

# THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL STUDIES

## Gubernatorial Speeches and Pragmatic Meanings: A Speech Act Analysis of Inaugural Speeches of Ayodele Fayose of October 16, 2014 and Kayode Fayemi of October 16, 2018

Akanbi Sunday Olugbenga

Principal Lecturer, Department of Language, Federal Polytechnic, Offa Nigeria

### **Abstract:**

*Political journey of a political office holder especially at the presidential or governorship level begins with an inaugural address. The address is characterized by ingenious use of language by working or manipulating the listeners (Citizenry) towards supporting his administration. This study is a comparative analysis of the inaugural speeches of Governors Ayodele Fayose on October 16, 2014 and Kayode Fayemi on October 16, 2018 using the Speech Act theory of Austin (1962) and Searle (1969). The study was aimed at identifying the illocutionary forces of the speech acts employed in the two speeches. The data were drawn from the two speeches and forty-six (46) speech acts were obtained, processed and analyzed. Five categories of speech acts identified by Searle (1969) are significant in the speeches as follows: Commissives (39.1%), assertives (28.3%), expressives (17.4%), directives (10.9%) and declarative (4.3%) of the total data. The result shows that the speech acts used in the speeches, though used by different persons are similar in structure, number and purpose. Lastly, our analysis revealed that the preponderance of commissive acts in the speeches are due to the nature of the speeches in which promises, pledges and vows were made by the governors.*

**Keywords:** Gubernatorial, inaugural speeches, pragmatics, speech act

### **1. Introduction**

The basic difference between man and animal is the ability of man to use language for effective communication. To man, language serves as a cohesive tool in his hands. It thus means that language is important to the enthronement, success and stability of democracy in any nation. It is an instrument used to mould and control people's views and opinions on every social, cultural and political issues within a polity. According to Udama (2012), language is the bullet which politicians employ to bring down their opponents diminish their relevance and construct a positive image for them. Essentially therefore, politicians cherish language. Most activities of politicians (anywhere in the world) are done through the opportunities created by languages in the form of rally, campaign, voting, elections and governance.

Politics in its ordinary sense is the activities and exercises involved in getting and using power. Precisely, politics is the science of power (Larswell, 1965). This means that politics itself is power. In an expanded view, Amaechi (2016:47) says that:

Politics is inextricably connected to power: Power to make decisions, control resources, other people's behavior, thoughts, values and actions; it permeates every sphere of human social activity, contexts, religion, academic, business, community, institutions and so forth.

Political language is the language, diction, wordings, expressions etc. employ by governments, political parties, politicians and their allies in their activities to win control, maintain and manipulate power. The language of politics is basically aimed at persuading the audience to accept the view of the speaker. Study of this nature enables us to understand how language is used by those in power, those who wish to exercise power and those who wish to keep power (Uduma, 2012). Political discourse is becoming a popular area of interest by researchers, linguists, language experts, political scientist, sociologists, philosophers and speech writers. They constantly beam their searchlights in the various aspects of political discourse.

The concept of political speech originated from the rhetorical works of Greek Philosophers such as Sophist, Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. For instance, Aristotle describes it as "a faculty of observing in any given case the available means of persuasion in reference to whatever subject (Ayeomoni and Akinkuolere 2017). Rhetoric is believed to be the spring for political speech because of the influence it has on political power holder to win and retain power. Rhetoric is thus a unique way of writing to manipulate, influence or incite people. When inculcated into political discourse, it could, therefore be said that political speeches are used to influence, educate inform, persuade, incite or entertain people.

The present study is a pragmatic analysis of inaugural speeches of Ayodele Fayose and Kayode Fayemi as the governors of Ekiti State in South West Nigeria. The speeches were presented by Ayodele Fayose and Kayode Fayemi on October 14, 2014 and October 14, 2018 respectively. Inaugural speech according to Ayeomoni and Akinkuolere (2012) are used by politicians to reaffirm their commitment to serve by reiterating the programmes of their party and electioneering campaign promises. It is in line with this view that Denton and Hahn (1986) opine that the presidency or governorship

office has been recognized as a rhetorical institution whose speeches are enlivened by power to persuade and convince the nation or society. Campbell and Jamisson (1990:29) in Amaechi (2016) are of the opinion that inaugural addresses are “essential elements in a ritual of transition in which the covenant between the citizenry and their leaders is renewed. They categorise inaugural addresses as a type of discourse that Aristotle called epideictic discourse.

