Language Use in Media Representation of Insecurity in Nigeria and its Impact on the Masses

Chibunma Amara Bright-Ajoku
chibunma.bright-ajoku@alvanikoku.edu.ng.com
08063801669
Department of Linguistics and Nigerian Languages,
Alvan Ikoku Federal University of Education, Owerri, Imo State, Nigeria
&
Olachi Florence Okere
olaedo1976@gmail.com
08038002552
Department of Linguistics and Nigerian Languages,
Alvan Ikoku Federal University of Education, Owerri, Imo State, Nigeria
&
Carolyn O. Mbata
carolynmbata@gmail.com
08033798748
Department of Linguistics and Nigerian Languages,
Alvan Ikoku Federal University of Education, Owerri, Imo State, Nigeria

Abstract
This paper delves into the analysis of language use in media representation of insecurity in Nigeria. Nigeria is encapsulated in gross insecurity; a situation which cuts across diverse social strata: tribes, status, religion, age, gender and so on. The different activities like: kidnapping, terrorism, banditry, insurgency etc. depict insecurity in Nigeria and are exposed, expressed, discussed or represented via language in different media. Sometimes the representation style affects the masses positively or negatively. This study therefore investigates and analyses the language use, patterns and strategies adopted in different media platforms by different social strata: journalists, religious leaders, youths, and ethnic groups, in representing or reporting cases of insecurity in the media space. It further considers the effects these language use and patterns of reporting insecurity in Nigeria social media have on the masses. 'The Reception Theory' of 1973 also called 'Encoding and Decoding Theory' propounded by Stuart Hall is used for this work. The data for this study border on representations of insecurity and social discourse on insecurity issues in Nigeria gotten from different social media platforms like: Facebook, Twitter (X) and the digital edition of newspapers. The different reports of insecurity issues in these platforms are sampled and the effects on the masses are measured via their responses gotten from some sampled comments and emojis, accompanying the reports. This paper reveals first, the interrelationship between language, the media and the social discourse in Nigeria. Secondly, it proves that the linguistic style of representation vary from one medium platform to another and from one social stratum to another. Thirdly, the language of presentation affects the masses positively or negatively and thus affects their responses and actions. The efficacy of language use and strategies on media representation especially on insecurity cannot be overemphasized, all media platforms and all social strata should endeavour to adopt appropriate language and strategies for effective results.
Keywords: Language Use, Media Representation, Insecurity

Introduction
Nigeria is one of the populated nations in Africa and is noted as the giant of Africa. This is due to its large population and land mass. Nigeria is blessed with some natural resources which had positively affected its economic status until recently due to some pertinent issues of which insecurity is at the top. Nigeria at the moment is engulfed by insecurity of lives: leaders and the led, animate and inanimate, and properties.

Insecurity is a state of instability in the affairs of an individual, state or nation. Insecurity has affected the lives of the citizens negatively and has affected the economic development of the nation. The impact of insecurity in Nigeria cuts across regions, class, age, religion, ethnicity etc.

The social and economic instability of today Nigeria is attributed to unprecedented cases of insecurity which include: terrorism, banditry, kidnapping, raping, activities of the Fulani Herdsmen, Boko Haram insurgencies, militant operations, religious cum political crisis, abduction, to mention but a few. These have hampered the nation's progress and are exposed, expressed, discussed or represented via language in different media.

The media play significant role in disseminating information. It has a broad spectrum for the dispersal of information. This is credited to the outrageous number of users in the different media platforms. This public access makes the dissemination and retrieval of information easy and faster.

The media therefore is the easiest and fastest means of disseminating information relating but not limited to insecurity. The role of the media in disseminating such vital information cannot be overemphasized. Media outlets which include: Facebook, Twitter (X), Instragram, the digital edition of newspapers etc. play a vital role in exposing the mind sets of the reporters and in affecting the mind-set of the masses. Unfortunately, information on different cases of insecurity in Nigeria are not only publicized or reported by the journalists. Other individuals or groups representing different social strata report insecurity issues within and around their environment on different social handle. The linguistic styles of representation vary from one medium platform to another and from one social stratum to another. The linguistic features manifest in media representation of insecurity and the comment sections reveal the mind-set of the audience or masses. In other words, the language of representation, impact the masses and affect their responses. The efficacy of language use and strategies in disseminating insecurity issues cannot be over emphasized.

This study is therefore set to consider the following objectives:
- The wide coverage of social media in disseminating insecurity issues in Nigeria
- The linguistic style adopted by different media platform in reporting insecurity issues
- The implication and effects of language use and style on the masses.

Methodology
The data for this study are the collation of some posts on insecurity in Nigeria made on Facebook, Twitter and some online newspapers. The number of views, likes, reposts, bookmarks etc. on Twitter are used to generate the numerical coverage of the media i.e., the number of masses that have access to the media representation of insecurity. The comments made by the viewers against the selected insecurity posts on face book are used to determine the effects or impacts of the post on the masses. The linguistic style adopted by the different media platform selected for this study (Facebook, Twitter and online newspapers) would be considered and analysed.

Theoretical Framework
"The Reception Theory" of 1973 also called "Encoding and Decoding Theory" propounded by Stuart Hall would be used for this work. Stuart Hall being concerned about how media messages are received by audiences devised a theory called the "Reception Theory" first developed in his 1973 essay 'Encoding and Decoding in the Television Discourse'. For him, this theory aids in examining how media messages are encoded and decoded. It examines how media message or representation is affected by the identity of the presenter and how it shapes or affects the attitudes and responses of the audience or users in different social media. He identified the dominant, the oppositional and the negotiated messages which have effects respectively on the audience. Where the dominant or the preferred message refers to how the presenter wants the audience to interpret or decode the message, which might be achieved if the audience have same identifying markers (age group, gender, ethnicity, class, etc.), the oppositional message is when the audience rejects the preferred or dominant message and creates their own meaning, this happens mainly when the audience have different identifiers or views, while the negotiated is a compromise between the first two, reason being that while they might have same identifying markers or background with the presenter, they might have some divergent opinions concerning the message content and would need more exploration. Some identified factors can influence presentation and reception of media. According to Stuart Hall such factors include: some identifying markers like: age, class, ethnicity, gender, political, religious and educational backgrounds, life experiences, mood (Hall 1973, 1980, 1997; Alasuutari 1999).

Conceptual Framework
A review of some key concepts is made here.

Insecurity in Nigeria
According to Ndubuisi and Anigbuogu (2019), insecurity has myriads of connotations which signify danger, hazard, uncertainty, lack of protection and safety. Insecurity is perceived as the state of fear or anxiety stemming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection. This simply means lack of inadequate freedom from danger. It is also an absence of peace, order and security. It is defined from two perspectives as: the state at which one is being open or subject to danger or even threat of danger, where the said danger is the condition of being credulous (Achumba, Ighomereho & Akpan-Robaro, 2013; Beland 2005; Olabode 2024).

