A STYLISTIC ANALYSIS OF ORGANISATIONAL SIGNALS AND SUB-THEMATIC IDENTIFICATION ELEMENTS IN SELECTED NIGERIAN NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

BY

SALIHU AHMAD YUSUF
P13AREN9001

BEING A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL, AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY, ZARIA IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

2015

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the dissertation was written by me, and that it is the product of my own research.It has never been presented in any previous application for a higher degree. All quotations are clearly indicated while sources of information have been duly acknowledged by means of reference.

SALIHU AHMAD YUSUF Sign…… Date…….

CERTIFICATION

This dissertation entitled: *A Stylistic Analysis of Organisational Signals and Sub-Thematic Identification Elements in Selected Nigerian Newspaper Articles* meets the regulations governing the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. It is approved for its contribution to the development of knowledge and literary presentation.

Prof. Adebayo A. Joshua	……...	…….
Chairman, Supervisory Committee	Signature	Date
Dr. S.A. Abaya	……	……..
Member, Supervisory Committee	Signature	Date
Dr. (Mrs). R.S. Abdulrasheed	……..	……..
Member, Supervisory Committee	Signature	Date
Dr A.A Liman	……..	……..
Head of Department	Signature	Date
Prof A.Z Hassan	……..	……..
Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies	Signature	Date

DEDICATION

I hereby dedicate this dissertation to all relatives and well-wishers.

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ABSTRACT

The aim of thisstudy thesis is to investigate organizational signals (textual cohesion) and sub-thematic identification (paragraph development) as the basic elements of writing to enhance textual unity and understanding (coherence) and the main objective is inquiry into the composition, readability and comprehension of newspaper articles by Nigerian journalists. Specifically, the research examinesthe textual organization, cohesive devices and paragraph development as the underlying elements for comprehensibility of written texts. The broader objectives include the identification of whether articles written by Nigerian journalists follow norms of English composition writing, comply with the rules of unity and coherence in essay writing, if the paragraphs are sufficiently developed to enhance understanding and whether reading is made smooth through the use of appropriate linking devices. Both authorial and topical works by various linguists and scholars including: Fairclough (1999), Haliday and Hasan (1976, 1985, 1994), Allerton, (1979), Stubbs, (1930), Crystal and Davy (1974), Bell, (1984), Oluikpe, (2002) Frank (2004), Rasheed (1990)in areas of text analysis, composition writing, newspaper language and functional use of English, gave insight into the procedure of the research. As an aspect of text linguistics, the data consists of twenty excerpts, four each from the five national papers selected for inquiry: i) Daily Trust, ii) The Guardian, iii) The Vanguard, iv) The Punch and v) The Nation. These different papers from which the sample texts are chosen contain the various types of essays necessary for our research. Their analysis has given answers to the research questions set. A descriptive analysis is undertaken to test the coherence features in the sampled newspaper essays. From the findings of the study, it is evident that articles by the Nigerian print media are foremost composed to inform their varied audiences. Thus, differences are found between composing an editorial and an ordinary news item because while the former is meant to satisfy a well-read audience, the latter is for all other readers without regard to their educational level. However, attempt is made in most excerpts sampled to follow the terms of English essay writing from the introduction to the conclusion. Hence, the selection and application of the requisite organizational signals and the relevant developmental patterns for sub-thematic identification which from our analysis depend on the type of essay that is, narrative, descriptive, argumentative or expository. Generally, analysis of the data has enabled therealization of the impact of single sentences as whole paragraphs on the unity and coherence of texts. Also, our analysis found out that the unity and coherence quality of all the samples investigated relies heavily on the kinds of linking devices used. On the whole, the findings reveal that differences in the excerpts are minimal.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS USED

REF	-	Reference
Conj	-	Conjunction
L/Coh	-	Lexical Cohesion
Subs	-	Substitution
Def	-	Definite
Pron	-	Pronoun
R/Pron	-	Reflexive Pronoun
Art	-	Article
Dem	-	Demonstrative

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Preamble

This initial chapter is an introduction to the research on text coherence as a component of discourse analysis in linguistics.The main focus of the study is on the analysis of relatedness of the elements of writing in newspaper essays in the Nigerian context. It is, therefore, worthwhile to note from the onset that good writing is that in which ideas are properly connected so that readers can move easily from one thought to the other. As such, the appropriate usage of organizational signals or, more precisely, transitional words or linkers by journalists to portray the movement of ideas in a text is one of the intricacies in the use of written language which this thesis attempts to investigate. Hence, this chapter contains the general background to the study, the statement of the research problem, the research questions and the scope of the study.

1.1 Background to the Study

As an aspect of knowledge, writing constitutes a critical nexus in the linguistic and communicative development of mankind because unlike speaking, writing needs to be taught and learnt formally. In spite of its complexities, writing documents ideas, which are usually meant to educate, convince, persuade, entertain or inform. All these can only be achieved by the unity of the topic through the use of cohesive devices to attain coherence. Thus, meaning is effectively realised. The success of any piece of writing, therefore, depends on the effective organisation of all its parts: letters, words, sentences and paragraphs through which ideas flow.

According to Eko (1999), there are three major qualities of efficient organisation: unity, coherence and paragraph development. And, that for effective realisation of these qualities in continuous writing, transitional expressions such as repeating key words and phrases, using

pronoun references as well as parallel forms is all the more compelling and must be applied with expertise. Their usage and function in newspaper articles particularly, news reports and editorials, selected from some Nigerian newspapers constitute the base of the present thesis. Elements of written compositions such as the organisation, paragraph development and discourse markers or linkers, would be identified and closely studied for the textual analysis of excerpts from the following newspapers: *Daily Trust, The Guardian, The Vanguard, The Punch and The Nation.* Precisely, therefore, the appropriate application of transitional elements to express sequence, emphasis, concession, contrast, similarity, etc will form the basis of our analysis. Thus, all the attributes of thematic unity in written English composition, with particular reference to the writing elements employed for the smooth flow of thought and the subsequent ease of readability, are thoroughly investigated. Consequently, news articles as produced by journalists of the Nigerian print media to whom English is a second language form the bulk of the research population and sample.

The choice of the language of the media via selected Nigerian newspaper texts stems from the researcher's intention to work on more practical writings rather than theoretical classroom essays. Also, some news essays could go for academic discourses possessing both the form and content of formal written English compositions. In other words, they are characterised by the same academic procedures of school essay writing involving: "various tasks from choosing a question; to gathering information; to writing an argument; to reworking your ideas: to presenting and managing your time.' (Frank, 2004:5).

From the aforementioned, the most salient feature of this study is an inquiry into linguistic coherence in written English essays as found in newspaper articles of the Nigerian print media.

Historically, the English Language has served the purpose of both the missionary and the British colonialists in the country. And up to date, it has remained a useful means of serving some communicative needs in our multilingual society, among which is the language of most newspapers. This is in fact, not only of great interest to this study but also a necessary argument as text coherence for ease of readability and comprehension in an environment where English functions as a second language, is subjected to investigation.

It is against this background that English language will for long, remain the lingua Franca of Nigeria because it is the most qualified to be used for inter- ethnic interaction and for specific purposes like the mass media. Though some indigenous languages are continuously being developed to meet the communicative needs of the nation, much is yet to be done to come to terms with standardization in orthography, syntax or even, national as well as its international acceptance. Nevertheless, it is important to emphasize that the goal of media essay writers in Nigeria is to be able to communicate their message using the English Language correctly. Most studies in the use of the English Language by news writers in Nigeria condemn their lack of effectiveness and clarity as they appear too 'bookish'. Furthermore, linguists such as Steven (1965), Tomori (1974), and Ubahakwe (1979), are categorical in their condemnation of '*the dullness and pompous nature'* of compositions by Nigerian news writers.

Textual analysis as an aspect of discourse analysis requires the knowledge of what a text is. In a nutshell, a text, according to Halliday and Hasan (1976), means any spoken or written passage of whatever length that forms a unified whole. They view a text as language in use with semantic implication that is characterized by meaning rather than form. Most importantly, the text, as a functional entity, is an instance of living language within the context of situation. To Halliday and Hasan (1976), also:

> ….any piece of language that is operational, functioning as a unity in some context of situation, constitutes a text. It may be spoken or written, in any style or genre, and involving any number of active participants. It will usually display a form of consistency that is defined by the concept of register: a consistency in the meaning styles or type of semantic configuration which embody its relations to its environment. In other words, a text is usually reasonably homogeneous, at least in those linguistic aspects which most closely reflect and express its functional relationship to its setting. (Halliday and Hasan1976:293-4)

Thus, the newspaper essays chosen for the present research are texts worthy of any form of inquiry since they represent the realization of meaning socially and contextually.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

As an art that comes over a period of time with practice, writing, as a representation of thought and words, cannot be done meaningfully without adequate training. Consequently, the crux of this study is whether the Nigerian journalist using English as his medium for transmitting messages is able to compose newspaper articles that are unified and coherent enough to aid comprehension by allowing for a smooth progression of thought as well as making reading easy and straightforward.

The realisation of both meaning and comprehension emanates from the use of transitional devices that signal the movement of one sentence to another as well as one paragraph to the other and how the entire composition relates to the main theme of discussion. Likewise, a discussion on the unique development of paragraphs as to the relationship between each word, phrase or sentence to the topic sentence of each sub-theme would be advanced to explicate the impact of such terms on the structure and semantics of a piece of writing.Thus, the description and explication of common transitional devices as used by Nigerian authors of newspaper articles is the problem that this investigation attempts to resolve.

1.2.1 Research Questions

The following research questions are therefore set:

i. To what extent are most Nigerian newspaper articles deficient of the basic elements needed in writing good essays in English?

ii. How do the lack of appropriate connectivity of thought andineffective use of linking devices affect the delivery of the required message of reports and other features composed by some journalists in Nigerian newspapers?

iii. Why do uncorrelated paragraphs or sub-themes hamper the comprehension of some Nigerian newspaper articles?

vi. To what extent is reading made uninteresting because paragraphs are not fully developed and unified?

1.3 Aim and Objectives of the Study

The aim of this research is to do a linguistic analysis of organisational signals and sub-thematic identifications as the basic elements for coherence in writing using Nigerian newspaper articles as samples. The objectives of the study therefore are to:

i. Identify whether articles in Nigerian newspapers follow conventions of Standard English composition writing,

ii. Establish whether Nigerian journalists observe the rules of unity and coherence in essay writing,

iii. Determine whether sub-themes or paragraphs are developed sufficiently to enhance comprehension; and

iv. Ascertain if transitional devices are properly used to make reading smooth.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The relevance of the study goes beyond a mere academic exercise to drawing the attention of Nigerian journalists to the need to compose unified, coherent and fully developed reports for effective consumption by their readers. Also, it is to serve as resource material for academic input.

Furthermore, this study throws more light on the salient attributes of transitional words in making the movement of thought smooth and cohesive for journalists and writers alike. The various linking devices are highlighted to make clear their use and importance in composition writing. Each word, phrase, sentence or paragraph is properly scrutinized to explain its relationship with that before or after it. Hence, allowing writers of different texts in the English language, particularly the print media, to be more conscious of the wholeness of their end products.

Also, this study would be of immense advantage to teachers, speech writers, readers and other users of English as a second or foreign language. To all, this inquiry into the application and function of discourse markers will pave way for further search for knowledge in the use of writing for mass communication-particularly and the mostly eclectic Nigerian newspapers.

1.5 Justification for the Study

The essence of this research on unity and coherence in newspaper texts cannot be over exaggerated. Foremost, since writing is an academic pursuit, the work can serve as a potential referential document on composing newspaper articles in the Nigerian context. Also, it can aid in the repositioning of the newspaper industry as a whole. With emphasis on the elements of writing, the research will in no small measure throw light to the need for more criticism on the application of standards to essay writing for mass consumption generally. The dissertation

whose content is more structural is a sway from the over-flogged ideological investigation into newspaper compositions. In this vein, the work will go a long way to enrich its kind on the use of English for Specific Purposes {ESP}.

1.6 The Scope and Delimitation of the Research

This study is neither conclusive on essay writing nor a critique of the application of the elements of discourse by Nigerian newspaper journalists. The premise of the investigation therefore revolves around the analysis of compositions and the explication of the functions of the organization, paragraph development and transitional devices as used by newspaper authors in the Nigerian context.

Consequently, only four excerpts are extracted for analysis from each of the five national newspapers selected for this thesis *viz: Daily Trust, The Guardian, The Vanguard, The Punch and The Nation.* Furthermore, papers, journals, theses and books on writing in general and newspaper writing in particular are synthesized for utmost review of the necessary literature for the study. Also, a lot had been done to as much as possible measure to the norms of Standard English only.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.0 Introduction

The main focus of this thesis is on coherence, that is, transition between ideas. An attempt is therefore made in the present chapter to review the literature related to the subject of the study. As such, investigation is made into the findings of linguistic scholars in the field of writing for communicative purposes, especially as they affect works on the organisation of textual material for ease of readability and comprehension. Specifically, the notion of language function as developed by Halliday (1985) and spelt out in Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) which relates to the subject of this research is critically assessed.

Furthermore, since the premise of the topic involves a practical approach to English composition writing, studies on language use in newspaper articles which form the source of the researcher's analyses are also reviewed. Apart from the topical review of the related literature therefore, the chapter also includes studies on theses on similar works. The doctoral theses of Rasheed (1990), Frank (2004) and Omojuwa (2004) which investigated issues bordering on newspaper language are referred to. It is worthy to note that while the previous researchers concentrated on the subject of ideology, syntax and rhetoric, the present research attempts to explore the capability of Nigerian journalists to write newspaper articles that are unified and coherent enough for readability and comprehension.

Instances of such references intermingle with the review of the topical literature sub-divided below into: a) Writing: An Overview, b) Elements of English Compositions, c) Coherence and Cohesion, d) Newspaper Language and e) Varieties of English

2.1.1 Writing: An Overview

As a way of recording language in visible form, Staton (1990), White (1981), Burton (1981) and Eko (1999), view writing as a much more complex form of communication than speech. These linguists believe that the complexity arises first and foremost, from its need to be formally learned. Their school of thought defines writing as a growing ability to construct and convey meaning in written language, matching style to audience and purpose. To Staton (1990), writing is a literacy skill in which the mastery of its mechanics becomes vital for effective communication.

As such, the writing process is viewed by Nuna (1989), Strunk and White (1999), Celce –Murcia and Olshtain (2000) and other scholars as a very difficult skill to learn because of its nature of using signs or symbols to represent language. Various definitions have therefore, been posited in attempts to extricate the complexities of writing but none has yet been conclusive. For, unlike speaking, writing is man-made so cannot be naturally acquired.

White's (1981) emphasis on the uniqueness of writing establishes that the skill has to be taught by grooming, coaching and more especially, monitoring the writer on how it is done as he progresses in literacy. Nevertheless, in their various definitions, linguists consciously restrict themselves to the kind of writing being talked about since writing can take the form of letters, articles, reports, stories, poems, essays, and all other written discourses meant for communication. According to Okoye (2006:50), writing is also an imaginative composition through which the writer communicates to the audience by way of 'words'. Words, to him, are brought together according to the type of message the author intends to relay.

Strunk and White (1999:10) define writing as the process of expressing one's feelings through the use of the most appropriate words for the understanding of one's interlocutor. As

such, the importance of communication to the linguist is the listener or reader's comprehension of the message being passed. This view accords largely with the focus of this study because the readability and comprehension of any written material, newspaper articles essentially, rely very much on how the text coheres.

Celce-Murcia and Olshtain (2000:142) view writing as using written words to compose readable and comprehensible texts with the main aim of communicating an idea, a concept or, anything the writer wants the reader to know. These linguists distinguish the representation of language in a textual medium through the use of the agreed letters of the alphabets, from other forms of communications such as signs, symbols and other similar illustrations as are found in paintings, drawings, recordings and other non-textual modes.

Consequently, the nature of writing itself makes its learning difficult to any user of language regardless of whether the language to be used is native or foreign. Hence, the definition of writing as the job or activity of creating books, poems, newspaper articles and so on and the view that writing is about words written or printed, will form the working definition for this thesis.

It is imperative that we distinguish between writing and speaking as language and communication subsume both. To linguists like Nimson (1980), the study of language must be approached from spoken language because it is assumed then that the oral form is much more fundamental than the written one. The reasons they advance include the fact that speech evolved before writing. Also, that speech is more universal and all human beings are capable of producing or hearing it. In addition, that people learn to speak as well as process spoken language more easily than the written version.

According to Bryne (1980), speech is a two- way process between speaker and listener. He adds that it involves the productive skill of speaking and the receptive skill of listening with understanding. In other words, while the speaker encodes the message, the listener decodes it by interpretation. In speech, therefore, the participants are in face-to-face contact whereby several extra-linguistic acts such as gestures, signs and other facial or body expressions are exhibited.

Nevertheless, modern day linguists find the study of written language as a more worthwhile and valuable academic process than speech. Bryne (1980), and Broughton et al (1980), state that the written language is much more convenient for processing large amounts of linguistic data.

For the purpose of the textual analysis of this research, the four English language skills which, according to linguists comprise of a two-dimensional scheme are worthy of note, *viz:*

> In the first dimension, the language skills are categorized as the receptive and the productive mediums. The receptive medium includes listening and reading while speaking and writing form the productive medium. In the second dimension, the language skills are categorized as spoken and written mediums. The spoken mediums are listening and speaking while the written mediums are reading and writing. (William, 1990:21)

The written medium particularly is most essential to the present thesis as text coherence, on the one hand, and readability and comprehension, on the other, are being investigated. Therefore, works of linguistic educators such as William, Garbutt and O'sulklivan, Bright and Mc Gregor and French who believe that writers have to be properly groomed in order to be able to carry out writing activities effectively are all the more necessary. However, it can be argued that the situation in Nigeria does not allow for the effective teaching of these skills in schools. This, in turn, has an adverse effect on prospective news essay writers.

2.1.1 Language and Communication

2.1.1.1 An Overview of Language

The several ways in which language has been defined cannot be completely outlined in this piece of work but the most salient ones are worthy of note in order to buttress the position of the present thesis. For instance, Bloom and Lahey (1981) have defined language as a code whereby ideas, intonation, objects, feelings and so on in human society (the world) are represented through conventional and arbitrary symbols for the purpose of communication either orally or in a written form.

Since language places man above all other animals, Naldman (1977) define it as a system of articulated sounds organized by human thoughts as used by a group of human beings for the purpose of communication. Similarly, Noam Chomsky in *Reflections on Language* states:

> A normal child acquires his knowledge of language on a relatively slight exposure and without specific training. He can quite effortlessly make use of an intricate structure of specific rules and guiding principles to convey his thought and feelings to others, arousing in them novel ideas and subtle perceptions and judgment.(Chomsky: I975: 4).

Brumfit (I985) views language as the relationship between words and experience that could be produced and received by the speaker and listener respectively. Lahey (1978) concludes that language is an instrument used by human beings to communicate with one another. In a nutshell, therefore, Barber (1964), Park (1962) and, a host of other linguists assert that language is that psychosocial relationship that binds human society together in a community as a linguistic group.

From whichever angle language is defined, the fact that it is a code whereby ideas of the user about the environment and the world at large are represented through a conventional system of arbitrary signals of communication cuts across all the definitions. Language therefore, exists for communication purposes. As Crystal points out, it is the means by which human beings relate themselves to the world, to each other and to the community of which they are members. Adding that, as an activity used by man to express his everyday activities, the human society can hardly function without language, 'because it is man's unique and most priceless possession' (Crystal 1987:78). Yule and Brown (1983) identified transaction and interaction as the two main functions of human language. While the former primarily has to do with the communication of information, the latter is used for establishing and maintaining social relationships.

2.1.1.2 Characteristics of Language

Linguists agree that the main properties of human language which make it distinct from other forms of communication used by other creatures include:

a) Displacement: That is, human language users' are capable of producing messages that indicate time and location. As such, language can be effectively used to relate events which are far removed in time and place.

b. Arbitrariness: This means that there is no natural connection between a linguistic form and its meaning. For example, there is no natural meaning or linkage between a word and its referent.

c. Productivity: This is the capacity of language users to continually create novel utterances that is, even children are capable of producing words they have never heard

before and adults can manipulate their linguistic resources to produce new expressions when new situations arise.

d. Cultural Transmission: human language can only be acquired in a culture with other speakers and, from one generation to the next but not from parental genes.

e. Discreteness: sounds produced in human language are meaningfully distinct and are produced in segment

The newspaper as an essential agent for the establishment and maintenance of social relationships embodies all the properties.

2.1. 1.3. The Concept of Communication

There are many definitions of the term communication which make it a multi-dimensional concept. Chapel and Read (1984), view it as a means through which thoughts are transferred from one person to another. Eyre (1983), adds that information passed can be communicative only if the given message is understood and acted upon. Also, because of the universal nature of communication, its definitions are countless but linguists agree that it is a process, that is, a continuous activity which involves the passing of information from one person or group of persons to another.

According to Dance and Larson (1976), the two categories of human communication are the verbal and non- verbal forms. To them, the verbal form of communication entails the use of utterances or words that is, oral and written linguistic forms respectively. Oral utterances are sounds verbally produced by human speech organs naturally while written words are symbols produced by man artificially to document language for preservation and transmission.

On the other hand, non- verbal forms of communication do not involve the use of words or utterances but rather body movement and other paralinguistic sounds. The written aspect is vital to this study since the most important function of the newspaper is to inform.

2.1.1.4 English for Specific Purposes (ESP)

As the premise of this study revolves around the English language as used by the Nigerian print media, it is emphatic that language in such a case is being put to a special need and must thus, be manipulated to the purpose. According to Hutchinson and Waters (1987), the theory of ESP developed with the expansion of demands of English to suit particular needs and developments in the field of linguistics and education. 'Journalese', to borrow from Crystal and Davy (1967), particularly news essay writing, can be categorized as a special form of academic writing.

Though distinct, the language of the newspaper, Natalya (2010), also opines is the same as any other sort of writing; as it needs be fluent, confident and easy to read. He states further that its purpose and its meaning must be made absolutely clear. In addition, it must engage the reader right from the first word to the last full stop. This, evidently, tallies with the observation by Yusuf (1992), that the choice of difficult or unfamiliar linguistic items such as, words and structures by the journalists of the print media in Nigeria do not only complicate reading but also hinder comprehension.

2.1.1.5 Writing and Discourse Analysis

Discourse Analysis, as a linguistic discipline, seeks to join sentences together to express complex thoughts and ideas to give prominence to language as an excellent mode of

communication. To Shiach (1996), the concept which is an area in the use of language has to do with specific ways of thinking, speaking, writing or reading.

Writing involves making use of language to reflect specific types of thinking or propositions. Situations dictate the different forms of discourse. Thus, Frank (2004), quoting Shiach (1996), has stressed the importance of understanding that 'the ideas embodied in a piece of writing... are not separate from the words used by the writer' (Frank 2004:43).

Consequently, the need for a coherent text which as a property of discourse culminates in textual simplicity, readability and comprehension and which the present study attempts to establish is inevitable. In their works on discourse therefore, Noam Chomsky's (1965), linguistic competence and sociolinguistic performance and Ferdinand de Saussure's (1968), 'langue' and 'parole' which are commonly referred to as use and usage were propounded to ease encoding and decoding of text messages. Other aspects of style to serve the same purpose such as appropriateness, cohesiveness and the difference between spoken and written discourses were also later greatly emphasized by linguists like Fromkin and Rodman (1988). It must be noted here that the linguistic choices that are most relevant to the unity of the text, more especially, news excerpts from the selected Nigerian papers for this research and how they cohere for ease of comprehension and readability are the most relevant to the present study.

Since coherence, the main concern of the present thesis is a part of discourse analysis entailing the understanding of text messages, then discourse a linguistic event, is in the domain of semantics as observed by Akwangu (1966). In other words, discourse analysis goes beyond individual words to make the sentence its unit of study. Akwangu (1966), therefore, agreed with Ricoeur (1978), and outlined the following as the five characteristics of discourse:

1) Discourse is simultaneously event and meaning

2) Discourse both identifies and predicates - linking the particular with the universal.

3) Discourse is an act.

4) Discourse unites sense and reference - that is, in addition to making sense discourse applies itself to the extra-linguistic reality.

5) Within it can be differentiated reference to reality and reference to the speaker\writer whereby the speaker\writer uses the personal pronoun 'I', and the present tense of the verb to which other tenses and aspects, the deictic elements, and the adverbials of time and space also derive their capacity to specify. (Akwangu 1966: 134-146)

Generally, therefore, Akwangu (1966) concludes that in an attempt by the Functional Linguists to use the text to explain how human communication works, the study of discourse as a linguistic system was given prominence. He further adds that since discourse encompasses the study of the organization of whole compositions, its scope goes far beyond mere dependent or independent clauses as it engulfs larger written material such as paragraphs and the entire essay.

In line with the arguments of Jawoskin and Cospland (1999) that the analysis of a text should incorporate tracing influence from one text to another as in text to text comparison, the premise of the present research follows the inter-textual approach to Discourse Analysis as established by Fairclough (1999). As such, a textual analysis of selected news essays culled from some Nigerian newspapers are subjected to investigation for coherence and their subsequent effect on readability and comprehension.

2.1.1.6 Text Analysis

Emphatically, textual analysis is the most vital aspect of the present study as it specifies its scope, which is the thematic unity of news essays. In the functional approach to text analysis, account must be made for several and not just single sentences so that how the word order in a previous sentence affects that of the proceeding one can be explained. Going by the dictates of textual analysis, therefore, the text is the main instrument for its evaluation.

As such, the concept of the text which Halliday and Hasan (1976) view as a write-up that forms a unified whole, could vary in terms of degree. The size, notwithstanding, a text is a unit of language in use and not a mere grammatical unit. It encompasses meaning and not form and coherence. The theme of this thesis is thus, also semantic bound. In the same vein, Stanton (1996) defines the text as an autonomous entity and indeed, adds that it is a coherent piece of language which can accomplish its rhetorical purpose without depending on interaction between sender and receiver. For the enhancement of the present thesis, however, the stance of Halliday (1970), of the importance of reader-writer interaction cannot be over-emphasized as the reader is completely participating in a communicative act and must therefore be informed by the writer accordingly.

To Hasan (1985), unity is the most important property of texts. As obtained in all written compositions, she emphasizes the three basic divisions of the beginning, the middle and end as the 'overall structure of texts'. As the present research investigates news essays therefore, the relevance of connectivity in sentences and paragraphs for smooth flow of thought, as observed by Hasan (1985), cannot be over- looked. Moreover, achievement of text unity can only be proved through a thorough textual analysis so as to create the basis for a better

understanding of the use of language for special purposes such as news reports and other journalistic features.

Frank (2004) asserts that the analysis of texts is a necessary part of Discourse Analysis as it enables the mapping out of systematic analysis of social contexts. In support of her view, Stubbs' (1993) definition of discourse analysis as a term which is ambiguous:

> Roughly speaking, it refers to attempts to study the organization of language above the sentence or above the clause, and therefore to the study of larger linguistic units... It follows also that discourse analysis is also concerned with language use in social context ... (Stubbs, 1993; 45)

Frank (2004) also noted that as an interdisciplinary movement, most of the definitions advanced for discourse analysis:

> Emphasize language in use in context of social, political and cultural formations; reflecting social order, shaping it and shaping individuals' interactions with society. This therefore explains why the use of language in news essays as a type of discourse in which information is disseminated, reflect social order. (Frank, 2004:46)

2.1.2.0 Composition Writing

Composition, essay or continuous writing is an art that involves the writing of how and what one feels as one puts down the experiences streaming from one's mind expressively on paper. Candlin (1952), defines a composition as a written essay. Etymologically, 'essay' is a French word meaning an effort and the ability to sketch one's thought in words on a particular subject for a response. Thus, writing an essay relies very much on what is to be discussed which is almost always encapsulated in a topic or heading. That apart, Eko (1999), believes that the writer must also be able to establish the purpose, identify his audience and create a definite

situation for his write-up. To him, therefore, writing is a form of persuasion (Eko, 1999:19). Oluikpe (2002), supports the assertion and defines an essay as:

> A deliberate development in clear, well-reasoned prose of one or more ideas through several paragraphs to achieve a desired effect upon a known audience, the effect being the readers understanding of and respect for the writer's point of view on a given topic (Oluikpe, 2002:231).

To linguists such as Halliday, Crystal, Quirk, Greenbaum, Leech, Svartvik and many others, therefore, every essay must have a context. For them, too, there could be various purposes for writing, most prominent of which are descriptive, narrative, expository and argumentative.

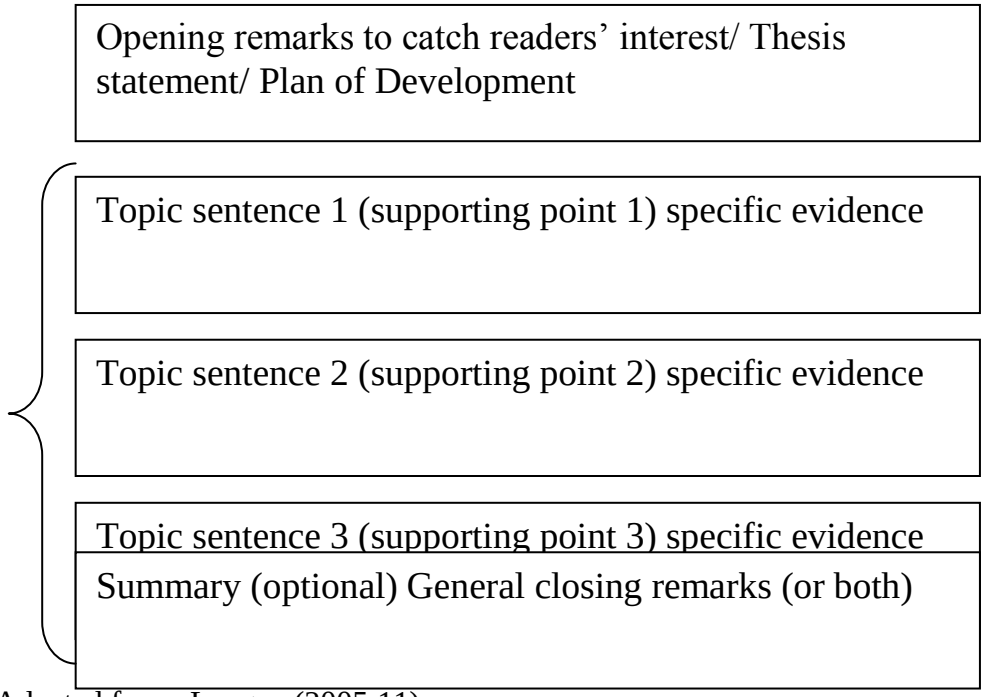
Parry (1979), states that an essay is the purposeful selection and organization of ideas, facts and opinions for communication. It is not merely a graphic representation of speech but the production of a clear, unified and coherent embodiment of reflections in the human thinking process. He, along with Humphries (1992), enumerates pre-writing, writing and re-writing as the three basic stages of the process of essay writing.

In a nutshell, pre-writing involves the selection of a topic, forming an idea about the topic, searching for, analyzing and arranging facts gathered and then, drawing up an outline for the composition. Writing, on the other hand, has three essential parts entailing the introduction, body and conclusion. While the introduction presents the subject for discussion, the body explicates all the ideas contained in the outline paragraph by paragraph and the conclusion sums up the entire write-up, Oluikpe (2002:237). For ease of readability and comprehension, however, the entire composition must be a unified whole through the use of the most necessary linguistic linking devices of cohesion in order to spawn a coherent text.

Fig. 1

Model Essay Plan

Title of the Essay



Adapted from: Langan (2005:11)

2.1.2.1 Qualities of Good Essays

Bright and McGregor (1968), believe that apart from pre-writing activities, there are some basic qualities of good essays which include:

a) **Thematic Unity:** By this, all the ideas expressed in an essay need to be relevant to the topic and a1l the paragraphs must be logically linked to ensure coherence. Linkage in the flow of thought from one paragraph to another should be clear. In essay writing, unity must be taken beyond the paragraph and made to continue throughout the entire discourse regardless of its length.

Unity of the paragraph is as essential as the thematic unity. Paragraph unity could be achieved in two ways. 'First, the paragraph must have a single generalization that serves as the focus of attention, that is, the topic sentence. Secondly, a writer must control the content of every other sentence in the body of the paragraph such that, (a) it contains more specific information than the topic sentence and (b) it maintains the focus of attention as the topic sentence.' (Kies, 2010), Kies, however, cites two major exceptions to this formula, that is, when paragraphs indicate new speakers as in dialogues and, the other which is of greater concern to this study, is in journalism where paragraphs are especially short for the promotion of conspicuous graphics and ease of readability.

b) **Economy of Words:** In well written essays, language is used appropriately with careful selection of vocabulary, sentence structure and paragraph development. The choice of words must be apt and it should address the issue at hand without ambiguity. To concord this assertion, Eko quotes Strunk and White in *Elements of Style*:

> A sentence should contain no unnecessary words; paragraph no unnecessary sentences, for the same reason that a drawing should have no unnecessary lines and a machine no unnecessary parts. This requires not that the writer makes all his sentences short or that he avoids all detail...but that every word tells. (Eko, 1999:1)

Hence, since newspapers usually report the news in brief, the journalist has to convey the most essential parts of the news in the most economical way possible, while attracting and keeping the reader's attention. Effective use of discourse markers to tie ideas together for smooth transition from paragraph to paragraph using minimal words while enhancing coherence, therefore, become all the more compelling.

c) **Clarity**: Simple and clear expressions are very essential to good writing especially, for ease of readability and comprehension. Also, the use of clear words and sentences eliminate ambiguity. While a mixture of sentence patterns coupled with interesting phrases and

metaphors makes both writing and reading more orderly, attractive and interesting rather than vague, obscure and boring. There is maxim in a German that 'whatever can be said, can be said clearly'. (Eko, 1999:6) News writers must be particularly clear not only for the avoidance of misinterpretation but also for the captivation of the reader's attention.

d) Simplicity: The use of familiar and simple vocabulary items enhances good writing. Effort must be made to avoid pompous and high-sounding language. Selection of words should be apt so as to give a vivid description or detailed account of the subject matter. Because of the eclectic nature of newspapers, it has a diverse audience and the choice of both lexical and grammatical items should be moderate enough to carry all readers along in spite of their levels of education.

Accordingly, Yusuf, (1994), posits that because of the different readers envisaged, the linguistic items selected in the writing of news reports differ from those of editorials which are formal in composition and meant for the consumption of a well-read audience. Similarly, Crystal and Davy, (1969), are of the view that in good journalistic writing, stories are brought to life through being as simple. However, they sum up thus: 'the language difficulties, grammar and vocabulary problems, of course, have to be mastered when working with a newspaper because of its linguistic sophistications.'

2.1.2.2 The Sentence Types

A sentence is a group of words that has a subject, a predicate and expresses a complete thought. To Brown, Nelson, Shaw and Weldon (1984:43), sentences are either classified functionally or structurally. Sentences are classified functionally as:

Declarative, Interrogative, Imperative and Exclamatory:

A *declarative* sentence is a statement that gives information and ends with a full stop.

Examples:

i) Abuja is the capital of Nigeria.

ii) She asked if liked fruits.

An *interrogative* sentence asks questions and ends with a question mark.

Examples:

i) Can you pay now?

ii) What is in the box?

An *imperative* sentence gives a command or a polite request and ends with either a full stop or an exclamation mark.

Examples:

i) Wear your coat!

ii) Give me a cup of water, please.

An *exclamatory* sentence simply expresses surprise. It is always followed by an exclamation mark.

Examples:

i) You have broken all the rules!

ii) Shut up and get out!

Structurally, sentences are classified as simple, compound, complex or multiple:

A *simple* sentence is a sentence that contains only one clause.

Examples:

i) The man watched his walk down the road.

ii) Simple sentences are not determined by length.