The present study is justified by shortage of studies on governorship inaugural speeches, especially the ones that have comparative analysis of two inaugural speeches. Also, scholarly enquiries into the inaugural speeches of the last two governors of Ekiti State are still scanty. Thus, a comparative study of both Ayodele Fayose and Kayode Fayemi’s inaugural speeches is thought to be a relevant scholarly engagement.

Many scholars (Awonusi, 1996; Opeibi, 2003; Ayeomoni and Akinkuolere, 2012; and Akinwolu, 2013) have looked in the area of speech acts in political speeches but none of their works has carried out a study of speech acts in the inaugural speeches. This study thus, has the intention to bridge this gap.

### *1.1. Politics and Language Use*

Language is basic to human beings. Every communication activity is prosecuted through language. Language is a potent tool of controlling and manipulating people’s opinion or views in social, cultural, economic and political settings. In Nigeria the English Language serves as the national language through which communication activities takes place at national level. Opeibi (2009), Ayemoni (2012) and Amaechi (2016) all agree that English serves as the language of wider communication in the socio-political concept in Nigeria. It thus means that English Language is used in political activities such as campaigns, speeches and general mobilization of the electorates. Language is also the bullet which politicians employ to bring down their opponents, and construct a positive image for them (Uduma, 2012). Language is perceived as a powerful tool in the hands of political leaders through which they manipulate it to achieve their ambitions and goals.

The concept of politics is the struggle for power and control. It is through language that political leaders can acquire power. To achieve political ambition there is the need for the politicians to be able to manipulate language in order to control or influence the opinions of the people. Haris (1979) opines that in politics words have very powerful effect. He further says that language is the people. Definitely, the concept of language and politics are so interrelated that it becomes difficult for one to survive in the arena of politics without the cooperation of the other. That is why Opeibi (2009) refers to the relationship that exists between language and politics as symbolic. Beard (2000) posits that language of politics helps the people to understand how language is used by those who wish to gain power.

Political language is the adoption of language within the context of a situation by political leaders to inform, encourage or persuade the people. Uduma (2012) is of the opinion that the language of politics is aimed at persuading an audience to accept the perception of the speaker. It is in this sense that we agree with Dijk (1995) that political discourse is an instrument of mind control by the dominant ideology. It is for this reason that politicians employ various linguistic and stylistic skills in order to sell their programmes and manifestoes to the people (electorate). Really, effective and accurate manipulation of setting is a potent weapon for a politician or political leader or national political objectives.

From the foregoing opinions, views and analysis, it is obvious that language plays a remarkable role in politics and political behavior of a nation. Language manifests at every stage of a political process. For political power to be established and maintained within a political structure of human societies the political leaders must use language to inform, persuade, advertise, issue regulations, laws, announcements, pronouncements, and so forth (Amaechi 2016). Obedience to constituted authority comes easily without coercion or the use of force when the manipulative role of language is used appropriately. Situating the foregoing to the present study we can see that political leaders employ instrumental power of language when they use language to address a gathering or present, explain and analyse government policies and programmes, with a view to earning or having the loyalty of the electorate.

### *1.2. Theoretical Foundation*

Pragmatics will be the linguistic foundation for this study because pragmatics is a major field in linguistics that could unravel meanings in language use (Ayeomoni and Akinkuolere 2012). Pragmatics is expected to show the direction into the study of Inaugural speeches of Ayodele Fayose and Kayode Fayemi. Pragmatics has its origin in philosophy of language and the American Philosophical School of Pragmatics. It has been agreed by language expert that pragmatics is an offshoot of Discourse Analysis.

