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Grammatico-Semantic Content of Primitives in the Major Themes of Newswatch's Reports on Nigerian Politics

AJANI, Daniel Taiwo

Principal Lecturer, Department of General Studies Department
The Polytechnic, Ibadan, Ibadan Oyo State, Nigeria

Abstract:

Semantic primitives are conceptual words of natural language with universal meanings. These words describe other words conceptually and not themselves. They are capable of indicating politics-driven engagement of language in reportage of Newswatch magazine on politics in Nigeria. Earlier studies on political reports in the media have focused on deployment of language in editorials, various styles of presentations and sundry other issues considered worthy of serious examination neglecting grammatico-semantic content of semantic primitives engaged in such studies. This current study, therefore, through survey and descriptive methods, examined the distribution of semantic primitives in the reports on politics in Nigeria in Newswatch newsmagazine. The employment of these two methods yielded salient information on features of language and the observable patterns of their interconnectedness; the major themes they project and their grammatico-semantic content. The study adopted relevant aspects of Anna Wierzbicka's Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM) theory and Vyvyan Evans' Lexical Concept and Cognitive Model (LCCM). The former handled the semantic primitives and their imports while the latter concerned itself with the lexical concepts of the primitives. Data were collected from 48 purposively sampled 2010 editions of Newswatch newsmagazine from where a corpus of one million words was built for the study. The resulting data were analysed. The findings revealed that, semantic primitives associated with the theme of governance, electoral process, political power and party politics are identified. The themes of Electoral process and Governance were predominantly marked by nominal/verbal collocates; the theme of Political power was marked by adjectival/ verbal collocates and Party politics theme was marked by nominal/adjectival collocates.

Keywords: Semantic primitives, reports on Nigerian politics, Newswatch magazine

1. Introduction

Natural semantic Metalanguage (NSM) is an approach to the analysis of linguistic meaning championed by Anna Wierzbicka who drew great inspirations from the 17th century scholars: Rene Descartes, Gottfried Leibniz and from her colleague, Andrzej Bogulawski. "I had already completed and published my PhD dissertation... and was looking for direction in my further life and work when a linguist at Warsaw university Andrzej Bogulawski, gave a lecture in 1965 which precipitated me towards a pursuit of universal conceptual primitives in the spirit of Leibniz's search for "the alphabet of human thought" (Wierzbicka, 1997:21). Particularly strong motivation for the efforts is traceable to Leibniz's belief in "the alphabet of human thought" by which he meant "a number of very simple ideas, concepts which you can find in all languages. And the idea was part of the innate equipment of human beings; all human beings were born with this." (Lingua Franca on ABC Radio National, 2009). These "irreducible core of all languages" are the semantic primitives. They are engaged in the meanings of non-primitive words conceptually in NSM formalism.

Studies on semantic primitives of the Natural Semantic Metalanguage approach have privileged lexicographic values in semantic primitives (Wierzbicka,1996) , naturalness in NSM (Marusch, 2008) ; NSM in Cognitive Linguistics movement (Brala, 2003) ; studies of emotion (Hasada, 2001); cultural keywords, (Wierzbicka, 2010) ; as an approach to semantics,(Goddard,1998); evaluating adjectives, (Goddard, Taboada and Trnavac, 2016); decomposing contextual metaphors (Sangadji, 2013) ; universalist approach in Finnish (Vanhatalo, Tissari, and Idstrom, 2014) ; as quantifiers in old English (Arista and Rosa, 2006) ; as Russian cultural scripts (Wierzbicka, 2002) ; as cultural scripts (Goddard and Wierzbicka, 2004) ; in Malay language (Latupeirisa, 2016) ; in old English (Mendaza, 2013, 2016a, 2016b) ; in translation studies (Blumczynsky, 2013); as Chinese keyword (Li, Ericson and Quennerstedt 2013) ; and to examine cultural differences (Hamid, 2002). A number of studies have been done on *Newswatch* focusing on different interests. Ashipu (2012) investigated cohesive devices, Ashipu, (2013) worked on rhetorical analysis of editorials.