On the other hand, Adeyemi (2006) presents insecurity as a state of exposure and tendency to high risk of harm, danger, or even threat which may be physical, psychological or socio-economic in nature. Ojo (2010) posits

that, insecurity is a situation where individuals and groups feel threatened or liable to physical or social harm, emotional distress, loss of lives and properties.

Insecurity according to Ibrahim (2012) encompasses a range of risks and exposure to certain adversities such as: terrorism, kidnapping and communal clashes, which may disrupt peace and social order in a society. It can as well undermine human well-being. Eze (2020) upholds that; insecurity denotes the absence of protection, safety, security or stability which can lead to sensitivity or vulnerability, feelings of fear, anxiety, and sometimes may result to death.

Insecurity is a state of vulnerability to threats, dangers or uncertainties that can harm people, communities or societies and undermine their physical, emotional or psychological well-being (World Health Organization [WHO], 2016). Ndubuisi and Anigbuogu (2019) note that; insecurity is a critical issue that has hampered industrialization and sustainable development in Nigeria in particular and Africa at large.

Nigeria, perceived as the Giant of Africa has witnessed unprecedented incidences of insecurity which cut across tribe, status, religion, etc. This is evident in the summary made by Mbaegbu and Duntoye (2023). Insecurity at the religious sphere as reported by Mbaegbu and Duntonye (2023), presents the Jihadist attacks by Bokoharam and the Islamic State West Africa Province, killings and the kidnappings of religious worshippers and clergy, other crimes committed by the Islamic sects include: destruction of vehicles, burning of churches, police stations, prison houses, schools, residential houses, army barracks etc. (Mwai, 2022; Associated Press, 2022; Aljazeera, 2022; Ayitogo, 2022). Insecurity at the political sphere includes: the attack on President Muhammadu Buhari's convoy in his home state, attacks on politicians and their properties, attacks during manifestoes /campaigns (Ayitogo, 2022). Insecurity within the civilian sphere includes: the deadly attack on an Abuja-Kaduna train where 61 people were kidnapped for ransom (Ojiego, 2022) and bandits killing more than two thousand, six hundred (2,600) civilians in 2022 (Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, 2022), to mention but a few. Other insecurity issues in Nigeria include: the activities of Fulani Headsmen, armed robber attacks, political- religious crises, murder, destruction of oil facilities by Niger Delta militants, child abduction/trafficking etc.

Based on the research made by the 'Afrobarometer' team (A Pan African Nonpartisan Survey Research Network) in Nigeria, led by NOIPOLLS "Crime/insecurity ranks at the top of Nigerian's list of the most problems that the government should address and almost right in 10 Nigerians (79%) rate the government performance in reducing crime as "fairly bad" or "very bad", an increase of 32 % (percentage) points since 2017.

Social Media
Social media are online platforms that enable users to create, share and integrate with context and to connect with others who share similar interests and affiliations (Boyd & Elison, 2010). Kietzmann et al (2012) see social media as various online platforms, where one can share, exchange information, ideas and content.

According to Fuchs (2024), social media is a complex ecosystem of online platforms, tools and technologies that enables users to create, to share and to interact with context and to connect with others in ways that are shaped by power dynamics, social norms and technological affordances. Social media is a group of internet-based applications that build on the ideological and technological foundations of web. It enables its users to generate, create, share and exchange data, information, ideas and content in an interactive and collaborative manner within a virtual environment (Kaplan & Haenlein 2006; Oloruntoba 2016; Asemah 2013)

For Onuora (2021), social media are web applications which generally refer to the social environment in which everyone has the potential to become a creator of content or applications and to reshape the relationship between the user and media as well. In other words, social media is an application that allows users to converse and interact with one another in order to create, edit and share new forms of textual, visual and audio contents. Social media could be seen also as a veritable tool used by the audience to source for information and to express their mind. It has also empowered people globally, also serving as a forum for expression of views on both personal and global issues. Social media refers to the online technologies and practices that people use to share content, opinions and experiences, and to connect with others who share similar interests and affiliation (O' Reilly 2005).

Media Representation and Language Impact

Language is a veritable instrument for communication. The language of communication or representation can make or mar the listener or audience and or the communicator. Information is represented in the media via language.

Hall (1997) advocates that; media representation refers to the various ways in which the media portray, construct and carry images, identities, and meanings about individuals, groups and cultures. Kellner (2007) on his own asserts that; media representation denotes the process by which the media disseminates meaning about the world and shaping people's understanding of reality. More so, Lester and Ross (2010) are of the opinion that; media representation involves the identification, selection, construction, distribution and dissemination of ideas, images, messages, ideologies, beliefs and meanings about different social groups and issues.

According to Shagbaor, Achakpaikyo and Ternenge (2023), social media has actually created a forum for more public access to varying information which includes insecurity. This is evident in the number of Facebook and WhatsApp users. According to them, social media serve as an important instrument for creating awareness and consciousness in disseminating information on the various attacks perpetrated by armed groups alongside Boko Haram insurgence, banditry, kidnapping and the recent activities of the unknown gunmen in the South-East region of Nigeria.

On the other hand, Orji (2021) postulates that many people apply the internet, such as social media: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, WhatsApp etc. to report some cases of insecurity in Nigeria. She notes that, the choices of words were seen to cut across various educational and social strata.

According to Oshionebo and Okonkwo (2023), some social media users specifically the twitter users have used it for personal benefits or interest. This explains why falsehood and negative information are dispersed via such social media handles. This, according to them aggravates tension and security threats among Nigerians. However, some other users have engaged the platform towards achieving modest and legitimate interest. Conclusively, positive use of social media, particularly, twitter, provides positive impacts on the society while negative use of the platforms engenders negative outcome.

Abdulwahab (2024) deduces from his findings that none of the identified social media platforms: Facebook, WhatsApp, X is the root cause of national insecurity, however, they are contributors due to the misuse of such handles which are not regulated by any law in Nigeria. According to them, the leniency in regulations regarding to security of social media in Nigeria has led to the use of hate speech, dissemination of misinformation, tribal tensions and terrorist assaults in Nigeria via social media handles like: Facebook and Twitter (X).

WhatsApp and Facebook users are exposed to security information through sharing and posting of disseminated information. Fake news, blame shifting, ethno-religious division, confrontational remarks, panicking and fear are kinds of security information made available and accessible for users on Facebook and WhatsApp. These kinds of information do not address the dynamics of insecurity and gives little information on insecurity issues in Nigeria (Shagbaor et al., 2023).

Presentation of Data

The following data are presented as sourced. In some of the data under the tables, especially under the sampled comment section, the language used by the writers is neither technical nor polished. The language and the grammatical errors witnessed in the data are as sourced. The researchers do not bear responsibility for any of such errors.