Linguistic expert such as Waston and Hill (1998) Thomas (1995) Yule (1997) and Kempson (1986) have variously defined Pragmatics as a linguistics branch that has a focus of meaning in use and meaning in context. In a clearer term Goddard (1998:15) defines pragmatics as the study of how speakers and hearers interpreted meaning in particular context taking account of the physical and social situation, knowledge of each other’s background and cultural conventions”.

Basic to pragmatics is speech Act Theory which is concerned with specific social acts performed in making utterances (Akinwotu, 2013). Thus, the theory of Speech Act will serve as the unit of analysis and evaluation of the speeches for this study. Preference for Speech Act Theory is based on the fact that when someone makes utterances or expressions, various acts are performed therein. A proper analysis of the acts that are performed ultimately leads to the understanding of the utterance or words that are expressed. Speech Acts theory developed from the view expressed in J.L Austin’s seminal publication. “How to do things with words” released in 1962. Austin was of the opinion that many utterances abound whose production consists of performance of an action. He makes a distinction between performative and constative utterance. He later classified linguistics acts into three component which are locutionary, illocutionary and perlocutionary acts. Locutionary is the act of saying something, illocutionary act is the performance in saying something or when words

expressed. Perlocutionary act is the effect or influence on the feelings, thoughts or actions of the listeners which brings about an effect upon the belief attitudes or (Ayeomoni and Akinkuolere 2012).

Illocutionary act is seen as central to and synonymous with the Speech Act Theory. Dada (2004) opines that illocutionary acts are the core of any theory of speech acts. Thomas (1995) emphasizes the primacy of illocutionary act to the Speech Act Theory because the communicative purpose of utterance has been seen as the focal point in the performance of speech act Austin (1962) categorized the illocutionary act into five classes: verdictives, exercitives, commissives, habertives and expositives. However, with the heavy criticism that trailed this categorization, Searle (1969) modified the categorization into the following classes.

### 1.2.1. Assertives

These are statements that commit speaker the truth of a proposition by describing a state of affairs which could be true or false. Searle (1999:148) says "it is to present the proposition as representing a state of affairs in the world": Examples, according to Amaechi (2016) include statement of facts, assertions, conclusions, description, definitions, reporting, claiming etc.

### 1.2.2. Directives

According to Searle (1999:148) illocutionary force of a directive act is to try to get the hearer to behave in such a way as to make his behavior match the propositional content of directive". Directive is a way or an attempt to effect a change in the attitude, behavior or action of hearer/listener in the form of making a request giving an order or a demand, making a suggestion etc.

### 1.2.3. Commissives

These are actions that are used to commit the speaker to some future actions such as promising, offering, pledging, vowing, swearing and so forth

### 1.2.4. Expressives

These utterances/wordings state the inner mind of the speaker. The utterances reveal the psychological state and mood of the speaker's mind. Examples include statements that express or reflect feelings of joy, happiness, sadness, condoling, thanking, congratulating, apologizing etc.

### 1.2.5. Declaratives

These are statements that when they are uttered or expressed, they make something (the utterances to be so). Akinwotu (2013:45) sees declaratives as "speech acts whose successfully performance brings about the correspondence between the propositional content and reality". They are the speech acts that change the world for the fact that they are expressed. Statements that suggest or pronounce a situation or an instance of resigning accepting dismissing terminating, naming of something, pronouncing the beginning or end of something especially programmes etc.

## **2. Objectives of the Study**

The research work in broad terms is an attempt to analyse the speeches of Peter Ayodele Fayose and John Kayode Fayemi within the framework of speech acts theory. Thus, the study is meant to identify the speech acts features in relations to the contexts and settings in which the speeches were presented, and to determine how the identified speech acts features project the message presented in the speeches.

## **3. Methodology**

The study is mainly concerned with the analysis of Ayodele Fayose and Kayode Fayemi's inaugural speeches of October 16, 2014 and October 16, 2018 respectively. The linguistic approach used for the study is pragmatics based on the framework of Speech Acts Theory of Austin (1962) and Searle (1969). The data for the study are collected from the online versions of the speeches downloaded from the internet. The data are analysed and interpreted pragmatically using Speech Acts Theory in which sentences and expressions are analysed to identify speech acts performed in the course of delivering the speeches. The calculation of the percentages of the speech acts in each speech is made to make interpretation of the data on the tables clear and scientific. The two speeches selected for the study are labeled A and B. The speech of Peter Ayodele Fayose is labeled as text A while the speech of John Kayode Fayemi is labeled as text B.