Besides, Chilwa (2005) examined discourse pragmatics of the news headlines and lead stories while Robert (2013) explored language of advertisement. Brown's (2010) interest was on photo journalism; Obasanjo's third term politics was what Soibi (2008) investigated. Investigation of grammatico-semantic content of primitives in the major themes of *Newswatch's* reports on Nigerian politics has not been given adequate attention in scholarship.

1.1. Objectives of the Study

The specific objectives of this study are as follows:

- To investigate the political themes in the reports of *Newswatch*
- To determine the grammatico-semantic content of *Newswatch*'s reports with reference to primitives

1.2. Research Questions

- What are the political themes in the *Newswatch*'s reports on Nigerian politics?
- What is the grammatico-semantic content of the *Newswatch*'s reports on Nigerian politics?

2. Review of the Related Literature

2.1. Semantic Primitives

Semantics primitives are a list of simple conceptual words of natural language with universal meaning which are used to describe other words while they themselves are indefinable without lapsing into circularity. The earlier canons in NSM work, especially Wierzbicka and Goddard have classified the semantic primitives into 16 groups:

- Relational Substantives
- Determiners
- Quantifiers
- Evaluation
- Descriptors
- Mental/experiential predicates
- Speech
- Actions and events,
- Existence and possession,
- Life and health
- Time
- Space
- Logical concepts
- Intensifier/augmenters
- Similarity
- Substantives

The table below captures this explanation effectively.

S/N	Categories	Semantic Primitives
1.	Substantives	I, YOU, SOMEONE/PERSON, PEOPLE
2.	Relational substances	SOMETHING, THING, BODY, KIND, PART
3.	Determiners	THIS, THE SAME, OTHER
4.	Quantifiers	ONE, TWO, SOME, ALL, MANY/MUCH
5.	Evaluators	GOOD, BAD
6.	Descriptors	BIG, SMALL
7.	Mental/ Experimental predicates	THINK, KNOW, WANT, FEEL, SEE, HEAR
8.	Speech	SAY, WORD, TRUE
9.	Actions and Events	DO, HAPPEN, MOVE
10.	Existence & Possession	THERE IS/ EXIST, HAVE
11.	Life and death	LIVE, DIE
12.	Time	WHEN/TIME, NOW, BEFORE, AFTER A LONG TIME, A SHORT TIME, FOR SOME TIME, MOMENT
13.	Space	WHERE/PLACE, HERE, ABOVE, BELOW, FAR, HEAR, SIDE, INSIDE, TOUCH (CONTACT)
14.	Logical concepts	NOT, MAYBE, CAN, BECAUSE, IF
15.	Intensifier/ Augmenter	VERY, MORE
16.	Similarity	LIKE, WAY

Table 1

Goddard (2002), Goddard and Wierzbicka (2007) and Goddard (2011:66)

A closer look at the classification of semantic primitives as obtained in Table 3 above reveals that some updating or reclassification needs to be done for a number of reasons. For example, the traditional adjectives namely; GOOD, BAD, BIG and SMALL are housed in two categories; Evaluation and Descriptors. We are of the opinion that these two groups should be convoluted to just one group with the tag 'descriptors' as this is what their grammatical function is. This classification is thus function-based. Again, 'Substantives' are nouns and personal pronouns. Thus, we suggest.

'Personhood' as a replacement label for substantives. The erstwhile Relational substantives, 'SOMETHING/ THING' are reclassified 'conceptionality'. As, in our opinion, this tag is apt.

The strength of the new classification of the semantic primitives is that the name of each category is suggestive of its function. On this, Wierzbicka (1988) says "...semantic primes represent elements of linguistic conceptualization, that is, elements from which linguistic concepts are built". Latching on to the idea that semantic primitives are representatives of concepts, we propose a new model of semantic primitives in the diagram below.

