefore, is the absence of both conflict, harmony in the society and a way of life for individuals.

Security
There are so many definitions of the concept of security. Security can be described as stability and continuity of livelihood (stable and steady income), predictability of daily life (knowing what to expect), protection from crime (feeling stage), and freedom from psychological harm (safety or protection from emotional stress which results from the assurance or knowing that one is wanted, accepted loved and protected in one's community or neigbourhood and by people around. It focuses on emotional and psychological sense of belonging to a social group which can offer one protection (Nzekwu and Oboko 138). These various dimensions of security can be put together to mean protection against all forms of harm whether physical, economic or psychological. When one is secured, it does not mean that there will be no threats or security issues, but it is in the ability to overcome such security challenges that is more important.
From the propaganda, pedelled about Nnamdi Kanu, Nnamdi Kanu and his loved ones were insecured. This is a result of the conspiracies around the life of Kanu. Some of these conspiracy theories would be looked at in what follows:

Conspiracy Theory 1
Nnamdi Kanu did not jump Any Bail As DSS, Buhari Government and their supporters want us to believe.

Conspiracy Theory 2
The only truth is that after many months of illegally detaining Kanu he was taken to Justice Binta Nyako's Federal High Court in Abuja where he was granted Bail.

Conspiracy Theory 3
Kanu was still on bail when at the orders of the Buhari's Government armed to the teeth, Nigeria soldiers went to His house in Umuahia and caused serious mayhem in which several people were killed. Kanu only managed to escape for his dear life (internet source).

Conspiracy Theory 4
The truth remains that Nnamdi Kanu was forced out of Nigeria in self defence of Aggression from the Buhari Government that had decided to kill him.

All these conspiracies surrounding Nnamdi Kanu's reasons for leaving Nigeria are told from different dimensions. These stories met the locutionary conditions which means that they stated mere propositions. This proposition is centred on one individual Nnamdi Kanu. The different stories came up because already, the narrators know who Nnamdi Kanu is and what he is capable of doing. What each narrator did not consider is the effects these different narrative would have on the listeners and the person being spoken about.

Conspiracy Theory 5
These theories, 5 and 6 & 7 were about how Nnamdi Kanu was captured.
Nnamdi Kanu was allegedly lured to the point of arrest by an Igbo beauty queen who goes by the name Chidinma. That, Chidinma was used to lure Nnamdi Kanu to a hotel in Brazil where he was arrested, transported to Nigeria via a stationed private jet at the Santiago International Airport.

Conspiracy Theory 6
That Nnamdi Kanu was lured into an African country, Ethiopia, with the promise of cash donation to the cause of Biafra agitation and from there he was arrested

Conspiracy Theory 7
Lastly, Nnamdi Kanu was not arrested anywhere else oi.in any other country. He was not lured by money, woman or any other thing as his malicious enemies want us to believe in order to tarnish his image and probably break the spirit of his followers.

The truth is that Nnamdi Kanu was kidnapped in London via a grand conspiracy between the British government and the Nigeria government. It is the perfection of Kanu's kidnap that led to the cancellation of president Buhari's medical trip to London last week.

Among all these stories, which one do we take as the truth? We discover that instead of furnishing the populace with clear information, they confuse the populace and instill fear and do not consider the effect their locutionary statements have on their interlocutors or listeners.

Conclusion
Language as a gift of nature to man is a powerful instrument which can be used to create and recreate stories and events. Nnamdi Kanu, an Igbo man has been seen from different lime light by different people through the use of language. A lot of conspiracies have been formulated about him regarding his escape and capture. These conspiracies were created in such a way that fears and doubts were created in the minds of his followers. The followers become more confused because none out of these conspiracies can be traced to any person.

The commonest saying is that "information is power" but in this case, through the use of conspiracy theories, the populace become more confused than ever. Two linguistic theories were used for the study which aided in the understanding of the conspiracies as mere statements and that the conspirators were not interested in the outcome of their prepositions. All they intended to do were to manipulate people's opinion and feelings which they succeeded in doing. This is the major cause of the conspiracy theories which cannot bring peace and security in a country.

Recommendations

Having studied the conspiracies against Nnamdi Kanu that could disrupt the peace and security of the nation, it becomes pertinent that what people present for public consumption be investigated and perused. Based on these, the researchers present the following, as way out

1. Government bodies should set out bodies to understudy the news that should move out for public consumptions.
2. Having known that conspiracy theories deceive people, conspirators, if found should be punished.
3. Rules and regulations should be made to guide news reports.
4. The educational sector should include conspiracy theory in the school curriculum especially in civic education to enable the students understand what it is so as to avoid its use.

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