### *3.1. The Speech Acts of Inaugural Speech of AyodeleFayose (TEXT A)*

The details of the speech acts to the speech are analysed below:

#### 3.1.1. Expressive Acts

Expressive acts state the opinion of the speaker by stating what he feels. It is an act that performs functions of showing or revealing the state of minds of the speaker in the form of statement which include praising, thanking, encouraging assuming inspiring, apologizing, congratulating etc. The following extracts exemplify the expressive acts in the speech.

### 3.1.1.1. Extract 1

Today, October 16, 2014 marks the epoch of my inauguration as governor the second time under the same umbrella of the PDP, at the same venue and before the same good people of Ekiti state.

### 3.1.1.2. Extract 2

I want to specially thank the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan the Vice President, the entire leadership and membership of our party.

### 3.1.1.3. Extract 3

### 3.1.1.4. Extract 4

Let me seize this opportunity to once again thank your Excellences, Mr Speaker and members of the House, my Lord the Chief Judge, your Royal Highnesses, Chiefs and religious leaders.

The state of mind of Governor Ayodele Fayose was made bare open in extracts 1 and 2. He expresses appreciation to the highest political office holder in the country as well as the party leaders. In extract 3, Governor Ayodele Fayose demonstrates that he is happy that his State, Ekiti now belongs to the states controlled by the PDP. The illocutionary force of extract 4 is encouraging. The act was performed when the Governor thank and eulogize strategic stakeholders in the state, he also acknowledges their presence at the inauguration. The purpose of the expressive acts in the four extracts is to observe protocol and to appreciate the attendees of the inaugural occasion.

## 3.1.2. Assertive Acts

Assertive acts usually come or manifest in expressions that state, suggest, describe, claim, inform, assert, define, report etc. Let us look at the following extracts to see examples of the act in the speech:

### 3.1.2.1. Extract 5

It is highly regrettable that we were made to swim against the tides in the last eight years.

### 3.1.2.2. Extract 6

There was smear and malicious campaign of calumny against the innocent and orchestrated celebration of the desperate.

### 3.1.2.3. Extract 7

I left over ten billion naira (in liquid cash and securities) in this State in October 2006 alongside all the monumental infrastructural and human developments that were in placed during my first coming.

### 3.1.2.4. Extract 8

Today, our state has been committed financially up and until year 2020 even beyond my own administration.

### 3.1.2.5. Extract 9

It is a fact that Ekiti for now is the only PDP state in South West Nigeria

### 3.1.2.6. Extract 10

The last-minute attempt by the opposition party to truncate the mandate which you freely entrusted to me on June 21st, has clearly confirmed the true character and direction of interest of these political desperados.

### 3.1.2.7. Extract 11

We have the capacity and determination to surmount them all, we have done it before and we shall do it again.

In extract 5, Governor Ayodele Fayose paints the period between when he was impeached to the time at his inauguration as Governor for the second time, describing those involved in his travails as selfish power mongering demagogues. The utterance act in the extract is stating and informing. The utterance act in extract 6 is reporting. The speaker performs the act of stating in extract 7. He states that he left certain amount of money in the coffer of Ekiti State government in his first term as governor. In extract 8 the speaker performs the act of stating. He performs the act of reminding in the extract 9. He reminds his listeners of that Ekiti is now a PDP state. The acts performed in extract 10 are stating and informing. He states the attempt made by the opposition to truncate his mandate giving to him by the electorate. He also informs the listeners that some judicial officers are being investigated. In extract 11, the speaker performs the act of confirming and stating. He states and confirms the ability and capacity to deal with the ugly situation "We have the capacity and determination to surmount them all". In encoding these acts, the speaker inspires and encourages the people to co-operate with the government. Assertiveness as revealed in the extracts is a signal that the speaker(governor) is now in charge as the chief executive officer of the state; he can now make proclamations on state matters

### 3.1.3. Commissive Acts

In commissive acts, information supplied regarding the participants intention to carry out a future action (Akinwotu, 2013). Commissive acts include promising, pledging, offering, vowing and swearing. Here are the examples of commissive acts in the speech.