S/N	Class Name	Semantic Primitives
1	Negation	NOT
2	Possession	HAVE
3	Personhood	I, YOU, PEOPLE, PERSON, SOMEONE
4	Number / Partitivity	ONE, MORE, TWO, MANY, SOME, OTHER, PART, SIDE, ALL
5	Temporality	WHEN, TIME NOW, BEFORE, MOMENT, A SHORT TIME, FOR SOME TIME, AFTER A LONG TIME
6	Demonstrator	THIS
7	Causality	BECAUSE
8	Action	DO
n9	Counter- Factuality	IF, MAYBE
10	Ability	CAN
11	Species	LIKE, THE SAME, KIND
12	Spatiality	INSIDE, BELOW, WHERE, PLACE, HERE, FAR, ABOVE, NEAR
13	Intensity	VERY
14	Descriptor	GOOD, BAD, BIG, SMALL
15	Appearance	WAY, BODY
16	Existence	THERE IS, LIVE, THERE EXIST
17	Episteme	KNOW
18	Desirability	WANT
19	Sight	SEE
20	Cognition	THINK
21	Speech	SAY, WORDS
22	Quantity	MUCH
23	Object/ Matter	SOMETHING, THING
24	Motion	MOVE
25	Factuality	TRUE
26	Affectionality	FEEL
27	Occurrence	HAPPEN
28	Audition	HEAR
29	Cessationality	DIE
30	Contact	TOUCH

Table 2: Reclassification of Semantic Primitives

2.2. Studies on Newswatch

Newswatch magazine, a weekly news magazine that is widely read in Nigeria (Chiluwa, 2007) is selected due to its good qualities as attested to by scholars. It is boldly independent and liberal in its reportage of events in Nigeria. A most prestigious magazine (Uko, 2004) which blazed the trail of magazine publishing in Nigeria (Olukotun, 2014). The news magazine is factual in its reportage of events-a result of painstaking investigation by which it is known (Udomisor and Ibekwe, 2014). The editors of *Newswatch* are ingenious; they are masters of the craft when it comes to fluent and lucid use of language (Ashipu, 2012). In terms of scope of coverage, *Newswatch* has a very wide scope. It reports regularly on a wide range of issues. In our opinion, a news magazine with this pedigree will provide the researcher with rich media data from its reports.

A number of studies had been carried out on *Newswatch* among which we have selected some for review. Chiluwa (2005) explores the construction of social crises and political scandals in the news headlines of some news magazines in Nigeria namely; *Tell*, *The News* and *Newswatch*. The study also explores the translation mechanism of the illocutionary functions to social criticism. It indicates that meaning coding in news headlines employs pragmatic strategies due to the limitation of the vocabulary not being overtly explicit in the capturing of the content of the news headlines especially meanings that interrogate the social context. The three news magazines here employ their headlines to call to question the process that is in Nigeria and social situations the media consider worthy of criticism and by implications the criticisms are leveraged upon for massification targeted at social liberty. Similarly, Chiluwa (2005) in another study examines reportage of news magazines using certain discourse features, principally, 'the lexis, semantics and graphology'. Data are obtained from *Tell*, *The News* and *Newswatch*. The findings of this study reveal a plethora of 'coinages', "Borrowings", 'Local usages', 'code indexing', 'Graphology' and 'Lexical cohesion' in the discourse of media data in the three news

magazines. It demonstrates the centrality of context and linguistic processes to communicate effectively to the Nigerian readers. The work has dealt with issues in the news reporting by Nigerian news magazine in Nigeria among which *Newswatch* is prominent but has not considered semantic primitives in meaning creation and consumption in news media. In a seeming response to Chiluwa's (2007:257) call for "a critical study of lexico-semantic and graphological devices of news texts", Ashipu (2012) looks at 'cohesive devices in Nigerian Media Discourse' using *Newswatch* as the source of primary data for the investigation. The scholar believes that the unity of a text is achieved by the successful deployment of cohesive devices. Seeing cohesion as "...the glue that holds words that make a text together". The work selected 'editorials' of *Newswatch* magazine for its exploration of the cohesive devices in the data relying on Halliday and Hasan's (1976) theory of cohesion as its theoretical framework. This yields two major types of cohesive devices, 'Lexical' and 'reference'. It is found out in the data that considering the frequency of occurrence of the two in the data, the former is quite higher than the latter. It is also found out that 'personal reference items' predominate while 'most of the reference cohesion items were exophoric'. The paper asserts "...Nigeria news magazine editorials often discuss political issues and the role that politicians play in the political process."