A *compound* sentence contains at least two main clauses that are linked together by a coordinating conjunction which can be either ‘and’, ‘but’ and ‘or’.

Examples:

i) Abdullah had parked his taxi for the night, but was too tired lock the gate properly.

ii) He was not invited but he attended the meeting.

A *complex* sentence contains one main clause and one or more subordinate clauses.

Examples:

i) Everyone was angry before the principal arrived.

ii) My wife was surprised when the building started.

A *multiple* sentence contains more than two main clauses linked by coordinating conjunction.

Example:

i) She was invited to the school, and was given a work schedule but she did not agree with their condition of service.

2.1.2.3 The Paragraph: Structure and Development

In writing, letters of the alphabet are used to form words; words combine to form sentence; sentences are brought together to form paragraphs and a number them, culminate into an entire essay. The paragraph has therefore been defined by many linguists as the largest single unit of an essay which develops from a single main idea by means of supporting facts. Each paragraph is bound in one way or the other to that before or after it and all integral to the thematic comprehension of the totality of the composition.

Moreover, paragraphing is a way of dividing continuous discourse into convenient segments to make it meaningful and readable. To Candling (1952), the paragraph is a unit of thought above the word and the sentence. Its main function is to clarify the reader’s

understanding of an essay or a written piece of work as he is taken step by step successively along the writer's train of thought. He emphasizes that paragraphs exist only in a written discourse.

Though paragraphs are usually started in a fresh line and marked by indentation, business letter writers as well as modern printers prefer the block style in which all paragraphs are flushed uniformly to the left margin and demarcated by a space in between them. Glaththorn (1971), has advanced that an ordinary paragraph should have a minimum of a hundred words while Candling (1952) and Oluipke (1981) are of the view that the purpose and scale of writing should dictate paragraph length. They all agree that a good paragraph should be easy to follow, contain enough essential details and be appropriately linked.

The dominant idea in any well-formed paragraph is captured in a topic sentence which expresses the purpose of the paragraph. That is, it clearly states the paragraph's central idea or main theme. The location of the topic sentence can be anywhere within the paragraph. According to Oluikpe (1981), its position notwithstanding, a topic sentence saves the paragraph from being disjoined by ensuring continuity of thought within and in between the constituent sentences.

Since the topic sentence contains the main idea of the paragraph, it must be developed for the satisfaction of the reader. Though, this depends on the discourse in question, that is, whether the subject matter is a narrative, descriptive, argumentative or expository.

Supporting details, on the other hand, complement the topic sentence by beefing it up with necessary examples or illustrations, comparisons or definitions and so on. All items meant for meaningful elaboration of the topic sentence must be logically ordered to achieve the unity of the theme.

Njoku (1981) therefore states that a paragraph is complete only when the central idea or the topic sentence relates properly to the supporting details in a cohesive manner. He also adds that writers must link the paragraphs in an essay properly with transitional devices such as *although, however, nevertheless, further* and so on. A good paragraph, he sums up, must be fully developed with direct bearing to the main theme that is 'unity', it must be logically related through connectives which is 'cohesion' and the sentences must be emphatic enough to bring out the significance of the main idea which is 'coherence'

Accordingly, all supporting sentences in a paragraph should help to develop and illustrate the topic sentence. Such clarifiers 'expatiate, elaborate, develop, illustrate, enumerate, justify, support, authenticate and illuminate the topic sentence. They are the flesh to clothe the skeleton of the topic.' (Olaoye and Olaniyi; 2009: 131) McCrimmon's (1985) postulation that properly written paragraphs should be characterized by 'internal consistence' is very relevant to the subject of this thesis as newspaper reports should be devoid of digression and unrelated details. All details should also, be complete and emphatic so that readers understand the message appropriately. Furthermore, supporting details should not be ambiguous. They should rather be clear and logically related through careful word choice, correct antecedent, and cataphoric and anaphoric references, meaningful repetitions and appropriate linking devices.

After deciding whether the paragraph is serving as an introductory, explanatory, enumerative, descriptive or concluding function, one then chooses the most appropriate developmental method. In addition, in order to ensure unity, 'development could be by examples, through details, by elimination, through questions, cause and effect etc.' (Glathorn, 1971 in Olaoye and Olaniyi, 2009).

2.1.2.4 Types of Essay Writing:

Essay writing is a medium through which an author expresses his feelings on a particular topic. Candling (1952) and Oluikpe (1981), state that the most striking quality of the essay is the subjectivity of the writer as he works hard to impress his feelings on the reader. Moreover, the essayist must be able to respond to his experiences and so should choose his words carefully.

There are various kinds of compositions but the salient ones as agreed upon by Burton and Humpries (1992) and Eko (1999) are: narrative, descriptive, argumentative and expository. Because of the eclectic nature of newspapers all the compositional types are vital to this thesis.

a) Descriptive writing

A descriptive work involves making use of one's power of observation in describing people, objects or a scenario. The description should be vivid enough to give all the required details in order to create a clear picture in the mind of the reader so that the reader not only sees but smells, feels, hears and tastes what is described through the words used.

Thus, a descriptive essay is used to produce in the mind of the reader a picture as clear and as accurate as that in the mind of the writer. As such, descriptive essays employ the use of adjectives to describe what is being discussed.

b) Narrative Writing

A narrative writing deals with telling a story or narrating events or incidents that took place in the past. It involves the narration of experiences or participation in the events or activities. The narrative is structured around chronological development of events. It could be around a person or hero. The purpose of writing a narrative is to tell a story, teach a lesson through analogy, render a complex emotionally-loaded message in an accommodating form, or provide the reader with a sophisticated literary experience.

c) Expository Writing

Expository writing deals with explaining how things are done, how a process is followed or how things work. An expository writing has no chronological organization but rather a logical one. It is usually objective and factual in nature.

Expository writing describes how something works. It involves process and analysis of how to do something and how to break down a broad topic into parts. In general, exposition is more concerned with defining an idea or tangible objects, comparing and contrasting two things.

Argumentative Writing

Argumentative writing is the ability of the writer to convince the reader to accept and act upon his ideas. It involves arguing for or against an idea. Arguments involve reasoning which can logically be done through deduction and induction. Arguments can also be persuasive in nature. This kind of writing can be done in three different ways: through taking an affirmative position; by adding further evidence that will counterbalance the arguments of the opponents; by pointing out fallacies in an opponent's arguments as a way of discrediting them.

On a general note, although a composition may be identified as one or the other of these forms of writing their patterns frequently intermingle or are mostly combined for effectiveness. For instance, ' in narrating a story, you may need to describe setting and character'; and 'to argue cogently you may need to explain, describe and narrate at different points of the essay'. (Oluikpe, 2002:238).

2.1.3.0 Cohesion and Coherence in Writing

2.1.3.1 Cohesion:

Cohesion and coherence are so invaluable to writing that linguists classify them as integral to writing. Their contribution to the texture of any piece of writing is immeasurable. As propounded by linguists like Halliday and Hasan (1976) in their book *Cohesion in English*, cohesion is used to tie pieces of the text together in specific ways. They view cohesion as the relationship between words in texts. They believe that the concept is a semantic one which refers to relations of meaning that exists within texts.

To Halliday and Hasan, cohesion is used to make texts more intelligible. Therefore, the use of various cohesive ties, to link together all the propositions in a text results in cohesion of that text.(Celce-Murcia and Olshtain, 2000:7)

Likewise, Gregory and Carrell (1978) are of the view that the text is a piece of language that forms a unified whole and not just a collection of unrelated sentences. To them it has 'texture' which is derivable from the fact that it functions as a unit within its environment. Brown and Yule (1983) believe that a text is not necessarily a communicative event of verbal record but any piece of written material that is bound together by cohesive ties. Hatch (1992) says the analysis of cohesive ties shows how readers or writers use linguistic signals to promote cohesion.

Cohesive Devices

It is only through the appropriate use of cohesive devices that meaningful texts are created. Such devices are defined but Cook's (1989) classification of these discourse markers as 'formal links between sentences and between clauses', and especially, the five different types of

cohesive devices postulated by Halliday and Hasan (1976) would guide the present research. The categories as enumerated are:

a) Reference

To Halliday (1976), reference is when a participant or circumstantial element introduced at one place in a text becomes a reference point for something that follows. Reference is said to be exophoric (situational), that is, if it links onwards to a person or object in the environment and it is realised by the first person pronoun *I*, you and *we*. On the other hand, reference is endophoric if it links inwards. Endophoric reference means that the identity presumed by the reference item is recoverable from within the text itself or from the system of meanings created as the text unfolds. This is so because writers build up a system of meaning when composing a text. Endophoric reference could be either anaphoric (preceding a text) or cataphoric (following a text)

Anaphoric reference is when the reference points backward to the history of the unfolding text, in other words, to a referent that has been mentioned already in the text. It sets up semantic relationship with something in the preceding text and then enables the referred item to be interpreted as either identical with the reference or in a way, contrasting it. Cataphoric reference however, points forward to the future of the unfolding text. It refers to a referent that is yet to be introduced. Demonstratives are also used in texts for either anaphoric or cataphoric referencing.

b) Substitution

According to Halliday and Hasan (1976), substitution occurs when a linguistic item is replaced by another. Therefore, the relationship that exists between items such as words, phrases or clauses in a given construction is what is termed substitution. In written discourse,

reference is described on the levels of semantic relationship while substitution is a relationship on the levels of grammar and vocabulary.

The three types of substitution advanced are: nominal, which is realised by extension from the head of a nominal group. Verbal substitution is realised by the verb do. And clausal substitution involves the substitution of a whole clause.

c) Ellipsis

For the avoidance of repetitions a word, phrase or clause could be omitted because it may be presupposed in a subsequent place in the text. This Halliday (1985) describes as positive omission. Also it is Halliday and Hasan's (1976) believe that ellipsis can be nominal, verbal or clausal.

d) Conjunction

To Halliday and Hasan (1976), conjunctions are cohesive devices used for joining words or clauses. In addition, conjunctions do not coordinate logically but textually which is more of a generalised type of connection holding between sentences. They proffer four categories of conjunctions *viz:*

a) Additive: these include *and, or, furthermore,* etc

b) Adversative: shows contrast between clauses in words like *but, however, yet,* etc.

c) Causal: these are used to explain reason between clauses using words like *so, then, hence* and so on.

d) Temporal conjunctions are used to relate time in words such as *after, then, before* and so on.

e) Lexical cohesion

According to Halliday and Hasan (1976), the cohesive effect achieved by the selection of vocabulary is what is termed Lexical Cohesion. Also, Halliday (1985) is of the view that lexical cohesion comes about when items selected in a particular statement have relationship with those that have already been used. To this effect, three propositions are given for the realisation of lexical cohesion *viz:*

i) Repetition: This comes with repeating some key lexical items in the text.

ii) Synonymy: this occurs when lexical items that are similar in meaning to those before them are selected.

iii) Collocation: This stems from an association between items making them co-occur, that is, the mention of one presupposes the other; they tie the text together naturally.

The importance of this unit on types of cohesive devices to the present work is invaluable because it is the vehicle for the attainment of coherence in texts which is the core of the researcher's investigation. Moreover, Halliday and Hasan (1976), Brown and Yule (1983) and Hill (2000), all agree that these devices knit elements in a discourse together thus making each chosen word or expression dependent on the other for the enhancement of not only textual unity but also readability and comprehension.

2.1.3.2 Coherence

Yule (1983) says that the meaning of a linguistic message is understood solely on the basis of the words and the types of sentences used to convey that message. Therefore, to him, syntactic structure and lexical items are relied upon to arrive at an interpretation of a written linguistic message. Coherence is said to have been achieved when elements of the message are

seen to be connected with or without overt linguistic connections between those elements. In other words, it is possible to have coherence without explicit cohesion. To Johns (1986), coherence as a feature internal to the text, is realised through either cohesion which is the linking of sentences in the text or the relationships among the propositions in the text.

Yule (1985:l4l) says the concept of coherence is not something which exists in the language but something which exists in people because they make sense of what they read or hear. Thus, the ability of a piece of writing to be distinguished as a connected text from others is called coherence. Hatch (l992) posits that coherence is obtained not just by deictic markers but by the rhetorical organization of the text. Moore (1971) defines it as 'the rhetorical quality by which all the parts are clearly and smoothly joined to each other.'(p115)

Coherence, according to Celce-Murcial and Olshtain (2000), contributes to the utility of a piece of discourse such that the individual sentences and utterances hang together and relate to each other. Essential to this research is their proposition that unity and relatedness are 'partially a result of a recognizable organizational pattern for the identification of the various thoughts and ideas in the passage. Kenneth Beare (1997) posits that providing transition between ideas is a matter of attitude and that linking devices placed in strategic spots only enable the reader to interpret messages better. To support the assertion, William Zinsser (2000), states:

> Transition is the phrase or it can be the word that links the sentence and the paragraphs to maintain the flow of the words. It creates soft connection between the texts of the document. The best transitions are the key to join the paragraphs and connect the disconnected phrase or paragraph. Transition stimulates the audience to react in a certain way on the basis of your ideas. (Wikipedia)

In an essay titled *Simplicity on the Use of Transitional Devices*, Zinsser, (2000) also argues against the employment of several transitional markers in writing as he says: 'even

though connections within the paragraphs are important, we do not need to crowd our writings with all sorts of artificial links'(Wikipedia). Both Beare (1987), and Zinsser (2000), are, therefore, in agreement with the four basic mechanical considerations in the provision of transition between ideas: using transitional expressions, repeating key words and phrases, using pronoun reference and using parallel form. The best use of such transitional devices allows for the creation of coherence within the paragraphs of a written discourse.

Coherence is a product of many different factors which combine to make every paragraph and every sentence contribute to the meaning of the whole piece. Coherence in writing is much more difficult to sustain than coherent speech simply because writers have no nonverbal clues to inform them if their message is clear or not. Therefore, writers must make their patterns of coherence much more explicit and much more carefully planned since coherence itself is the product of two factors: paragraph unity and sentence cohesion.

Fig.2

A Glossary of Transitional Devices

Addition: Again, also, and, and then, besides, equally important, finally, first, further, furthermore, in addition, in the first place, last, moreover, next, second, still, too,

Comparison: Also, in the same way, likewise, similar,

Concession: Granted, naturally, of course,

Contrast: Although, and yet, at the same time, but at the same time, despite that, even so, even though, for all that, however, in contrast, in spite of, instead, nevertheless, notwithstanding, on the contrary, on the Other hand, otherwise, regardless, still, though, yet,

Emphasis: Certainly, indeed, in fact of course,

Example: or, after all, as an illustration, even, for example, for instance, in Illustration conclusion, indeed, in fact, in other words, in short, it is true, of course, namely, specifically, that is, to illustrate, thus, truly,

Summary: A1l in all, altogether, as has been said, finally, in brief, in conclusion, indeed, in fact, in other words, in particular, in short, in simpler terms, in summary, on the whole, that is, therefore, to put it differently, to summarize,

Time: After a while, afterward, again, also, and then, in brief, a long as, at

Sequence: last, at length, at that time, before, besides, earlier, eventually, finally, formerly, further, furthermore, in addition, in the first place, in the fast, last, lately, meanwhile, moreover, next, now, presently, second, shortly, simultaneously, since, so far, soon, still, subsequently, then, thereafter, too, until now, when.

Adapted from: Beare, K. (1997) ESL Guide

Fig.3

Glossary of Techniques on Sentence Cohesion

1. Repetition: In sentence B (the second of any two sentences), repeat a word from sentence A
2. Synonymy: If direct reception is too obvious, use a synonym of the word you wish to repeat. This strategy is call 'elegant variation'.
3. Antonymy: using the 'opposite' word, an antonym, can also create sentence cohesion since in language antonyms actually share more elements of meaning than you might imagine.
4. Pro-forms: Use a pronoun, pro-verb, or another pro-form to make explicit reference back to a form mentioned earlier.

5. Collocation: Use a commonly paired or expected or highly probable word to connect one sentence to another.

6. Enumeration: Use overt makers of sequence to highlight the connection between ideas this system has many advantages: (a) it can link ideas that are otherwise completely unconnected, (b) it looks formal and distinctive, and (c) it promotes a second method of sentence cohesion, discussed in (7) below.

7. Parallelism: Repeat a sentence structure. This technique is the oldest most overlooked, but probably the most elegant method of creating cohesion.

8. Transitions: Use a conjunction or conjunctive adverb to link sentences with particular logical relationships.

a. Identify: Indicates sameness

that is, that is to say, in other words, ...

b. Opposition: Indicates a contrast

but yet, however, nevertheless, still, though, although, whereas, in contrast, rather

c. Addition: Indicates continuation

and, too, also, furthermore, moreover, in addition, besides, in the same way, again another, similarly, a similar, the same...

d. Cause and effect.

Therefore, so, consequently, as a consequence, thus, as a result, hence, it fallows that because, since, for.

e. Indefinites: Indicates a logical connection of an unspecified type.

In fact, indeed, now,

f. Concession: Indicates a willingness to consider the other side.

Admittedly, I admit, true, I grant, of course, naturally, some believe, some people believe it has been claimed that, once it was believed, there are those who would say.

g. Exemplification: Indicates a shift from a more general or abstract idea to a more specific or concrete idea.

For example, for instance, after all, an illustration of even, indeed, in fact, it is true, of course, specifically, to be specific, that is, to illustrate, truly,...

Adapted from: Daniel Kies, (2010), *The Composition Links*

2.1.4.0 Newspaper Language

A vivid review of literature on the language of newspapers by this research reveals that like all other sorts of writing for communicative purposes, the need for outmost fluency, confidence and ease of readability is a priority. Further, its purpose and meaning generally must be absolutely clear while the intra and inter-relatedness of the selected linguistic items must be capable of engaging the reader's interest from beginning to end. In order to write well for a newspaper, therefore, one needs to evaluate what he produces with a critical view of identifying opportunities for improvement because the main function of the newspaper is to inform in as simple a manner as possible.

2.1.4.1 Typical Features

Language use by newspapers is diverse and until recently very few scholars have attempted to delve into this aspect of language studies. Bell (1984) and Trew (1984) did attempt to investigate the style of newspapers but in relation to ideology.

However, as an attempt to study how a unified composition through the appropriate use of cohesive devices could lead to coherence, which is the smooth transition of ideas for ease of readability and comprehension, this research tows the lines of Crystal and Davy (1974). Their practical analysis of newspaper texts reveals how a stylistics analysis of obvious linguistic and graphic features of newspapers can explain why certain linguistic items are chosen instead of others. In their investigation into two kinds of compositions on the same subject by two different newspapers, Crystal and Davy are able to review the various transitional devices employed by each of the papers under scrutiny to drive home their message.

The overall clarity of the extracts is explicated in the connectedness of the discourses, which are well defined. More important in their use of the linkages is that the story, once begun carries the reader through to the finish. Moreover, all short units of the essays are bound together in thematic unity. This is in consonance with the focus of the present research which explores how organizational signals and sub-thematic identifications - the basic elements of writing - could lead to the formation of a 'closely knit passage which reads extremely smoothly.' (Crystal and Davy, 1974:184)

For the achievement of coherence, there is a substantial use of coordination between both the main and the dependent clauses in journalism. In addition, frequent employment of subordinations enhances smooth transition from one paragraph to the other. To Adesonoye (1979), even though journalists need to be economical in their writing as they can forgo most articles and auxiliary words, they can hardly neglect connective devices so that textual unity and coherence are not lost.

Since language works as a bridge between what the writer intends to say and how the reader understands what has been said, newspapers mainly put across their writer's intentions which

must be well organized for the comprehension of their audience. Omojuwa (2004) cited Rasheed (1990) to conclude that variation in the choice of linguistic processes is dependent on the paper's ideological orientation.

To Kallan (2000), newspaper reporting has a style and a language of its own. Features in the newspapers are printed in brief. He states that journalists make effort to convey only the essential part of the news economically while attracting and keeping the reader's attention. Moreover, because readers want stories brought to life, Kallan emphasizes

> the value of simple expressions for journalistic writing and suggests short stories which will produce concise, tightly-structured and focused prose so that the central angle of the story is developed in order to create a cohesive, sensibly-organised message wherein the reader has little difficulty distinguishing the story's main points from its secondary and tertiary details (Omojuwa, 2004:32).

This is a fundamental aspect of the present research as it aims at studying the organizational signals and sub-thematic identifications as the basic elements of writing by analyzing report excepts from selected Nigerian newspapers. Furthermore Omoluwa's argument that sentences need to flow into each other and that short sentences need to follow one another neatly and naturally to avoid monotony is also as essential to the present work.

2.1.4.2 Use of English by Nigerian Newspapers

The media in Nigeria, more especially the print media, use the English as their medium of communication. As a matter of fact, this attribute of journalistic writing in Nigeria is of great concern to the present research as it attempts to explore coherence in written news essays by the Nigerian press. Invariably, the impact -adversely or otherwise- which the use of the English language in a second language (L2) has on both the writer and his audience is of immense interest to the study.

Accordingly too, the observation of both Adeyanju (1987) and Oyu (1996) that:

> The problem of some Nigerian writers probably stem from the fact that they think first in their Ll (first language) and then interpret these thoughts into English before writing them down. In the process of codification, some words, thoughts, feelings and ideas might become either over-emphasized or under-played, or not even used at all (Omojuwa 2004:5)

Since the English language in Nigeria is used by many whose leve1 of proficiency is low, misunderstanding or misinterpretation of words and expressions abound. Nonetheless, despite the special boundaries evolved by the English language in Nigeria, as well as the fact that the readership of newspapers is done by all the strata of the citizenry, 'good writing is important to journalism but it is useless if it obscures meaning and impairs communication.' (Agbese 1966, cited in Omojuwa 2004:6)

2.1.5.0 Varieties of English

2.1.5.1 Standard English

Standard English is the prestigious and region-less variety of English which is being taught throughout the educational system. It is the variety that is used in central and regional governments, parliament and law court as well as in the media. It is the variety that is being taught to foreign learners.

Yule (1996) defined Standard English as that variety of English which is used in the print media, books, the mass media and which is taught in schools. He says it is that variety which some people consider to be the only type that is 'correct' and as such should be kept pure. To Fairclough (1989) also, Standard English is regarded as the correct English and it went hand in hand with prescription, the designation of the forms of the standard as the only 'correct' ones. Codification was aimed at attaining minimal variations in form through setting down the prescribed language code in a written form - in grammars, dictionaries and so on. Stock and Widdowson (1981) also defined it as a written form of the language which conforms to the

patterns and grammatical norms of the socially accepted speech variety based on southern British English.

The word 'standard', according to Strevens (1977'.136), means that which is used by the majority of people. Accordingly too, he observed that standard as used in the expression means 'most frequently used' but it does not mean 'better' than the other dialects. Standard English itself cannot be defined in absolute terms because language is dynamic and it is ever changing and modifying to accommodate the need of its users. The national standard varieties of English, especially in the first Language countries, are very much homogenous. But even then, variations still exist which are worthy of note.

2.1.5.2 Good English

Greenbaum (1996) advocates that, distinction should be made between correct English and Good English. The difference, according to him, lies in the fact that Good English is that in which the language items available to the speaker are put to proper use, while correct English is that English which 'conforms to the norms of standard English'. In other words correct English is the application of the grammatical rules of the English Language to produce utterances. Correct English is therefore an abstract concept, which relates to use while good English is the ability to use the correct utterances produced to achieve meaningful communication. Good English therefore subsumes correct English; that is, it must be both grammatically correct and appropriate. It is worth noting that acquiring a language involves also acquiring an understanding of which sentences or parts of sentences are appropriate in a particular context.

2.1.5.3 Nigerian English

The English language has come a long way in Nigeria and had been in existence even before the birth of Nigeria as a nation. Historically, English has been used in Nigeria for varied purposes since the 18th century. For a language to exist in a new socio-culture environment for such a long time in the midst of over three hundred functional indigenous languages, it is bound to adapt to cultural changes to suit the ethno-linguistic environments.

Scholars like Kachru, Fishman, Labov, Jowitt and others, have in different ways, 'provided a theoretical framework for what has been variously called 'indigenous' or 'indigenized' English, 'nativized' English, 'hybridized' English, and 'non-native' English.' (Jowitt, 2000:1) Studies of these scholars have led to the identification of peculiarities in the use of the English Language in some former British colonies of America, India and Nigeria to mention but a few; hence the nomenclature, American English, Indian English, Nigerian English and several others. These new dialects or varieties of English (pejoratively called the new 'Englishes') have generated much controversy among the English Scholars concerning their recognition and acceptability.

However, there are two popular views concerning the existence or otherwise of Nigerian English in particular – the variationist and deviationist schools of thought. The variationist scholars recognize Nigerian English as a dialect or variety with its own distinct linguistic system, which is different from other regional or national variety of both native and non-native 'Englishes'. Variation Scholars include Banjo (1970), Adekunle (1974) and Jibril (1982), Awonusi (1985), Adetugbo (1987), Odumuh (1987), among others. According to them, Nigerian English as a variety has its peculiar lexical items, grammatical patterns and

pronunciation features which easily distinguish the Nigerian users of English from the British, American, Australian, Indian or even Ghanaian users.

The other school of thought, that is, the deviationist scholars who see Nigerian English as a deviation from the standard variety rather than an adaptation include: Brann (1968), Oji (1984) and Jowitt (2000) among others. These scholars label Nigerian English as an institution of errors. Oji (1984) in his total rejection of Nigerian English condemns it as an impossible and unnecessary academic exercise worthless of propagation. He like other critics such as Brann and Jowitt believe that *one* is either speaking English or not.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

For the analysis of the data for this study, the researcher adopted the theory and method of Topical Structure Analysis as developed by proponents of the London School of Linguistics. As such, works of Systemic Functional (SF) linguists like Halliday and Hasan (1976), Teun A. van Dijk (1977), Mathiessen (1995) Halliday (1985), Schneider and Connor (1991), Lautarnatti (197S), Witte (1983), and a host of others, on 'the semantic relationship between sentence topic and the overall discourse topic' are used in the explication of the properties of textual material selected for this work. As has earlier been noted, the unit of analysis for SF linguists is the text. These linguists study texts through examining the linguistic elements used (syntax, morphology, phonology and etc) as viewed from their various contribution to meaning expressed by the totality of the text in context. According to Halliday; 'for a linguist to describe language without accounting for text is sterile; to describe the text without relating it to language is vacuous.' (Halliday, I 985: I 0)

It is with this view in mind that the present thesis describes coherence in newspaper texts based on van Dijk (1977: 93) view of coherence as a 'semantic property of discourse

formed through the interpretation of each individual sentence relative to the interpretation of other sentences'. To him, the text serves different communicative aims. As such, it is important to note that the newspaper text which is the main concern of the present research is produced for a number of reasons and for so many receivers. Nevertheless, for the newspaper to attain its communicative aim as a text, a standard must be followed. Therefore, SF linguists propose seven standards of textuality *viz:*

l. Cohesion

2. Coherence

3. Intentionality

4. Acceptability

5. Informativity

6. Situationality

7. Intertextuality

Without these, a text will not mean anything to the reader. Thus, there will be no communication. Hence, each of these standards means much to the text and the lack of any constitutes barriers to efficient and effective communication. The scope of the present research delimits the researcher to the study of coherence which cannot however be done in isolation of the others, more especially, cohesion that spans coherence.

In describing the main focus of this research it is of great interest to explore the text as an organized discourse with a main theme and other subthemes. In other words, the analysis will emphasize unity of meaning through connectivity. The SF linguists are of the view that the harmony of concepts is achieved as a chain of relations is provided when there is causality, reason, time etc in the text to relate sentences to each other in a meaningful way. Thus, a

coherent text makes sense to the reader as he finds meaningful united sets of expression from the commencement of the piece to the end.

To analyze text coherence, the researcher followed the theory of Tropical structure Analysis (TSA) as developed by Schneider and Connor (1991), which investigates meaning relationships between topic sentences and the entire discourse topic. According to Lautamatti (1978), as units of meaning organized in sequence in texts, topic sentences contribute immensely to the realization of meaning of texts. He explicates thus:

> The development of the discourse topic within an extensive Piece of discourse may be thought of in terms of a succession of hierarchically ordered subtopics each of which contributes to the discourse topic, and is treated as a sequence. We know little about restrictions concerning relationship between sentences and subtopics, but it seems likely that most sentences relating to the same subtopic form a sequence. The way the written sentences in discourse relate to the discourse topic is called topical development of discourse.' (Lautamatti,1978:71).

This corresponds with the subject of this thesis which states that 'organisational signals and sub-thematic identification are basic elements for coherence in writing' since thematic unity and paragraph unity by which meaning is derived, are enabled through text connectedness.

To answer RQ1 which seeks to investigate the effect of organisation of information on the unity of the text as one piece, the form of each selected news essay is investigated. According to Eko (1999), the structural organisation of a composition, which is the form, determines the effectiveness of the message being communicated. Thus, he emphasizes the need for writers to create methods that provide a sense of direction to enable the realisation of an effective order for the presentation of ideas. Consequently, since it is the organisation of texts that ensures coherence and the focus of this thesis is on organisational signals and the coherence of newspaper articles, this preview is all the more compelling for the success of the present research.

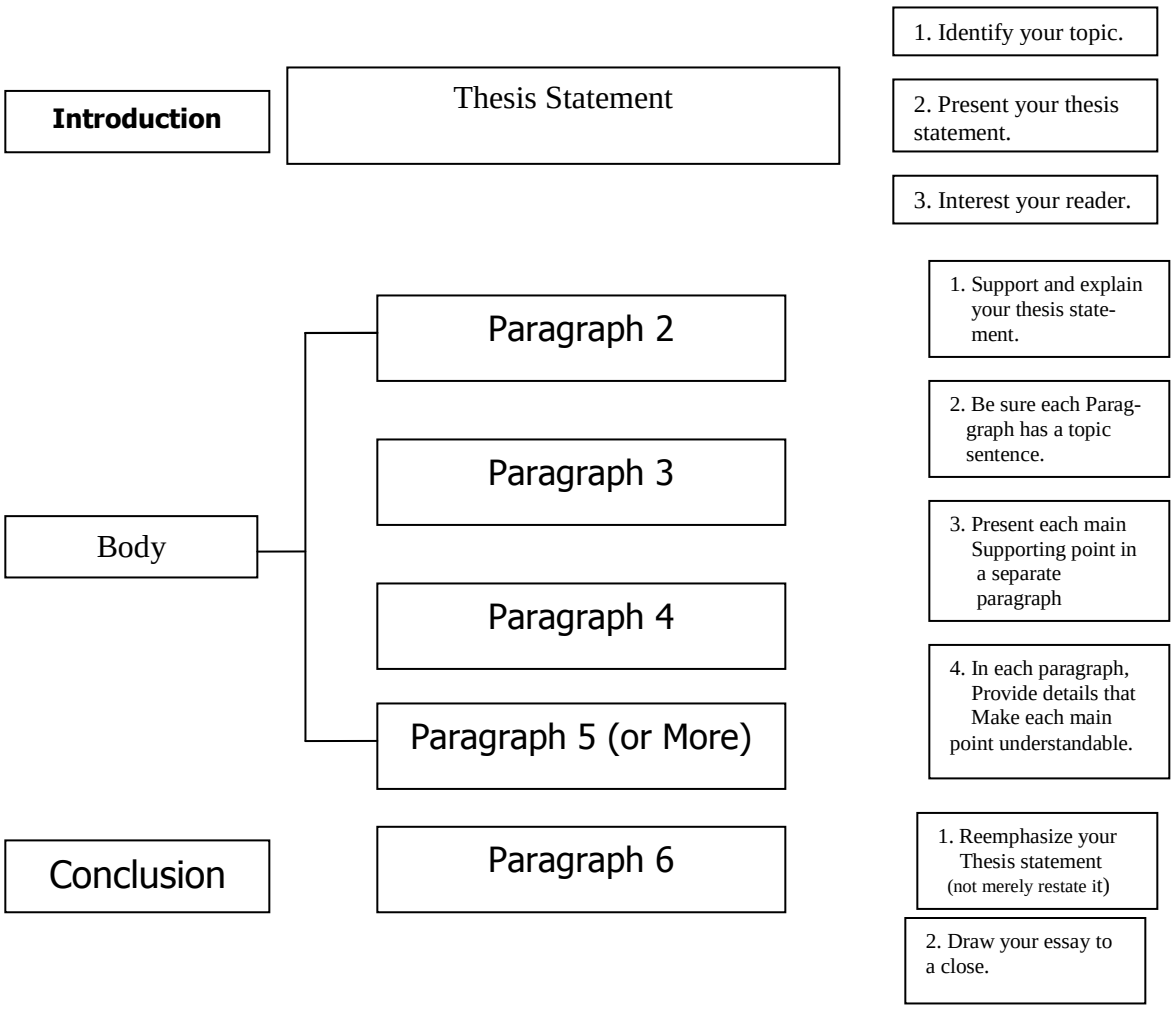
Furthermore, it is important to note that in view of the pressure working on authors of newspapers especially as it pertains to the urgency of news writing as well as 'the need for compression of the information into a limited space, the need for clarity and the avoidance of ambiguity and so on', (Crystal and Davy, 1974: 174) certain essential pre-writing activities are not usually altogether complied with. As such, certain technical deficiencies encompass 'journalese' as termed by Crystal and Davy. For the realisation of the objectives of this research, the relationship between the organisation and unity and coherence of all sample texts are analysed.

Thus, below is a model of a standard organisational plan for English essays:

Fig. 4

MODEL ORGANIZATIONAL PLAN OF THE ENGLISH ESSAY

Note: There is no set number of paragraphs that an essay should contain. This discussion shows six paragraphs, but in actual essay, the number will vary greatly.



Note: Throughout the essay, transitional words, phrases, and sentences work to lead the reader from idea to idea. Adopted from: McWhorter K.T. (2006:7)

To answer RQ2, an attempt is made at investigating paragraph development as an essential aspect of coherence. It is a known fact that the paragraph, as a unit of thought above the word and the sentence must be able to clarify the reader's understanding of a written piece by making the text easy to follow, providing sufficient essential details through the use of linking words and phrases not only for the sustenance of coherence but also for the smooth flow of ideas in the text.

Nevertheless, because the smooth flow of ideas is facilitated by the use of linking devices which is the main concern of RQ3, this section analysis only the kind of paragraphs used and the relationship between the topic sentence and its supporting details. The result obtained from the analysis forms the findings of the present research on whether newspaper journalists in Nigeria develop their paragraphs appropriately enough to enhance coherence.