DATA 1
TABLE 1: Sampled Reports on Insecurity via Twitter Handle

TWITTER POSTS	
(a) ATIKU ABUBAKAR TWITTER (X) Handle 2:33 PM · Mar 8, 2024 **https://x.com/atiku/status/1766094841681711128** The problem of insecurity in Nigeria is getting worse by the day. The media has been awash with terrifying news of banditry, kidnaping, and bloodletting that has turned our country into perhaps one of the most terrorized territories on earth. Within one week, there have been many reported cases of mass abduction of hapless citizens in the Northwest and Northeast regions of our country. In the early hours of Thursday, school children numbering over 280, together with their teachers, were abducted in Kunga, Kaduna State, by bandits riding on motorcycles, without any challenge by security agencies. Earlier in the week, it was reported that scores of women and children fetching firewood were abducted by gun-totting bandits suspected to be members of Boko Haram. It was also reported that over 200 people, mostly women and children, were abducted from the IDP camp in Ngala in Bornu State. The cases are endless, and the problem seems interminable. The APC-controlled government has failed woefully to give the people the basic things expected of a responsive government. It is a clear manifestation of the failure of governance. The government has continued to play the ostrich while the nation is plagued by insecurity. While the weak and vulnerable are neglected, the government is making empty rhetoric about reforms. And while our young men are abducted, killed, or conscripted into the army of the terrorists and our women and girls are ravished and subjected to different forms of gender-based violence, the authorities do nothing. This is in negation of the constitutionally guaranteed commitment that the security and welfare of citizens is the primary responsibility of government. I stand in solidarity with my fellow citizens and sympathize with the victims and their families. I urge the security agencies to rise up to the challenge and save innocent citizens from the horrors of banditry and terrorism. –	132.3k views, 548 Reports, 28 Repost, 1,673 likes, 20 bookmarks
(b) Nnamdi Obasi 1:43 pm · 29 Nov 2020 Senior Adviser (Nigeria), International Crisis Group @crisisgroup **https://x.com/nnamdiobasi?lang=en** | ex-Snr Research Fellow, National Defence College @NigeriaNdc , #Nigeria "The insecurity in the north is so high…People are losing hope…The North is not secure at all. In fact, it is the worst place to be in this country" – Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Mohammed Sa'ad Abubakar III, in @daily_trust, 19 Nov 2020 #Nigeria	50 Reposts 6 Quotes 84 Likes 1 Bookmark
(c) Peter Obi Former Governor, Anambra State. LP Presidential Candidate, 2023. Tweets by him are signed -PO. 2:17 pm·7 Feb 2024 **https://x.com/PeterObi/status/1755219351169331657?lang=en** As insecurity, banditry and kidnapping continue to spread unchecked in the country, I am yet greatly saddened by the reports of the kidnapping of some passengers who were traveling to Abuja in public transportation buses.	276.5K Views 4,104 Reposts 50 Quotes 10.8K Likes 41Bookmarks
(d)Peter Obi 10:53 pm · 7 Sep 2024 **https://x.com/PeterObi/status/1832537734776549408?lang=en** Again, I am very saddened by devastating news of the horrific killing of several innocent people in Mafia Village in Tarmuwa Local Government Area of Yobe State. This heinous act of violence is a stark reminder of the gravity of our security situation and the urgent need for a paradigm shift in our approach to the challenge. The relentless killings, maiming, and displacement of innocent Nigerians are a clear indication that our current security architecture is failing. We must acknowledge this reality and take bold steps, as I have always maintained, by declaring war on insecurity before it consumes us completely. –PO	278.9K Views 2,623 Reposts 65 Quotes 6,127 Likes 51 Bookmarks
(e)Peter Obi 6:19 pm · 16 Jun 2024 **https://x.com/PeterObi/status/1802390589419250075?lang=en** Again, insecurity has continued to rage through the country, causing severe economic instability and threatening our national existence. I was saddened to hear about the kidnap	238.5K Views 2,722 Reposts

of the Managing Director of Fouani Company, Mohamed Fouani, alongside other three Lebanese, in Lagos.	28 Quotes 6,800 Likes 54 Bookmarks
(f) Sen. Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso 6:29 am · 27 Jul 2024 **https://x.com/kwankwasoRM/status/1817069841016143891** …It is sad to note that the attitude of our leaders to poor governance plunged the citizens, especially youth, into anger, hunger, insecurity, hopelessness and about giving up on the country. Interferences by the Federal Government into the affairs of the chieftaincy matters in Kano State, impeachment of the Deputy Governor of Edo State, political crises in Rivers State, sabotage to Aliko Dangote refinery, controversies surrounding SAMOA agreement, the conflict between Sen. Ali Ndume and the APC Leadership, widespread insecurity and other criminal acts are a few examples of avoidable and unnecessary crises. We appeal to the leadership of the country at all levels to take necessary steps to address the myriad challenges facing the country… In these trying times, our nation stands at a crossroads. Our collective frustration with bad governance has reached a boiling point, and the urge to protest is strong. As an elder and patriotic Nigerian, I share your concerns and your desire for change. However, I urge you to consider the consequences of national protests and to channel your energy into a more effective and peaceful means of transformation—through the power of your ballot. Protests, while a fundamental democratic right, often come with unforeseen and dire consequences. The tragic events of the past have shown us that protests can escalate into violence, leading to loss of lives, destruction of property, and widespread chaos. The repercussions of such actions extend far beyond the immediate moment, leaving scars on our communities and deepening divisions among us. Sen. Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso PhD FNSE NNPP National Leader	1.6M Views 2,165 Reposts 1,447 Quotes 8,021 Likes 673 Bookmarks
(g) Sen. Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso 10.54a.m 12 Sep 2022. https://x.com/kwankwasoRM/status/156926315018835584 Security challenges in our country have climaxed to a critical stage. We shall galvanise all resources and intelligence, to tackle this menace ravaging Nigeria. I also call on the authorities to put a stop to it. We cannot fold our arms and watch as anarchy reigns.	50 reposts and 198 likes

DATA 2
TABLE 2: Reports on Insecurity via Facebook Handle

	SAMPLED COMMENTS
(h) Femi Adesinya Facebook Handle https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php/?story_fbid=526027168884842&id=100044326904709 **HIDING UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF INSECURITY** Security is everything, nobody can dispute that. You have to be alive to enjoy every other thing government is providing; roads, rail, bridges, airports, food security, in fact, everything. That is why whenever you hear President Muhammadu Buhari talk of the priorities of his administration for the country, he starts with security, stressing that before you can efficiently manage an organization, town, city, or country, you first have to secure it. He then proceeds to talk about reviving the economy, and fighting corruption. But security is always number one. Does Nigeria have security challenges? Severe ones. I've always said it, while adding that the government was taking up the gauntlet. Two weeks ago, after the attack on the Abuja-Kaduna train by terrorists, I wrote that Nigeria was actually at war. It was, however, silly and idiotic to see a newspaper twist that piece in a news story, writing; 'Femi Adesina finally admits that Nigeria is at war.' Otiose. Witless. Illiterate. Who does not know that our country had been at war against insurgency since 2009, when Boko Haram manifested in the Northeast? But we leave those who twist every word to continue to contort themselves, till they completely get out of shape, tying themselves up in a labyrinth. It will serve them right.	**(i) Mayinde Daniel Male** Please just keep quiet. You must not talk, just keep quiet. You don't have to explain to people what they see, feel and are experiencing. Stop making Nigerians more angry by talking when you are supposed to keep quiet. Just keep quiet and get out, please **(ii) Bode Babalola Male** Pastor Femi Adesina your dissimulation, dishonesty, and twisted sense of morality stinks to hell. When your god - Major General Muhammadu Buhari (retd.), asked GEJ to resign you had no problem with that but here you are today lecturing us about the impropriety of asking Buhari to resign. Is insecurity today not worst than what we use to have under GEJ??? May God salvage you from the political demon of deception and hypocrisy!!! **(iii) Greg E. Oko Lecturer**

The point of interest today is the hackneyed calls on President Buhari to resign over the country's security challenges, the latest coming from a so-called Northern Elders Forum (NEF), a group I'd once described as "Generals without troops."