Ashipu (2013) further extends the frontiers of knowledge in media discourse analysis especially that of *Newswatch* from linguistic perspective of looking at news magazines as he undertakes 'A Rhetorical Analysis of selected Editorials of *Newswatch* and *Tell* magazines'. The paper applies stylistic orientation to explore rhetorical devices in *Newswatch* and *Tell* magazines. "Rhetorical stylistics identifies and isolates the linguistic features that constitute the style of a text." (Ashipu 2013:48), while 'rhetorical theory is defined as a linguistic activity which treats the devices that convey meaning in language' (Ashipu, 2013:49). Thus, the paper identifies a number of theoretical devices in the data: 'Simile', 'Personification', 'Hyperbole', 'Rhetorical Question', 'Cliché and Idioms', 'Graphology' and 'Tone'.

2.3. Studies on Corpus-Based Research

O'Halloran K. (2007) juxtaposed critical discourse analysis with corpus informed interpretation of metaphor at register level. Large corpus, 260 million words, is used to show collocation and phraseological evidence around what he identifies as metaphor. Using Lee (1992) analysis and interpretation format, the study offers 'register prosody'. It also shows that a corpus-based method can be profitable for checking over interpretation of linguistic data as metaphorical in relation to regular readers of a range of registers. Nagamine (2002) built a corpus from letters to the editors from readers with a view to examining genre-specific features in restrictive relative clauses. He found out that native-speaker' preferences of relative pronoun deletion/retention are affected by the genres and both reduplication and repetition manifest, extensively, in particular language 'musicality' in daily use of language. In another study, Alexandra (2010) conducted a linguistic investigation of lexical characteristics of God in sermons and general English to see whether its behaviour is a product of its environment employing corpus-based approach.

In terms of method of study, keyword analysis and extended meaning theory are exploited. The study demonstrated the saliency of 'God' in the data i.e. in the selected sermons. Even if the studies reviewed in corpus linguistics here: O'Halloran (2007); Nagamine (2002) and Alexandra (2010) are neither on NSM or *Newswatch*, they offer valuable insights about the applicability of corpus approach to analyzing linguistic data. Besides, they indicate useful tools for analysis of corpus data.

2.4. Meaning and Language

Meanings emerge in the use of language (Saheed, 2005:3). Therefore, language "a system of symbols through which people communicate" (Kreida, 1998:19) and meaning are inextricably linked. Language is engaged to convey meanings. Perhaps, if there are other things a human language does, "the most obvious part" is meaning (Israel, 2014:151). Again, Goddard, (1998:1) asserts "...expressing meanings is what languages are all about." If human language, otherwise natural language, is meant to create and convey meanings, it becomes unavoidably expedient to determine how language works to actualize this. Goddard (1998:1) says: "To understand how any particular language works, we need to understand how its individual design works to fulfill its function as an intricate device for communication.

3. Methodology and Analytical Framework

Research design coincides with the road map for a study. It explicates the exploitation of apt investigative facilities suitable for the research. The research design for this work is survey method. It gives the researcher the latitude to "more or less directly elicit information on linguistic features, patterns and interrelations..." (Shilling, 2013: 96). This is coupled with descriptive method. It has additional advantage of harnessing the strengths of both the qualitative and quantitative methods. Litosseliti (2010) says "Qualitative research is concerned with structures and patterns and how something is...'. Quantitative research, on the other hand, is a research that 'focuses on how much or how many there is /are of a particular characteristic or an item". The quantitative aspect of the design relates to its data. It is a corpus of one million words built from reports on politics by *Newswatch* in 48 editions of the newsmagazine. The qualitative aspect of the design relates to the description of the manifest characteristics observed in the corpus.