#### 3.1.3.1. Extract 12

It is our fervent and declared aim to erase the physical and psychological effects of these tragedies as quickly as human ingenuity can contrive.

#### 3.1.3.2. Extract 13

My intention here is not to join issues with the immediate past administration I consider it expedient that this parlous position of our finance be made known to members of the public who gave us the mandate to be here.

#### 3.1.3.3. Extract 14

We shall ensure strategic partnership with the Federal Government and its agencies.

#### 3.1.3.4. Extract 15

Essentially, this government is a government of restoration, we shall continue with the people oriented programmes which we started in 2003.

#### 3.1.3.5. Extract 16

*Every Ekiti person shall be assisted to pursue and realize his or her aspiration in the area of core ability or correspondence.*

#### 3.1.3.6. Extract 17

Government shall encourage increased agricultural production towards ensuring food security for local consumption and also for export.

#### 3.1.3.7. Extract 18

This government shall ensure the provision of good and durable intra and inter-township roads; we shall ensure the rehabilitation of existing dams, in addition to the replacement of old and damaged water pipes.

#### 3.1.3.8. Extract 19

The PDP government in Ekiti state shall pursue the restoration of the past glory in education and offer free and qualitative education up to senior secondary level.

#### 3.1.3.9. Extract 20

This government shall provide free health care services for children aged 0-5 years, pregnant women and the physically challenged.

#### 3.1.3.10. Extract 21

Our government shall ensure the takeoff of the military formation in Ekiti State, we shall collaborate with the police and other law enforcement agencies.

The commissive acts in extract 12 to 21 collectively serves as a bond between the Governor and the people of Ekiti State. It is in the extracts that the speaker itemizes and presents his programmes to the people of Ekiti State. Extract 12 is a performance of pledging in which the speaker declares his intention to effect physical and psychological reforms. In extracts 13 to 21 the dominating and recurring acts are promising pledging, assuring and vowing. In extract 13, the speaker promises to focus in governance rather than engaging in bickering with the previous administration. The expected perlocutionary effect is excitement. For extract 14 the act is promising with the possible effect of hope. Extract 15 has a perlocutionary act of pledging/vowing and expected perlocutionary effect of happiness and excitements; extracts 16 to 20 have acts of promising, pledging with the effects of happiness, excitement and hope. For extract 21 the act is pledging with the effect of hope and excitement. The various commissive acts in the extracts above are statements that rekindle the hope of the people in accordance with the campaigns promises of the speaker. These acts (promises) are the basic features of inaugural addresses of political office holders.

### 3.1.4. Directive Acts

In directive acts, the speaker tried to get the listeners or hearers do something in the form commanding requesting, warning, urging etc. There are the examples in the speech as follows:

#### 3.1.4.1. Extract 22

The head of service is hereby directed to return all officers to their substantive position as at June 21, 2014.

### 3.1.4.2. Extract 23

I call upon you to join hands with my government to usher in another era of restoration.

In extract 22, the speaker performs the act of commanding/directing. This act manifests in the verb directed. The expected effect Perlocutionary is happiness. The speaker performs the act of urging in extract 23 with co-operation as its expected effect of the act. The phrases call upon and to join hands are the driving forces of the act. This is a good starting point by the Governor by appealing to the people to cooperate with him.

### 3.1.5. Declarative Acts

Examples of declaratives acts include endorsing declaring, appointing, naming, resigning, nominating and applying. There is no example of declarative act in the speech.

## 3.2. *The Speech Act Analysis of Inaugural Speech of Kayode Fayemi (Text B)*

### 3.2.1. Expressive Acts

#### 3.2.1.1. Extract 1

I must start by especially paying homage to those that came before us and upon whose labourer generation is building upon.