The Forum is largely made of angry, bitter, self-seeking individuals, who had thought they would be leading President Buhari by the nose when he emerged in 2015. In fact, key personalities in the group made strenuous efforts to be part of the administration. When they didn't succeed, they became adversaries.

It is on record that NEF had always opposed the Buhari administration since its gambit failed, and before the 2019 presidential election, it openly endorsed Atiku Abubakar of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) as next President. And that completely vitiates whatever position the Forum adopts today. It is partisan, bilious, by no means neutral. It is from a self-serving standpoint.

Between 2009 and 2022, there were at least 271 mass shootings in United States of America, resulting in 1,518 people killed, and 980 wounded. Just this week, there has been the Brooklyn Subway Shooting, in which at least 23 people were critically injured. In all these, did you hear calls for the resignation of any American President? It is on record that last year was the deadliest in a decade, in terms of mass shootings. Have you heard of calls for the resignation of President Joe Biden by a caterwauling band? No.

Every life is important. No single life should be taken wantonly. Not in America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and definitely not in Nigeria. And when challenges occur, as we currently have, it should not be turned to a leaky political umbrella, from under which you hide to express hatred and malice. That is what is happening in Nigeria today. Individuals, groups, organizations, political parties, who had been against President Muhammadu Buhari, and who had been given bloody noses at the polls, are now using the smokescreen of insecurity to vent their spleen. We failed to oust him through the ballot box, let's run him out of town by another means. Let's instigate the country against him. But majority of Nigerians know better.

There was a story that made the rounds over the weekend. A former military leader, who also became a democratically elected President for two terms, has been reportedly mobilizing all living former leaders to pass a vote of no confidence in President Buhari, due to the county's security challenges. It was reported that only Gen Yakubu Gowon baulked at the idea, and opted out.

I have been waiting for the story to be debunked, but it hasn't happened. Let's then assume that it is true. The agent provocateur has been known as an antagonist of Buhari for a number of years. In fact, he publicly wrote a letter in 2018, commanding the President to "dismount from the horse," and allow another rider to mount. The incumbent demurred. Is it not democracy? Let's test our strength at the polls.

The former leader mobilized against Buhari, publicly endorsing his former deputy in office, whom he had earlier destroyed and treated like something the cat dragged in. The election came, and they were all beaten black and blue. How does he then think Nigerians will accept his constant haranguing of government as something actuated by positive motives? It is sour grapes, pure and simple.

Do we have security problems? We do, just as many other countries of the world. How then do we solve the problems? That

University of Calabar

I took my precious time to read from a failed Government. Things are getting worse & you came out to defend your boss.

May God deliver us from wicked, dubious and deceitful leaders 👏👏 👏👏👏.

(iv) Abubakir Khalifa Omar

May Allah protect Nigeria and May PMB always succeed.

is what we expect to hear, and not playing of petty politics under the umbrella of insecurity.

Some of the issues are historical, transcending almost every administration we have had. They are almost as old as the country. Some others are relatively new; insurgency, banditry, kidnappings for ransom, and have the imprint of foreign backing, particularly in some parts of the North. What is the way out?

For the internecine ones, it is crystal clear that no government can legislate peace. The people themselves must resolve to live together, and accommodate one another. No group can wish the other away under indigene versus settler sentiments. We must resolve for peace. They must not only seek peace, but also pursue it.

As for insurgency, banditry and kidnappings, government is rising to the challenges. Yes, there are successes and reversals at times, but there's no doubt that the necessary efforts are being made. It is, therefore, unconscionable to make it appear as if nothing is being done. It is a power struggle. A class struggle. An economic struggle. But at last, Nigeria shall win.

It is the sacred duty of government to provide security of lives and property. Our Constitution says it in black and white. No leader will be happy to see his citizens killed. That is why more than any government before it, the Buhari administration has funded our security agencies, trained, equipped and motivated them. They are out there, fighting to keep us safe. The least we can do is pray for them, encourage them, not engaging in petty power play, which amounts to dancing on the graves of the dead.

Adesina is Special Adviser to President Buhari on Media and Publicity

(i) ATIKU ABUBAKAR FACEBOOK HANDLE
hhttps://facebook.com/Atiku.org/posts/the-problem-of-insecurity-in-nigeria-is-getting-worse-by-the-day-the-media-has-b-1018176819664062

The problem of insecurity in Nigeria is getting worse by the day. The media has been awash with terrifying news of banditry, kidnapping, and bloodletting that has turned our country into perhaps one of the most terrorized territories on earth. Within one week, there have been many reported cases of mass abduction of hapless citizens in the Northwest and Northeast regions of our country. In the early hours of Thursday, school children numbering over 280, together with their teachers, were abducted in Kunga, Kaduna State, by bandits riding on motorcycles, without any challenge by security agencies. Earlier in the week, it was reported that scores of women and children fetching firewood were abducted by gun-totting bandits suspected to be members of Boko Haram. It was also reported that over 200 people, mostly women and children, were abducted from the IDP camp in Ngala in Bornu State. The cases are endless, and the problem seems interminable. The APC-controlled government has failed woefully to give the people the basic things expected of a responsive government. It is a clear manifestation of the failure of governance. The government has continued to play the ostrich while the nation is plagued by insecurity. While the weak and vulnerable are neglected, the government is making empty rhetoric about reforms. And while our young men are abducted, killed, or conscripted into the army of the terrorists and our women and girls are ravished and subjected to different forms of gender-based violence, the authorities do nothing. This is in

SAMPLED COMMENTS
(v) Jmoni's Page
This is the naked truth, propaganda is different from governance, the insecurity in the country is a big issue now. When there bad governance that leads to hunger and suffering in the land, certainly there will be insecurity. The govt need to quickly reform the security architecture of the country. Pay attention to their welfare, instead of spending billions in buying bullet proof SUVs, all our political leaders should be forced to travel by roads

(vi) Agunachuenyi Benson Amobi
You Saraki Dino etc single handedly hand Nigeria over to Boko haram kingpin in 2015. Could it been you people supported GEJ 4 years it could be a smooth transition to PDP Northern candidate which could be you. But you was on speed. See where we are now 😵

(vii) Edidiong Umoetor ·
National Security Adviser is ur son father In-law 😀😀😀😀 that simply means, u are indirectly

negation of the constitutionally guaranteed commitment that the security and welfare of citizens is the primary responsibility of government. I stand in solidarity with my fellow citizens and sympathise with the victims and their families. I urge the security agencies to rise up to the challenge and save innocent citizens from the horrors of banditry and terrorism. –

involved in this Government. My condolences to the affected families

(viii) Abubakar Ashiru
So terrifying indeed, may Almighty Allah come to our rescue

(ix) Usulor Oforbuike Emmanuel
Come out and lead protest the way you guys did during Goodluck's tenure

(x) Hamza Yunusa Jibia
They're unprepared, seems they came empty-handed. All they know is snatching and running away

(xi) De Ethiopian Smart Boy ·
Reno Omokri come and see your fellow media noise maker here.