3.1. Sampling Size and Sampling Procedure

Political reports constitute the data for this study. They were collected synchronically from 48 purposively sampled 2010 editions of *Newswatch* and a corpus of one million words was built from them. 48 out of the 52 editions of *Newswatch* editions of year 2010 were selected at four editions per month. The fifth editions of the months that had five editions published were not selected so that every month will have equal representation in the data. This yielded forty-

eight editions. The 48 editions turned in 1125 reports altogether. All the reports in each edition of the *Newswatch* were selected. This is done to have a rich data that is representative of the domains in the newsmagazine.

3.2. Corpus Building

All the reports in the identified twenty-four domains in each edition were selected and digitised. Pictures, drawings, diagrams and charts which constitute the co-texts of the reports were pruned out as they were not amenable to the analytical tools for this study. The digitised reports were converted to text format. The linguistic software, 2015 WordSmith version 6.0 was then applied to the corpus using each of the 67 semantic primitives as nodes for the search. The corpus was then queried for wordlist, concordance and collocates consecutively. Wordlist is able to locate the foci of a given corpus. The wordlist operation yielded the frequencies of the occurrence of each of the primitives in the corpus. The concordance facility showed the line context of each of the sixty-seven primitives and the collocate search engine shows the proximity of words that co-occur with the node in each of the sixty-seven primitives.

4. Data Presentation and Discussion

4.1. Political Themes in the Reports of *Newswatch*

The four major political themes in the *Newswatch's* reports on politics are: 1. Theme of electoral process; 2. Theme of political power; 3. Theme of governance and 4. Theme of party politics. The table below summarises the distribution of semantic primitives in the theme of Political power.

SN	Theme	Nominal group		Verbal group		Adjectival group	
		Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
1	Electoral process	78	10.4	38	4.2	-	-
2	Political power	-	-	328	36.1	374	79.1
3	Governance	567	75.5	542	59.7	-	-
4	Party politics	106	14.1	-	-	99	20.9
		751	100	908	100	473	100

Table 3: Grammatical Collocates of Themes of Politics

4.2. Theme of Electoral Process

This has to do with issues pertaining to the whole gamut of electoral process. Among the issue observed here are money factor in the emergence of party candidates; vote merchandising; concept of good and bad electoral system and other process-related corrupt matters.

4.3. Grammatico-Semantic Content of the Theme of Electoral Process

The semantic primitive collocates in the theme of "Electoral Process" are predominantly nominal and verbal groups. Due to the fact that the theme here is essentially process-based, hence, the preponderance of verbal groups and these are driven by nominal groups. The predominant semantic primitives in the categories "Personhood", (I, YOU, PERSON, PEOPLE); "Object/ Matter" (THING, SOMETHING) and "Appearance" (WAY) are the collocates of the theme of electoral process. This is the case perhaps because process is typically driven by nominal groups.

S/N	Category	Frequency	%	Grammatico-semantic class
I	Personhood	69	19.0	} Nominal
Ii	Object/Matter	05	1.4	
Iii	Appearance	04	1.0	
		78	21.4	

Table 4: Nominal Collocates of the Theme of Electoral Process

Semantic primitives that reflect nominal collocates index political actors, political systems, political values, political ideologies, political institutions, organizations, political groups [and] relations (Van Dijk 1985:17-18). The semantic primitives in this group also refer to naming or names or characterization of political processes, of political actions [and] of political discourse' ... political cognition' (Van Dijk, 1985:18) as obtained in the reports on politics by *Newswatch*. Hence, semantic primitives operating as nominal collocates are 78 representing 21.4%.

Presented in Table 23 below is findings on verbal collocates in the theme of electoral process.