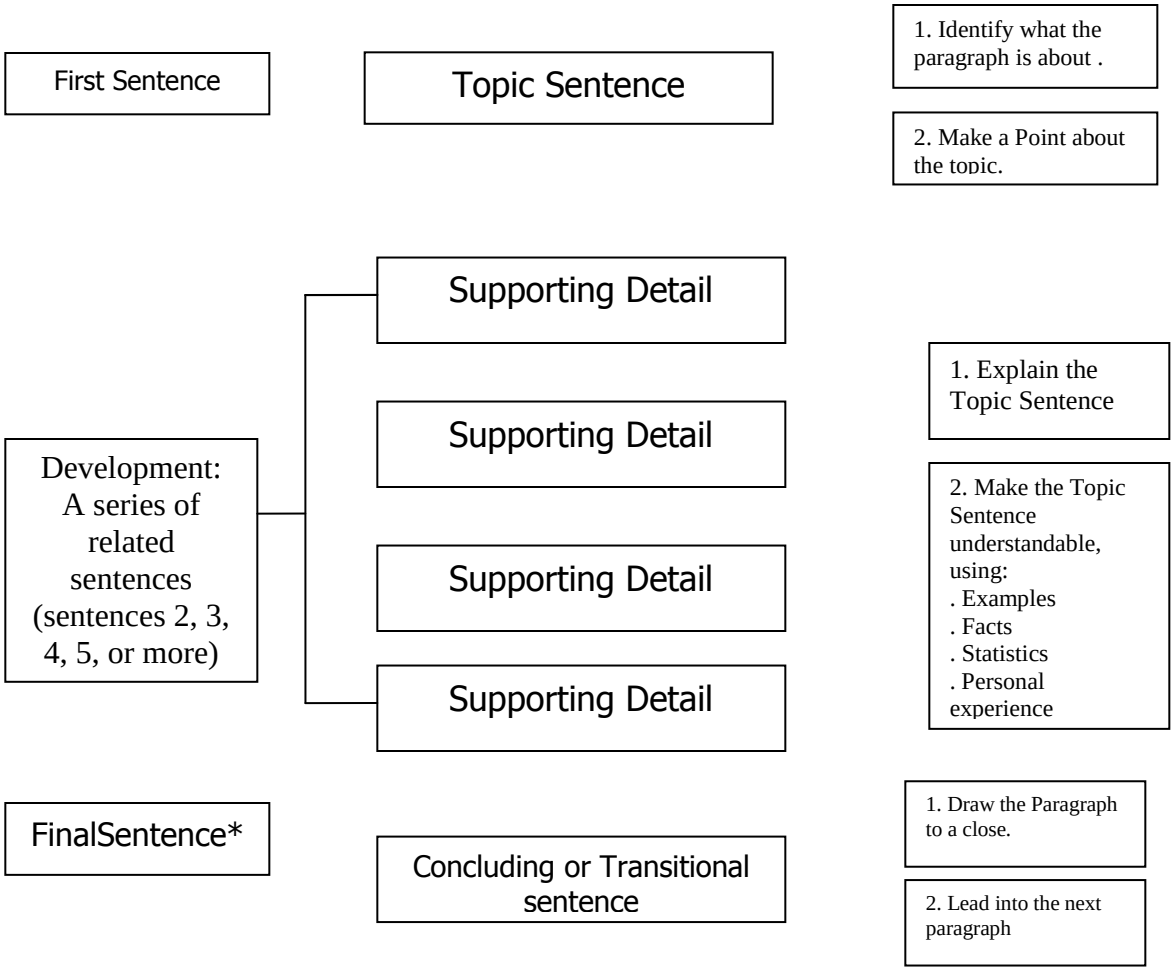
As was done in the previous unit, each sample is treated on its own merit and generalised deduction made at the end.

Below is a model of a standard paragraph of the English essay:

Fig. 5

MODEL PARAGRAPH OF ENGLISH ESSAYS

WHAT EACH PART
PARTS SHOULD DO



Note: The Topic sentence is often placed first, but it may appear elsewhere in the paragraph. For emphasis, writers sometimes even place it last in the paragraph.
Adopted from: McWhorter K.T. (2006:8)

On RQ3, each selected extract is tested on the effective application of discourse markers for the smooth flow of thought from one paragraph to another as well as from sentence to

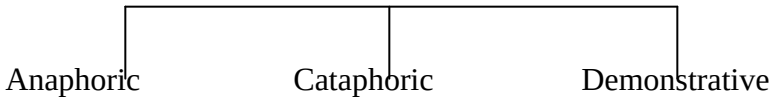
sentence for the achievement of both thematic and sub-thematic unity which is the area of attention in the present research. It had being observed earlier that ideas in a text must be properly connected for readers to be able to move easily from one thought to the other. To investigate the flow of thought and ideas in our sample essays therefore, the following four mechanical considerations by linguists are worthy of mention: using transitional expressions, repeating key words and phrases, using pronoun reference and using parallel form in conjunction with the concept of reference, substitution, ellipsis, conjunction and lexical cohesion as propounded by Halliday and Hasan (1976) are used.

As had being with the previous questions, each sample essay is worked on individually and deductions made at the end of the analysis of all extracts from the same national paper selected for analysis.

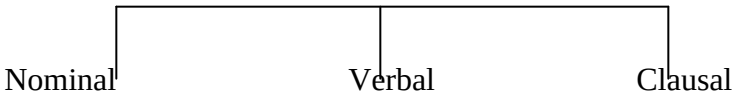
Fig. 6

CLASSIFICATION OF COHESIVE DEVICES

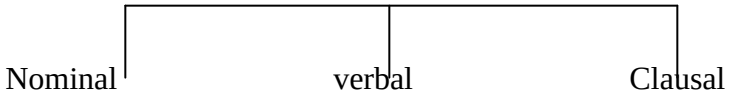
1. Reference



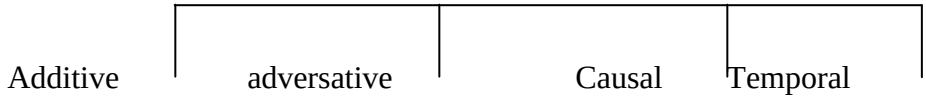
2. Substitution



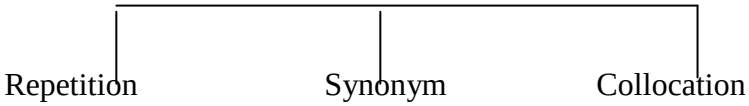
3. Ellipsis



4. Conjunction



5. Lexical Cohesion



For specification therefore, extracts that belong to the same paper are analyzed individually but rated as a single segment so as to facilitate the comparative analysis of the five sample papers involved in the present research.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1.0 Introduction

The main focus of this chapter is to describe the method used in the gathering of the textual data for the present study. The most essential instrument for measurement in this research is the text, comprising selected articles from five Nigerian newspapers, *viz:**Daily Trust, The Guardian, Vanguard, Punch and The Nation***. Hence, it is an analytical research that seeks to investigate the coherence and readability of newspaper articles. The chapter also includes an analytical procedure of theories in linguistics that concern the analysis of thematic unity in written compositions in the English language with particular reference to news essays in the Nigerian print media. Thus, the chapter is broken into the following: research design, research variables and data collection: sources and methods, and analytical procedure.

3.1.1 Research Design

In order to investigate whether news essays and other articles written by Nigerian journalists in newspapers are coherent enough for ease of readability and comprehension, ten excerpts culled out of each of the five national papers selected for this work are being put to scrutiny. Thus, all samples selected are categorized and classified according to Crystal and Davy, (1969:60) general linguistic theory for the investigation of coherence and the readability of written texts. Also, all samples are of good size with requisite paragraphs for ease of analysis. To investigate this, a total of fifty journalistic essays from the five national papers selected for this research are subjected to analysis using multiple forms. As a text analysis, the study adapted the Descriptive-Correlational Research Method in order that a description of the major purpose of the research which is the writing quality of newspapers with focus on

organizational signals and sub-thematic identification as basic elements for coherence in writing could be undertaken. Also, the method was adopted so as to examine the different features of writing responsible for determining the degree of comprehensibility of newspapers and their communicative interaction.

3.1.2 Research Variables

For journalists in the Nigerian situation where the English language is used as the medium of communication, fluency in both oral and written English is essential. Therefore, 'the foremost variable to be investigated in this thesis is whether the Nigerian journalist using English as a second language composes news essays following the standard set for written English compositions - especially, as it pertains to coherence. Likewise, such variables as the ability of newspaper writers to use the appropriate coherence markers to attain thematic unity as well as well-connected compositions are also looked into.

For the achievement of this, the following variables are put to test:

1. Organizational unity: comprising the identification and description of transitional signals or devices as elements of writing;
2. Paragraph development: involving the identification and description of topic sentences and their supporting details;

Moreover, the research is also particular about all other variables that enable text coherence and readability.

3.1.3 Data Collection: Sources and Methods

Foremost, texts, Nigerian newspaper essays particularly, that is language in actual use, contextual and situational, compose the primary source of data for this research. In other words, not only is a real life situation being explored but also the usage rather than the use of language

is put to study. Thus, emphasis is laid much more on performance and not competence in the use of language. As such, since live texts by the Nigerian print media are analysed, the researcher's approach to the study is more descriptive than prescriptive and the Standard English is the model and the yard stick for the measurement of correctness.

Following the proposition of Kies (2010), therefore, a thorough study of the chosen papers was undertaken from mid-2009 to early 2011. For almost a year the researcher engaged in sieving of the sample texts for this study. Consequent upon the selection procedure, a great number of news essays were put to test; read and re-read until excerpts required for this investigation were selected. Therefore, all samples chosen represent models of the educated Nigerian English in action as matched with Standard English. As has been viewed by Frank (2004), the choice of news essays for a descriptive research of this nature, must be based 'on the fact that it is categorized as a lofty example of an essay in content, length, form and language. Also, as an instance of academic discourse, it contains certain features that distinguish it and which could enhance or inhibit the readers' understanding of the writer's (usually professional) opinion, argument about the subject matter, which he is expected to be knowledgeable about.' This is in consonance with the research questions of the present thesis that seeks to find the impact of thematic unity and sub-thematic relationships on the readability and comprehension of newspaper texts in the Nigerian situation.

3.1.4 Sampling Method

Of the selected texts, another sampling is made, randomly though, to come up with the four final texts from each of the group of ten excerpts culled from each of the five newspapers used in this study. Hence, the twenty extracts from the five national papers (NP).

The random sampling technique was done purposively to avert the following problems: The scarcity of required information, selection of non-standard newspapers, accessibility and etc. which could affect the choice of samples.

3.2.0 Analytical Procedure

Since many variables are tested in this work, the analytical procedure is multiple. First, is the rating scale used for assessing writing which according to Wiegle (2002:109) has three main types: primary trait scales, holistic scales and analytic scales, While the primary trait scales are used for grading a particular writing task, the holistic and analytic are used for grading multiple tasks in essays

The analytic scale adapted for this research is one of the analytic scales in ESL created by Jacobs at al. (1981). But this research adopted the rating scale by Cril Weir (1988) called TEEP (Test in English for Educational Purposes). It has seven scales with each having four levels with scoring points ranging from 0 to 3. The seven scales are:

1. Relevance and adequacy for content
2. Compositional organization
3. Cohesion
4. Adequacy of vocabulary for purpose
5. Grammar
6. Mechanical accuracy 1 (punctuation)
7. Mechanical accuracy 11 (spelling)

This research adopts the second and third scales which are compositional organization and cohesion (linking devices).

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.0 Introduction

Answers to research questions posed for the attainment of the main objectives of this study are sought for in this chapter. As such, all the excerpts taken from the five different national dailies used for the present research are analyzed and the result forms the basis of the researcher's findings.

The three main research questions addressed are:

a) To what extent does the organisation of the information in news essays by Nigerian journalists enhance thematic unity and coherence?

b) How are paragraphs in such texts adequately developed to enhance comprehension?

c) To what extent are transitional devices appropriately used to facilitate the smooth flow of ideas in the compositions?

Apart from similarity in length and in number of paragraphs, which are curbed by the researcher in fulfillment of the purpose of this research, the samples chosen are all variants of journalistic writing in Nigeria. However, it is expected that each of the essays selected for this research complies with the conventions of English composition writing. It should be noted that any written composition in English has specific parts which serve specific purposes for both the reader and the writer.

To enable a thorough investigation therefore, twenty extracts, four from each of the five national newspapers selected for this research are analyzed. The sampled texts are labeled thus:

1. Daily Trust (Extracts 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d)
2. The Guardian (Extracts 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d)
3. The Vanguard (Extracts 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d)
4. The Punch (Extracts 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d)
5. The Nation (Extracts 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d)

(See Appendix 1 for original copies of the articles)

4.1.0 THE ANALYSIS OF SAMPLE ESSAYS

4.1.1.0 Extract 1a. (News report)

WAEC Fear: Students Learn in Condemned Building

Two hundred and fifty students are risking their lives in order to pass their examinations. Every day, in the morning and evening, they receive lectures in condemned buildings on the verge of collapse. They are aware of this danger. The Federal Housing Authority (FHA) has declared the buildings structurally unsound. Two signboards warning against occupation are (5) positioned where eyes can't miss.

Three blocks of two-story buildings of just cement and blocks without toilets, doors, windows and other conveniences of a house is where True Vine Global School operates. The school has occupied these half-built buildings for five years. A red marked sign on the walls reading, "Quit within 24 hours" by (10) the Federal Housing Authority Nigeria has been there for more than a year.

The warning on the signboard from the same regulatory body says: "Occupation of these uncompleted buildings is illegal and constitutes health and safety violations." Yet the school operates brazenly, ignoring the warnings, defying the authorities. (15)

Many cities in Nigeria, including Abuja, have been painful witnesses to massive structures collapsing on people. In 2008 at least 100 people were feared dead when a shopping mall under construction collapsed in Jabi. In 2009, tragedy struck a high-brow area of Asokoro District when a three-story building still under construction collapsed and no fewer than six people died. In 2010 an [20] uncompleted four story building in Garki collapsed killing about seven persons and trapping over 30 in the rubble.

Atuma confirmed that "there are many people who after writing WAEC and JAMB for three four times get tired and stop. So we come in and give them new hope by giving them extramural lessons to make up for those areas they [25] are deficient."

4.1.1.1 ANALYSIS OF THE ORGANISATION EXTRACT 1A

Fig7.

ANALYSIS OF ORGANISATION

OF EXTRACT 1A

Introduction	**Thesis Statement** **5 Sentences**	There Identified Descriptive Interesting Detail Added
	Support for Discourse Topic (Topic Sentence)	Transitional par. Illustrative Illustration
	Clarification of discourse support of topic sentence	Development by reason Development by reason
	Support for Main idea theme	

Historical evidence
Historical evidence

Note: That all the topic sentences in this extract are placed in the first position of the paragraph for emphasis.

The text contains fourteen sentences in four paragraphs. The discourse topic (DT) is emphatically established in the first paragraph, 'Every day, in the morning and evening, they receive lectures in condemned buildings at the verge of collapse' (Line 2-3) as an introductory paragraph. The topic is identified and the rest of the following paragraphs lead the reader to the explication of the discourse theme as spelt out in the title of the piece.

Hence, the organizational structure of the extract shows that the introduction has five sentences viz: the identification of theme (DT), stating the topic sentence, clarifying the topic sentence, more descriptive explication and adding interesting details to the theme. Paragraph 2 is a transitional paragraph of three sentences. It opens with the topic sentence and the two other sentences develop the topic by illustrations.

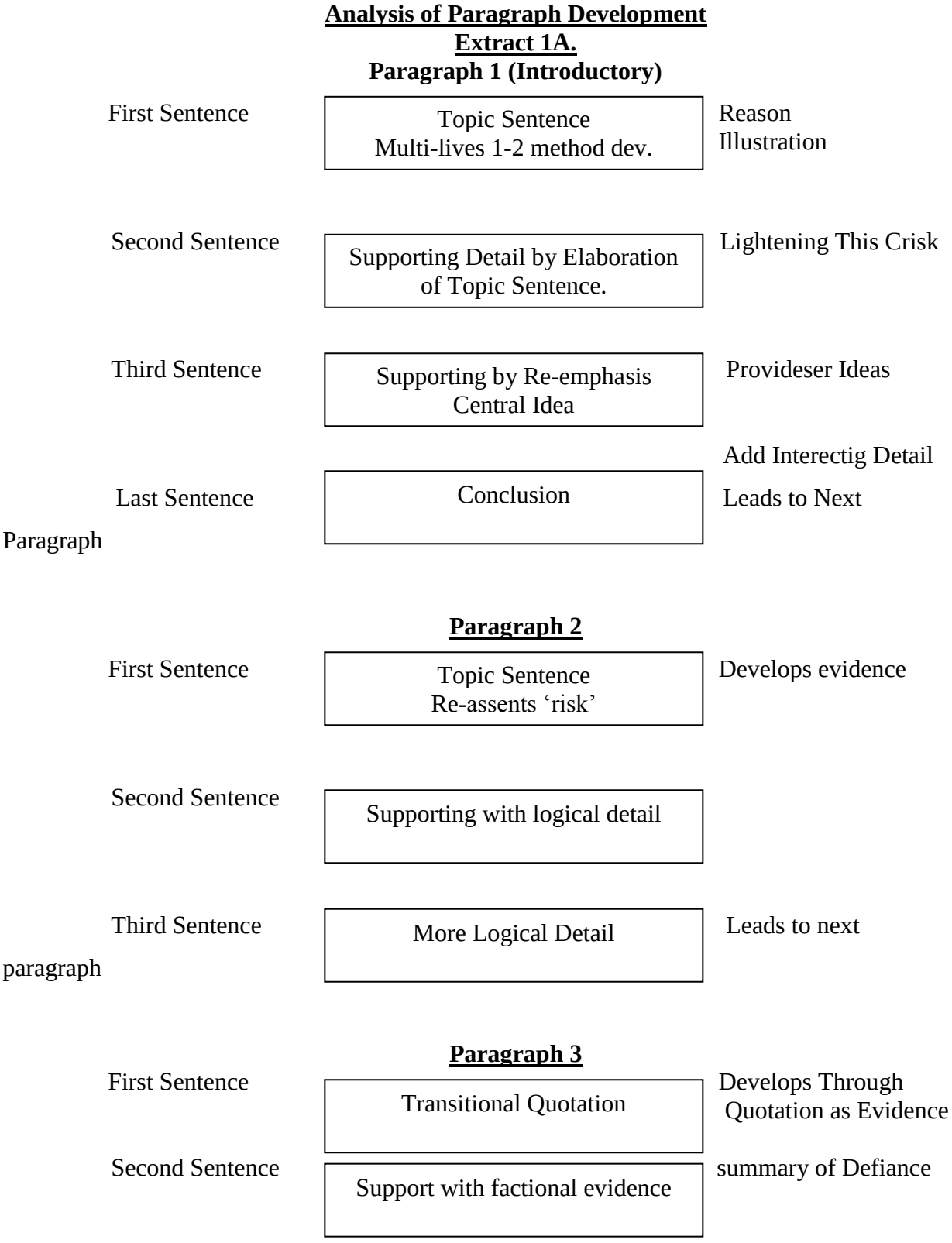
In the two sentences composing paragraph three, the writer gave specific reasons to illuminate the DT. Quoting a source as the topic sentence of the paragraph adds to the organizational structure of the essay. And in the four sentences of paragraph four, the writer located the topic sentence at the beginning and made all the other sentences to support the main theme with historical evidences.

Although the organizational structure of the essay is well articulated, the flow of thought is constricted by the misplacement of ideas probably due to inappropriate pre-writing activities as observed earlier but this is the subject of the next research question.

The diagram below itemizes the organisational strategy used by the writer.

4.1.1.2 ANALYSIS OF PARAGRAPH DEVELOPMENT

Fig. 8



COMMENT:

From the analysis, paragraph development in this extract is complete and devoid of digressions. Topic sentences adequately convey the main idea. Supporting details are logically used as they lead the reader to a greater understanding of the message.

It had earlier been noted that this sample has many paragraphs in its original form but for the purpose of this thesis, only the first four paragraphs are worked on. In the introductory paragraph, the writer uses a multi-developmental method of reason and illustration to support the topic sentence *'Two hundred and fifty students are risking their lives in order to pass their examinations'* (lines 1-2 p143) which is the first sentence of the paragraph. The next sentence elaborates the topic sentence by high-lighting the 'risk' which is the central idea of the thesis statement. The two other sentences that follow immediately also re-emphasise the central idea with evidence of warning while the concluding sentence adds an interesting detail.

As such, the discourse theme has been clearly identified by the introductory paragraph and the reader's interest is motivated. To enhance the thematic unity of the essay further, the second paragraph re-asserts the 'risky nature of the building' by providing more evidence. The topic sentence is also posited at the beginning of the paragraph (lines 7-9 p143). Both sentences that follow the topic sentence add more logical details to the subject of the paragraph to explicate it for coherence.

To hold the reader's interest on the intensity of the 'risk', the third paragraph, which is a narrative, opens with a quotation, *'occupation of these uncompleted buildings is illegal and constitutes health violations'* (lines 13-14 p143) which gives vigour to the story. The second sentence summarizes how defiant the occupants of the building are.

The fourth paragraph is developed as a transitional paragraph as it introduces a smooth change to another part of the essay by inserting a new idea. For the sake of comparison, the

author links the subject of discussion to similar historical happenings of national importance. The paragraph structured in four sentences has not only strengthened the bound of textual unity but it has also made the comprehension of the article easier and its meaning clearer.

4.1.1.3 ANALYSES OF TRANSITIONAL DEVICES

Fig.9

ANALYSIS OF TRANSITIONAL DEVICES USED IN EXTRACT 1a

Ref	Type	Conj.	Type	Lexical	Type	Substitution	Type	Ellipsis	Type
Their	Pron. (pl.)	And	Add.	Student	Lexical reiteration	Unsound	Nominal	FHA	Clausal
They	,, ,,	Yet	Adversative	Building	Repetition			Can't	Verbal
This	Dem. (adv.)	Where	Add.	Shopping mull	Collocates market				

Result of the analysis reveals that the most frequently used discourse markers in the extract are:

i) Transitional phrases: a) to show time sequence as in 'Every day' in the morning and evening', 'In 2008', 'In 2009' and 'In 2010' in lines 2, 17, 18 and 20 respectively; b) to show contrast as in 'Yet' in line 14; to show quantity as in 'Two hundred and fifty students', 'Two signboards' 'Three blocks'.

ii) Repeating key words and phrases as in: 'The school', 'The warning', 'the warnings' 'the' in lines 9, 12, 14, 15 respectively.

iii) Pronoun reference as in : 'They', line 3

On a general note, there is inadequate use of connecting devices in this extract thus hampering readability. Most paragraphs take off with rather long windy adjectival or noun clauses.
The scantiness of discourse markers can be seen in the description of the prominent ones in the table.

4.1.2.0 Extract 1b: (News report)

POLICE BEEF UP SECURITY IN ABA, UMUAHIA

The police in Abia have deployed more personnel to Aba and Umuahia to forestall a breakdown of law and order. The command's spokesman, Mr. Okechukwu Ali, disclosed this

to newsmen Tuesday. Ali said the measure became necessary following the rumour of an impending protest and a possible reprisal in some parts of the state because of the Jos crisis. (5)

"The command, through its intelligence-gathering mechanism, learnt of the rumour and decided to deploy more men to strategic areas as a pro-active measure. Abia does not have the history of sectarian violence, so the Rumours are baseless. Available reports from the returnees did not show that any Abia indigene was killed in the crisis," he said, adding that the command had issued a statement (10) to douse tension.

A correspondent who went round the city reports that policemen were deployed to keep surveillance around the Aba Central Mosque and the city called Ama-Hausa.

The Abia Government had last weekend dispatched buses to Jos to (15) bring back its indigenes, especially students resident in the city.

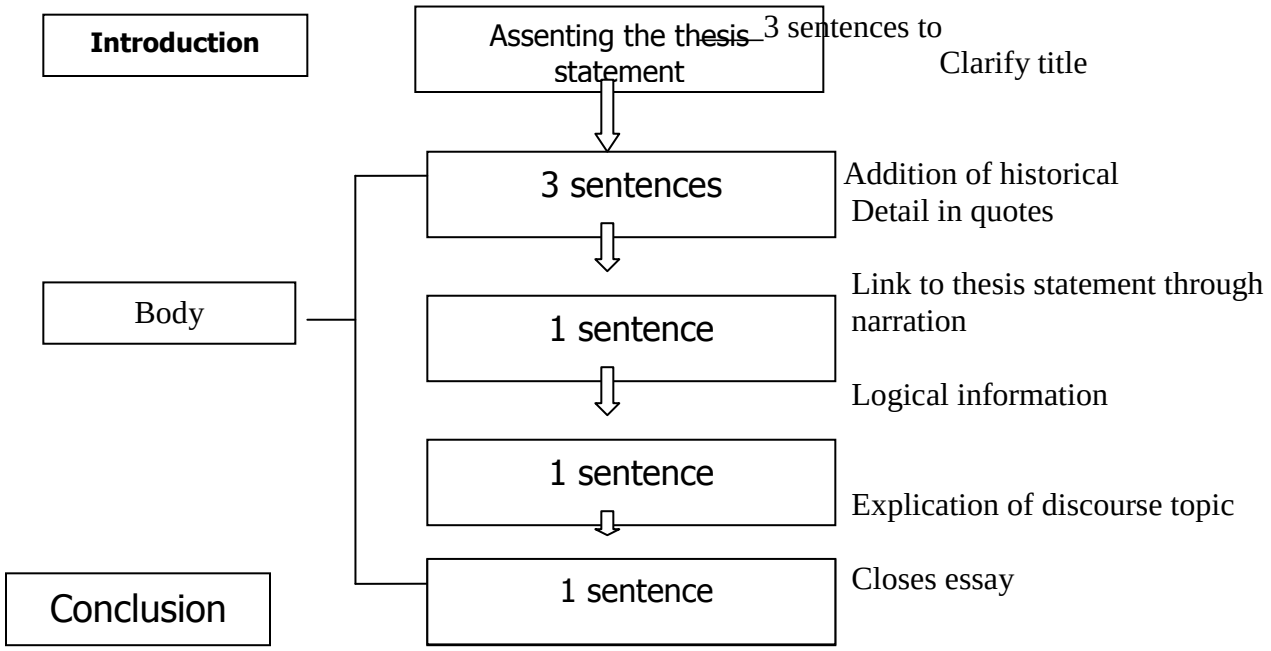
Reacting to the development, the Chief Imam of Aba Central Alhaji Idris Bashir, thanked Gov. Theodore Orji and the police for taking steps to reinforce security in Aba. Bashir attributed the prevailing peace in the city to "the presence of the police," saying "sometimes, these riots break out due to the absence (20) of adequate security."

He described the Jos incident as an "unfortunate national calamity," and appealed to those involve allow peace to reign. (NAN) (23)

4.1.2.1 ANALYSIS OF THE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Fig.10

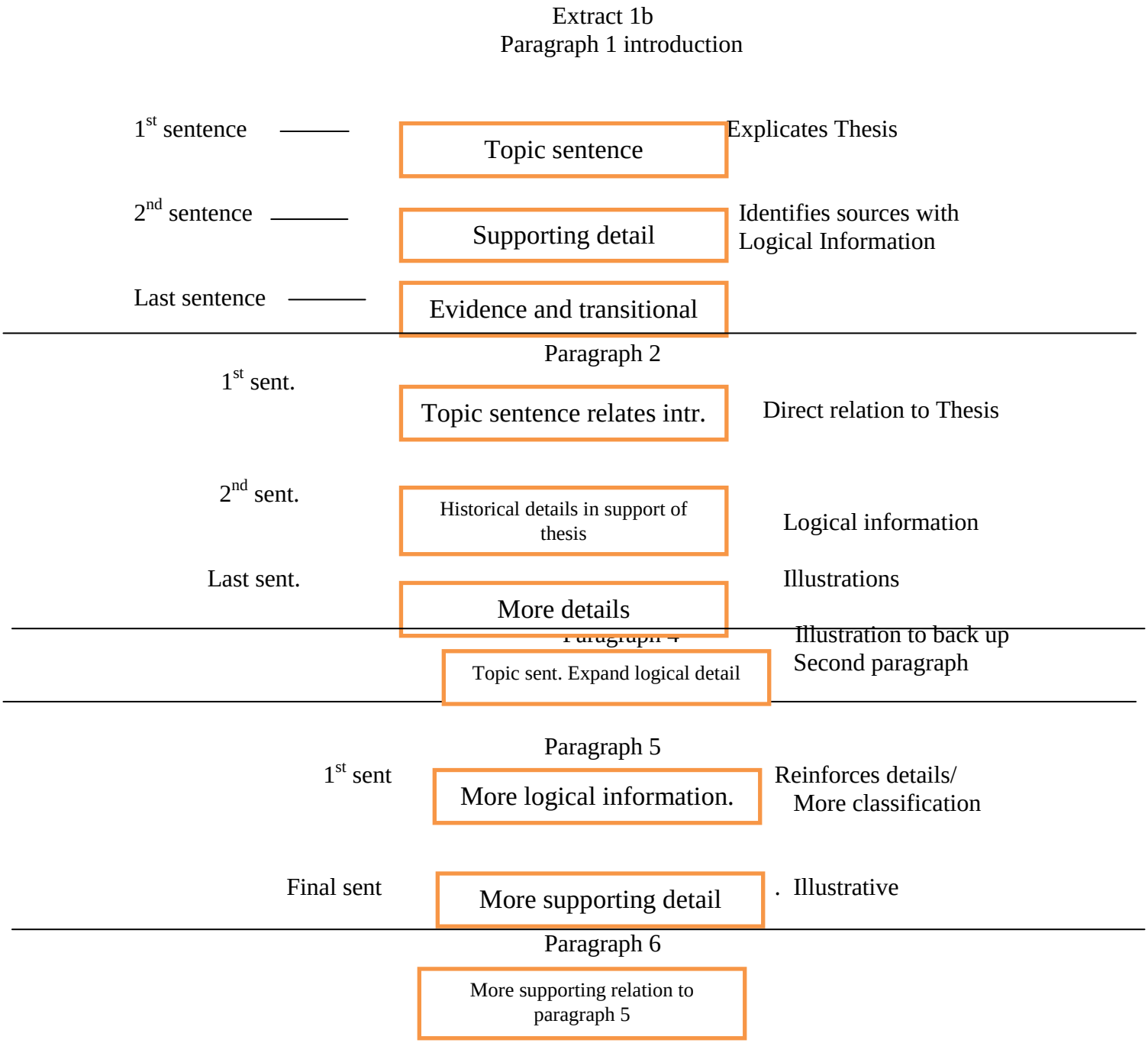
1 b. Organization



The entire text of eleven sentences in six brief paragraphs is subjected to analysis. This is because the researcher classifies the text as a model of the brevity of newspaper writing. Hence, the analysis reveals that in order to cut a long story short, the writer develops an organisational strategy that compresses the information into a small space without tampering with the semantics of the message.

4.1.2.2 ANALYSIS OF PARAGRAPH DEVELOPMENT

Fig.11



From the analysis, the introductory paragraph in three sentences asserts the thesis statement of the discourse. Foremost, the topic sentence is the first sentence of the paragraph

while the second sentence identifies the source and the third provides relevant information to authenticate the action in the thesis statement.

The second paragraph also has three sentences with the topic sentence also occupying the initial position relating directly to the thesis statement of the introductory paragraph. Through historical development, the second sentence of the paragraph adds more logical information. The third sentence further elaborates and sums up the main idea of the paragraph.

Paragraphs three, four, five and six are all illustrative of the discourse topic as evident in the diagram.

4.1.2.3 ANALYSIS OF TRANSITIONAL DEVICES

Fig.12

Ref.	Type	Conj.	Type	Lex, coh.	Type	Subs.	Type	Ellipses	Type
The	Def. art.	Because	Causal	Crises	Repetition	That	Nominal	Its	nominal
Mr.	Anaphoric	So	Causal	Rumors	Lex. Reiteration			Reacting	verbal
He	Pron.	And	additive	Reinforce	synonymy				
Who	Rel. pron.	Due to	Causal	City	Repetition				

Our analysis shows the use of discourse markers in this extract to be apt and appropriate as there is no disjointedness. Both sentences and paragraphs flow into one another smoothly thus, enabling textual unity and coherence.

4.1.3.0 Extract 1c. (News report)

SAMBO MAY EMERGE AS VP TODAY

**Shema, Dakingari on shortlist*

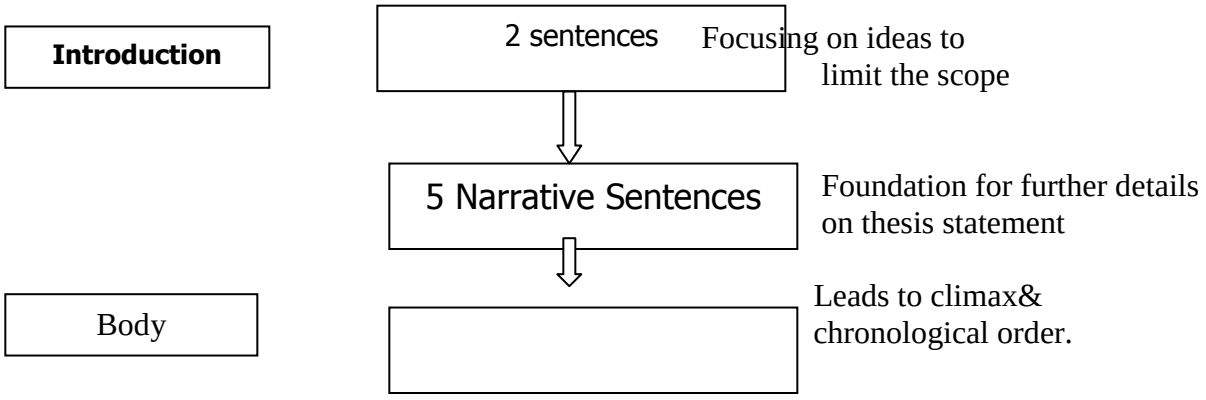
Governor of Kaduna State Architect Mohammed Namadi Sambo's name is set to be submitted by president Goodluck Jonathan to the national assembly this morning for confirmation as vice president of the Federal Republic, a top legislative source told *Daily Trust* in Abuja last night. However, the source added that two other PDP governors from the North West region, namely Barrister (5) Ibrahim Shehu Shema of Katsina and Alhaji Saidu Usman Nasamu Dakingari of Kebbi were also on the shortlist and may spring a last-minute surprise.

On Tuesday afternoon, Governor Sambo led a larger delegation from Kaduna State, which included all its powerful political actors as well as traditional rulers and clerics, to visit President Jonathan at the state house. They (10) condoled with him over the death of president Umaru Musa Yar'adua and they also congratulated him on his elevation. Afterwards, *Daily Trust* learnt that Sambo had a private meeting with President Jonathan and it is believed that it was at that meeting that he was intimated of his choice as the new Vice President. Jonathan had earlier settled for secretary to the government of the federation,(15) Mahmud Yayale Ahmed as the new vice president following Jonathan's own elevation to the presidency on Wednesday last week due to the death that day of President Umaru Yar'adua. However, he said the President later changed his mind after consultations with party and legislative leaders. Dr. Jonathan apparently accepted the arrangement that the vice president should come from (20) the North West since, with Yar'adua's death, the zone no longer has a high-profile federal public office holder. He also agreed with the state governors that a vice president should be selected from among their ranks. (23)

4.1.3.1 ANALYSIS OF THE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Fig.13

1 c. Organization

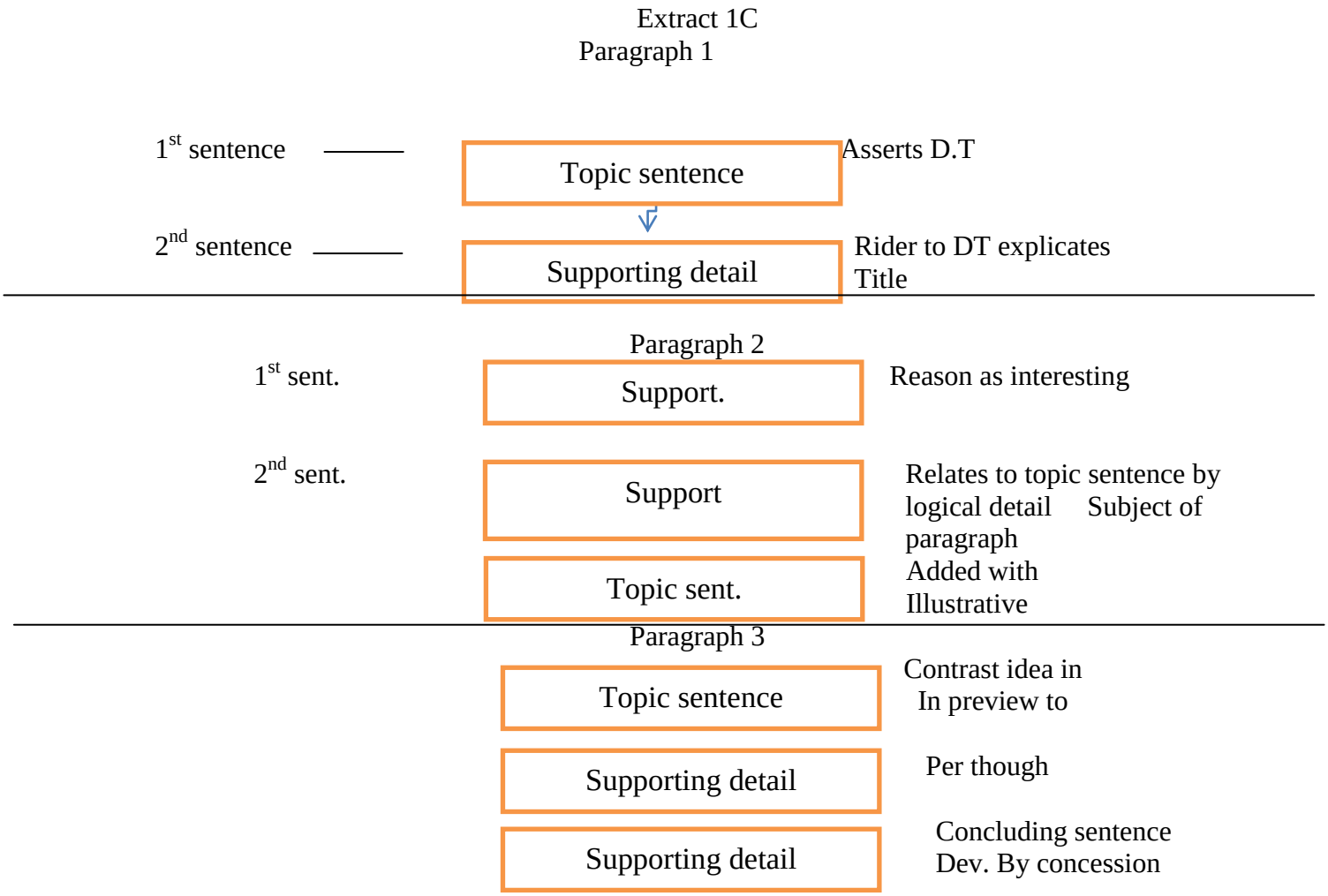


Our analysis has shown that in order to make the details clear in this text, the author chose a method of organization to suit the expectation of his readers. Hence, paragraphs are information-packed and thought adequately arranged in a hieratical order of importance.