#### 3.2.1.2. Extract 2

I must also salute our patriots of more recent years who worked hard to ensure we can have our own state within our great country.

#### 3.2.1.3. Extract 3

I am truly grateful to the people of Ekiti for being the instruments through which this divine mandate has been given.

#### 3.2.1.4. Extract 4

Once again, I thank every boy, girl, woman, indigene and resident alike, I thank you all for granting us the mandate to lead our great state again.

The mood and attitude of Governor Kayode Fayemi is not hidden in extracts 1-4 above. He is happy that he has been elected governor for the second time. This appreciation manifests with paying homage (extracts 1), salute our patriots (extract 2), truly grateful (extract 3), I thank you all (extract 4). This attitude suggests that he acknowledges the power of the people in a democracy. The acts in the extracts have illocutionary force of inspiration and encouragement. Through the forces of inspiration, the speaker is able to enlist the support of the listeners for his four-year term.

### 3.2.2. Assertive Acts

#### 3.2.2.1. Extract 5

Today marks the beginning of a new phase in our history as a people it also signals the end of an era... or the end of the error.

#### 3.2.2.2. Extract 6

*... my coming back to the office is not a revenge mission, but rather a healing balm on a painful wound.*

#### 3.2.2.3. Extract 7

*....from the ashes we rise and shine as we look towards the light, the light of knowledge and intellectualism that we are known for.*

#### 3.2.2.4. Extract 8

I am particularly happy that most of the programmes we pioneered in our first term in office have been adopted by the Federal Government.

#### 3.2.2.5. Extract 9

Ekiti is known as the fountain of knowledge; we arguably have the highest number of professors per capital in Nigeria.

#### 3.2.2.6. Extract 10

Four years ago, in conceding defeat and promptly inviting the candidate of the opposing party to a meeting, I established a tradition of smooth transition in Ekiti State.

In extract 5, Governor Fayemi re-enacts the rivalry between him and Ayodele Fayose of the People's Democratic Party. Phrases like end of an era and end of an error confirm the rivalry. The utterance act here is stating and informing. The utterance act in extract 6 is assuring. Here the speaker is emphatic about his mission as governor not a revenge

mission but a healing balm. In extract 7, Governor Fayemi performs the acts of stating and claiming. He claims that his state is known for intellectualism. In extract 8, Governor Fayemi performs the acts of informing by making reference to the relevance and acceptability of programmes he initiated during his first term. The verb phrase has been adopted pointedly re-enacts this claim. Essentially, the performance act in extract 9 is stating and describing. In extract 10 the performance acts informing and reminding. Different perlocutionary force manifest in the extracts: hope (extract 5), happiness (extract 6), hope (extract 7), happiness (extract 8), excitement (extract 9), cheerfulness (extract 10).

### 3.2.3. Commissive Acts

#### 3.2.3.1. Extract 11

We will ensure that within one hundred days from today, Ekiti State will know the true position of things, we will seek out the truth and lay before our people.

#### 3.2.3.2. Extract 12

We, therefore remain committed to re-instituting social safety nets that would bring succor to the most vulnerable segments of our society.

#### 3.2.3.3. Extract 13

We will pay attention to fields such as teaching, research, skills development, creative arts, strengthening tertiary institutions and educational entrepreneurship.

#### 3.2.3.4. Extract 14

We will revisit the commercial and technical viability of abandoned projects; we shall also carefully take on new infrastructural projects.

#### 3.2.3.4. Extract 15

We are therefore adopting a sustainable and commercial value chain approach which will lead to transformational agric business development that can enhance food and personal security.....

#### 3.2.3.5. Extract 16

We assure you that we are well prepared to get off the block from day one, we take full ownership of the challenge ahead of us and together we shall overcome.

#### 3.2.3.6. Extract 17

Ekiti shall once again play its rightful roles as an integral part of the Development Agenda for Western Nigeria (DAWN) and work with other descendant of Oduduwa in our sister states.

#### 3.2.3.7. Extract 18

I assure you that my administration will be committed to best practices in governance characterized by discipline ethical behaviour and dedication to excellence.