(xii) Shuaibu Gambo
Contr. General, Atiku Abubakar, re-think of your time, please

(xiii) Degeli Reuben Odoma
It would have been worse if you were President. None of you is the best hand form this country, Nigeria.
You aim is not to care for the poor masses. You are all the same

(xiv) Abubakar Yusuf
Atiku, u are one of the political leaders in this country & as such we expect u to understand that the current Nigeria security situation has gone beyond sitting on a comfort zone & criticize the govt. We expect u to come out physically from ur hiding as a real opposition leader to lead the masses on a kind of a mass protest in order to demonstrate peacefully by showing our feelings about the present security & economic realities of the nation. We expect u to take the bull by the horns in rallying together some other political figure like u in the opposition to do the needful, if really u are on the side of the people. Stop playing safe & let us do this together, u should have the clout as a leading opposition figure.

(xv) Amb Muh'd Kawu Alfallaty
You fault the government without giving solution 🥴I take it as politics not patriotism

(xvi) Auwal Sarki Abdullahi
Bird of the same feather .

(xvii) Qazeem Oyedele
He does not concern me since 80% of killing is in d north...let d killing continued with visionless, and criminal call children in d north..tank God some of the northern leaders and traditional rulers are major sponsor

of dis killing and kidnapping....Atiku shld keep shut and talk his pple...tinubu is not cause of bokoharam and bandit ..it was created by some of d leaders in d north...Atiku shld used politicle influence to stop and lasting solution to d insecurity b4 thinking of contesting presidential election...buhari finished ya adua tenure and add to ur problm in d north.. enjoy it

(xviii) Abubakar Moh'd Idris

Your excellency Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, I will like to call on you and your type who are the potential president to be in this country that should not repeat the same mistakes of what others done in 2013-2015 APC leaders including you then accused Jonathan's gov't of such problems. when Buhari assumed, his 8years terrible things happened almost more than that of Jonathan, now Tinubu has came such terrible things continue to happened as usual, you as a leaders in Nigeria forget about being an oppositions or pointing an accusing finger always on the incumbent rather give good advises and way forward so that when you happen to assume such leadership seat you will not inherit these problems that you too can't tackled, then oppositions too will continue pointing their accusing fingers upon you. Let's join hands and rescue this country because only when there is peace someone can even aspire and become the leader. My advise to them and you for future usage, if all of you want to succeed in leadership, justice must be done to the victims of the bad situations that had happened and still being happening against the culprits no matter who they were, if the culprits will be apprehended and allowed to go scot free by the courts and other responsible authorities Nigeria will never get well. Unless if all those found guilty beyond any reasonable doubt after all and thorough investigations will be dealt with according to their crime, if they killed a single person no matter what their numbers even if they happened to be thousands must be killed also, any kidnapper, armed robber must be wiped away that's to be sent to his

	early grave. otherwise, nothing will be stopped but increase day by day. Such things will never be allowed to happen in countries like China, UAE, KSA and the rest because whoever did wrong there he knows the consequences already. All problems bedeviling Nigeria we know their roots and their remedies but corruption, selfishness, carelessness and injustice give these problems an avenue to live in this country. May you leaders listen to such our constructive criticism in order to rescue this country. AMI. **(xix)Okafor Anthony** It is saddening that over 280 school children were abducted in Kaduna State on Thursday when we thought insecurity had been minimised. I hope they are rescued as soon as possible to avail them the opportunity of continuing their education, which is essential in their lives **(xx)Andy Omoraka** My counsel to you is stop playing politics with the problem of insecurity in the country. PDP was there at the helm of affairs for 16 years, kidnapping,banditry and insurgency festered. APC is now the ruling or governing party,kidnapping,banditry and insurgency are still festering. Therefore insecurity problem that is festering is not because a political party has failed. Insecurity is extremely difficult to curb.
(j) AFRICA REPORT POST VIA FACEBOOK https://www.theafricareport.com/315715/nigeria-tinubu-under- pressure-to-grant-amnesty-to-terrorists-as-gunmen-kill-230/ Insecurity in #Nigeria's northwest, north-central and southeast regions continues to rise with over 230 people killed in President Bola Tinubu's first 45 days in office. While the military seeks a full onslaught on armed insurgents, politicians suggest amnesty. Which path will he choose? 　　　Eniola Akinkuotu reports **Nigeria: Tinubu under pressure to grant amnesty to terrorists, as gunmen kill 230 – The Africa Rep…** By **Eniola Akinkuotu** July 14,2023 the africareport.com	**SAMPLED COMMENTS** **(xxi) Danjumma Bala** No amnesty for bandits **(xxii) Braye Prosper Abusi** They failed during Former PMB Tenure. They want to continue this tenure. **(xxiii) Alexis Oluwa Awosope** *Braye Prosper Abusi* you wish your nation continuous evil heart… just of politics **(xxiv) Braye Prosper Abusi** *Alexis Oluwa Awosope.* Am sure you are not normal. You are sick and deserves to be in psychiatric isolation ward. Have you seen where terrorist that are killing people been granted amnesty? You Must be a Useless Man For supporting the motion to grant Terrorist Amnesty. You have

your opinion to comment on the post. For reacting on my comment, you are senseless and stupid

(xxv) Alexis Oluwa Awosope
Emeka Agbaka Better 100% than fraudster obi

(xxvi) Emeka Agbaka
Alexis Oluwa Awosope. Now, I know you don't wish Nigeria well you tribal monster.

(xxvii) Alexis Oluwa Awosope
Emeka Agbaka you too tribal monster for supporting obi
Emeka Agbaka which Anambra state? He failed in Anambra woefully.. only if you guys continuous lying…he does not have capability to rule a nation…obi capacity is minister or governorship.
Emeka Agbaka you are making a comment out of hatred jealousy and tribalism.

(xxviii) Emeka Agbaka
Alexis Oluwa Awosope I support obi cos he speaks well, he performed in anambra stste, he doesn't make comments like "a town hall different from balablu bulaba "he wasn't indicted for fraud.. omoo should I continue
Alexis Oluwa Awosope was tinubu indicted for drugs and make to forfeit thousands of dollars or not? Did he say "a town hall different from balablu bulaba" or not? lets start from there and also tell me the name of the secondary school Tinubu went to
Alexis Oluwa Awosope I asked a simple question that required an answer..if tinubu were an Igbo man with the aforementioned errors he made would you have voted him? Hope you're buying petrol cheap too.