There are a total of nine paragraphs in the whole text, but for the purpose of this work only three are put to analysis; three because they are unusually lengthy. Of the three culled for our research, each is a solid unit of thought in spite of its length.

4.1.3.2 ANALYSIS OF PARAGRAPH DEVELOPMENT

Fig.14



As noted earlier, our analysis of this text has revealed that though the paragraphs are rather lengthy there is only one central idea in each of them. The topic sentence of the introductory paragraph is the very first sentence which directly re-affirms the discourse topic as expressed in the title. Like the title itself that goes with a rider, the second sentence of the paragraph also acts as a rider to the topic sentence. This kind of development by elimination enhances comprehension because only the facts are made available to the reader.

The second paragraph in three sentences was developed to provide more logical information which, by our analysis, not only explicates the discourse topic but adds interesting details that aid in the sustenance of the readers' interest. The last of the three sentences for emphasis doubles as the topic and the concluding sentence of the paragraph. This, in no small way, ensures coherence as 'the final position is reserved for the most important idea' (Kamal, 2010:75).

Leading the reader to the climax, the third paragraph, through historical development, clarifies the thesis statement further with the inclusion of more interesting details. The topic sentence appeared at the initial position of the paragraph and was supported by three other sentences.

The diagram below illustrates the developmental pattern of paragraphs of the extract and its impact on the unity and coherence of the text.

4.1.3.3 ANALYSIS OF THE TRANSITIONAL DEVICES

Fig.15

Ref.	Type.	Conj.	Type	Lex. coh	Type	Subs.	Type	Ellipsis	Type
The	Def. art	However	Adversative	Source	Repetition	It	Nominal	PDP	Clausal
A	Indef. Art	Also	Additive	Vice	Lex. Reiteration	Which	Clausal	To	verbal
That	Dem. pron.	And	Additive	President	Repetition	That	Nominal		
They	Pron. (Plural)	May	Causal	condole	Collocates death				

Analysis of the extract shows that the use of discourse markers has been apt enough to allow for coherence. Instances in the application of:

a) Transitional phrases as in: i) time sequence such as 'this morning', 'last night', 'afterwards', 'earlier', 'on Wednesday last week' in lines 3, 5, 14, 17 and 20; ii) use of conjunctions like, 'however', 'also', 'due to', as in lines 5, 13, and 20;

b) Repeating key words and phrases as in: 'the source', 'Kaduna State', 'the President';

Tabulated below is the enumeration and description of the commonly used transitional devices in the text.

4.1.4.0 Extract 1d. (Editorial)

Obasanjo's zoning flip-flops

There is no denying the fact that former President Olusegun Obasanjo has come to evoke different emotions among different strata of the Nigerian society. Of courageous, if tempestuous character, Obasanjo's place in the political history of Nigeria is assured, not just because he possesses a number of positive attributes, such as his boundless energy and famed capacity for working long hours. In (5) domestic and international fora, his words carry considerable weight. Of recent, however, his public statements on sensitive national issues appear to be contradictory; his frequent doublespeak is becoming a matter to worry about.

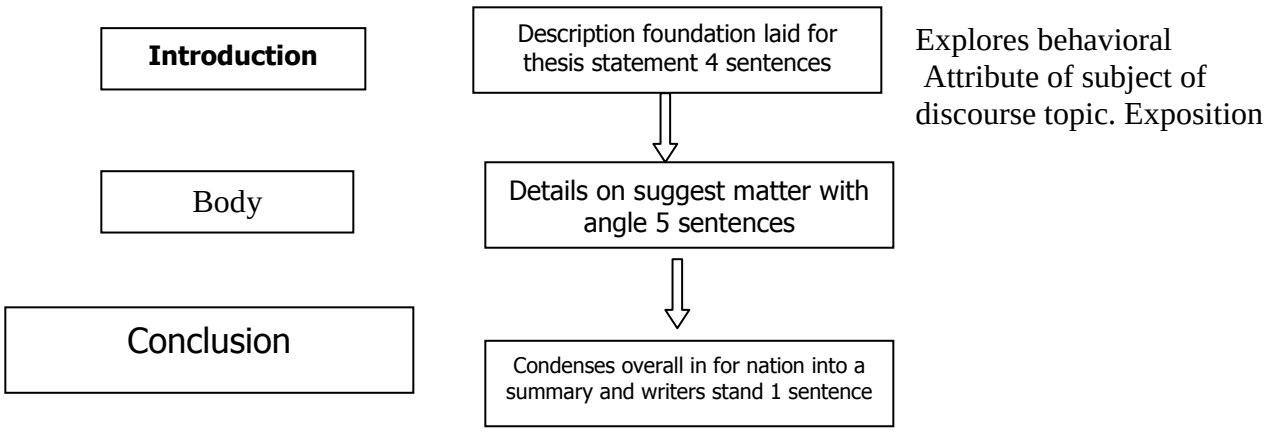
The long-running controversy over the zoning and power rotation arrangement in the People Democratic Party, where he chairs its board of (10) trustees, is a case in point. Obasanjo was expected to make a bold and declarative statement on the issue, with a full moral authority that should be a compass to resolving the thorny problem. He didn't. At the last count, the former president has taken, at least, four different and contradictory positions on the issue. First, he claimed that 'zoning' was not in the PDP's constitution, blatantly ignoring (15) the fact that it is explicitly stated in Article 7.2 of the party's constitution, and, more egregious,

forgetting that he was the first beneficiary of the arrangement, when, by common consent, the presidency of the country was zoned to the south west to assuage the region's bitterness over the annulment of the 1993 presidential election presumed to have been won by the late MKO Abiola. At an [20] enlarged caucus of the PDP on December 2, 2002 which Obasanjo also attended, the party re-affirmed the zoning principle to enable him to run for second term in office.

One of the possible positive fallouts of Obasanjo's latest somersault on the contentious issue of zoning, however, could well be the vindication of men and [25] women across the country, people who have been maliciously vilified for taking a principled position that the PDP should respect the zoning and power rotation arrangements that are enshrined in its constitution. [23]

4.1.4.1 ANALYSIS OF THE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Fig.16 1 d. Organization



Though this editorial has eight paragraphs of varying organizational patterns that culminate into a unified whole, only the first two and the concluding one are considered in the

present analysis. By our investigation, a breakdown of the organization shows a spatial ordering from top to bottom.

`The first three of the four sentences of the introductory paragraph are used variously to describe the topic sentence strategically located in the concluding sentence.

Paragraph two is made up of six sentences with the topic sentence at the foremost position. All the other sentences provide logical details to not merely illustrate but also to link the topic sentence directly to the discourse topic.

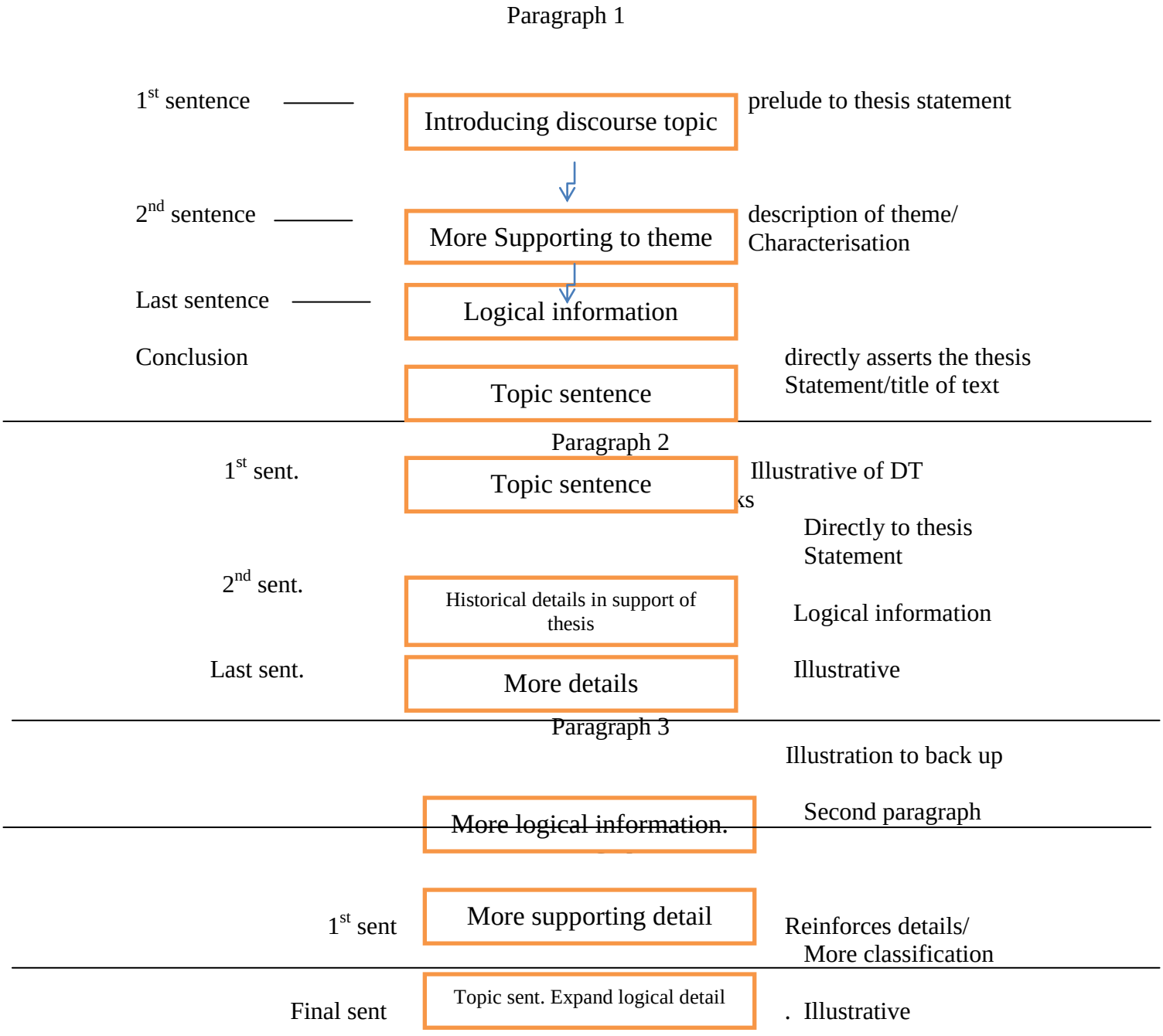
The clarity enabled by this type of organisation transcends to a unique conclusion. Hence, the last paragraph of the write-up in a single sentence sums everything up.

The sketch below shows the impact of the organisation on the overall unity and coherence of the text.

4.1.4.2 ANALYSIS OF PARAGRAPH DEVELOPMENT

Fig.17

Extract 1d



Analysis of the development of the paragraphs of this extract has proved that much expertise was involved in its composition. Revelation of the impact of the logical build-up of the introductory paragraph to the unity and coherence of the entire passage is invaluable. The topic sentence is situated in the last position for emphasis. All sentences preceding the topic sentence are descriptive of the main persona.

The second paragraph contains six sentences with its topic sentence occupying the top most position and all the supporting ones illuminate the discourse topic through shades of illustrations. Such loading of the paragraph with factual examples in support of the discourse topic sustains the reader's attention.

In a multiple-complex sentence, the conclusion of the text has added more logical details by way of summing up.

4.1.4.3 ANALYSIS OF THE TRANSITIONAL DEVICES

Fig. 18

Ref.	Type	Conj.	Type	Lex. coh	Type	Subs.	Type	Ellipses	Type
His	Pron.	Such as	Temporal	Political history	Collocation	That	Clausal	Didn't	Verbal
The	Def.art.	And	Additive			Issue	clausal		
Its	Pron. (neuter)	Where	Additive	First	Repetition				
That	Dem adv.	however	Adversative	Caucus	Lexical reiteration				
who	Rel. pron	For	Causal	Obasanjo	Repetition				

Investigations into the use of transitional devices in this extract shows that adequate both paragraphs and sentences are adequately related. The most conspicuously used discourse markers are therefore enumerated and described in the table.

4.2.1Extract 2a Editorial

4.2.1.0 ND. 2 THE GUARDIAN

The School Enrolment Crisis in the South East

Worried by the steady decline in the rate of boy-child school enrolment in five states of the south-east, the Education Trust Fund (ETF) is proposing a number of intervention measures to curb the ugly trend. This includes an aggressive awareness campaign on male education in the zone. The affected states are Abia, Anambra, Imo, Enugu and Ebonyi. Until recently, these states have never been (5) known to record low turnout in school enrolment of boys. As a matter of fact, the problem had always been in relation to the girl-child. But the situation seems to have changed with more girls enrolling in schools than boys.

The executive secretary of ETF, Professor Mahmood Yakubu who spoke (10) recently to participants drawn from the affected states in Owerri said an education survey carried out in the states confirmed that the trend, if left unchecked, could result, on the long run, in the nurturing of a population of young males who will be politically insensitive to national issues; ineffective as civil leaders and more likely to engage in unethical business. The bigger threat, we think, is the (15) expectedsharp rise in illiteracy.

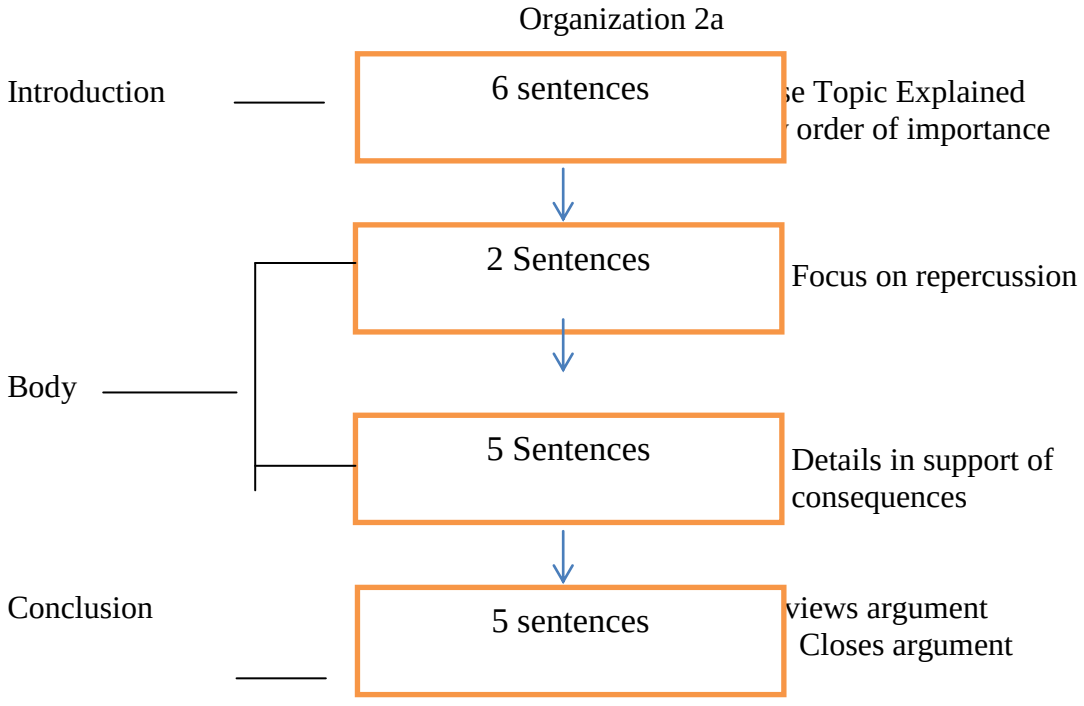
This development could be attributed to the worsening unemployment situation in the country. With very slim chance of getting employed after leaving school, many boys in the south-east and also elsewhere are beginning to consider education a waste of time. For them the time it takes to go to school with (20) nothing to do thereafter is more than enough to enroll as an apprentice, learn a trade and start off as an entrepreneur, or trade long before those in school could find their feet. For such persons and their parents, the attraction is the prospect of instant

wealth. They ignorantly believe that this translates into special advantages forgetting that knowledge drives even business enterprise. (25)

With about 65 per cent illiteracy rate, Nigeria appears to have missed the opportunity to use education as a prop for national development. The democratic system works better with an enlightened citizenry. No nation can afford to joke with the education of its youths and still expect to attain greatness. Nigeria's ambition to become one of the leading economies of the world, and a nation (30) of strategic importance cannot be realized through a growing army of stark illiterates. This is an issue that politicians and policy makers should consider a matter of urgent national importance requiring fresh thinking and strategic as well as sustainable response for the good of the country. (34)

4.2.1.1 ANALYSIS OF THE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Fig.19



As an editorial, linguists have variously observed that Nigerian newspaper editors complicate the composition of such news items as they are made too formalistic ‘in an attempt to write ‘’correct English’’ to satisfy a particular audience’ (Tomori, 1974: in Yusuf, 1992:12). It is therefore not unexpected when the analysis of the organization of this extract reveals that, in spite of the hasty nature of journalism, this editorial is a unified whole as depicted from its organizational pattern.

In its original form, the text is broken down into eight properly correlated paragraphs. However for the sake of this thesis, only the first three paragraphs and the last paragraph are culled for our investigation. The following is thus a rundown of the organizational structure:

1) In the introductory paragraph, the writer, in six punchy sentences has emphatically juxtaposed the mission of the communication as is stated in the overall discourse topic. The paragraph opens with a topic sentence and all the following sentences neatly beef up the main idea of the discourse topic.

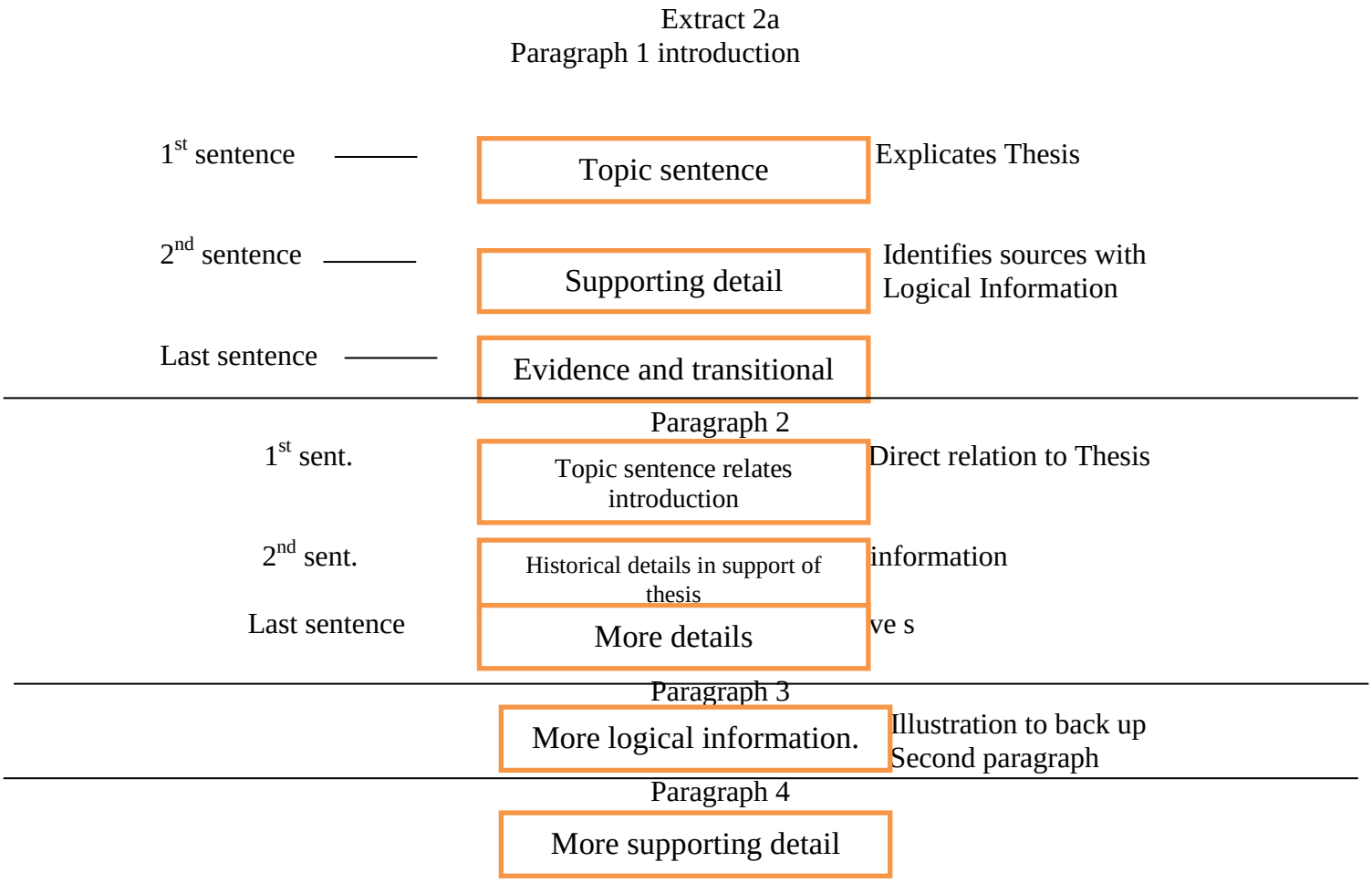
2) The second paragraph in two sentences focus on the consequences of the crisis as spelt out in the introduction.

3) The third paragraph in five sentences support the second paragraph by giving more reasons and illustrations.

4) This is the concluding paragraph of the text. It has five sentences that bring out the argument of the paper and proffered solution in a summary form.

4.2.1.2 **THE ANALYSIS OF PARAGRAPH DEVELOPMENT**

Fig.20



As already noted, the editorial is composed of eight paragraphs in its original form. For the purpose of the present research, however, only four are assessed. The introductory paragraph started straight away with an explication of the thesis statement as spelt out in the title. The first sentence of the paragraph which is also the topic sentence immediately sets the reader on by providing a logical detail to expatiate the discourse topic, 'The school enrolment crisis in the South East'. This development of paragraphs through the statement of fact and detail enhances unity and coherence. The rest of the five sentences in the paragraph revolve around the topic sentence adding more interesting details through proffering solutions,

enumerating the participants involved, giving historical background and summing the paragraph up with an interesting assumption to lead the reader into the next paragraph.

The second paragraph, taking its source from the preceding one, is basically a transitional paragraph the topic sentence of which is developed by cause and effect. Thus, in it is stated the relationship between one factual event and another. This transcends into the third paragraph which, in turn, is developed by giving reasons to support and justify the assertions made in the previous paragraphs.

The fourth, as earlier noted, is the concluding paragraph of the editorial and it contains five sentences with the first being the topic sentence of the paragraph. This concluding part contributes a great deal to the comprehension of the entire text as it gives a summary of the cause, effect and solution to the thesis statement, *'The school enrolment crisis in the South East'.*

Deduction: From the analysis, intense paragraph development, as had in this extract, contributes greatly to thematic unity and coherence of written texts.

4.2.1.3 THE ANALYSIS OF TRANSITIONAL DEVICES

Fig.21

Ref.	Type	Conj.	Type	Lex. Coh.	Type	Subs.	Type	Ellipses	Type
The	Def. article	until	Temporal	Steady decline	Synonym	zone	Nominal	ETF	Clausal
Is	Copular verb	but	Adversative	Civil leaders	Collocation				
This	Dem. Pron.(s)	also	Additive	School	Repetition				
These	Dem. pron.(plu)	and	Additive						
Who	Rel. pron								
Their	Pro.(anaphora)								

Result of the analysis of most frequently used discourse markers in the extract revealed that:

i) Transitional phrases are used: a) to show direct connection: as in ‘this’ in lines 4, 19 and 38 (a determiner, an adverb and a determiner) also the use of the demonstrative adjective ‘these’ in line 6; b) to show time sequence: as in ‘until recently’ in line 6 c) to show contrast: as in ‘but’ line 10; d) to show emphasis: as in ‘as a matter of fact’ in line 8.

ii) Repeating key words and phrases:

iii) Pronoun reference: to replace proper nouns as in ‘them’ ‘they’ ‘their’ in lines 21, 25 and 23

iv) Parallel forms: ‘

4.2.2.0 Extract 2b (News report)

FURORE AS INDIA GIVES WOMEN ONE-THIRD OF LEGISLATIVE SEATS

The Indian government has introduced a bill to parliament that would reserve one-third of the legislature’s seats for women, angering socialist lawmakers who tore up papers and tried to tear out microphones.

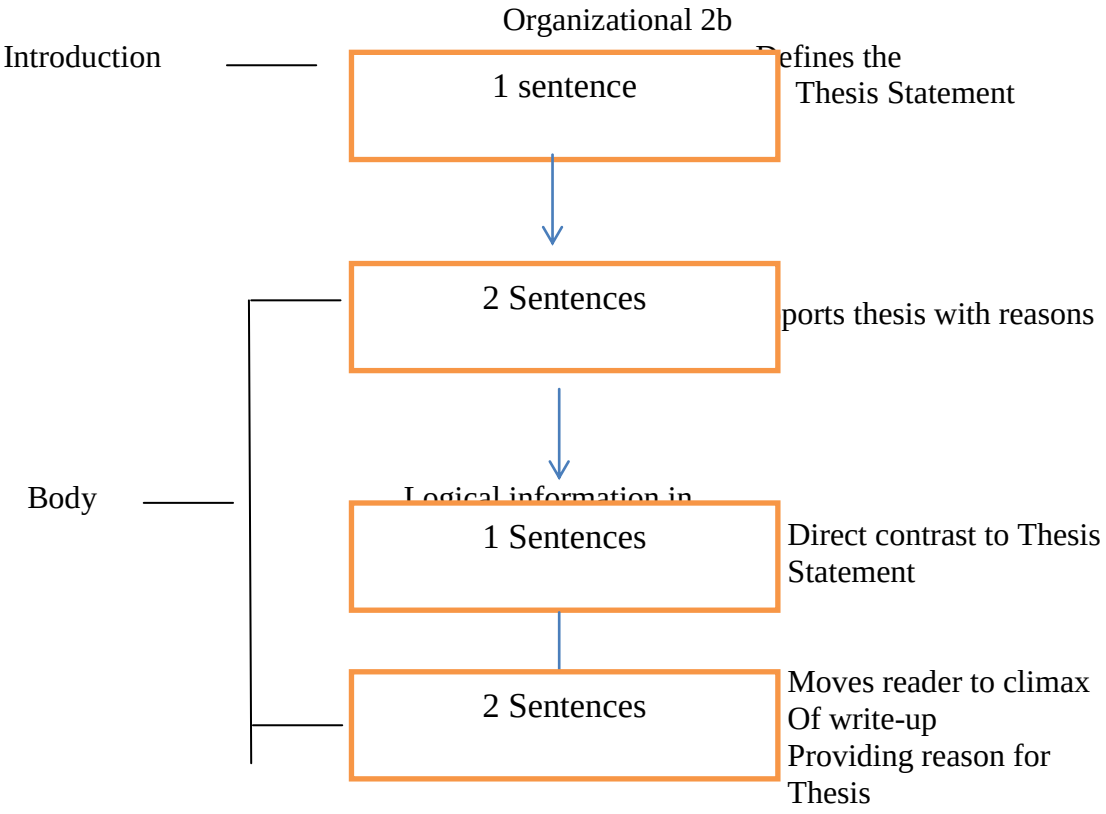
The protest, according to the associated press (AP) yesterday, stalled debate and voting on the proposal until at least today. The bill has faced strong (5) opposition since it was first proposed more than a decade ago, with many political leaders worried that their male-dominated parties would lose seats under a female quota system.

But Prime Minister Manmohan Singh’s government, which was re-elected last year, is confident it has enough support this time and presented the bill to (10) parliament on International Women’s Day.

The bill is an attempt to correct some of the historical mistreatment of women in this South Asian country. Most Indian women received far less education than men and are weighed down by illiteracy, poverty and low social status. [15]

ANALYSIS OF THE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Fig.22

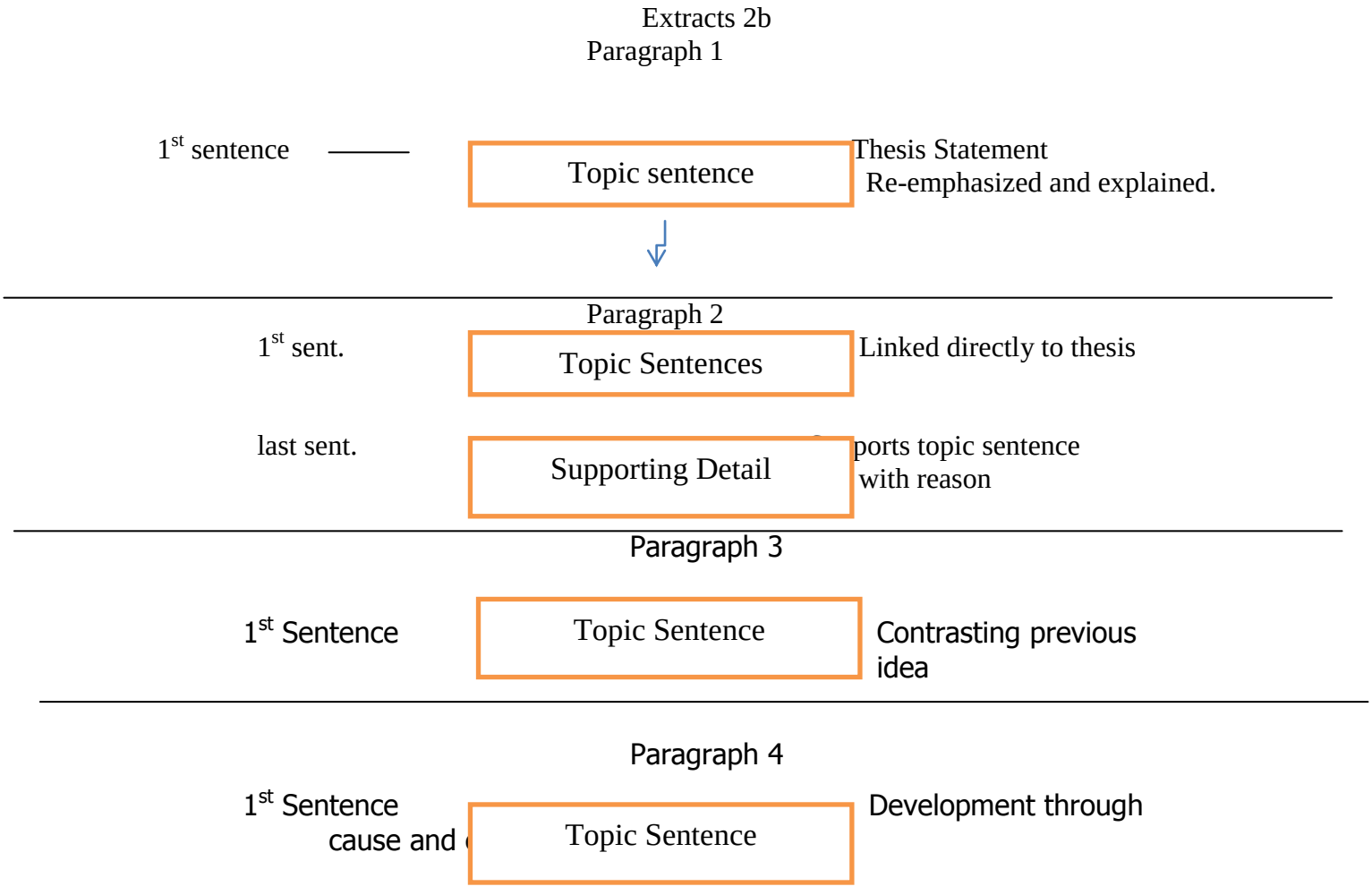


There are six paragraphs in the original of this text but four are used for the present analysis. The outcome of the analysis of the organizational structure proved that the essay is distinctive of journalism not because of its unique approach of compressing the information into a very narrow column but because the organizational lay-out tallies with the need for newspaper reports to be apt and catchy.

The first paragraph in single sentence outlines the thesis statement, the second gives details to support it in two sentences, and the third in a sentence also provides more logical information while the fourth expanded on the thought in the preceding paragraph.

4.2.2.2 ANALYSIS OF PARAGRAPH DEVELOPMENT

Fig.23



It has been found by our analysis of the development of paragraphs in this extract that much is done to achieve thematic and sub-thematic correlation and coherence through the use of a combination of methods. That is, each paragraph was developed to fit the purpose it served. The first, for instance, in a single sentence but multiple-complex in structure, presented

the thesis statement and elaborates on it with interesting details capable of holding the reader's attention.

The second paragraph has its central idea at the beginning. From our analysis, this is supported by the next sentence which places emphasis on exposing the various components as addressed by the discourse topic. Both the third and fourth paragraphs develop on historical lines in order to aid in the clarification of the thesis statement.

4.2.2.3 ANALYSIS OF THE TRANSITIONAL DEVICES

Fig.24

Ref.	Type	Conj.	Type	Lex. Coh	Type	Subs	Type	Ellipses	Type
The	Def. art.	Until	Temporal	Low maker	Collocation	It	Lex.	First	Nominal (number)
That	Dem. pron. (Far)	But	Adversative	Prime minister	Lex. Reiteration	Protest	Verbal	One=third	Nominal (number)
Who	Rel. pron.	And	Additive	The bill	Repetition	Woman	Nominal	Tear out	Verbal
This	Dem. pron.(near)	Which	Additive	Political leader	Synonym				
It	Pron. (neuter)	And	additive	Seats	Repetition				

Various kinds of linking words and phrases have been employed by the author to make this write up adequately connected. The table that follows enumerates and describes some of the discourse markers used.

4.2.3.0 Extract 2c (News Report)

U.S CUTS BUDGET FOR MARITIME SECTOR

President Obama, faced with some tough choices in the fiscal year 2011 federal budget, has made his priorities clear when it comes to maritime programs. They will be among many federal programs that will be signed by the budget axe, if congress goes along with his spending plan.