Extract 11 is a categorical statement of the speaker's resolves to present barely before the people the state of affairs of governance of Ekiti state. He performs an act of promises to be open and transparent. The speaker thus performs illocutionary act of promising to do something. It has a perlocutionary force of acceptance by the people. Extract 12 is a statement of commitment to revolution of social welfare with perlocutionary force of hopefulness. In extracts 13 and 14, the speaker performs acts of promising and vowing. He expressly performs the acts of promising and vowing with strong commitments as manifest in we will. The perlocutionary force that can be inferred from the extract is excitement. Fayemi exploits the decadence in the agric sector in extract 15 to perform the illocutionary act of pledging and vowing. He tries to prove to his listeners of his intention to transform agric-business into viable and thriving activities in the state.

### 3.2.4. Directive Acts

#### 3.2.4.1. Extract 19

In order to achieve sustainable food, security the approach must change from the current focus on farming and agriculture to a commercial and private driven approach.

#### 3.2.4.2. Extract 20

*I call on our development partners-corporations and multilateral agencies alike, to please return to Ekiti State.*

#### 3.2.4.3. Extract 21

I also use this opportunity to appeal to the Federal Government to help the people of Ekiti State through this difficult time.

In extract 19, Governor Fayemi performs the directive act of appealing. Here the contextual background of the text could boost our understanding as he makes reference to lack of proper focus on agriculture in the state by past administration.

### 3.2.5. Declarative Act

#### 3.2.5.1. Extract 22

Today we reclaim our land from the hands of those that have held us captive

#### 3.2.5.2. Extract 23

It is my honor to stand before you today having taken the oath of office as Governor of the land of honour.

In extract 22, the major illocutionary act is declaring with the **perlocutionary** force of excitement. Similarly, in extract 23, the speaker performs the act of accepting. The act may have the force of happiness, excitement and hopefulness.

Speech Acts	Text A: Ayodele Fayose Inaugural Speech		Text B: Kayode Fayemi Inaugural Speech	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Expressives	04	14.4%	04	17.4%
Assertives	07	30.4%	06	26.1%
Commissives	10	43.5%	08	34.8%
Directives	02	8.7%	03	13.5%
Declarative	Nil	Nil	02	8.7%
Total	23	100%	23	100%

Table 1: Frequency, Distribution of speech Acts in the Two Texts (Speeches)

Speech Acts	Frequency	Percentage
Expressives	08	17.4%
Assertives	13	28.3%
Commissive	18	39.1%
Directives	05	10.9%
Declarative	02	4.3%
Total	46	100%

Table 2: Summary of Texts A and B

## 4. Discussion and Interpretation

The two speakers employ similar strategies in the presentations of their speeches. This is a reflection of the settings and purpose of the speeches. The use and frequency of the speech acts in the two speeches follow the same pattern. The fact that the speeches were delivered by different personalities, even at different times (four-year interval) did not alter or change the patterns of delivery as well as manifestations of speech acts and their properties.

The data from the study as shown from the tables above reveal that commissive acts account for the highest occurrence with 43.5% of the illocutionary acts performed in text A and 34.8% in text B. Next to this are assertive acts which have illocutionary acts of 30.4% and 26.1% in texts A and B respectively. Expressive acts have 17.4% in the two texts, while directives act account for 8.7% and 13.0% for texts A and B respectively. Coming last in the analysis is declarative acts with 0% in text A and 8.7% in text B.

The predominance of commissive acts in the two speeches are due to series of promises, vows and pledges of new things, projects programmes innovations and enhancement of life made by the Governors in their addresses. These promises that normally have perlocutionary force of commitment, loyalty, hopefulness etc. are parts of the efforts made by politicians to persuade and convinced their listeners (electorates) of their intention to deliver dividends of democracy. Commissive acts are employed to build trusts between the speaker and the listeners.

The low occurrence of directive and declarative acts in the speeches is a cautious attempt by the speakers not to be seen as being draconian or overbearing especially in a democratic setting. Inaugural addresses are not occasions where statements that can portray the speaker as being proud or bossy. Subsequent addresses of a political office holder especially governors can contain series of directives that can assist him to achieve his goals, stabilize his government or deliver goodies of democracy.