	Primitive Category	Frequency	%	Grammatico-semantic class
i.	Action	09	2.5	} Verbal
ii.	Ability	08	2.2	
iii.	Episteme	05	1.4	
iv.	Desirability	02	0.6	
v.	Sight		0.2	
vi.	Cognition	03	0.8	
vii.	Speech	08	2.2	
viii.	Affectionality	01	0.3	
		38	10.5	

Table 5: Verbal Collocates of the Theme of Electoral Process

Verbal collocates (38) represent 10.5% of the corpus in the reports on politics by *Newswatch*. The verbal collocates originated from categories "Action", "Ability", "Episteme", "Desirability", "Sight", "Cognition", "Speech" and "Affectionality". The primitives in these categories reflect actions of the political actors, the electorates, the political institutions, the citizens, the private individuals and mass of the people.

4.4. Theme of Political Power

This encapsulates numerous issues which relates to political power. Issues such as struggle for political power, sit-tight syndrome, harassment of political enemy, political horse-trading and the likes. In the theme of political power, the predominant semantic primitive collocates are adjectival and verbal groups. The adjectival group is made up of semantic primitives in "Number/ partitivity", "Demonstrator" and "Descriptor" categories. These provides a channel for the characterization of political actors, political actions and processes.

S/N	Primitive Category	Frequency	%	Grammatico-semantic class
i.	Descriptor	12	0.8	} Adjectival
ii.	Demonstrator	95	6.6	
iii.	Number/Partitivity	267	18.5	
		374	25.9	

Table 6: Adjectival Collocates of the Theme of Political Power

The primitives which are adjectival collocates of the theme of political power number 374 representing 25.9% of the corpus of politics in *Newswatch* report. The adjectival group contains semantic primitives in the category 'descriptor', 'demonstrator', and number/partitivity which captures the characterization of political actors, procedures and their general distinctive. The number/partitivity collocates here indicate number too as they relate to political matters as exemplified by votes, electorates, polling stations, candidates, electoral delegates, constituencies, tiers of government and the likes.

The other predominant collocates of the theme of Political power is Verbal collocates. This group is made up of semantic primitives in the following categories

The verbal collocates of the theme of political power are mainly constituted of primitives in actionality, 'possession, ability, episteme, desirability, motion, sight, Affectionality, Cessationality, Existence and Audition. These enables the verbalization of political actions, abilities and knowledge.

S/N	Primitive Category	Frequency	%	Grammatico-semantic class
i.	Actionality	35	2.4	} Verbal
ii.	Possession	146	10.1	
iii.	Speech	22	1.5	
iv.	Ability	62	4.3	
v.	Episteme	19	1.3	
vi.	Desirability	15	1.0	
vii.	Motion	10	0.7	
viii.	Sight	09	0.6	
ix.	Affectionality	03	0.2	
x.	Cessationality	03	0.2	
xi.	Existence	02	0.1	
xii.	Audition	02	0.1	
		328	22.5	

The semantic primitive collocates of the theme of political power, verbal collocates indicate a plethora of actions in politics such as campaigning, voting, legislating, debating, advertising and the likes.

4.5. Governance

'Governance' can be described as deployment of statutory power of an incumbent in the performance of his/her statutory role in the service of the people. Theme of Governance subsumes issues such as political violence, weak opposition; perception of the electorate about governance; politicians as unreliable and deceptive people; self-adulation of the politicians; challenges in making sensitive decisions and oppression of opposition. The semantic primitive collocates of the theme of Governance are mainly nominal and verbal groups. This is indicative of the naming of actors, participants and actions in politics.