(xxix) Alexis Oluwa Awosope
Emeka Agbaka tinubu never indicted for any drugs it all base on politics, he forfeit money base unable to pay tax, then has to pay it. USA govt and FBI has written to Nigeria govt, police EFCC and many security agencies in Nigeria..if you don't knw ask obi lawyer they will give you copy to read, stop deceiving your self ok.

(xxx) Emeka Agbaka
Alexis Oluwa Awosope This one didn't look at my profile abi you think I bought my law certificate..Something that tinubu

	admitted only that he claimed that the forfeiture had no bearing with Nigeria. **(xxxi) Alexis Oluwa Awosope** *Emeka Agbaka* that means you need to go back to law school.. you knw nothing **(xxxii) Emeka Agbaka** *Alexis Oluwa Awosope* lol you need to begin to cultivate agbado as Tinubu.

DATA 3
Reports on Insecurity via Online Newspapers
(k) Punch Newspaper 12th February, 2024 https://punchng.com/insecurity-in-nigeria-and-effective-solutions/ "Insecurity in Nigeria and Effective Solution"
Oluwadara Akingbohungbe writes from Ogun State
(l) Daily Trust Monday, February, 5th, 2024 https://dailytrust.com/nigerias-insecurity-a-failure-of-governance-and-responsibility " Nigeria's Insecurity: A failure of governance and responsibility"
Alhaji Rabiu wrote from Kadunadailytrust.com

Analysis of Data
Wide Coverage of Social Media in the Dissemination of Insecurity Issues
Social Media covers wide in the dissemination of different information. This is revealed in the many media platforms through which information are disseminated and the number of masses having access to the disseminated information. Such information include but not limited to our reference point "Insecurity in Nigeria" This is in line with Shagbaor, Achakpaikyo and Ternenge (2023) who noted social media as important instrument that creates awareness and consciousness of distressing issues like "insecurity".

From the data presented, insecurity issues in Nigeria are exposed, expressed, discussed and represented through some social media platforms which include: Twitter 'Data 1, Table 1', Facebook ' Data 2 Table 2' Online Newspapers 'Data 3'. The information disclosed or disseminated in these different platforms are assessed by the masses. The number of masses who can access the information also reveals the wide coverage of social media in disseminating insecurity issues in Nigeria.

The above 'Table 1a' "Twitter Handles", reveal about one hundred and thirty two thousand and three (132.3k) views, 'Table 1b' reveals a coverage of about two hundred and seventy six thousand and five (276.5k) views, 'Table 1c' reveals a coverage of two hundred and seventy eight thousand and nine (278.9k) views, 'Table 1d' reveals a coverage of two hundred and thirty eight thousand and five (238.5k) views, Table 1e' reveals a massive coverage of one million and six (1.6m) views while 'Table 1g' reveals another massive coverage of two million and three (2.3m) views.

These data support the claim that in disseminating information on insecurity and the likes, the social media record a wide coverage from different and many platforms and a large number of viewers. While 'Data 1-3' reveal some platforms through which information like insecurity in Nigeria is exposed, discussed and represented, 'Table 1a-1g' reveal the large number of viewers or masses who have access to the information.

The Linguistic Style adopted by Different Platform and Different Social Strata in Reporting Insecurity Issues.
Facebook and Twitter (X)
The Twitter and Facebook posts in 'table 1a and 'table 2i' present a representation of insecurity in Nigeria with some linguistic features noted as follows: The presentation portrays a formal language with serious and political undertone "The APC controlled government failed woefully to give…" The use of imageries in the description and reporting of insecurity issues in Nigeria is seen in such sentences or phrases like: "gun totting bandits, "mass abduction of hapless citizens" etc. depict images of violence and chaos. The language used in the post, ironically attacks the government for their negligence and inability to safeguard the citizens. This is seen in the following sentence "The government has continued to play the Ostrich while the nation is plagued by insecurity". "…to play the ostrich" here is an idiom that suggests that the government is not doing their best in curbing insecurity. Finally, the writer injects the language of ethos and pathos which would have a glaring effect on the masses or viewers. See table 1a "I stand in solidarity with my fellow citizens and sympathize with the

victims and their families" Table 1b: "I am yet greatly saddened by the reports of the kidnapping of some passengers who were travelling to Abuja…" Table 1c: "I am very saddened by devastating news of the horrific killing". Table '1b-1d' use the words 'again', 'yet another'; 'continue' which depict perpetual and continual activities of insecurity in Nigeria. This language is used for emphasis which draws the attention of the viewers or readers to yet other insecurity issues in Nigeria beyond the available information at the moment.

'Table 1f' presents insecurity in Nigeria as reported by 'Senator Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso" in a formal language using a declarative /assertive tone which conveys the severity and urgency of a signal to the masses towards the aversion of insecurity issues in Nigeria. Again, the use of hyperbolic expressions which depict exaggeration like "…have climaxed to a critical stage" and "…anarchy reigns", draws the attention of the masses or viewers to the severity of insecurity in Nigeria. Furthermore, metaphoric expression as "…menace ravaging Nigeria" speaks to the masses about the destructive and damaging effect of insecurity in Nigeria. Finally, depositing a curative measure using the first person plural pronoun "we" and the modal verbs "shall" and "cannot" as in" We shall galvanise…", "We cannot fold our arms…" is a linguistic feature and use of language that would appease the audience or readers, granting them hope amidst crisis.

The comment section in Facebook platform, present a whole lot of nontechnical, unethical, unpolished and informal language coupled with grammatical errors.

Digital or Online Newspapers
Unlike the posts displayed on different platforms like: Facebook and Twitter, the online newspaper reports as sampled (Punch Online Newspaper of 12th February, 2024 and Daily Trust of Monday, February 5th, 2024) are detailed and much more formal. The presentation of insecurity to the masses is made with official titles or topic heading: "Insecurity in Nigeria and Effective Solution" is the official title as presented in Punch newspaper while "Nigeria's Insecurity: A failure of Governance and Responsibility" is the official title presented in Daily Trust. Each presentation is made by a reporter which points to the formality of presentation. While Oluwadara Akinghohungbe wrote from Ogun State for Punch online newspaper, Alhaji Rabiu wrote from Kaduna for Daily Trust online newspaper. This further reveals as earlier pointed out that insecurity in Nigeria cuts across diverse social strata. Excerpts from online newspaper reveal the use of technical and polished language in reporting cases of insecurity. Their use of language is constructive rather than destructive. The write-up as seen in the newspaper narrates the presence of insecurity and its threat capacity which cut across religion and tribe. It employed collective blame on the citizens and the government and proffered solution that is all encompassing. This is revealed in this statement "In conclusion, addressing the challenge of insecurity in Nigeria requires a holistic and multifaceted approach that encompasses effective governance, community engagement, strategic coordination among security agencies and long term investments in education and socio-economic development"