The coast guard would see its budget cut 3.3 percent and would have (5) to shed 773 positions. The corps of engineers, which funds navigation projects, would be trimmed to about 10 percent. Then there are slices in programs for ports and no money to jump-start coastal short-sea shipping projects, which many say would greatly help relieve truck traffic on already snarled highways.

The coast guard, which seems to always be told to do more with less, (10) says it can live with the cuts because the proposal would fund much needed replacements to ageing aircraft and ships under the deep water recapitalization program. “You never have enough budgets,” Commandant Thad Allen said recently. “But if we don’t recapitalize, we’ll be a hollow force in the future.”

Now it’s up to congress to decide whether Obama has made the (15) right budget choice when it comes to maritime programs, many of which touch the daily business of the workboat industry.

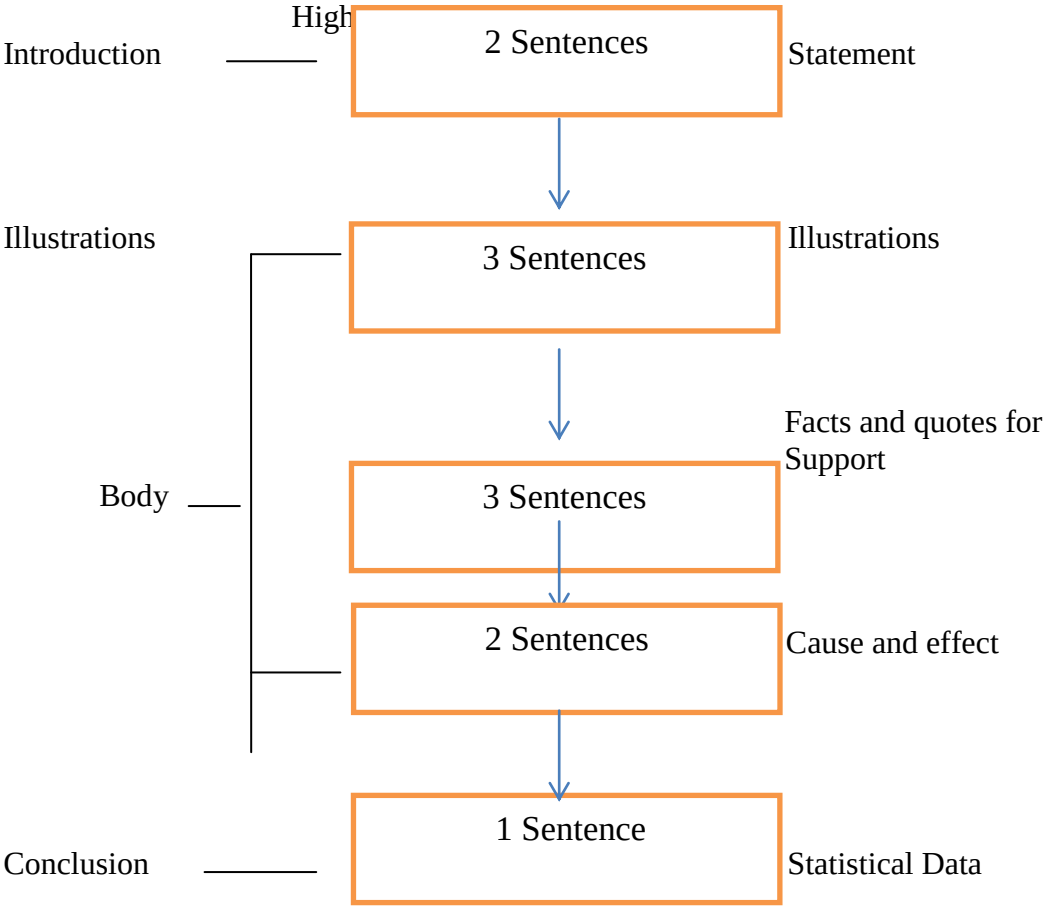
Hearing before various congressional committees to discuss the budget plan are set to begin on Capitol Hill. If you feel strongly about any of these budget proposals, it’s a good time to let your congressman or senators know. (20)

Or you could attend upcoming meetings in Washington, D.C., of the Waterways Council (Feb. 22-24), the American Waterways operators (April 14-16), the National Waterways Conference (annual legislative summit, March 9-10) or the American Association of Port Authorities (March 22-24) to get briefed on what's going on and participate in lobbying activities on the hill. [25]

4.2.3.1 ANALYSIS OF ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Fig.25

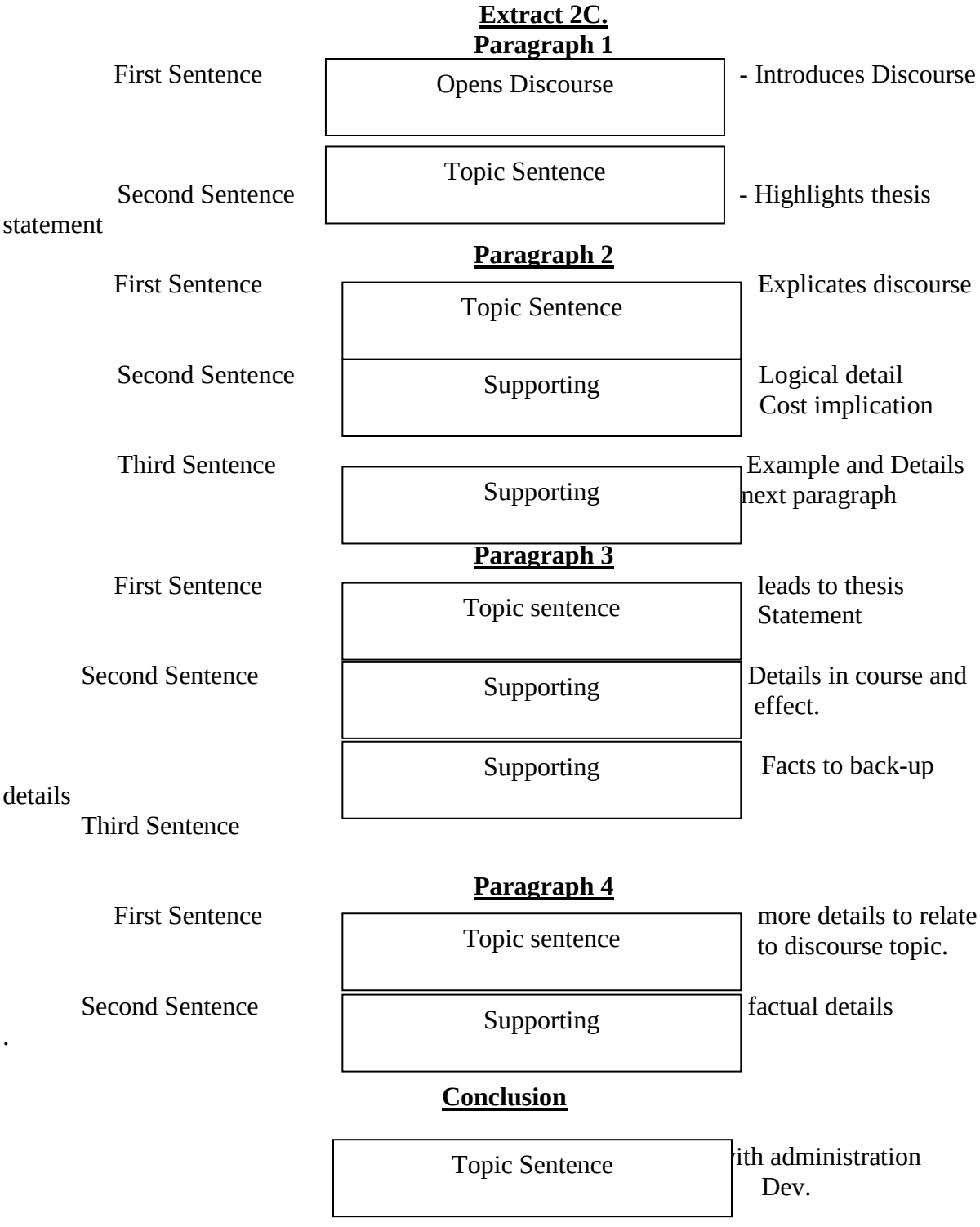
Organizational 2c



All the five paragraphs of the text are subjected to analysis thus enabling us to have a complete view of the composition. Investigation shows that the introductory paragraph in two sentences highlights the thesis statement and the second adds more specific details. In transition, the third and fourth dwell on the controversy surrounding the thesis statement and the fifth sums up with a table of events.

4.2.3.2 ANALYSIS OF THE PARAGRAPH DEVELOPMENT

Fig. 26



As noted earlier, all the five paragraphs of the passage are used for this analysis. Under the development of paragraphs, it is significant to state that this extract was specifically selected for the present work in order to ascertain the eclectic nature of newspaper writing.

By our analysis, this text authenticates the apt use of the appropriate register and structure in 'journalese' to match with the type of discourse in question. The topic sentence of the first paragraph which contains two sentences is the last of the two and structurally a complex sentence that combines the exposition of the thesis statement and its conditional implication. Thus, the first sentence of the paragraph only gives logical details to clarify the thesis statement.

All the other paragraphs are developed variously to enhance the delivery of the massage.

4.2.3.3 ANALYSIS OF TRANSITIONAL DEVICES

Fig.27

Ref.	Type	Conj.	Type	Lex. Coh	Type	Subs.	Type	Ellipses	Type
The	d/art.	If	Temporal	president	Lex reiteration	Tough choice	Clausal	among	Verbal
that	Dem pron.	Then	Temporal	Coast guard	Collocation	seems	verbal	3 per.	Nominal number
Its	Pron. Poss.	But	Adversative	Federal	Repetition			D.C	Clausal
It	Pron. Neuter	And	Add	Port Authority	Collocation				
These	Dem. pron.	or	adversative						

Due to the technicalities of the discourse, our analysis revealed that the most appropriate linkers relate the thoughts in the essay. The table below therefore enumerates and describes some of the linking devices used so as to assess their impact on the unity and coherence of the text.

4.2.4.0 Extract 2d. (Editorial)

LARGEBACK AND SUPER EAGLES' WORLD CUP CAMPAIGN

Lars Largeback, the newly recruited technical adviser to the Super Eagles, must have realized by now that time is of essence in his unenviable task of leading the national football team to a credible outing at South Africa 2010 that is the FIFA-organized world cup championship that is barely 100 days away. He has the five months' contract he signed and the global competition in particular to prove (5) his competence.

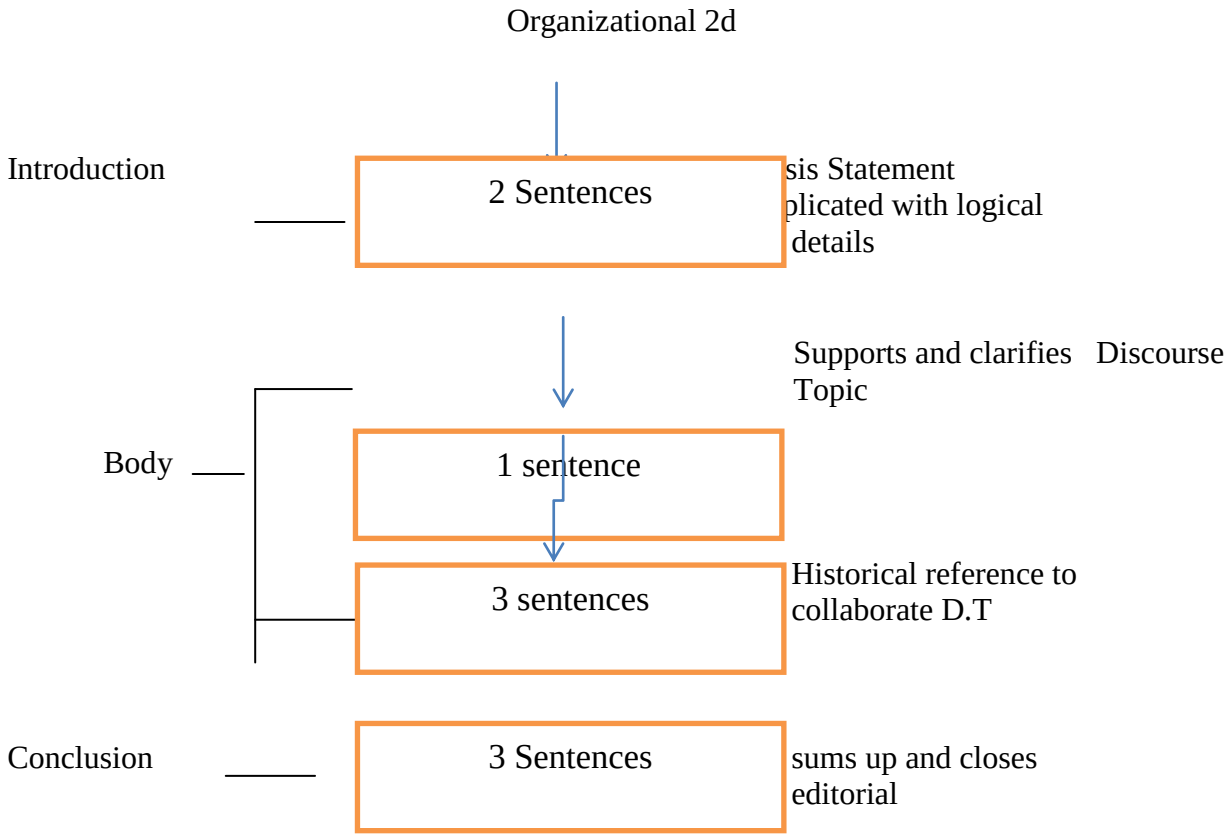
Emerging from an interview as the football federation's preferred choice among five high profile candidates invited, the soccer tactician ought to have realized in the past few days of interaction with concerned stakeholders that a lot is expected of him. (10)

The assignment is, no doubt, a litmus test of his coaching pedigree. This is in spite of the short time at his disposal, and the arguably deficient football squad that he has inherited. The former coaching crew lost the trust of the football community due to the Super Eagles' below average performances during the (15) world cup qualifying series and at the African Nations Cup in January.

Mr. Largerback has a rare opportunity to prove himself a technically sound adviser in the months ahead, with a possible extension of contract if he succeeds. However, he should be told that Nigerians are impatient with failures. He should just do his job professionally, with excellent results. (20)

4.2.4.1 ANALYSIS OF THE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Fig.28

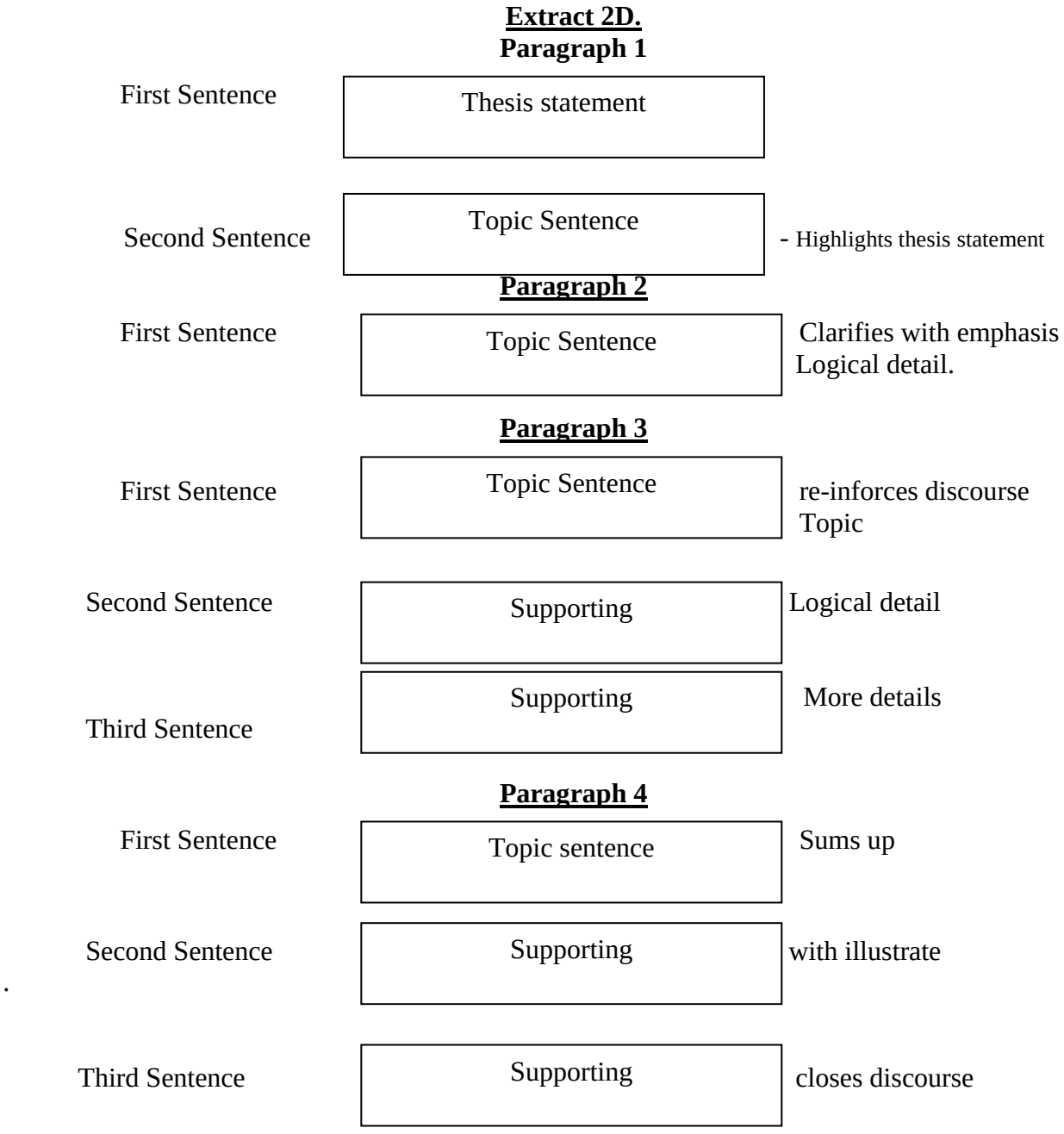


Of the twelve paragraphs composing this essay, only four comprising of the first three and the concluding paragraph are culled for this analysis. As an editorial, our investigation shows the organization of the essay is not wanting in quality as it follows the-order-of-importance pattern.

The first paragraph, in a narrative approach, introduces the discourse topic and provides the most important detail, all in two sentences. The second provides details to support and make the introductory paragraph clearer in one sentence. And the third, in three sentences, posed as a historical reference to the thesis statement. The last paragraph sums up in three sentences.

4.2.4.2 ANALYSIS OF PARAGRAPH DEVELOPMENT

Fig. 29



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Paragraphs in this editorial have been proved by our analysis to be fully developed and unified. The first paragraph, which consists of two sentences, introduces the discourse topic as it also clarifies the thesis statement as enshrined in the title of the text. The first of the two

sentences, in which is embedded the topic sentence of the paragraph, is multiple-complex in structure. It is meant to satisfy the immediate need of the reader, that is, inform him. After this, the second sentence clarifies the thesis statement further with an expression of purpose to aid comprehension.

The second paragraph develops as a transitional one to provide more logical information. In three sentences, the third paragraph in a series of parallelisms, effectively reinforces, the flow of thought which, by our investigation enables the sustenance of readers interest.

The concluding paragraph in three sentences not only sums up the entire discourse but also adds more interesting details as in *'...has a rare opportunity to prove himself a technically sound adviser....'* and *'...Nigerians are impatient with failures'* (lines 18-21 p).

2.4.3 ANALYSIS OF TRANSITIONAL DEVICES

Fig.30

Ref.	Type	Conj.	Type	L/coh.	Type	Subs.	Type	Ellipses	Type
That	Dem. pron.	And	Add	World Cup	Collocation	Assignment	Clausal	Leading	verbal
The	Def. art.	With	Add	Football	Repetition	100	Nominal	Five	Nominal
His	Pron	However	adversative	Squad	Synonym				
A	Ind. Art.(C)			Deficient	l/reitration				
An	Ind. Art.(V)			Adviser	Repetition				

As has been mentioned from the onset, probably because the extract is an editorial, much pre-writing activities had taken place for a unified and coherent passage. Our analysis has shown that the appropriateness of the tie between paragraphs and that between sentences contributes immensely to the smooth flow of ideas as well as making reading easy.

4.3.0 ND.3 VANGUARD:

4.3.1.0 Extract 3a (News report)

UBTH ASSURES ON SERVICE DELIVERY

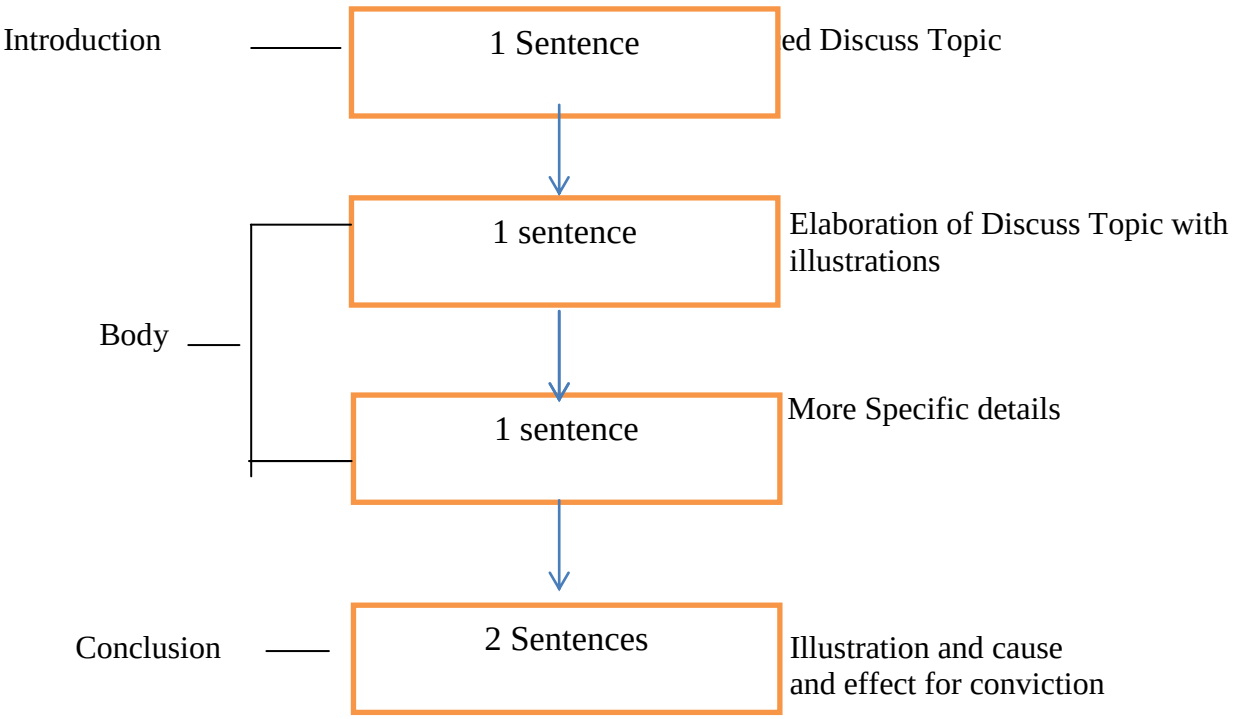
BENIN-The Chief Medical Director of the University of Benin Teaching Hospital, UBTH, Prof Michael Ibadin, has assured members of the public that the hospital will render better services with the assistance of good spirited Nigerians and corporate organizations.

Prof. Ibadin who spoke when the hospital honoured some corporate (5) bodies and individuals, who had assisted in the settlement of the bills of indigent patients and other assistance to the hospital, said the hospital was able to overcome some of its problems due to the assistance from members of the public last year. (10)

Some of the beneficiaries include Mr. Andy Agamome, the CEO Agien Aluminium, Prof. Nobert Osamu, Dr Onaiwu Odiase, Prof. Mathias Obiaya and Prof. Augustine Oronsaye. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Ibadin said "it is the first time that we are gathering this way to honour people who have assisted us immensely in this (15) hospital. It is the intention of management to make this exercise regular so that we can encourage people to give their best to the hospital." (16)

4.3.1.1 ANALYSIS OF THE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Fig.31 Organizational 3a

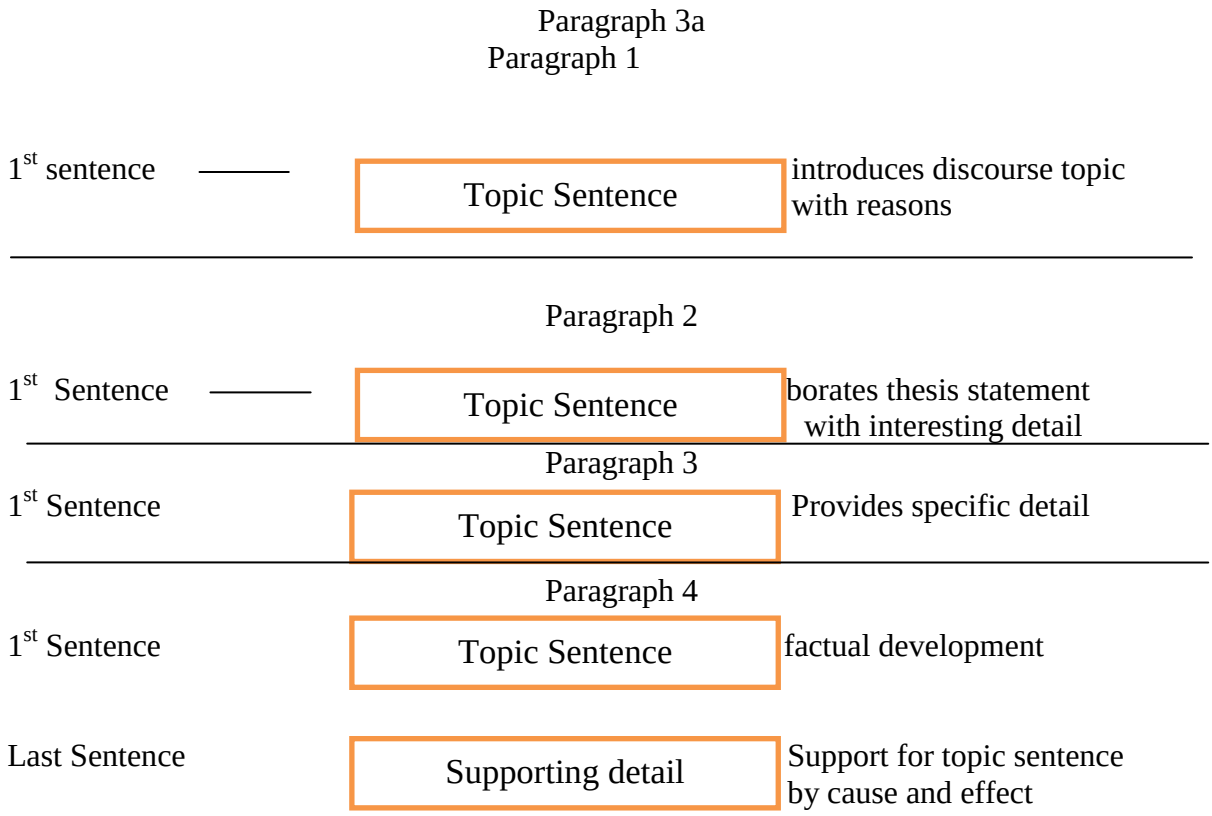


The entire news report is used for the present analysis. As a result, the introduction, body and conclusion are captured as a whole. Events in the story are ordered one after the other to give a chronological organizational pattern. The first paragraph introduces the subject while each of the other paragraphs contains a specific idea capable of sustaining the reader's attention throughout the text.

The sequential arrangement of ideas, as the analysis reveals, enhances smooth reading and coherence. This is evident in the tie existing between the introductory paragraph and the rest of the composition.

4.3.1.2 ANALYSIS OF PARAGRAPH DEVELOPMENT

Fig.32



The introductory paragraph comprises of only one sentence which by structure is compound-complex and contains multiple ideas. It throws light on the central idea *'that the hospital will render better services'* by elaborating it with the condition that assistance is had from *'good spirited Nigerians and corporate organizations'*. (Lines 3-4)

The second paragraph further explicates the thesis statement by giving it more support through logical information.

The third paragraph adds specific details in direct connection to the central message thus enhancing the unity of the text.

The concluding paragraph which has two sentences clears the reader of any iota of doubt by tying the entire essay together in two sentences. The first as the topic sentence through direct speech sums up while the second supports the topic sentence by cause and effect.

4.3.1.3 ANALYSIS OF TRANSITIONAL DEVICES OF EXTRACT 3a

Fig.33

Ref.	Type	Conj.	Type	l/coh	Type	Subs.	Type	Ellipses	Type
That	D/pron.	With	Add.	The hospital	Repetition	exercise	Nominal	CEO	CL
Who	r/pron.	Due to	Causal	Patient	Collocation				
Some	Ind. Art.	include	Add	Honour	l/reiteration				
This	d/pron.	So that	Causal	Assistance	Repetition				

The analysis proves that because of the chronological organizational structure of this extract, appropriate transitional devices to tally with space and time for enhancement of coherence is used. The linking devices selected relate each sentence to the thesis statement such as:

i) Transitional phrases: a) to show time sequence as in: 'last year', 'when the hospital…', 'on the occasion', 'the first time' in lines 5, 9, 9, 13; b) to show place as in: 'the University', 'the hospital', as in lines 1, 5;

4.3.2.0 Extract 3b (News report)

PRESIDENCY DENIES CANCELLING RIVER NIGER DREDGING

Abuja in a swift move to nip in the bud what is capable of section alising his Presidency, Acting President Goodluck Jonathan, Sunday, described as outright falsehood reports that he has cancelled the ongoing ₦36 billion dredging of the River Niger in Lokoja and diverted its funds to reclaim the lower River Niger. (5)

A statement by the Senior Special Assistant to the Acting President on Media and Publicity, Ima Niboro, said there was never a time that Jonathan presided over any meeting that approved the stoppage of the ₦36 billion contracts for the dredging of the River Niger from Forcados in Delta State to Baro in Niger State. (10)

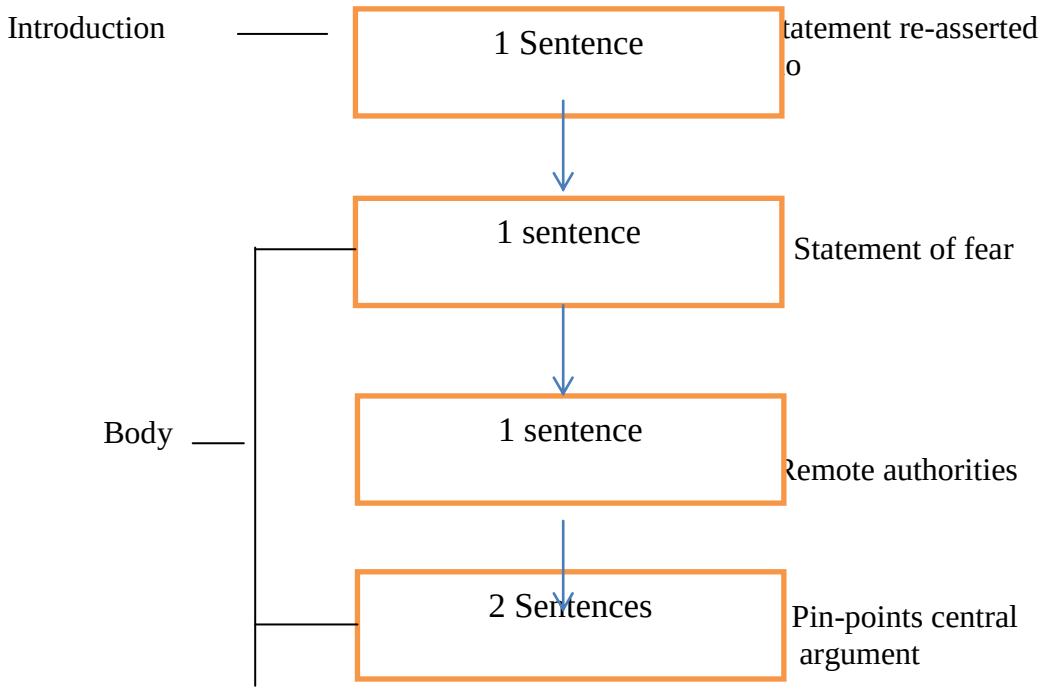
The statement said: "This is to correct the false impression being created in some quarters that the Acting President, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, allegedly diverted the sum of ₦19billion from the River Niger Dredging project into shore protection and land reclamation projects in the Niger Delta.

"The other variant of the story is that Dr. Jonathan has cancelled the (15) dredging of the River Niger, which was flagged off September last year by President Umaru Musa 'Yar Adua. Both stories are entirely false, and are being sponsored by desperate persons who are determined to tamper with the peace and unity of our dear country. (20)

4.3.2.1 ANALYSIS OF THE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Fig.34

Organizational 3b



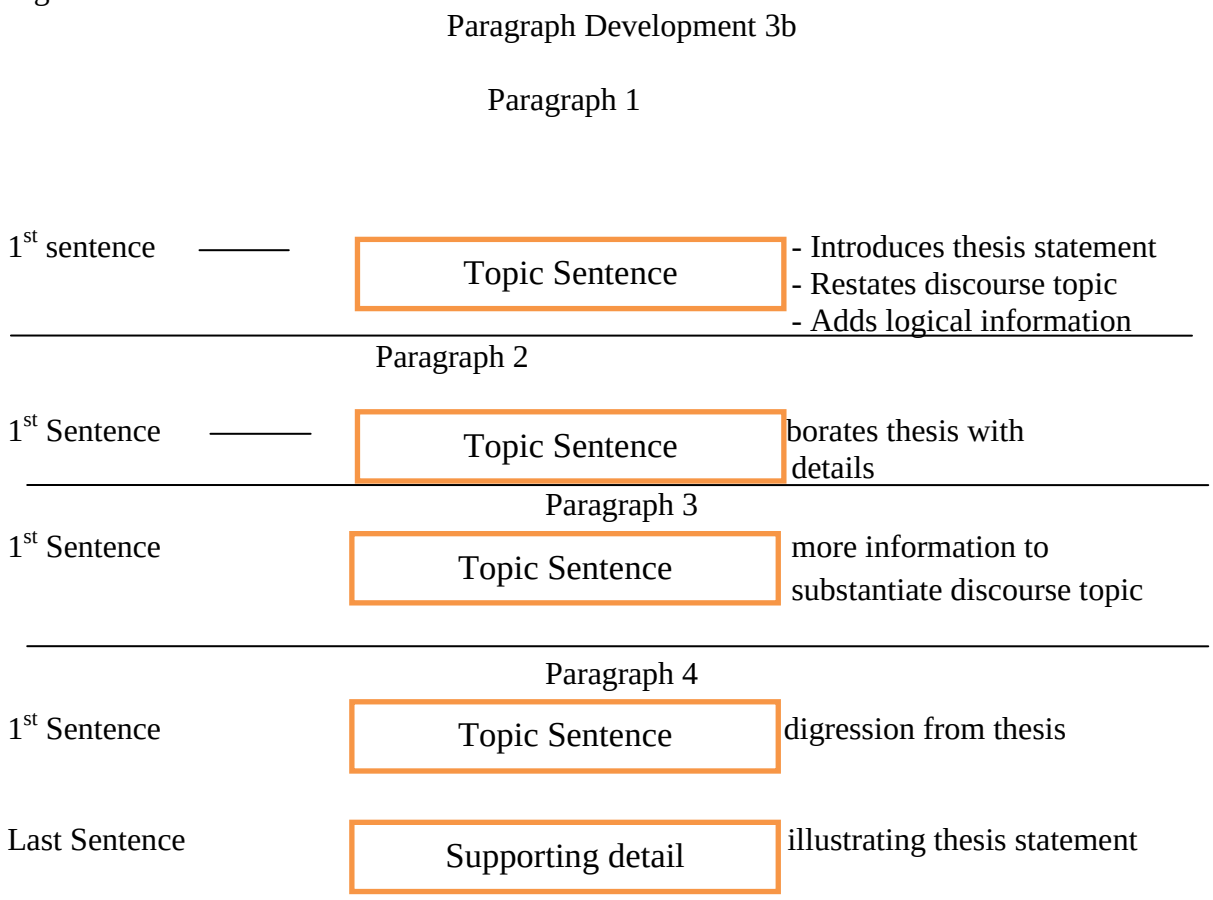
The analysis of the organizational structure of this text has revealed that the right method was used for the achievement of unity and coherence. At the planning stage, it is evident that the environment is created to debunk a very sensitive matter as the title depicts.