S/N	Primitive Category	Frequency	%	Grammatico-semantic class
i.	Personhood	507	21.7	} Nominal
ii.	Appearance	34	1.5	
iii.	Object/Matter	26	1.1	
		<u>567</u>	<u>24.3</u>	

Table 8: Nominal collocates of Governance

The semantic primitives which are adjectival collocates of the theme of Governance as obtained in the categories: "Personhood", "Appearance" and "Object/ Matter" point to political actors either at Federal level (President, Vice president, Cabinet Ministers, Ministers of state, their advisers, aids and assistants, political heads of parastatals, their assistants, advisers and aids), at state level (the state governors, deputy governors, Personal Assistant, Advisers and Aids with commissioners and hordes of assistants.) They also capture Local Council Chairmen or Sole Administrators and their aids. The semantic primitive collocates of the theme of Governance as obtained in the category "Personhood" are 507 representing 21.7% while the semantic primitive collocates of the theme of Governance in "Appearance" and "Object/Matter" are 34 and 26 respectively representing 1.5% and 1.1% respectively. The collocates in these two categories encapsulates all references to events, occurrences, objects, actions and proclamations that are not named specifically or definitely. They also indicate perceptual and procedural angles to political governance.

The semantic primitive collocates in verbal group are 542 representing 23.2%. This is not unexpected as "governance" thrives in actions of various dimensions. Thus, there are eleven categories of semantic primitives indicating varieties of actions, desires, talks, knowing, seeing, thinking, living, dying, hearing or moving as they relate with political governance. The primitive collocates here are those of "Possession", "Ability", "Action", "Speech", "Desirability", "Episteme", "Sight", "Cognition" and "Cessationality". The others are "Occurrence", "Audition" and "Motion".

A number of verbal elements co-occur with the theme of 'Governance' in the primitives. Those that reflect possession, ability and action predominate. This, perhaps, is due to the fact that governance is action, ability and possession put into use. *Newswatch* privileges governance in its professional focus, hence the primitives employed here can contribute to better understanding of its political reports.

S/N	Primitive Category	Frequency	%	Grammatico-semantic class
i.	Possession	201	8.61	Verbal collocates
ii.	Ability	78	3.3	
iii.	Action	76	3.3	
iv.	Speech	40	1.7	
v.	Desirability	34	1.5	
vi.	Episteme	33	1.4	
vii.	Sight	28	1.2	
viii.	Cognition	26	1.1	
ix.	Cessationality	07	0.3	
x.	Existence	06	0.3	
xi.	Occurrence	05	0.2	
xii.	Audition	05	0.2	
xiii.	Motion	03	0.1	
		542	23.2	

Table 9: Verbal Collocates of 'Governance'

Three top collocates categories here are those of "Possession", "Ability" and "Action". These categories house semantic primitives that index possessing power, fame, money, influence and authority among many others by Nigerian politicians. It plays up the usual "reason" for clamoring for power to govern i.e. "ability" and "virility" in order to "serve" the people.

4.6. Party Politics

Theme of Party Politics concerns issues such as apportioning party privileges and posts; leadership crises; carpet-crossing; alignment and realignment; intra-party crises and scheming; restructuring party for victory and political assassinations.

Politicians are attached to political parties. Political parties have their organizational structures and process. All these are done in interpersonal relationship among party members towards the realisation of the goal of the political party-winning elections. The major semantic primitive collocates of the theme of party politics are "Nominal" and "Adjectival". Nominal collocates of the theme are 106 representing 26.1%. The "nominal group" consists of semantic primitives in "Personhood" and "Object/Matter" categories. The semantic primitives in "Personhood" are 104(25.6%) while those in "Object/Matter" category is 2 representing (0.5%). The semantic primitives in "Personhood" and "Object/Matter" categories index political personage either as candidates or as political party operatives, electoral adjudicators, electoral observers, mobilisers, electoral umpires, election day, personnel-adhoc or substantive, military or paramilitary individuals who are engaged to achieve smooth and peaceful conduct of election. Party politics thrives on people-politicians and non-politicians moving and doing political things politically. Such things include forming political groups, forming associations, forming political parties and running them; planning, strategising and scheming how to win elections in order to possess power and authority with its concomitant reward. The semantic primitive collocates in "Object/Matter" category index objects and matters in "Party politics" such as ballot papers, ballot boxes, forms for documenting election results, sundry other matters such as issues germane to winning elections. Issues like accords, alliances, cooperation, bloc votes, protest votes, determining the number of delegates to attend political party conventions. Other issues here are campaigns, political mobilization strategies, placating failed candidates, party constitution crafting and similar things.