## 5. Conclusion

The analysis carried out in this work is another attempt of using the principles of pragmatics at studying or interpreting a speech within the context, setting or situation in which the speech is delivered. It thus means that speech acts theory (an integral part of pragmatics) can bring to prominence the meaning of a speech or an address, it must also be emphasized that in the act of saying something, speech acts can portray and define the personality of the speaker, it can also determine (to a large extent) the setting and function of the setting in which a speech/address is presented. Though



the two speeches reveal that the two speakers try to re-enact the rivalry between them with each making efforts to outsmart or malign the other. Examples of this statement are in text A (extract 8) and text B (extract 5), among others. The study has analysed the addresses of the inauguration delivered by Peter Ayodele Fayose and John Kayode Fayemi using speech act theory. The speech act analyses have unveiled how Fayose and Fayemi have presented modalities of realizing their campaign promise to the people of Ekiti State. The analysis has revealed that the predominance of commissive and assertive acts in inaugural addresses. The analysis has further revealed that the speakers have used language directly to assert and promise their listeners within the contexts in which the addresses were delivered.

## 6. References

- i. Akinwotu SA (2013). A Speech Act Analysis of the Acceptance of Nomination Speeches of Chief Obafemi Awolowo and Chief M.K.O. Abiola. *English Linguistic Research* 2 (1): 43-51
- ii. Amaechi UE (2016) Pragmatic Analysis of Nigeria's President Mohammed Buhari's Maiden Coup Address of January 1, 1984 and His Inauguration Address of May 29, 2015: A Comparative Appraisal, *International Journal of English Language and Linguistic Research* 4(5): 47-64, August, 2016.
- iii. Austin JL (1962). How to do things with words, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- iv. Awonusi VO (1996). Politics and Politician for sale. An Examination of Advertising in English in Nigeria's Political Transition Programme. *Studia Anglica Posnaniensia* xxx:108-129
- v. Ayeomoni OM, Akinkuolere OS (2012). A Pragmatic Analysis of Victory and Inaugural Speeches of President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, *Theory and Practice of Language Studies* 2 (3): 461 – 468, March, 2012.
- vi. Beard A (2000). The Language of Politics. London: Routledge.
- vii. Campbell KK, Jemison KH (1990). Presidents Creating the Presidency: Deeds done in Words. Chicago: Chicago University Press.
- viii. Dada SA (2004). Introduction to Pragmatics, In T. Bamisaye (ed.) *An Integrated Study in Language and Society*. Lagos: Majab Publishers, 141 – 166.
- ix. Haris PB (1979). Foundations of Political Science. Johannesburg: Melbourne Publishers.
- x. Kempson R (1986). Semantic Theory. London: Cambridge University Press.
- xi. Larswell HC (1965). Language of Politics. London: Harper and Row.
- xii. Opeibi BO(2003). A Discourse Analysis of the use of English in the 1993 Presidential Election in Nigeria: An unpublished PhDThesis, Lagos.
- xiii. Opeibi BO (2009). Discourse, Politics and the 1993 Presidential Election Campaigns in Nigeria. Lagos: Nouvelle Communication Limited.
- xiv. Searle JR (1969). Speech Acts. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- xv. Searle JR (1999). Mind Language and Society: Philosophy in the World. Phoenix: Guernsey Press Co.
- xvi. Thomas J (1995). Meaning in Interaction: An Introduction to Pragmatics. New York: Longman.
- xvii. Thomas L, Waveing S (1999). Language, Society and Power. London: Routledge.
- xviii. Uduma EO (2012). African Political Speeches and Pragmatic Meanings: A Study of President Goodluck Jonathan's 50<sup>th</sup> Independence Speech. *Africa, Sao Paulo* 31(32): 65 – 79.
- xix. Van Dijk TA (1995). Discourse Semiotics and Ideology. In *Discourse and Society* 6 (12) London: Sage Publications.
- xx. Watson JR, Hill A (1993). A Dictionary of Communication and Media Studies. London: Edward Arnold.