With the exception the fourth paragraph which is constructed in two sentences, our analysis has shown that all the others are made of single sentences. However, all sentences used are either multiple or compound-complex that contain other ideas apart from the main ones.

4.3.2.2 ANALYSIS OF PARAGRAPH DEVELOPMENT

Fig.35

Paragraph Development 3b



As noted in the analysis of the organisational structure, though almost all the paragraphs are composed in single sentences each of them encompasses a number of other ideas besides the core one. Thus, our investigation of the development of such paragraphs has brought to light not just the eye-catching intent but also the various stylistic variations that are inherent in them.

The introductory paragraph, for instance, is a multiple complex sentence in which is embedded two independent clauses joined by the additive conjunction, ‘and’. Both clauses have equal grammatical value and can each stand on its own. Furthermore, the adverbial clause that precedes them aids to clarify the thesis statement

Through development by facts, the second paragraph supports the discourse topic as explicated in the introduction with more logical information. Also, through transitional development, the third paragraph expands the thought in the second paragraph by quotation and interesting details.

The topic sentence of the fourth paragraph, located at the beginning, indicates a shift in the story line to add more information to the discourse. Its supporting sentence in cooperates an emphasis on the thesis statement as well as an informative conclusion that sums up the entire discourse topic.

4.3.2.3 ANALYSIS OF TRANSITIONAL DEVICES

Fig. 36

Ref.	Type	Conj.	Type	l/coh	Type	Subs.	Type	ellipses	Type
That	d/pron. Far	is	Copular	Presidency	l/reiteration	Stoppage	Verbal		
He	Pron.	and	Add	dredging	Repetition	Funds	Clausal		
The	Def. art	for	Causal	presided	Collocates meeting				
This	d/pron. Near	Both	Add	story	Synonym				
Our	Pron. Pl.								

Investigation of the tie in the text revealed that as an argumentative essay the author's use of linking words and phrases is intense. The diagram below shows a description of the most significant ones.

4.3.3.0 Extract 3c (News report)

SAIPEM TO SECURE US $1 BILLION ON-SHORE CONTRACT

Saipem has been awarded new onshore contract worth approximately 1 billion US dollars in Australia Gladstone LNG Operations. The EPC contract for the engineering, procurement and construction of gas pipeline, 42 inches in diameter and 43 kilometers-long, will connect the gas fields in the Bowen and Surat Basins. (5)

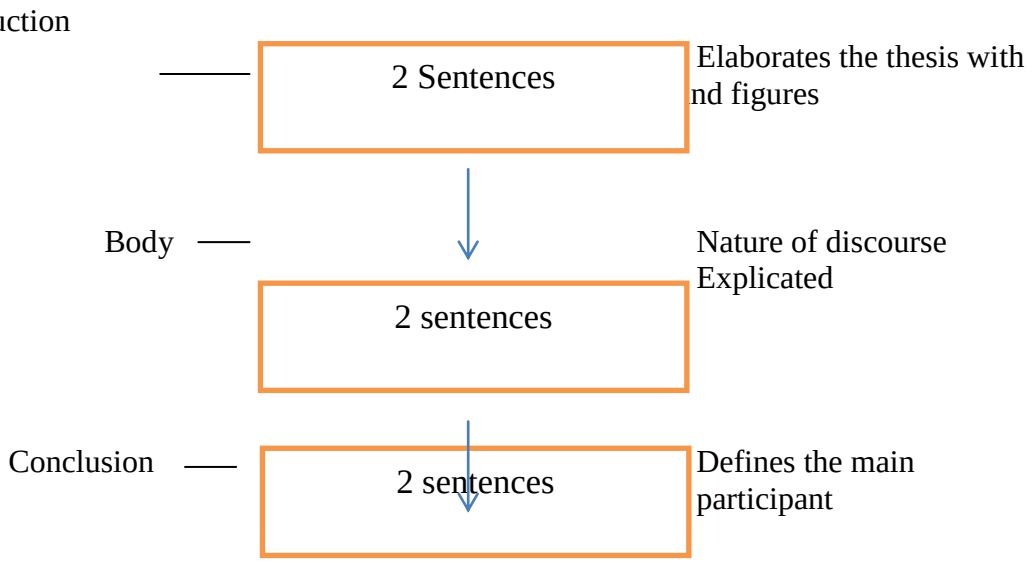
The pipeline will be entirely buried and a number of mitigation measures will be implemented during pipeline construction to minimize the environmental impact to on sensitive areas, including when control rehabilitation and biodiversity offsetting. The works will be completed in the third quarter of 2013.

Furthermore, in West Africa and Middle East Saipem is organized in (10) three Businesses Units Offshore, Onshore and Drilling, with a strong bias towards oil & gas related activities in remote area and deep water. Saipem is a leader in the provision of engineering, procurement, project management and construction service with distinctive capabilities in the design and the execution of large scale competences such as gas monetization and heavy oil exploitation. (15)

4.3.3.1 ANALYSIS OF ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Fig. 37

Organizational 3c



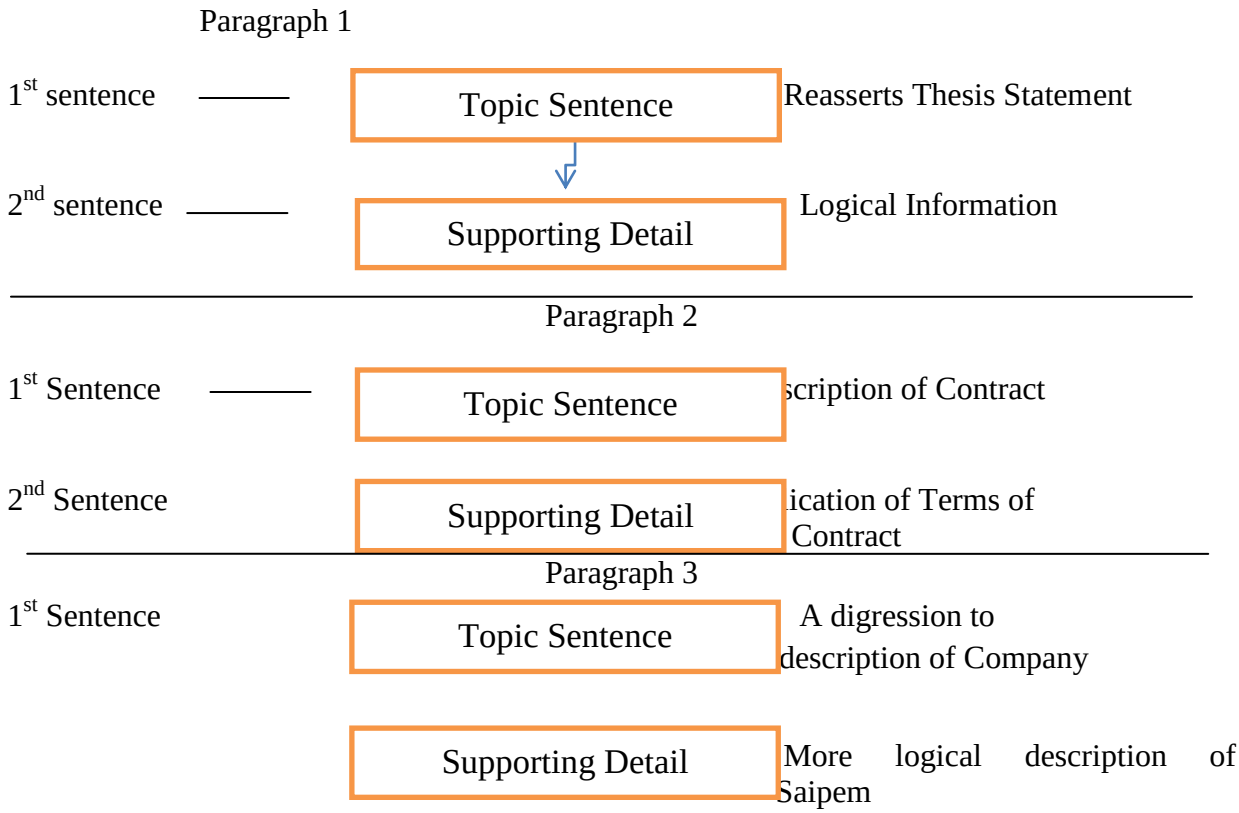
The entire text of six sentences in three paragraphs was employed in this analysis. As a business report, the compositional organisation, by our investigation, has a rather formal outlook.

Each paragraph has two sentences of varying length and structural classification.

4.3.3.2 ANALYSIS OF PARAGRAPH DEVELOPMENT

Fig.38

Paragraph Development 3C



The analysis shows that the two sentences of the first paragraph establish the thesis statement. While the first re-asserts the main discourse topic as the topic sentence, the other elaborates it by adding more logical information. This straight forward explication of the discourse topic apart from enhancing the unity and coherence of texts, also, creates room for faster reading and comprehension.

Both the second and third paragraphs provide factual details as shown. in the diagram.

4.3.3.3 ANALYSIS OF TRANSITIONAL DEVICES

Fig.39.

Ref.	Type	Conj.	Type	l/coh	Type	Subs.	Type	Ellipses	Type
The	d/art.	And	Add	contract	Repetition	The works	clausal	Third quarter	nominal
A	Ind/art.	f/more	Add	Onsho re	Collocation				
		Such as	Causal	Fields	l/reitration				
		Is	copular						

It is noted from our investigation of the connectivity of this text that because of the application of the marketing register, there has been an abundant use of linking words and phrases particularly conjunctions so as to give it the formal connectivity it requires.

The enumeration and description of these cohesive devices as sketched in the table that follows depict their effect on the composition:

4.3.4.0 Extract 3d.(News Report)

More Extension

It is pointless debating whether an extension of the registration of voters is "absolutely necessary". The Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, by giving absolute necessity as a condition for extending registration of voters, is living in denial about failure of the exercise.

Blame shifting or blame sharing will not achieve anything. INEC is in [(5)] a Flux after heavy criticisms of the exercise. President Goodluck Jonathan publicly stated that registration staffs were improperly trained. He is right.

Professor Attahiru Jega, INEC chairman, confirmed the fears when he admitted some voters were not fully registered. Voters' fingers, all 10, were to be captured; some registered

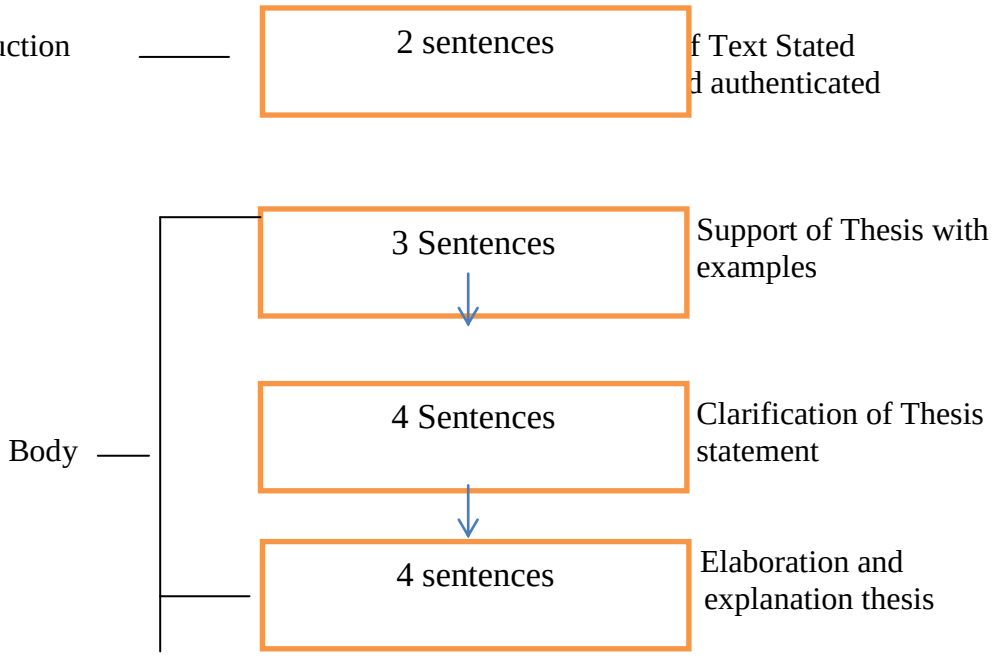
less. Those registrations are not valid. Jega expects [10] them to re-register, but how many of them will know if their registration was successful?

The last batch of 26, 000 DDC machines were expected on Saturday, half way into the exercise. If they undergo the operational difficulties earlier deployments suffered, the time will prove inadequate. [15]

4.3.4.1 ANALYSIS OF THE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Fig. 40

Organizational 3d

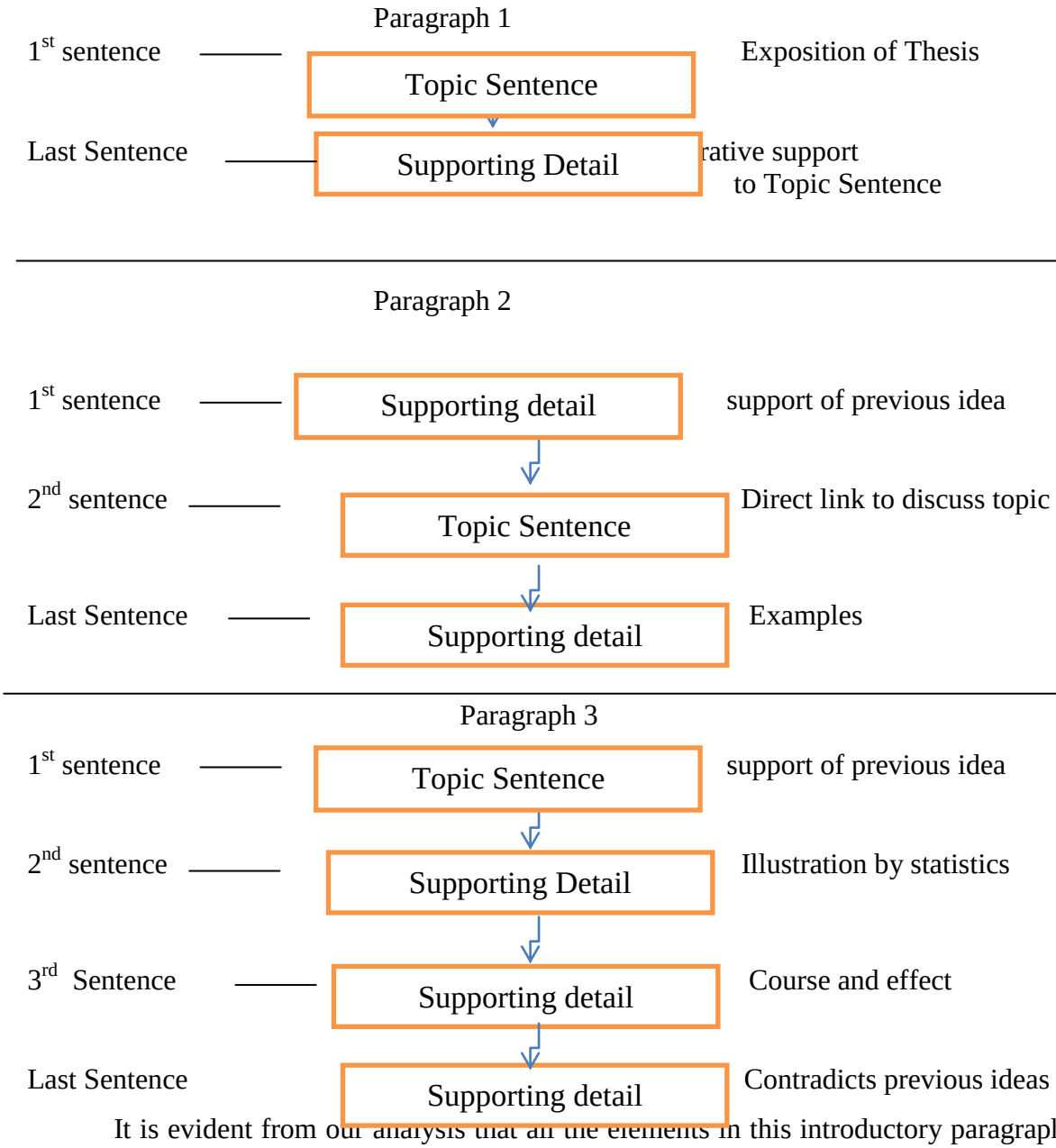


For the purpose of the present research, the first four paragraphs is culled and analyzed from the twelve-paragraph editorial. From the investigation made, the organizational strategy employed by the writer is topical as his stand was conspicuously evident from the thesis statement as enshrined in the title of the text.

Thus, all the paragraphs right from the introduction are specifically directed toward upholding the thesis statement. By our examination, the sketch below outlines the impact of the organisational plan on the unity and coherence of the composition.

4.2.3.2 ANALYSIS OF PARAGRAPH DEVELOPMENT

Fig. 41 Paragraph 3d



It is evident from our analysis that all the elements in this introductory paragraph point to a development through cause and effect. The opening sentence, which is the topic sentence,

indirectly re-asserts the discourse topic as it leads the reader into the story. The second sentence of the paragraph, as an aid to the topic sentence, throws more light in support thus intensifying the tie in the composition. Result of our analysis has also shown that such developmental method of reasoning enhances both clarity and completeness of paragraphs.

The first sentence of the second paragraph, which is the paragraph's topic sentence, extricates the knot in the thesis statement by elaboration. The second sentence clarifies it further and the third illustrates it by specification. These the writer sums-up in the fourth sentence. This type of paragraph development, as our analysis has revealed, impacts greatly on the unity and coherence of the passage. It also leads the reader to what to expect in the next paragraph.

The tie continues in the third paragraph. Here, the topic sentence is situated in the initial position and gives logical details to explicate the thesis statement. The two supporting sentences add further examples to aid comprehension.

The fourth paragraph is also illustrative and it is directly bound to the discourse topic.

The diagram shows the developmental methods used to create textual unity and coherence in the composition.

Fig.42

ANALYSIS OF TRANSITIONAL DEVICES

Ref.	Type	Conj.	Type	Lex. Coh.	Type	Sub.	Type	Ellipses	Type
The	Def. art.	With	Add.	The hospital	Repetition	Beneficiaries	clausal	UBTH	Clausal
That	Dem. pron.	And	Add.	Assistance	Repetition	Exercise	verbal	CEO	Clausal
Who	R/pron.	So	Causal	Patients	Collocation				
Some	Ind. Art.	Due to	Causal	Management	l/reiteration				

4.4.0 ND4 The Punch

4.4.1.0 Extract 4a (Editorial)

REVIEW OF IMPORT PROHIBITION LIST

A recent circular from the Federal Ministry of Finance to the Nigeria Customs Service and other organizations concerned with International trade details goods that have just been removed from the import prohibition list as well as duties/levies now applicable. Prominent among the goods are "cassava, toothpicks, furniture, textile fabrics and articles thereof, lace and embroidered fabrics (5) and made-up garments.

Explaining the rationale behind the review, Finance Minister, Olusegun Aganga, says several items on the Prohibition List still find their way into the Nigerian market through importers who use seaports in neighbouring West African Countries and Smugglers who exploit loopholes in Nigeria's borders. (10) By his understanding of the trend, the nation has lost revenues as a result of the outright prohibition of goods. Duties on such goods, he believes, will make the economy a lot healthier.

The main objectives of import prohibition include protecting existing domestic industries and reducing the country's perceived Dependence on importswhile, at the same time,

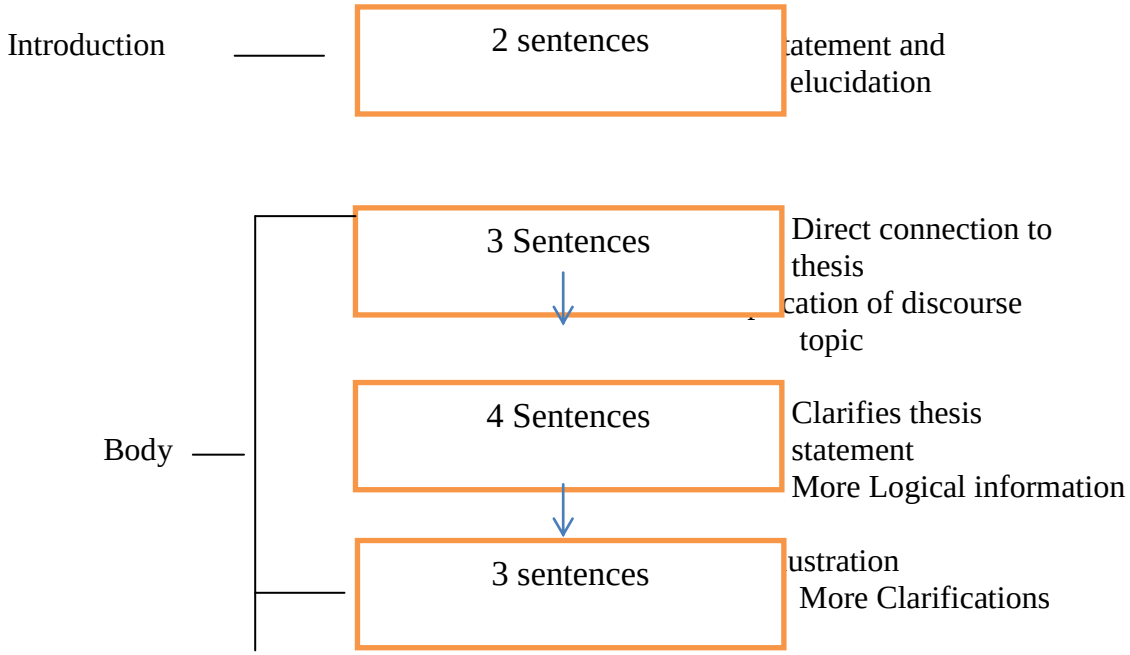
ensuring the availability of raw materials and capital[15] goods which cannot be obtained from domestic sources. But Aganga says: "The lifting of ban on some imported items does not apply to those products we produce locally. We are committed to the promotion and protection of local industries. The government is going to generate revenue from the levies to be paid on the products. And I can assure you that the money to be generated [20] would be used for providing infrastructure for the survival of our industries."

The circular stated that "Mr. President approved an import duty rate of 10 per cent levy on Health and Energy drinks, such as Power Horse, Red Ginseng, which had been excluded from import prohibition and extension of the age of used motor vehicles from 10 to 15 years from the year of manufacture." [25] The review became effective from November 19, 2010. In 2008, the Federal Government had placed a ban on the importation of all types of textile materials.

Prior to the review, the 11-member reconstituted Presidential Task Force on the Reform of the NCS said import prohibition had not led to increased local production nor saved jobs for the unemployed, but only served as an incentive [30] for smuggling. The body disclosed that it had robbed the nation of massive revenue and worsened corruption in imports administration. It added that "the ban on importation of textiles has not boosted local textile production". [33]

4.4.1.1 ANALYSIS OF THE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE
Fig. 43

Organizational 4a



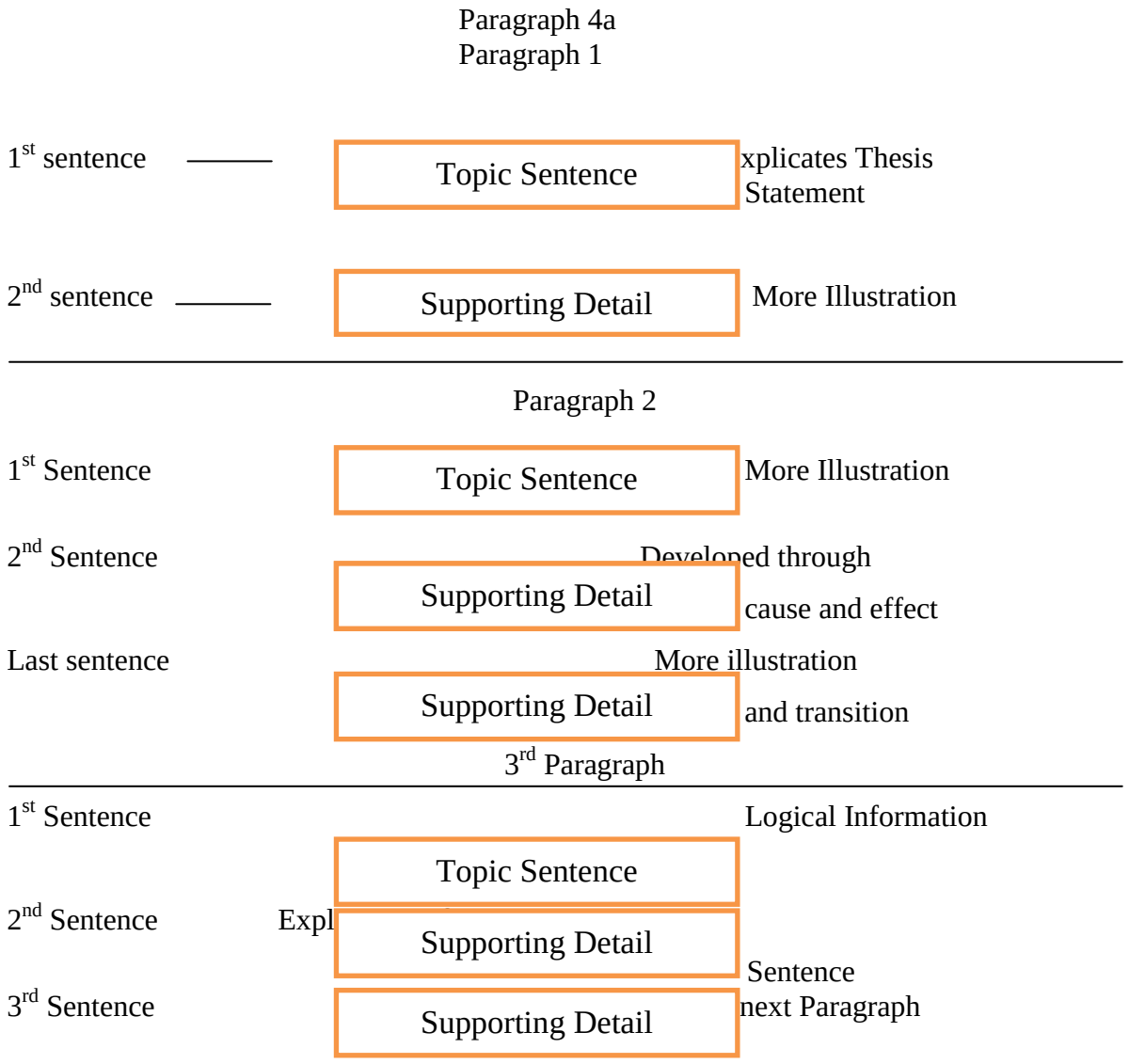
The original text contains a total of ten paragraphs, but for the purpose of this research only four are culled for our analysis. A preview of the excerpt showed that, on the whole, intense planning was made before the actual writing of the text. The introductory paragraph embodies both the thesis statement and an illustrative support to elucidate the discourse topic. This knitting of the main idea with vital supporting details enhances coherence as it immediately captures the reader's interest.

Serving as an explanatory transitional paragraph, the second paragraph throws more light on the discourse topic relating it more to the central idea for a unified composition. Further, the rest of the two paragraphs add more interesting details to not only hold the reader's attention but to allow for a greater comprehension of the theme of the essay.

DEDUCTIONS: On a general note the analysis of the organisation of this extract shows that much work had been done at the planning stage to enhance a unified and a coherent essay.

4.4.1.2 ANALYSIS OF PARAGRAPH DEVELOPMENT

Fig.44



The first paragraph comprises two sentences the first is the topic sentence that carries the central idea of the communication *'A recent circular……now applicable'* (lines1-4). The second supports it with an illustration.

The second paragraph contains three sentences with the first sentence as the topic sentence. Both the second and third sentences give details to substantiate the message of the topic

sentence of the paragraph as well as link it to the thesis statement for the achievement of unity and coherence.

Developed on transitional basis, the third paragraph has five sentences. The topic sentence opens the paragraph with an essential idea to build on the entire discourse topic, *'the objectives of the import prohibition'.* The second sentence, which is a quotation, contrasts the previous statements by throwing more light on explicate the thesis statement. Each of the remaining sentences adds more to making the discourse topic clearer, unified and coherent.

In three sentences, the fourth paragraph draws directly from the introduction to add more interesting details to the thesis statement. It is interesting to note that the development of this paragraph through the provision of relevant information knit the idea of the paragraph with the generality of the entire discourse thus enhancing the thematic unity and comprehension of the communication.

DEDUCTION: The analysis of paragraph development in this extract reveals that all the paragraphs are unified, clear and effective which, in turn, results in ease of readability and comprehension.

Paragraph development in this extract, shows a connected and coherent text.

4.4.1.3 ANALYSIS OF TRANSITIONAL DEVICES OF EXTR 4a

Fig45

Ref.	Type	Conj.	Type	l/coh.	Type	Subs.	Type	Ellipsis	Type
That	Dem pron.	As well as	Add	circular	Collocates, adm.	levies	Nominal	goods	Nominal
Who	r/pron.	therefore	Causal	ministry	Colloctes, govt	trend	Nominal		
His	Pron. Det.	While	Temporal	The goods	Repetition				

We	Pron. Pl.	But	adversative	Product	synonym				

The use of discourse markers in this extract includes the following:

i) Transitional markers: a) Contrasts: as in 'but' in line 17; b) Additive: as in 'and' in line 21; c) Prepositional: as in 'by', line 11, and 'in', line 28, respectively;

ii) Repetition of key words: as in 'the review', 'import prohibition', 'the government', 'the circular', and 'the goods', in lines 7, 14, 20, 24, and

iii) Pronoun reference: as in 'his', 'we' 'I' in lines 11, 19, and 21;

DEDUCTION: The appropriate use of linking devices culminates into a smooth flow of thought in the extract.

4.4.2.0 Extract 4b (News report)

TWO MILLION SQUARE METRES LAND RECLAIMED FOR EKO ATLANTIC

The Developers of the Eko Atlantic City in Lagos said they have reclaimed more than two million square meters of land.

The developers, who made this known in a statement made available to the PUNCH on Thursday, said the new land would provide space for the business district, which would become a financial gateway for Africa. (5)

The Eko Atlantic development, a new city sited on the Atlantic Ocean front adjacent to Victoria Island in Lagos, will be divided into six districts, which will offer multiple investment and development opportunities, the statement explained.

The developers said they planned to reclaim nine million square (10) metres from the ocean, adding that the land would be used to build a self-contained city that would provide the quality of infrastructure and service require making Lagos the financial hub of Africa.

The statement said "Land for Eko Atlantic is growing at an average rate of 10, 000 square meters each day. (15)

"The Phase One Business District comprises 2.5 million square of new land that will be ready by April 2011."

The statement quoted the Managing Director of South Energy Nigeria Limited, David Frame, as saying that the land that was in place would go through a major transformation. (20)

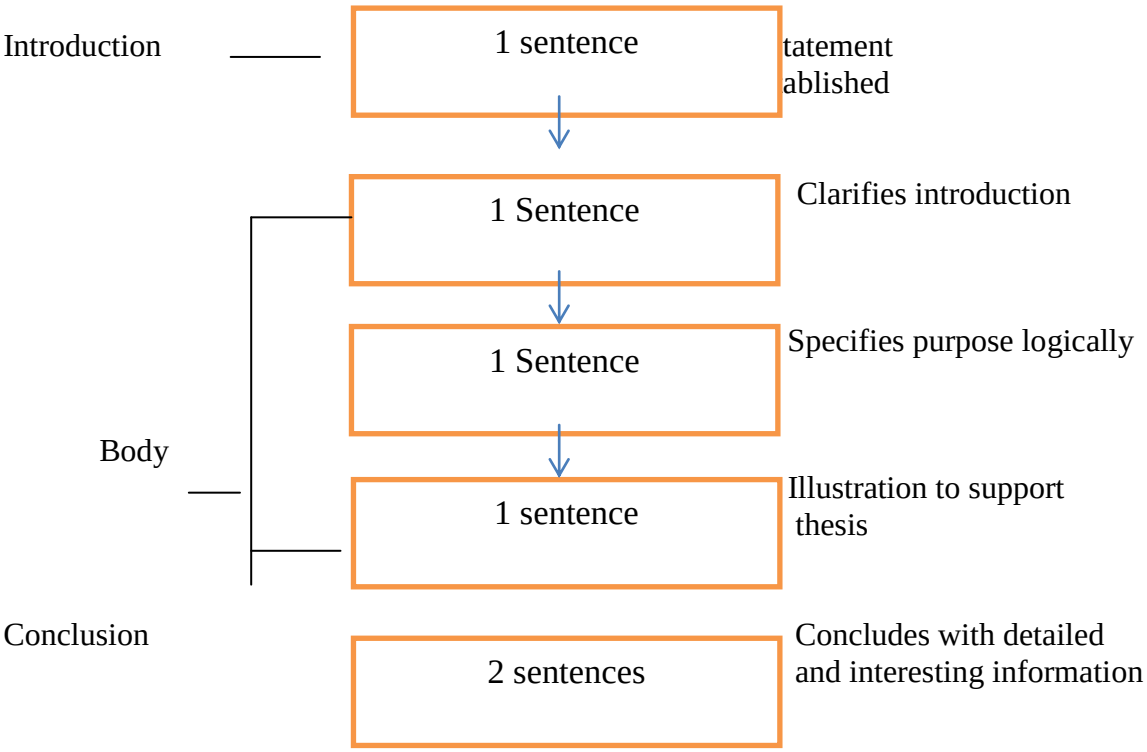
He said new roads had been created to allow access for construction vehicles.

Frame, however, added that Eko Atlantic's business district would become a home to numerous financial institutions. He said new hotels would be part of the development plan. (25)

4.4.2.1 ANALYSIS OF ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Fig.46

Organizational Structure 4b



His excerpt displays most of the traditions of newspaper writing because from the commencement, its organization depicts scanty planning. In a total of nine paragraphs, only paragraph 8 has two sentences; all the rest are composed of a sentence each as the writer delivers his message in a sketchy manner.

All paragraphs are, however, thematically related to the thesis statement. The flow of thought and the relatedness of paragraphs to the thesis statement are clearly evident and comprehensible.