Political parties are peopled by politicians. Politicians are persons seeking or have sought and secured political office to exploit the power inherent there for the benefit of the society. *Newswatch's* attention is paid to the people in power and their conduct. In its reports on party politics reference to political actors, political concepts and political institutions are affected with primitives in 'personhood', 'object/matter' categories.

S/N	Primitive Category	Frequency	%	Grammatico-semantic class
i.	Personhood	104	25.6	} Nominal Collocates
ii.	Object/Matter	02	0.5	
		106	26.1	

Table 10: Nominal Collocates of Party Politics

Another major semantic primitive category collocates of the theme of Party politics is adjectival. The adjectival group is made up of three categories of semantic primitives: "Number/Partitivity", "Demonstrator" and "Descriptor". The adjectival group has 99 semantic primitives representing 24.4%. The semantic primitive collocates in "Number/Partitivity" category are 79 items (19.5%), "Demonstrator" 19 (4.7%) while "Descriptor" has 1 primitive representing 0.3%. Collocates in "Number/ Partitivity" category indicate numbers in the theme. "Numbers" here cover all matters having to do with numerical strength be it of the electorates, polling booths/stations, constituencies, wards, allocation of positions and privileges, tenures, number of days allowed for protests emanating from elections, sum of money for registration of political parties, sum of money candidates are expected to pay in order to contest, number of ballot boxes, number of election day adhoc staff, number of valid/ invalid votes, the percentage of votes cast for candidates to win election. Primitives in "Demonstrator" category refer to acts, conducts, events, occurrences, incidents, situations and circumstances in party politics while primitives in "Descriptor" category present perspectives of the whole activities in the theme of Party Politics.

Political parties, people, and materials are described in 'Party politics' with the use of primitives which capture them effectively. In the theme of party politics, the primitives in the categories 'number/partitivity, demonstrator and descriptor' predominate as presented in the table below:

S/N	Primitive Category	Frequency	%	Grammatico-semantic class
i.	Number/Partitivity	79	19.	} Adjectival Collocates
ii	Demonstrator	19	4.7	
iii	Descriptor	01	0.3	
		99	24.4	

Table 11: Adjectival Collocates of Party Politics

5. Conclusion

Again, the work has revealed the grammatico-semantic content of the semantic primitives by connecting the grammatical collocates of the semantic primitives with the major themes in the data. This study has made contribution to the body of literature in terms of its revision and application of NSM theory to media data beyond mere identification and enlistment of semantic primitives. It engaged a large corpus data in the media. Specifically, it serves as footing for the study of meaning and language use in media discourses through the deployment of semantic primitives which is an area that has been neglected in Nigeria linguistic studies. This study has applied a triangulation method using Natural Semantic Metalanguage theory, complemented by Evans' Lexical Concepts and to the analyses of semantic primitives in the reports on politics in Nigeria. This has resulted in the identification of the major the semantic primitives in the news reports and the main operational ideologies of the *Newswatch* organization.

6. Recommendation

Researchers in linguistics are increasingly exploiting large corpora in diverse ways to provide answers to questions in linguistics. Thus, curriculum planners for studies in language and linguistics should incorporate the teaching of methods of corpus approach to linguistic data analyses into the training of linguists. This will help them to take the best advantage of the approach in addition to other suitable ones in their various research.

Corpus approach to linguistic analyses is rich. It could be used by scholars in language and linguistics to address diverse research issues in linguistics. In view of this, scholars in language and linguistics, particularly, post graduate students, should be introduced to corpus method of linguistic analyses of language data at the initial stage of their programmes such that they become aware of the affordances of the method and use it in rewarding ways in the course of their studies and in their professional practice.

Finally, corpus approach should be integrated into Research Methodology course at undergraduate level in order to expose the students to the rich affordances of the method. This may stimulate their interest in the employment of the approach to solving research questions in language, linguistics and other allied fields with or without other useful and appropriate methods.

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