According to Stuart Hall's 1973 "Reception Theory", some identified factors can influence presentation and reception of media. According to Stuart Hall such factors include some identifying markers like: age, class, ethnicity, gender, political, religious and educational backgrounds, life experiences, and mood. The language of the varying media representation of insecurity in the foregoing reveals the identity of the presenters. Their language use is marked by their identity. While the language style of the representation in table '1a, 2h, 2i & 2j reveals a political identity, the representation in 'Data 3k & 3l, reveals a particular class 'journalism'

The Implication and Effects of Language Use and Style on the Masses
The effects of language use and style on the masses or readers are drawn from the comment section of every selected post on insecurity used for this study. These are mainly gotten from posts on Facebook since Facebook posts give room for comments. This is unlike twitter where we have number of: viewers, reposts, bookmarks, and likes. For twitter, we might not properly or adequately conclude on its impact i.e., the impact of the posts on the masses since the response is limited to a tap on "likes". Judging based on the number of likes; we might have a glimpse but not a total judgement. For instance, table 1a presented a 132.3k views with just 1,673 likes 1b has 276.5k views, 10.8k likes, '1e' has 1.6m views with 8.021 likes. '1g' has 2.3m views with 12.3k likes. This does not give us a clear picture of the effect on the masses since the percentage of the likes is very minimal compared to the number of viewers in each of the twitter post and mere clicks on 'likes' might not reveal the mind of the viewer.

Some sampled comments on the Facebook posts are analysed to arrive at the conclusion on the effects the language use or style of presentation have on the masses. The reception theory of Stuart Hall 1973 also called the theory of 'Encoding and Decoding' is evident in the following analysis.

Table 2h: Insecurity Post by Femi Adesina "Hiding under the Umbrella of Insecurity"
Considering the language of this media representation which is strictly political and lopsided, the content of this post reveals more of a political tussle, it has no room for sympathy or empathy for the masses hence it engenders a negative effect on the masses. This negative effect is seen in the sampled responses at the section as in Table 2h: Mayinde Daniel Male commented "Please just keep quiet…. and get out. Stop making Nigerians more angry by talking…" Bode Babalola Male commented "Pastor Femi Adesina, your dissimulation, dishonesty and twisted sense of morality stinks to hell…May God salvage you from the political demon of deception and hypocrisy!!!" Greg E.Oko, a lecturer from University of Calabar commented "I took my precious time to read from a failed Government. Things are getting worse and you came out to defend your boss…" Abubakir Khalifa Omar commented "May Allah protect Nigeria and may PMB always succeed".
The above comments projected aggrieved masses that got more aggrieved by the language and style of Pastor Femi Adesiyan 'Special adviser to President Buhari on Media and Publicity'. The language and the style as used by the presenter attracted rash responses from the masses.

Table 2j: Insecurity Post by "the africareport.com" as reported by Eniola Akintuotu" "Nigeria: Tinubu under Pressure to Grant Amnesty to Terrorists as Gunmen kills 230- Thw Africa Rep…"
The post "Insecurity in Nigeria's Northwest…While the military seeks a full onslaught in armed insurgents, politicians suggest amnesty. Which path will he choose"? This post raised so many comments. Some sampled comments as seen in 'Table 2ixxi-xxxii' (Danjumma, Braye, Emeka, Alexis) reveal masses or audience who are either disappointed on the past and present leadership, masses who are frustrated by the current situation, masses who are tribalistic "tribal monster" and political. While most audience are against amnesty "U must be a useless man for supporting amnesty…" The post as presented especially, the questioning style "… which path will he choose" has raised divergent views from the masses filled up with anger, bitterness, politics and tribalism to the point of verbal fights and quarrels amongst masses. This is invariably, a case of insecurity report, resulting to further insecurity amongst masses.

Table 2i. Atiku Abubakar Facebook Post
Data posted on Twitter was replicated on Facebook with some sampled comments revealing the effect of his language use and style on the masses.
While his language and style which evokes pathos and ethos affected some masses positively as seen in some comments: Table 2i (v) "Jimoni's page" "This is the naked truth…" 2i (viii) Abubakar Ashiru "so terrifying indeed, may Almighty Allah come to our rescue". 2i (x) Hamza Yanusa Jibia "They are unprepared, seems they came empty-handed. All they know is snatching and running away".

His language which has a political undertone "The APC controlled government has failed woefully…" affected the responses of the masses in the negative, seeing the write-up as being political and not patriotic. Some sampled responses are as follows: 2i (xv) Amb Muh'dKawu Alfallaty "You fault the government without giving solution… I take it as politics not patriotism" 2i (xiv) Abubakar Yusuf " Atiku, you are one of the political leaders in this country… if really you are on the side of the people, stop playing safe and let us do this together… you should have the clout as a leading opposition figure". 2i (xvi) Auwal Sarki Abdullahi "Bird of the same feather". For some masses, all politicians have failed the people as evidenced in their response.

His ironic use of language to attack the government also ignited ironic use of language from the masses to attack his post. For instance: 2i (vii) Edidiong Umoetor "National Security Adviser is ur son father-in-law… You are indirectly involved in the Government". 2i (xvii) Qazeen Oyedele "Atiku shuld use politicle influence to stop and lasting solution to the insecurity b4 thinking of contesting presidential election…" De Ethiopian Smart Boy "Reno Omokri, come and see your fellow media noise maker here." 2i (xiii) Degeli Reuben Odoma "It would have been worse if you were president… None of u is the best hand for this country Nigeria. Your aim is not to care for the poor masses. You are all the same."

As evidenced in the analysed comments, the general public perceives the media as a platform primarily used by politicians to promote their political strategies, often at the expense of the masses. This is typically disguised as an attempt to address or resolve critical national issues, such as insecurity.

From the foregoing analysis, the theory of 'Reception' also called 'Encoding and Decoding' is evident or applicable to the response of the masses to the media representation of insecurity. The theory examines how media message or representation is affected by the identity of the presenter and how it shapes or affects the attitudes and responses of the audience or users in different social media. Here, the dominant or the preferred message which refers to how the presenter wants the audience to interpret or decode the message is rejected by the audience who do not have same identifying marker (political identity) as the presenter. The dominant or

preferred message gave rise to the oppositional message where the audience rejects the preferred or dominant message and creates their own meaning which triggered the negative responses. The negotiated is a compromise between the first two, while they might have same identifying markers or background with the presenter, they might have some divergent opinions concerning the message content and would need more exploration, hence their response. Some of the audiences though they share some identity marker like tribe and religion with the presenter as in table 2h and 2i, their divergent opinions or views triggered their responses irrespective of the same identifying markers.

Furthermore, this analysis is in line with Abdulwahab (2024) who deduced from his findings that the leniency in regulations regarding to security of social media in Nigeria has led to the use of hate speech, dissemination of misinformation, tribal tensions and terrorist assaults in Nigeria via social media handles like: X and Facebook.