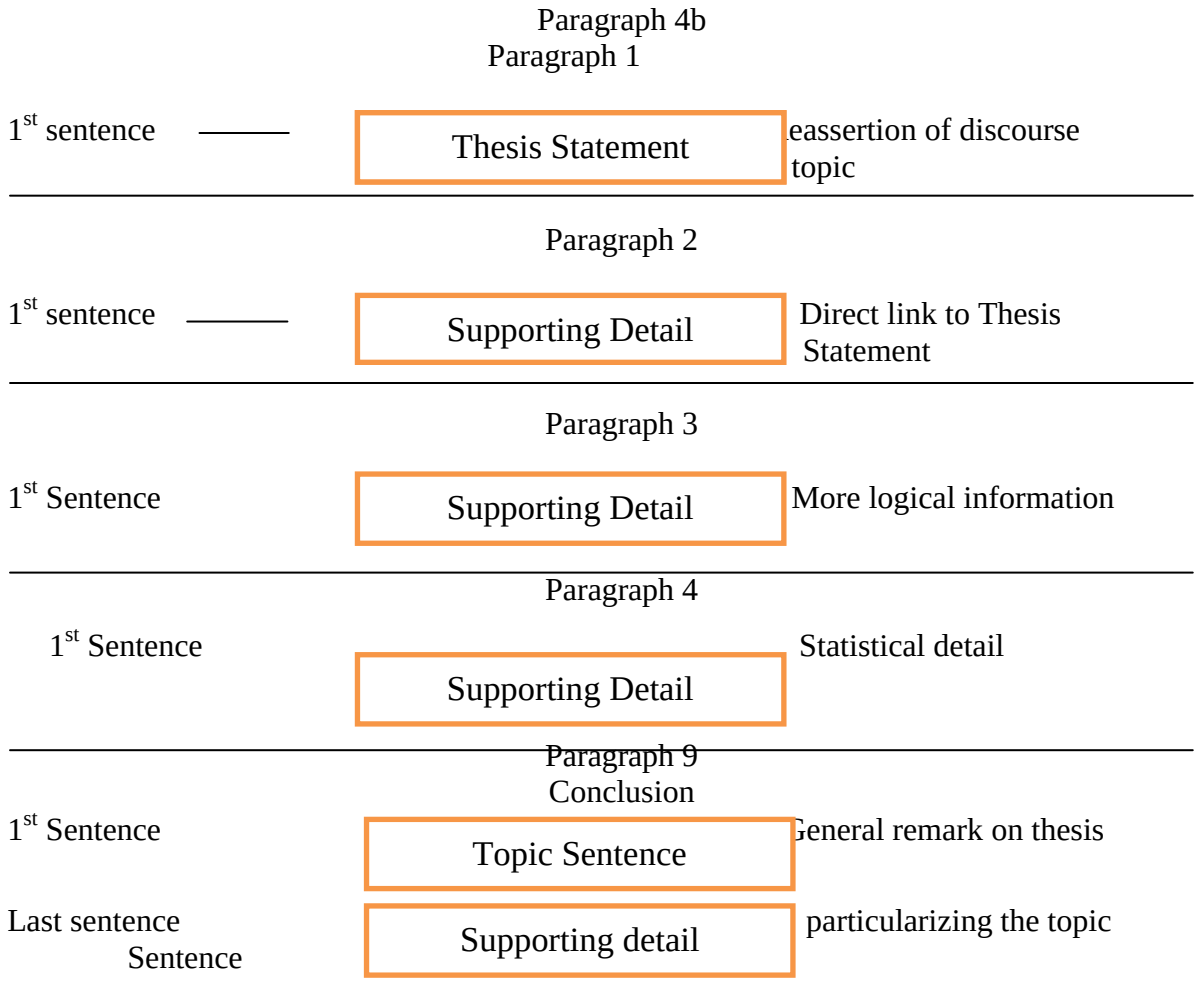
DEDUCTION

Due to the fact that the entire text was used for the analysis, its introduction, body and conclusion are vividly captured and investigated. For visual reasons, our analysis reveals that, in line with what seems to be the norm in newspaper writing, though the composition comprised of nine paragraphs of which only the concluding one has two sentences, the writer had a good organizational strategy.

In view of its sketchy nature, the entire text is analyzed.

4.4.2.2 ANALYSIS OF PARAGRAPH DEVELOPMENT

Fig.47



As earlier noted, except for the last paragraph which has two sentences, all the other eight comprise of a sentence each. It is, however, interesting to note that only the introductory paragraph and paragraph five are simple sentences_ the rest are ideas laden, that is, they are either multiple or compound-complex structurally.

For the purpose of this thesis, therefore, paragraphs are analyzed on the structural classification of the sentences used. It is also worthwhile to note that from our analysis of this text, the movement has been in a consistent direction from general to particular descriptively. Virtually, all sentences that form the various paragraphs in the body of the essay are directly linked to the sentence of the introduction in which is embedded the thesis statement of the article. All the paragraphs relate appropriately to the discourse topic.

The diagram shows the impact of each paragraph on the whole thematic unity and subsequent coherence of the composition.

4.4.2.3 ANALYSIS OF TRANSITIONAL DEVICES

Fig.48

Ref	**Type**	**Conj.**	**Type**	**Lex. Coh.**	**Type**	**Sub.**	**Type**	**Ellipses**	**Type**
The	D. Art	Which	Add.	Quoted	Synonym			Frame	Nominal
They	Pr. N (PL)	Adding	Add.	Land	Reputation			Saying	Verbal
This	Dem. Pr.	And	Add,	Eko Atlantic	Reputation			Growing	Verbal
				Financial Hub	Coll. Marketing				

With a total of nine paragraphs it is expected that various linking devices had been appropriately brought to bear. An analysis of these reveals that the essay is unified and there is smooth flow of thought.

4.4.3.0 Extract 4c (News report)

₦1.35bn bonus: Council Members have Refunded Their Shares-

SIXTEEN current and former Members of the Council of the Nigerian Stock Exchange have refunded part of the ₦1.35bn they received as bonus between 2006 and 2008. The Interim Administrator, NSE, Mr. Emmanuel Ikazoboh, who disclosed this to our correspondent on Tuesday, however, said one of the members, Chief Reginald Hart, had gone to court to challenge the NSE, and, so, had not refunded his share. He said, "twenty-two people were asked (5) to refund money to the stock exchange, but some of them have paid. As we speak, 16 of them have paid."

He, however, refused to give the specific names of the council members who had paid or the amounts they refunded.

A competent source within the NSE told our correspondent that there (10) had been "profit sharing" at the Exchange even before 2006, noting that the money was only being given to council members as travel allowance.

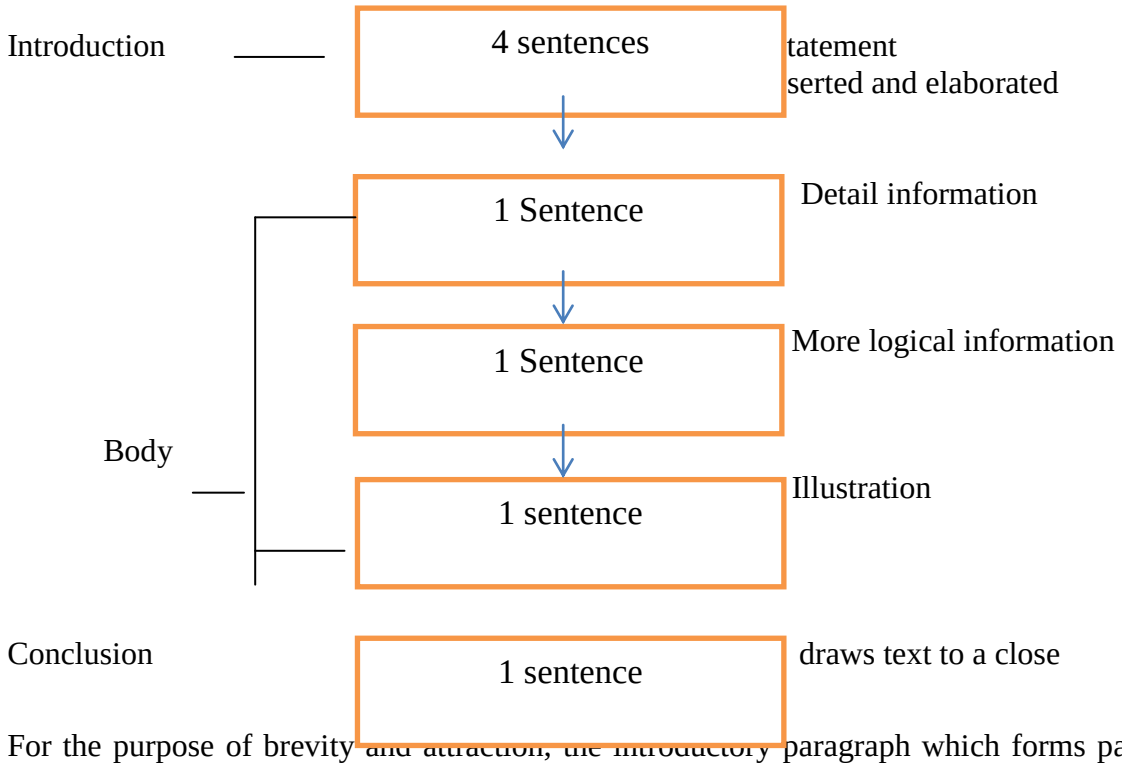
An interim report of the forensic audit conducted on NSE's account had said the Exchange's council members, including its former Director-General, Prof. Ndi Okereke-Onyiuke, paid themselves ₦1.35bn as "productivity/surplus" (15) bonus between 2006 and 2008.

The SEC, therefore, directed Ikazoboh to take steps to recover all such shared "bonuses" from the council members. (17)

4.4.3.1 ANALYSIS OF THE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Fig.49

Organizational 4c

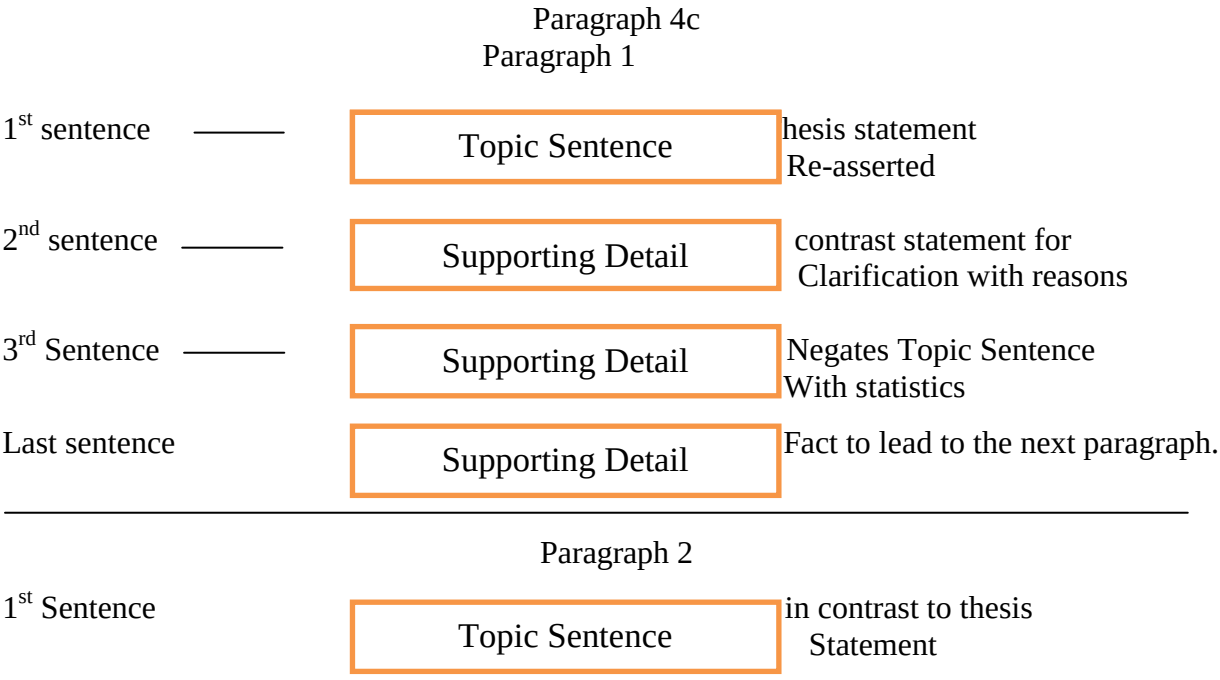


For the purpose of brevity and attraction, the introductory paragraph which forms part of the headlines on the front page was a lump up of several of the single sentence paragraphs in the inside of the paper. As such, the introduction has four sentences while the rest of the four paragraphs culled for this work have a sentence each.

This organizational strategy enhances not only the reader's attention but also text coherence.

4.4.3.2 THE ANALYSIS OF PARAGRAPH DEVELOPMENT

Fig.50



The introductory paragraph of this particular extract has been of great interest to our analysis of the development of paragraphs by writers in the print media. The analysis revealed not just the compact nature of news writing but also the effort put in by journalists to be as coherent as possible.

The first sentence which is the topic sentence of the paragraph expatiate the title of the text which states the main discourse topic. The next sentence supports the topic sentence by providing more information to elucidate the subject of the discourse. The third sentence explicates the sentence preceding it by adding a more logical fact. The concluding sentence sums up the paragraph with an illustration.

The rest of the paragraphs constructed in a sentence each are analysed on the structural classification of the sentence used as plotted in the diagram below:

4.4.3.3 ANALYSIS OF TRANSITIONAL DEVICES

Fig. 51

Reference	Type	Conj.	Type	Lex. Coh	Type	Subs	Type	Ellipses.	Type
The	Def art.	And	Additive	Members	Repetition	People	nominal	NSE	
They	Pronoun	However	Adversative	People	Synonym				
Mr.	Anaphoric	So	Causal	Stock exchange	Collocates finance				
Who	Relative pronoun	But	Adversative	Profit sharing	Lexical reiteration				
Themselves	Pronoun cataphoric	Therefore	Causal	Council	Repetition				

From the analysis, the discourse markers are effectively used in this extract which makes both reading and comprehension easy. Both within and between paragraphs, the writer uses the transitional devices appropriately so as to lead the reader from one idea to the other smoothly.

A description of some of the most prominent transitional devices applied to facilitate connectivity is dealt with in the diagram that follows.

4.4.4.0 Extract 4d (Editorial)

TACKLING PRE-ELECTION VIOLENCE

Across the country in the past few days, politicking for the April 2011 general election has assumed dimensions that have been frightening in the extreme. From one state to the other, almost on an hourly basis, there have been gory accounts of events, including bloody clashes, killings and arson, as political parties and prospective contestants become assertive of their presumed (5) supremacy within their respective constituencies.

Uyo, the Akwa Ibom State capital, was the scene of the most horrific acts documented so far. In circumstances yet to be clarified by the state Police Command, violence erupted in parts of the city on March 22 as supporters of the ruling People's Democratic Party and the

opposition Action Congress of Nigeria (10) clashed, employing machetes, assault rifles and explosives. By the time the situation was brought under control, over 20 persons were reported dead and scores of others wounded and taken for medical treatment. Several buildings, including the campaign office of President Goodluck Jonathan and Vice-President Namadi Sambo, were razed to the ground, while over 1, 000 vehicles(15) were destroyed, according to reports.

The day after, as Governor Godswill Akpabio pondered the viciousness of the infliction that claimed human casualties and left "over 800 brand new cars" and "500 brand new Keke NAPEP (tricycles)" completely burnt, in one fell swoop, a macabre drama was playing out at the governor's office (20) in Ado-Ekiti, the capital of Ekiti State. The remains of a man identified as Tope Faluyi, allegedly killed in a fracas, were dumped at the gate to the governor's office by members of the PDP, the main opposition party in the state. At the General Hospital, Ado-Ekiti, were dumped the remains of another victim of the PDP/ACN clash, a 17-year-old Michael Ipindola. (25)

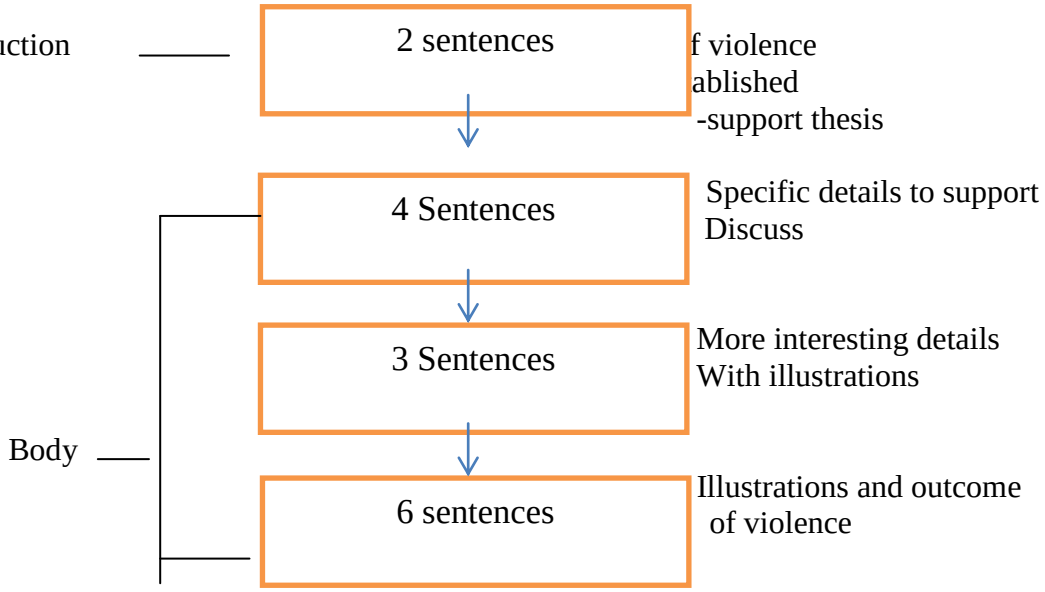
In Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, on the same day, the state Police Command averted what could easily have paralleled the clash in Uyo. As the Labour Party governorship campaign team was about to begin its rally, guns boomed in the vicinity, with clear signs that an armed gang was advancing on the rally ground. Police deployed to the venue were however able to mobilize effectively and (30) put the gunmen to flight. A few days earlier in Anambra State, Senator Annie Okonkwo and a one-time governor, Chris Ngige, were not altogether lucky. In Okonkwo's campaign team, at least one life was lost and several others were seriously wounded as the team came under a vicious attack by machete-and gun-wielding assailants.

Ngige also found himself and his supporters attacked [35]and brutalized. In Ogun, Oyo and many other states, tales of violence are unending. [36]

4.4.4.1 ANALYSIS OF ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Fig.52

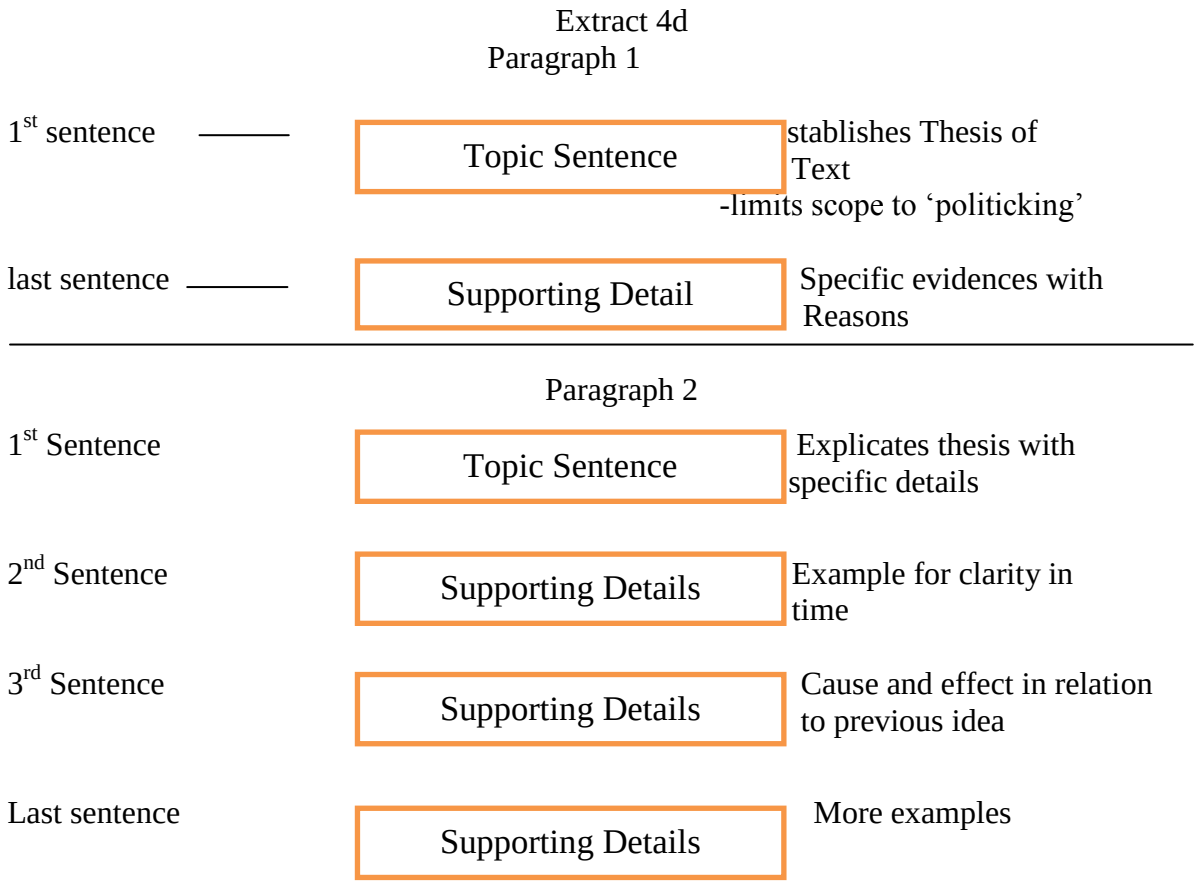
Organizational 4d



The analysis of the organisation of this extract has revealed that proper pre-writing activities was made and the data collected was developed in a total of eight paragraphs though only four are culled out for this thesis. The first paragraph establishes the main purpose of the discourse, the second elaborates it, the third sub-divides it into specifics and the fourth, in relation to those preceding it, moves the discourse to its climax by defining the discourse topic further.

4.4.4.2 THE ANALYSIS OF PARAGRAPH DEVELOPMENT

Fig.53



An analysis of the paragraphs extracted for this research from the eight paragraphs of this editorial has shown that all paragraphs have been fully developed to meet with the conventions of comprehensive English essays.

4.4.4.3 THE ANALYSIS OF TRANSITIONAL DEVICES

Fig.54

REF	TYPE	CONG.	TYPE	LEX. COH	TYPE	SUB	TYPE	ELIPSES	TYPE
The That Their	Detem. Demons. Pro.non	And Yet While	Add. Advers. Add.	Bloody Destroyed Clashes Ruling	Coll. Synone Repeat. Lex. Reiteration	Vehicle	Nominal		

The analysis of Extract.4d has revealed that linking devices have been appropriately used to enhance smooth flow of thought and guarantee coherence.

The diagram shows the categorization of some of the devices used and their impact on the readability and comprehension of the *text*.

4.5.0 ND5: The Nation

4.5.1.0 Extract 5a (News Report)

U.S. Trip

Jonathan's acting presidency begins on a diplomatic success note

Acting president Goodluck Jonathan was in the United States of America last week to participate in the nuclear security summit and to meet with President Barrack Obama. He has since returned home. Yes, we can say that he came and saw, but it will take a while to confirm that he conquered. There is no doubt, however, that his visit was successful for him and the country. (5)

He was received by President Obama at Blair House, and not at the White House, reflection of his status as being in an acting capacity. It, nevertheless, is evidence of his

acceptance and stepping into the global stage. This is international recognition that confirms his legitimacy.

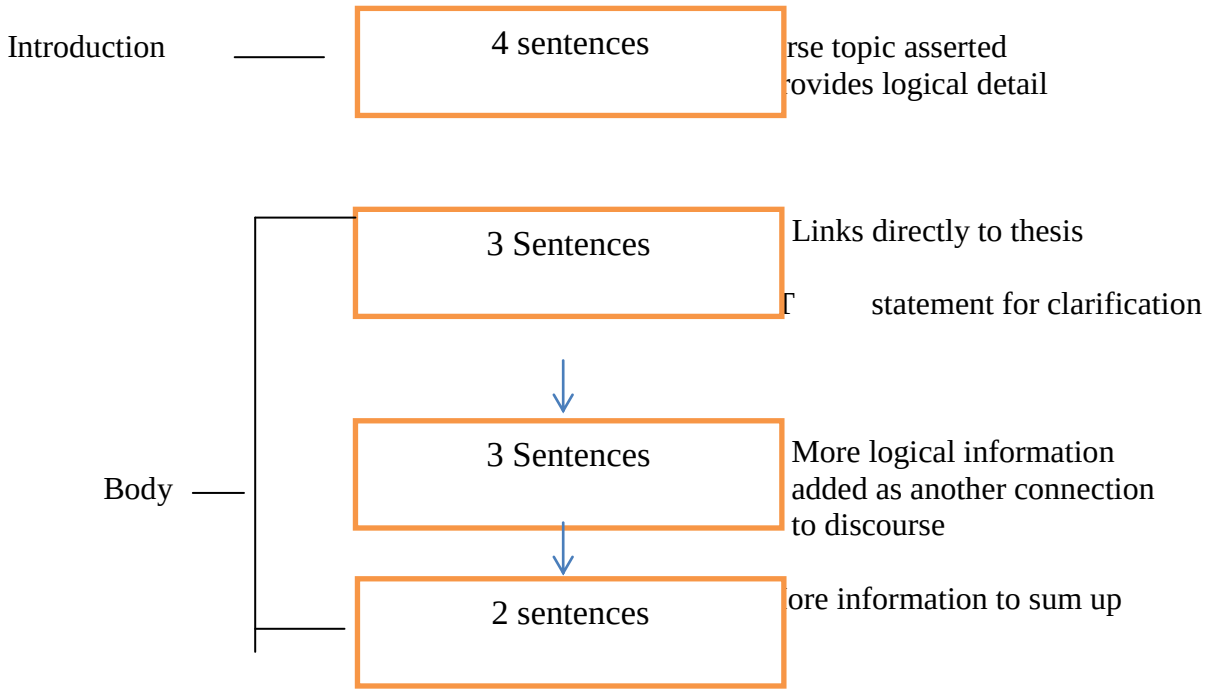
Before his trip to the United State, Nigeria was a near pariah in [10] the international system. This was brought about by the controversy surrounding President Umaru 'Yar Adua's illness and the impression that the country was rudderless that this created. Secondly, a misguided young Nigeria attempted to bomb a plane over the American sky on Christmas Day last year, prompting the Americans to lump Nigeria among terror-sponsoring nations. [15]

Acting President Jonathan has begun his tenure on a diplomatic success note with his visit to America, we hope, he would translate this to domestic affairs success as well.

4.5.1.1 ANALYSIS OF THE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Fig.55

Organizational 5a



The original text contains ten paragraphs but for the purpose of the present research, only the first three and the concluding one are extracted and worked upon. Our analysis reveals that as an editorial, much planning had been done for the achievement of a unified and coherent essay. Each paragraph is properly planned for a well laid out essay with an introduction, middle and conclusion. Besides, the relatedness of thought between paragraphs had also been effectively pursued.

The analysis of the organizational structure, therefore, reveals the following:

i) The first four –sentence paragraph asserts the discourse topic with vivid logical details;

ii) The second paragraph is built on the first to clarify the theme further.

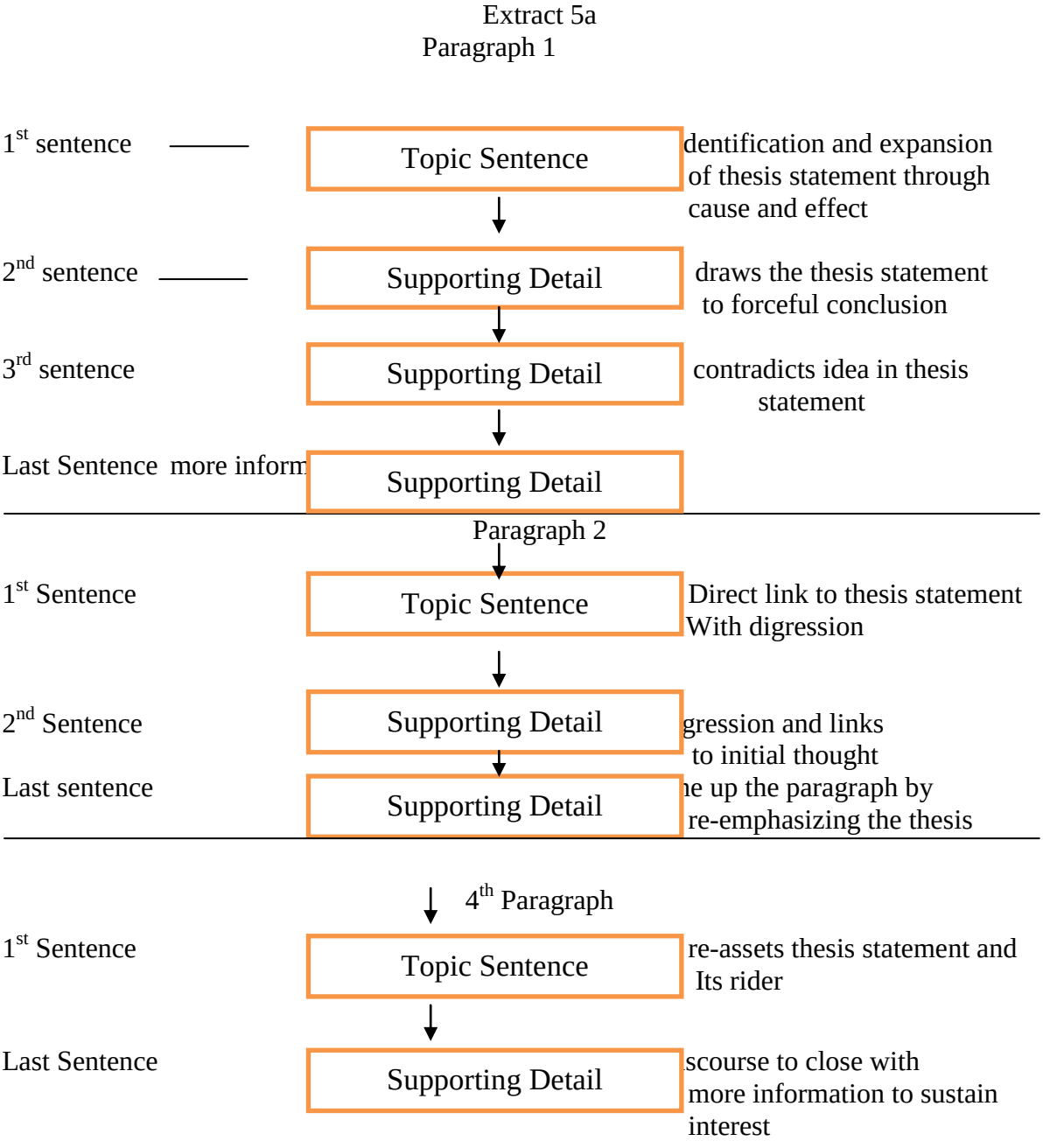
iii) In the form of a narrative transitional paragraph, the third paragraph shifts from the thesis statement to establish, with illustrations, a divergent link to the discourse topic.

iv) The conclusion cements, in a summary form, the totality of the theme of the composition.

DEDUCTION: After the analysis, it is observed that this excerpt has a well-planned organizational layout which amounts to a unified and coherent composition.

4.5.1.2 ANALYSIS OF PARAGRAPH DEVELOPMENT

Fig.56



The first sentence in the introduction is the topic sentence the paragraph and our analysis shows that it is built on logical facts and reasons. Al the other sentences of the

paragraph, while reinforcing the thesis statement, also guide the reader through a cause and effect developmental pattern. The second sentence particularly sums up the trip. This immediate amplification of the thesis statement enhances the reader's interest and motivation. The third sentence on the other hand, adds an interesting detail while the concluding sentence clarifies the discourse topic.

The topic sentence of the following paragraph appears at the beginning. The interest established is sustained through building on the last sentence of the introductory paragraph. The next two sentences also directly link the entire discourse to the second segment of the thesis statement. This kind of paragraph development by logical facts augurs well for unity and coherence.

In the next paragraph, the writer digressed to bring his audience to terms with the real happening in the environment of the text through a narrative-like historical development. This, again, is an aid to the comprehension of the message as all the sentences, through facts and illustrations, buttressed, the sub-theme of the discourse.

Our investigation reveals that in two sentences, the concluding paragraph of the text, which is also the last of the four paragraphs excerpted for this work, re-emphasises the thesis statement and summarises the discourse theme skillfully to meet with the attraction earlier created.

4.5.1.3 ANALYSIS OF TRANSITIONAL DEVICES

Fig.57

Ref.	Type	Conj.	Type	L coh	Type	Subs	Type	Ellipses	Type
We	Pron. plural	And	Add	Obama	repetition	Home	Clausal	Plane	Verb
He	Pron. Singular	But	Adversative	Acting	Repetition				
This	Deictic	However	Adversative	Xmas day	Collocation				
It	Pron. neuter	Nevertheless	Add						
That	Dem. pron.	secondly	Add						

The use of transitional devices in this extract is apt and effective. As a narrative, the most frequent connectors facilitate smooth flow of thought as shown in the diagram.

4.5.2.0 Extract 5b (News report)

NATIONAL SLAPPING (NOW BOXING) ASSEMBLY

In October 2004, Senator Isa Mohammed (Niger State) forsook legislative decorum to slap Senator Iyabo Anisulowo (Ogun State) over a senate committee disagreement. The victim was too shocked to reply. About two weeks later, as if attempting to prove gender equality, a female member of the House Representatives, Iquo Minima, delivered a thunderous slap to the gentlemanly(5) face of her colleague, Hon Emmanuel Bwacha. Like the long suffering Mrs. Anisulowo, Bwacha was also too dazed to reply the compliment. Some analysts suggested in those unsavoury slapping days that even if Anisulowo had attempted to redeem her honour a

worse injury could have been inflicted on her by the beefy Mohammed. In the case of Minima's effrontery, it was felt Bwacha stayed (10) his fury so as not to commit murder, for he would have broken the termagant into pieces had he thrown the punches his fury dictated. It was interesting how in 2004 chauvinism cancelled out chivalry, and misanthropy undermined misogyny.

It is hard to say now whether the violence that took place on the floor of the House of Representative on Tuesday was an improvement of martial arts or (15) a decline of the stately detachment and urbaneness the public had come to expect from their legislators. What is, however, evident was that 11 legislators from the House planned a putsch to unseat the Speaker, Mr. Dimeji Bankole, over allegations of fraud involving capital expenditure of about nine billion naira. Not satisfied taking the matter before the court of public opinion, where it (20) met qualified support, and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), the Dino Melaye (Kogi State) group decided to plan a boxers' rebellion. Describing themselves in appropriately as progressive-minded legislators (PML), the 11 putschists adopted unorthodox methods to get rid of the speaker. Unfortunately for them, the coup was unpopular, and it was put down so (25) violently that the country was left nonplussed.

Without prejudice to what the EFCC would discover in its investigations, the style and tactics adopted by the 11 were banal and demeaning. It works on the streets to call a dog a bad name and then proceed to hang it, like lynches do. However, more polished and civilized methods are expected of those who (30) make laws for the Federal Republic. There are procedures guiding the operations of the legislature; those rules must be adhered to strictly. If the legislature wants, it can hang its Speaker as often as the lawmakers fancy, but they must follow the law and not offend our common decencies and sensibilities. It was obvious on

Tuesday that the 11 putschists were out-maneuvered and out-generaled. (35) Hence their resort to violent tactics in the hope that they could rouse the legislature to a general rebellion. The effort not only came unstuck, the majority rallied behind the speaker and literally and figuratively threw out the rebels, their clothes torn and their bodies and egos bruised.