Conclusion

It has been noted that there is a wide coverage by the media in disseminating information in Nigeria. Such information includes but not limited to insecurity which is our reference point. Some media platforms were chosen and highlighted for this study. They include: Facebook, Twitter, and digital newspapers. The information disclosed or disseminated via these platforms are assessed by the masses and the number of masses that assess these pieces of information specifically on "insecurity reveal the wide coverage of social media in disseminating insecurity issues in Nigeria.

This study has also examined the categories of people who report and assess the media on insecurity issues and the different platforms engaged for the dissemination of such information. The linguistic styles adopted and their effects on the masses were also examined.

It is observed that different social strata: journalists, religious leaders, youths, ethnic groups and political elites report and assess insecurity information via these different media platforms and the language style adopted differs from one stratum to another and from one platform to another. This is in line with Orji (2021) who notes that, the choices of words used in social media cut across various educational and social strata.

While the Twitter (X) does not give room for a detailed response from the masses, the Facebook allows for a detailed response via comments accompanying any Facebook post on insecurity which reveals not only the language of the presenter but also the language of the masses. The language of the masses is invariably determined by the language of the presenter of the information on insecurity. Unlike the Facebook and Twitter posts, online newspaper reports are detailed and much more formal. Each representation of insecurity issues are made with official titles or topic heads. Each representation is made by a reporter whose name and location is identified. In other words, online newspaper representation of insecurity in Nigeria is formal, constructive and not destructive.

It is further observed that the representation style affects the masses positively or negatively. Its negative effect is seen in their abusive language on not just the presenter but also co masses that present divergent opinions. This usually occurs when the representation of insecurity matters in Nigeria is turned towards politics, tribe or ethnicity and religion. This is in line with the 'Receptive' also called 'Encoding and Decoding Theory' by Stuart Hall, 1973 which was used for the analysis of this work. It becomes pertinent that all media platforms and all social strata should endeavour to adopt appropriate language and strategies for media representation of insecurity in Nigeria for effective results.

References
Abdulwahab A. (2024). Effects of social media in promoting insecurity and propanganda in Nigeria. *Wukari International Studies Journal*, *8*(3), 88-89.

Achumba, I. C., Ighomereho, O.S.,& Akpan-Robaro M. O .M. (2013). Security challenges in Nigeria and the implications for business activities and sustainable development. *Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development*, 4(2), 79-99.

Adeyemi, T. (2006). Insecurity and human rights in Nigeria. *Journal of Human Rights.* 5(1), 23-35.

Alasuutari, P. (1999). Rethinking the media audience: The new agenda. Sage Publications Ltd. https://doi.org/10.4135/9781446216996

Al Jazeera (2022, August 22) Four nuns kidnapped in southeast Nigeria on their way to mass.

Asema, E. S. (2013). Social media and political participation in Nigeria. *Journal of Political Science and International Relations.* 6(1), 23-35.

Associated Press. (2022, June 19). Two Nigeria churches attacked; worshippers killed, abducted.

Ayitogo, N. (2022, July 6). Sad day in Nigeria as gun men attack presidential convoy, prison, police officers, others. Premium Times.

Beland D. (2005). The political construction of collective insecurity: From moral panic to blame avoidance and organised irresponsibility. *Centre for European Studies, Working Paper Series, 126.*

Boyd, D. M. & Elison, N. B. (2010). Social network sites and social capital. *Journal of Computer Mediated Communication. 16*(1), 211-230.

Eze, C. N. (2020). Insecurity and mental health in Nigeria. *Journal of Mental Health and Human Behaviour. 25*(1), 14-23.

Fuchs, C. (2024). *Social media: A critical introduction.* Sage publications.

Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (2022, September 1). More than 2,600 civilians killed by armed bandits in 2021.

Hall S. (1973). *Encoding and decoding in television discourse.* Birmingham Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies. University of Birmingham.

Hall S. (1980). Encoding and decoding In S. Hall, D. Hobson, A. Lowe & P. Willis, (Eds.), *Culture, media, language*, Hutchinson.

Hall, S. (1997). *Representation: Cultural representations and signifying practices.* Sage Publications; Thousand Oaks New Delhi in association with the Open University.

Ibrahim, M. (2012). Insecurity and development in Nigeria. *Journal of Development Studies. 48*(1), 34-49.

Kaplan, A. M. & Haenlein, M. (2006). Users of the world, united! The challenges and opportunities of social media. *Business Horizons. 49*, 59-68.

Kellner, D. (2007). *Media spectacle and the crises of democracy.* Paradigm Publishers.

Kietzmann, J. H, Hermkens, K, Mc. Carthy, I. P. & Silvestre, B. S. (2012). Social media? Get serious understanding the functional building blocks of social media. *Business Horizons, 55*(3), 241-251.

Lester, L. & Ross, S. (2010). *Images that injure: Pictorial stereotypes in the media.* Praeger Publishers.

Mbaegbu S. & Duntoye J. (2023, February 17). Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 604 NOIPolls.

Mwai, P. (2022, June 11). Are attacks on christians in Nigeria on the rise? BBC.

Ndubuisi, O. P. U. & Anigbuogu, T. (2019). Insecurity in Nigeria: The implications for industrialization and sustainable development. *International Journal of Research in Business Studies and Management. 6*(5), 7-16

Ojiego, N. (2022, October 9). Abuja-Kaduna train attack:Over N6 billion ransom allegedly paid to terrorists. Vanguard.

Ojo, E. O. (2010). Insecurity and conflict in Nigeria: The case of the Niger Delta. In *Journal of Conflict Studies. 30*(1), 53-71.

Olabode A. (2024). Insecurity and Nigeria's socio-economic development. *African Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Research. 7*(2), 166-181.

Oloruritoba, R. (2016). Social media and social change in Nigeria. *Journal of Social Media Studies. 1*(1), 1-15.

Onuora, N. T. (2021). Influence of social media on students' cultural diversity and academic achievement. *EKWE JQNAL nke ndi Igbo Scholars Forum, Nigeria*. *14*(2), 104-122.

Orji, O. C. (2021). Communicative analysis of comments and posts on the indiscriminate killings in Nigeria: The twitter perspective" *OLUOHA. A journal of languages and linguistics*, *3*, 175-186.

O'Reilly, T. (2005). What is web 2.0? Design patterns and business models for the next generation of software. O'Reilly media.

Oshionebo P.B. & Okoronkwo K. (2023). Analysis of the impact of twitter on national security in Nigeria. *Creative Artists: A Journal of Theatre and Media Studies*. 17(1), 75-91.

Shagbaor, S. J., Achakpaikyo, P.N. & Ternenge, K. (2023, July 2023).*Contribution of facebook and whatsApp social media platforms in addressing the dynamics of insecurity in Nigeria.* [Conference session] 23rd African Council for Communication Education (ACCE), International Conference N.A.U, Awka, Nigeria.

WHO (2016). Insecurity and health World Health Organization