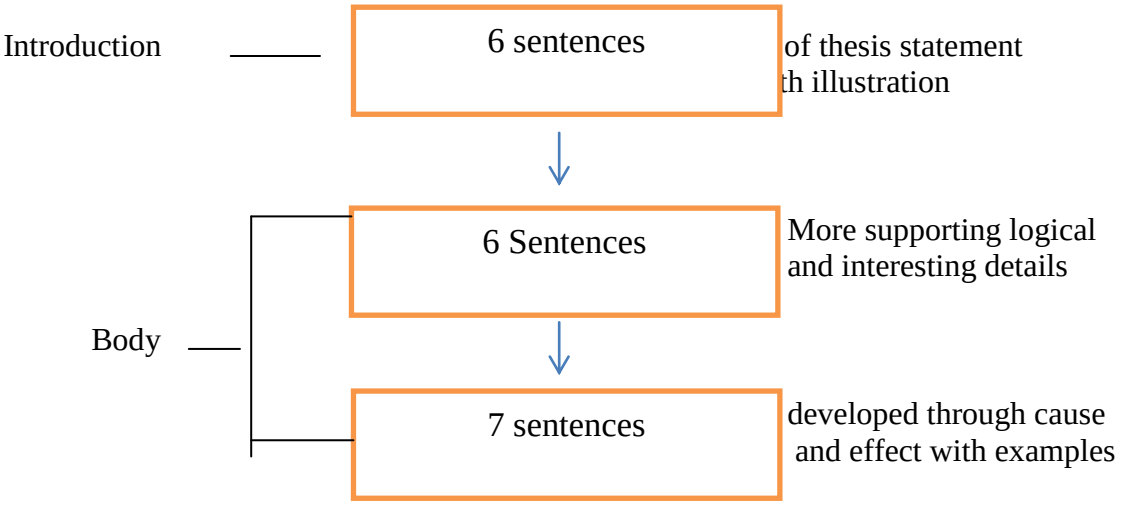
Representative Melaye, it will be recalled, was immediate past (40) Speaker Patricia Etteh's champion. When she was overthrown in October 2007, the House went into uproar, though not violently, for she was determined to defy the odds and the commotion. The public had hoped for a neater method to get rid of her, but it was not to be. The difference between then and now, however, was that the majority opposed Etteh's stay. Perhaps if the Melaye group had secured (45) majority support, Bankole would be outside looking in by now.

Both the public and the People's Democratic Party (PDP) want an apology from the fighting legislators. They will get their apology; after all, the battle has been won and lost. But violent disagreements will be unavoidable anytime a minority attempts to impose its will on the majority. Nor will legislators (50) show scruples even in the presence of school children or their wives and husbands.(53)

4.5.2.1 ANALYSIS OF THE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Fig.58

Organizational 5b



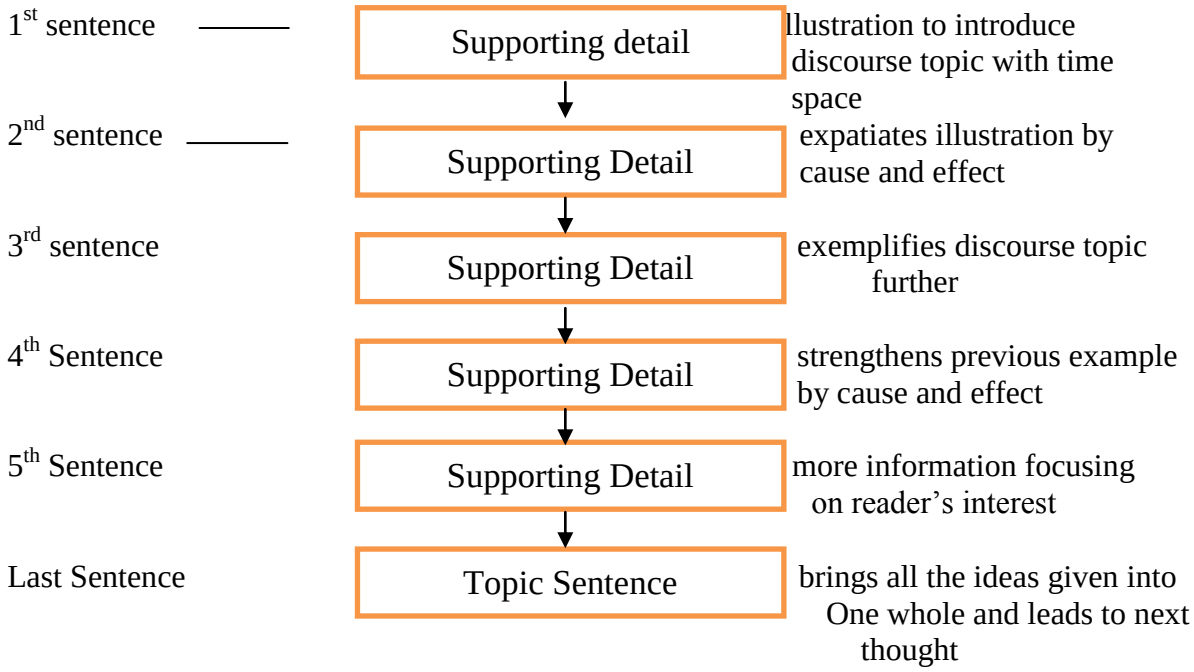
Of the five unusually lengthy paragraphs in the original of this extract, three are culled for the analysis. The organizational strategy employed by the writer, as revealed by our analysis, is of great relevance to this thesis because it has shown how events and feelings are described to the barest minimum even when the essay is a narrative one.

It is also evident that at the planning stage the author intended to move from specifics by exemplification to more general issues.

4.5.2.2 ANALYSIS OF PARAGRAPH DEVELOPMENT

Fig.59

Extract 5b
Paragraph 1



There are a total of eighteen sentences in the three paragraphs extracted for our analysis. As was deduced from the analysis of the organizational structure, movement of thought is from particular to general. The topic sentence of the introductory paragraph comes at the tail end of the seven sentences that compose the paragraph. While the first sentence of the paragraph began with a specific example to assert the thesis statement, that which immediately follows it expatiates by cause and effect. The third sentence adds another example to re-assert the thesis statement, while the fourth sentence also elaborated on the re-assertion by a cause and effect statement.

Furthermore, the interesting details provided by the fifth and sixth sentences of this introductory paragraph, as revealed by our analysis, have, in no small measure, been able to

sustain readers' attention and interest as well as enabling ease of readability and coherence. For greater emphasis, the topic sentence, which is the seventh and last sentence, while acting as the pivot on which all the sentences of the paragraph cling, also leads the reader to what to expect of the discourse topic in the next paragraph.

The second paragraph opens with interesting detail through comparison in its first sentence. The topic sentence, from the analysis, not only relates directly to the thesis statement but also establishes the cause of the conflict in the discourse as a whole. The rest of the three sentences of the paragraph add more logical and interesting information to buttress the message of the topic sentence.

The third paragraph, the climax of the write up develops on multiple aspects in six sentences. The topic sentence in the foremost position scolds the 'putschists'. The rebuke continues in the second by comparison.

Likewise, while the fourth advices, the fifth cautions. Both the sixth and the seventh paragraphs sum up the repercussions of the conflict in the discourse.

The diagram shows the impact of paragraph development on the clarity and unity of the extract.

4.5.2.3 ANALYSIS OF TRANSITIONAL DEVICES OF EXTRACT 5b

Fig. 60

Ref	Type	Conj.	Type	l/coh.	Type	Subs.	Type	Ellipsis	Type

The researcher's analysis reveals that cohesive devices have been generously applied in this extract. Although that is not the basis for the realisation of coherence in the extract, it contributes immensely to its unity and readability.

The classification and description of the linking devices is shown in the diagram.

4.5.3.0 Extract 5c (News report)

FRESH CRISIS OVER NEW CONSTITUTION

A row has broken out over the 1999 Constitution Amendment Bill.

The Senate is insisting that the copy of the first amendment forwarded to the Houses of Assembly, through the Chairman of the Speaker Conference of Nigeria, Mr. Istifanus Gbana, is the correct, harmonized version of the work of the two chambers of the National Assembly. The speaker Dimeji Bankole is said (5) to have asked the Clerk of the National Assembly (CAN), Alhaji Salisu Abubakar Maikasuwa, to withdraw the version sent to the House of Assembly and replace it with the "genuine" version.

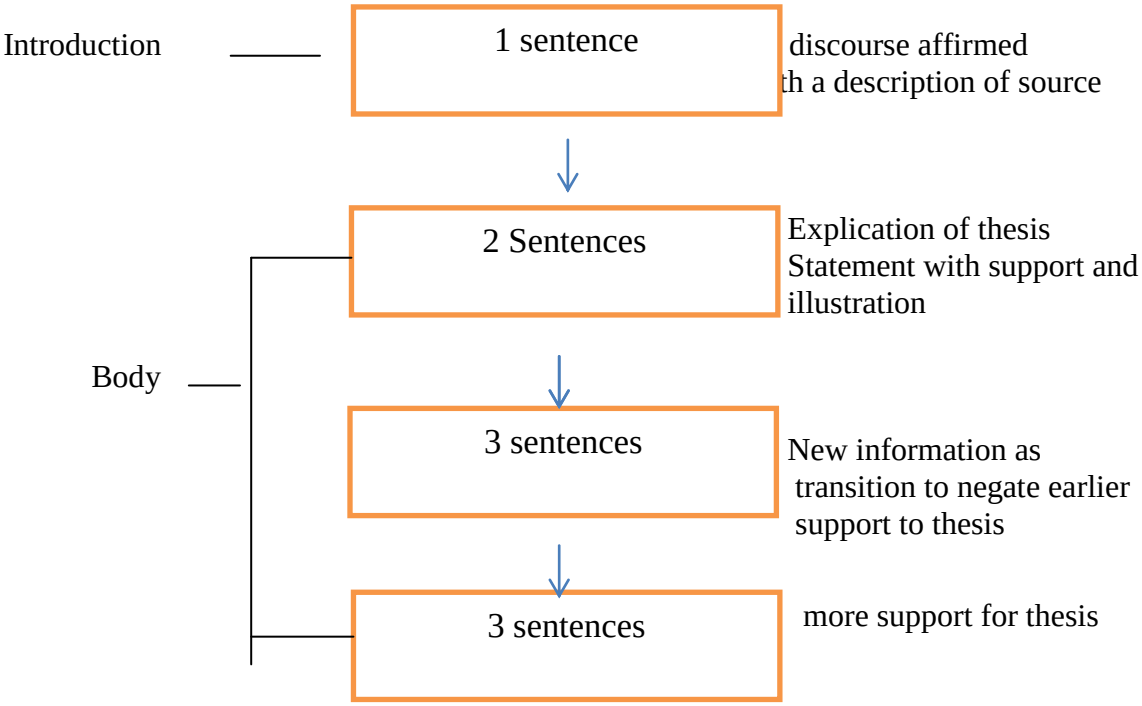
But the Senate President, who is the Chairman of the National Assembly, Senator David Mark, maintained yesterday that the version sent out would not (10) be withdrawn. He was speaking on a point of order raised on the matter by the Deputy Senate President and the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Constitution Review, Senator Ike Ekweremadu. He described the statement credited to the speaker as "mischievous" and unacceptable.

Mark said: "What is going on in the media now is rather unfortunate. I(15) think it would have been handled in a much more mature manner. There was absolutely no need for anybody to go the press to ask that what was handed over to the state Assemblies should be withdrawn. (16)

4.5.3.1 ANALYSIS OF ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Fig.61

Organizational 5c



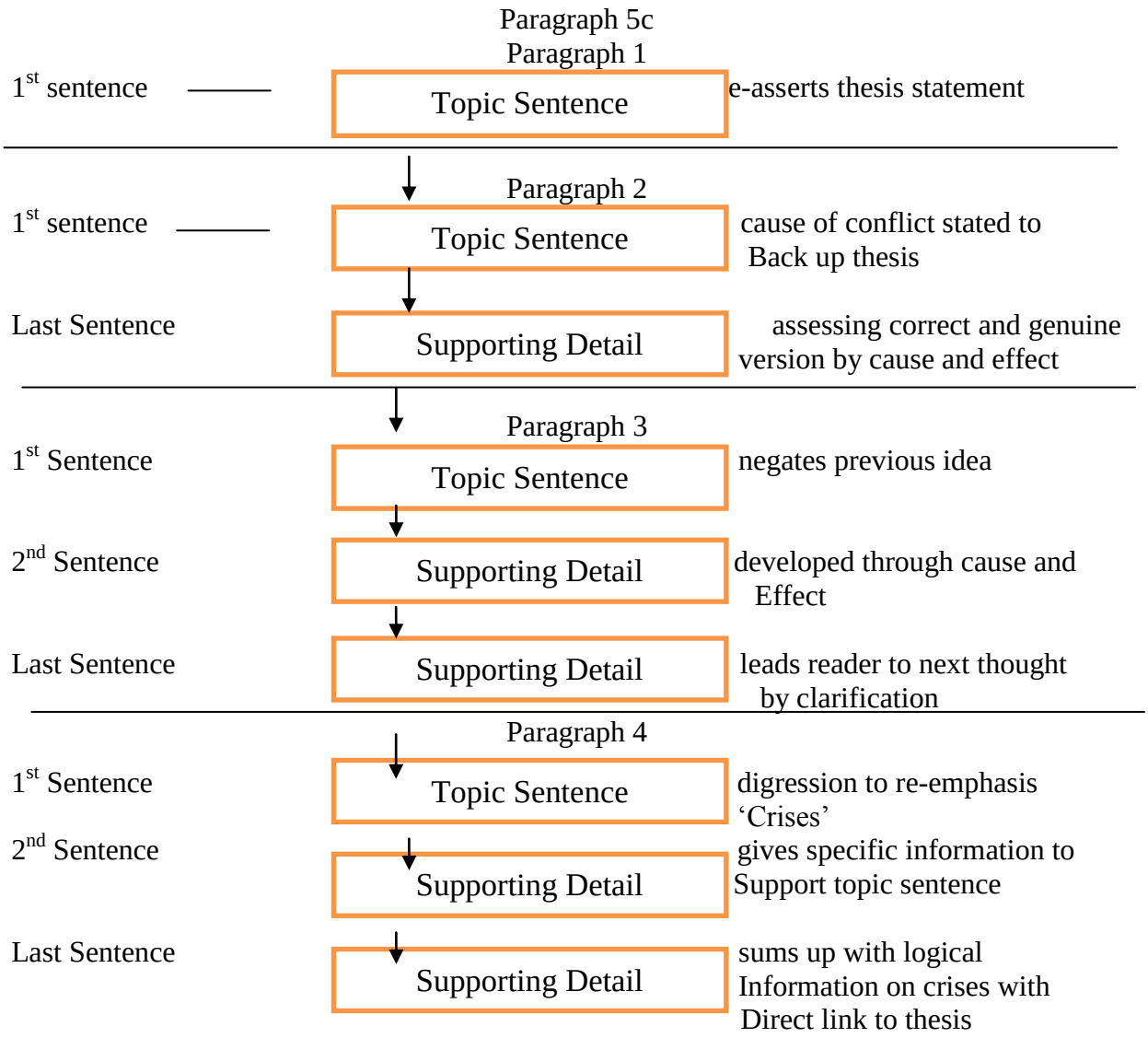
Only four of the thirteen paragraphs of this text are subjected to our analysis. From the onset, the layout of the text depicts writing for a special purpose because the first sentence, which is a simple sentence, all alone, composes the first paragraph.

All the following paragraphs hang on the matrix of the first and expatiate in greater detail the discourse topic through clarification, illustration and explanation.

The diagram shows the nature of the organisation and its impact on the thematic unity of the text as realised from our analysis.

4.5.3.2 ANALYSIS OF PARAGRAPH DEVELOPMENT

Fig.62



As observed earlier, though the introductory paragraph of this essay has only one sentence, its impact on the rest of the write up cannot be over exaggerated. From the analysis, the simple sentence not only draws the visual attention of the reader at a glance, but also enables him to immediately have an overview of the entire discourse topic. Further, the analysis also reveals that even though the paragraph is so contracted, it leads the reader to what to expect in the body of the inside story.

In two sentences, the second paragraph brings to light the cause of the 'crisis' as stated in the title (thesis statement) or, its synonym 'row' as expressed in the first sentence which is also the topic sentence of the paragraph. Through development by specific reasons, both the topic sentence and its supporting one made clearer the basis of the conflict in the discourse.

The argument of the discourse continues in the third paragraph in which in three sentences more clarifications are made. For emphasis, the topic sentence, located in the initial position of the paragraph, contradicts the idea developed in the previous paragraph. The two other sentences of the paragraph, from our analysis, express the relationship of ideas in the discourse.

Likewise, the fourth paragraph states a solid unit of thought as it quotes a participant to develop the paragraph through factual details.

4.5.3.3 ANALYSIS OF TRANSITIONAL DEVICES

Fig.63

Ref.	Type	Conj.	Type	Lex.	Type	Subs	Type	Ellipses	Type
Is	Copula	However	advers	Chambers	Lex. reitration	statement	Clausal	CAN	Clausal
That	Dem.	And	Add	President	Lex. reitration	Press	nominal		
Who	r/pron.	But	advers	Version	repetition				
Mr.	Cataphoric	With	Add	Mischievous	Collocation				
He	Pron.								

Connectivity in this extract has been proven by our analysis to be appropriately applied. Transitional words and other linking devices, to a great extent, contribute to text unity and coherence of the extract.

4.5.4.0 Extract 5d (News report)

NMA GETS NEW LOUNGE

As part of its continued commitment to excellent customer service and passenger comfort, the world's leading airline, British Airways, has opened an ultra-modern lounge at the Murtala Mohammed International Airport.

The new state-of-the-art lounge, which incorporates elements of the luxurious Galleries Lounge at Heathrow Terminal 5 in London, can comfortably(5) accommodate over 100 passengers and has been described as a home away from home. Passengers are treated to a cozy environment with an array of facilities, including a fully enclosed kitchen with dedicated staff in attendance.

Speaking on the development, Regional customer Service Manager said that the lounge was in keeping with the Airline's tradition of making air (10) travel comfortable for its customers.

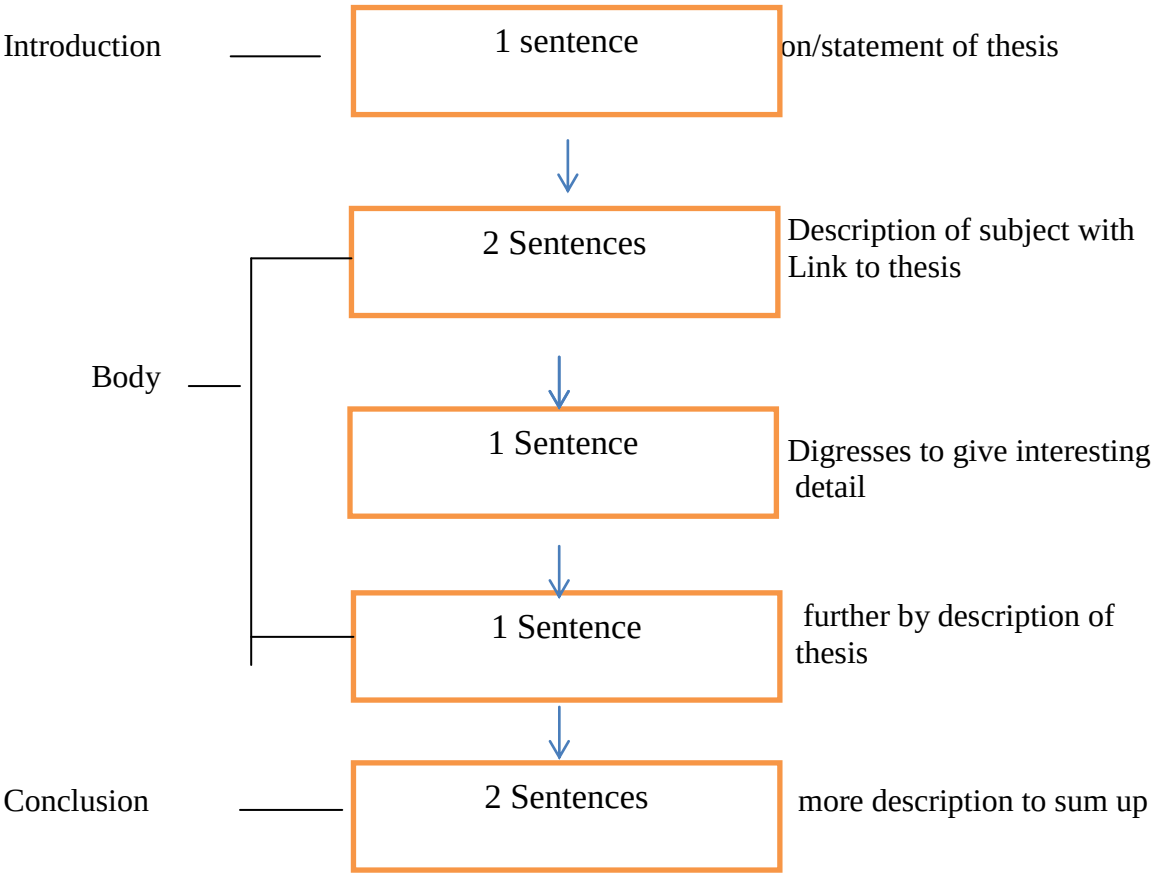
"It demonstrates yet again that British Airways is committed to offering exquisite service to our customer, and we look forward to continuing to deliver the very best products and services our customers have come to expect," he said.

Mr. Mooney further disclosed that the lounge hosts a bar area offering(15) a range of international and local beverages and food. It also has a free business centre with nine internet-enabled desktop computers, dedicated printers, free wireless internet (Wi-Fi) for laptop users, an array of local and international newspapers and magazines, male and female restrooms and toilets for passengers with restricted mobility. (20)

4.5.4.1 ANALYSIS OF THE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Fig.64

Organizational 5d

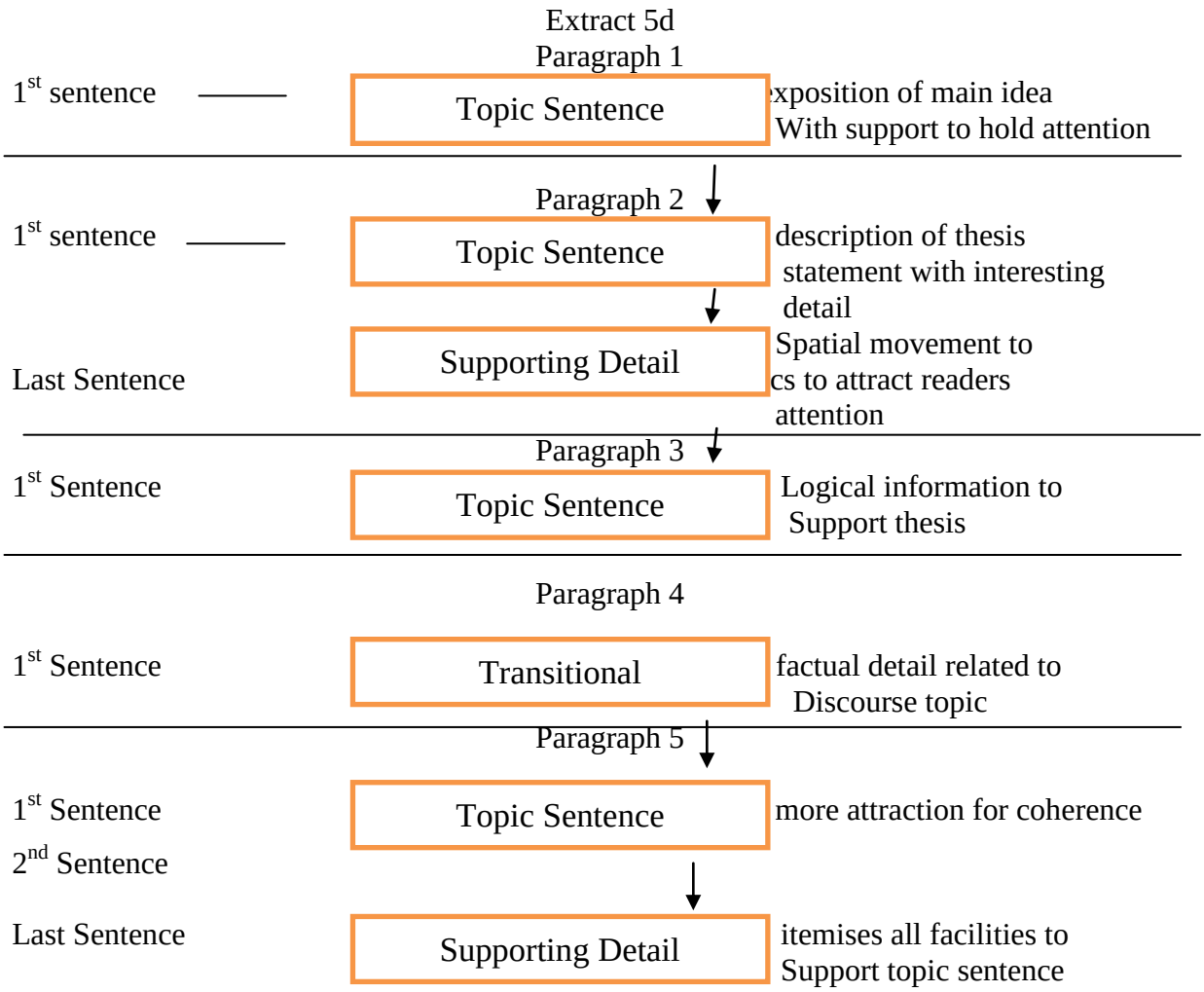


The compact nature of this text gave the impetus to analyze it as a whole. With a total of seven sentences contained in five paragraphs, the essay, from our investigation, is descriptive.

Using the spatial order of organising compositions, therefore, text unity and coherence was established through a vivid description of the discourse topic. Each of the paragraphs specifically identifies and describes a portion of the thesis statement linking it directly to the core idea, the ‘new lounge’.

4.5.4.2 ANALYSIS OF PARAGRAPH DEVELOPMENT

Fig.65



The single sentence of the introductory paragraph acts as a pointer for what the reader is to expect in the successive paragraphs. The analysis also reveals that from the introduction, the movement of ideas is from general to particular as portrayed by the main clause of the paragraph, *'the world's leading airline, British Airways has opened an ultra-modern lounge'*. It is also significant to note that the other accessories of the main clause, the opening adverbial dependent clause and the concluding adjunct, are interesting details meant to attract and hold the reader's attention.

The attraction continues in the second paragraph with more details and development through comparison. Both the topic sentence, which is located at the beginning, and its supporting sentence enhance the coherence of the discourse.

To further carry the reader along, the third, fourth and fifth paragraphs, through illustrative development, give factual details through the use of quotations for clarity. The last paragraph describes the lounge to the minutest detail by itemizing every facility.

4.5.4.3 ANALYSIS OF TRANSITIONAL DEVICES

Fig.66

Ref.	Type	Conj.	Type	Lex.	Type	Subs.	Type	Ellipsis	Type
Its	Pron. Poss.	And	Add	Airways	L r	passengers	lexical	Wi-Fi	clausal
It	Pron.neuter	Again	Add	customers	Repetition				
we	Pron.	With	Add	Terminal	Collocation				
The	Def.	and	Add	Desktop	L r				

It is evident from the analysis of the transitional devices in this extract that through the use of the most common pro-forms, conjunctions and adjectival and adverbial phrases, a standard was set for a unified and coherent essay.The effectiveness of discourse markers in the text is exhibited from the opening adverbial and the adequate application of other cohesive devices as shown in the table.

4.6. DISCUSSION

A commentary on deductions made across the analysis of the sample texts for the present thesis is invaluable. In order to arrive at the findings of the study, a comparative preview of the characteristics shared by the newspaper excerpts selected for this thesis is herein

given. Firstly, of the twenty extracts examined, only five: 1d, 2a, 2d, 4a, and 4d are editorials while all the others are news reports. As such, the similarities in the use of the elements of writing for coherence abound and the linguistic features used by both editorials and other news articles bear the peculiarities of the language of newspaper reporting sought for in the research.

Basically, the three areas investigated in all the sampled texts revolve around effective writing. These areas, comprising the organization of the information, the development of paragraphs and the use of transitional devices, are relevant for the avoidance of disjointedness and for the achievement of closely knit texts.

Consequently, the most important finding of the research is the propensity of newspaper writers to formulate organizational strategies that enhance ease of readability and comprehension. This agrees with the proposition of Crystal and Davy (1974) that stories, 'once begun should carry the reader through to the end'. From the researcher's analysis, this is arrived at through the organizational unity of each extract examined. For the achievement of such a goal, the analyses reveal that:

i) Extracts 1b, 1c, 2a, 2b, 2d, 3a, 4c and 5a are narrative compositions which follow a chronological organizational pattern. In these essays, events are linked using transitional words that emphasize the writer's thought from beginning to end. The commonly used transitional words in this type of writing from analysis of the extracts noted above include: *at first, during, next, second, after* and so on.

ii) Extracts 1a, 3c, 4a, 4b, 5b and 5d are spatial in organization as they describe situations, places or people. In these extracts, different approaches are applied to create different effects as found in descriptions from top to bottom, left to right, small to

big and so on. Most common connectors used here include: *over, within, into, on, under, throughout* and so on.

iii) The rest of the texts used for the present thesis are a mixture of the various types of compositions but mostly argumentative and expository. While extracts 1d and 3b are argumentative and they follow an order of importance pattern of organization with transitional words like *to begin with, above all, besides, in addition, furthermore* and so on featuring frequently. Extracts 2c, 3c, 3d and 4a are rather expository as they have a business-like or, a more formal outlook.

On paragraph development, the analysis reveals that variation exists between editorials and news reports. As noted earlier, in spite of the urgency of news writing, editorials are written with the standard attributes of English compositions probably, as a result of the envisaged, elite readers. Unlike news reports which are hurriedly done, paragraphs of editorial texts are usually fully developed with complete topic sentences and relevant supporting details.

Also, unlike ordinary news articles, rarely do single sentences compose paragraphs in editorials. Nor, are they compressed into tiny columns as is done to mere news items.

The intermingling of the three areas investigated in this research for the achievement of not only effective texts but for unity and coherence of extracts cannot be over exaggerated.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

5.0 Introduction

Investigation into the basic elements of coherence in writing, especially as it affects the Nigerian print media is the main thrust of the thesis. Since excerpts from newspaper reports, editorials and other features form the bulk of the data, the ladder of specification trims down further to inquiry into the impacts of organization, paragraph development and transitional devices on the unity and coherence of newspaper articles.

5.1 Summary

Chapter one contained the general introduction to the study as well as the presentation of the research problem, the research questions and the scope of the thesis. On commencement, the study specifically aimed at highlighting English composition writing and more particularly, how it is handled by Nigerian newspaper writers. Hence, the researcher's purpose on this perspective, inter-alia, included the assertion of whether news essays written by Nigerian journalists follow all that is required of Standard English compositions.

For the attainment of such set goals, emphasis is placed on the establishment of the qualities of good writing as the basis for coherent texts. Invariably, this work viewed newspaper discourses as academic pursuits that contained both the form and content of formal English essay writing characterized by the various tasks from pre-writing to the complete essay. With focus on the use of English by Nigerian journalists, however, a historical review of the English language in Nigeria became imperative without losing grip of the central idea of the thesis: clarity, unity and coherence of written texts.

Writing and reading, unlike speaking and listening, the researcher noted, are academic and must therefore be learnt formally. As such, effort was made in the review of the literature related to the subject matter of the thesis to juxtapose the salient areas of not only the historical development of writing and reading, but also its effect on English as used in a second language situation. Chapter two (Literature Review) was therefore composed of a vivid description of what writing encompasses. Findings of scholars in the field of composition writing, cohesion and coherence, newspaper language and varieties of English were also thoroughly studied. Hence works by linguists on the numerous definitions of writing, especially the distinction between writing and speaking, aspects of language and communication for mass consumption, the impact of cohesion on coherence, the history, development and use of English by journalists in Nigeria and the historical development and growth of the different kinds of English globally featured most prominently in the chapter.

The third chapter presents the research methodology and the analytical framework. Discussions centered on the research design, what variables to use and the sources and methods of the data collection; the analytical framework was also presented. To test the workability of the framework, a sample analysis is also done. In chapter four, all sample texts were subjected to analysis based on answering the three research questions. The content analysis propositions, that is, the examination of linguistic devices, such as the elements of writing are done through textual analysis which forms the yardstick for measurement. With diagrams such as charts and tables, the analyzed samples were investigated.

5.2. Findings

Deductions arrived at from the analysis of the newspaper texts used for the research gave rise to the following findings:

i) That Nigerian newspaper writers attempt to measure to standards in English composition writing;

ii) That all the extracts investigated comply with the organizational pattern of writing standard essays namely: introduction, body and conclusion;

iii) That the development of paragraphs, through the topic sentence followed by a series of supporting sentences, is frequent in news articles;

iv) That the transitional markers of various categories and varying degrees are employed to enhance clarity and connectedness of essays;

v) That editorials are more formal and heed to the rules of English composition writing;

vi) That though single sentences compose whole paragraphs in news articles, such sentences are mostly compound, complex or compound-complex in structure (i.e., more than one idea is embedded in them)

5.3 Conclusion

Foremost, the main aims of the thesis were to find out the following:

a) That the smooth flow of ideas in continuous writing is disrupted by improper planning and organisation;

b) That the comprehension of some Nigerian newspaper articles is hampered because paragraphs are not fully developed and enjoined;

c) That the ineffective use of linking devices and transitional markers make reading difficult and uninteresting.

Based on these, the analysis of the sample texts gave rise to a number of conclusions. The most conspicuous of these is the similarity in the need to write concise but interesting and

coherent essays. This is informed by the need for space and ease of comprehension. Consequently, all the main objectives of the thesis as enumerated above are integrated. The objectives also encompassed all the relevant activities and elements necessary for composing unified and coherent texts.

From the results of the analysis on the organization of sample essays, therefore, it is concluded that right from the planning stage, writers of newspaper texts attempt to be as precise and interesting as possible. Hence, all extracts share the chronological approach in the organization of news reports and features. Events and actions are mostly sequentially ordered so as to capture and sustain readers' attention and interest which aids the comprehension of the message presented. The organization of editorials is, however, at most times, formally planned with multiple-methods so as to meet with the educational maturity of the expected readers. Also deduced from the organizational analysis of the sample texts is the similarity in arrangement of the movement of the information from the most obvious to the least obvious in order to achieve unified and coherent essays. As a pre-writing activity therefore, and in view of the urgency in journalism, the organization of the sample essays concur to scantiness of newspaper language, as little or no time at all, is given to planning.

Deductions made from the analysis of the development of paragraph and whether Nigerian newspaper journalists measure to standards set in English composition writing of unified essays gave rise to the conclusion that paragraphs are focused on meeting with the central function of the newspaper, to inform. As such, different developmental patterns are employed to achieve the desired unity, coherence and emphasis. By implication, therefore, the application of topic sentences and their supporting details from the analysis are contextually situated to transmit the desired message. From the analysis most paragraphs have their topic

sentences located in the initial position only a few are placed in middle or final positions for emphasis. Likewise, supporting ideas are used to beef up the topic sentences in varying degrees of illustration, reason, cause and effect and a number of other logical details.

Another conclusion worthy of note in the analysis of paragraphs of sampled essays is the composition of most paragraphs with only one sentence in which it acts both as the topic sentence and the supporting one. This is because such sentences are usually of varying classifications in structure and function. They also enhance clarity to aid faster reading. Such a newspaper convention tallies with one of the propositions of the present research that journalists could deviate from the norm if only to drive home their message.

Since writing is an academic pursuit, this research is a potential referential document on composing newspaper articles in the Nigerian context. Analysis of the organization, paragraph development and transitional devices as used by authors of newspapers could contribute immensely to the re-positioning of the newspaper language in Nigeria. Such studies on elements of writing will, in no small measure, pave way for more criticism on the application of standards to essays written in newspapers and other texts meant for mass consumption.

Nevertheless, the thesis can also serve as pilot work on investigation into the structural aspects of newspaper texts rather than the over-flogged ideological studies. Thus to add to the vogue among linguists on researches in the use of English for Specific Purposes (ESP) the present research could become a pointer for a way forward. The peculiarities inherent in journalism as they affect composing newspaper texts, having been brought to prominence, would serve as confidence boosters for starting news writers.

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