A LINGUISTIC STYLISTIC ANALYSIS OF GENDER VARIATIONS IN SELECTED TELEVISION NEWS REPORTAGE

BY

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Ph.D/ARTS/23959/2012-2013

NOVEMBER, 2016

DECLARATION

I declare that, this thesis entitled "A linguistic stylistic analysis of gender variations in selected television News reportage" embodies the results of my original research effort and has been composed by myself. It has never been previously presented anywhere else in application for the award of a Degree or Diploma. All materials used in the work have been appropriately acknowledged by means of references.

Name: …….

Signature:……

Date: ……..…...……...

DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to the memory of my ever loving and caring mother, Hajiya Salamatu Mahmud Mudi Bauchi. May her soul rest in perfect peace. Amin. And to my dear father Alhaji Mahmud Mudi Bauchi. May you live longer Dad!

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this thesis, entitled 'A Linguistic Stylistic Analysis of Gender Variations in Selected Television News Reportage', written by Hauwa Mohammed Sani (Ph.D/Arts/23959/2012-2013) meets the regulations governing the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in English Language of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria and is approved for its contribution to knowledge and literary presentation.

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ABSTRACT

This study identifies and assesses the linguistic differences that contribute to gender language variations in news reportage. It examines ninety six (96) news reports (48 Males, 48 Females) from the three selected television stations of BBC, NTA and Channels TV. All the reports were recorded between March, 2015 and January, 2016. Content analysis was used in examining the linguistic gender differences in the Themes and Rhemes of the reporters and in the type of stories they reported. A survey in the form of personal interview was also conducted to find out the implications of the variations on the target audience. Using Halliday (2004) textual analysis of themes and Rhemes as a model, the study reveals that male and female reporters adopt distinct mode of Themes and Rhemes in passing across their reports. The male reporters predominantly employ active voices which are realized through unmarked topical themes. The female reporters prefer passive voices thus, use marked themes which were given additional force by their fronting. In addition, the mapping of the thematic system on the informational system of the reporters helps to project their viewpoints and attitudes towards events in the reports. Furthermore, analysis of news reportages reveals that female reporters are more likely to present reports on human interest and health related stories, home, education, world affairs, and to some extent politics and conflicts. The males it is assumed, present reports on conflicts, world affairs, politics and sports that is considered intense dynamic and active reports. These findings support researches such as Boyle and Macleod (2012) and Wen McCarthy and Strain (2013) but challenge some of their positions with regard to the topic selections and beats covered by the female reporters. According to them the female reporters do not cover conflict topics like War, Politics and International Affairs. However, the result of this study establishes the fact that female reporters cover International Affairs, Politics and to some extent Conflicts. The study reveals that 58% of the respondents prefer female reports. Some of the reasons given by this cadre to justify their choices include ‘simplicity’, ‘more detailed’, ‘more comprehensive,’ etc. while 42% of the interviewee prefer male reports on the bases of ‘specificity’, ‘forcefulness’, ‘less time consuming’, ‘technicality’ and ‘persuasiveness’. Results suggest that the current news reportage largely conforms to an established gender divide that, the language use amongst males and females can actually be distinguished in terms of vocabulary, expressions and subject matter even in the field of the media (television).

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Background to the Study

In recent decades and in the contemporary globalizing world, the mass media has gained more power and women have gradually become more visible in the sphere of journalism. The growth in female contribution to the television reportage has been observed and many researchers argue that there is an increase in the influence of women in news reportage (Cann 2001, Mack 2003, Desmond 2009). However, a systemic approach to identifying and qualifying this contribution is yet to be proposed which is part of what this research seeks to address. Specifically, the study aims to identify differences in lexical choice and topic selection that are attributable to the speakers' gender in news reportage. Through the findings, the study hopes to offer some insights as regards how the choice of language features might affect the veracity and persuasiveness of news reportage. Ultimately, the goal of news reportage is to convey information and ideas and for the audience to have a better understanding of political and societal issues. In order to more successfully achieve that goal, it is necessary that news writers and reporters understand the effect that gender may have on the way that news is both conveyed and interpreted. It is on the basis of these observations that the researcher considers it worthy to carry out this study on gender variations in the language of television news reportage from the Linguistic Stylistic perspective.

Language is all about experience, (a loaded weapon as Bolinger claims) it is all about communication and linguistics is the scientific study of language, which by implication is the study of our experiences and communications. Linguistics is sometimes defined as "a language talking about language". It has developed from a discipline with narrowly defined formal concerns to a more comprehensive discipline in which the role of language in relation to the conceptualization and communication of meaning has been fruitfully investigated.

Linguistics is a field that examines all aspects of human language through formal, scientific and variable measures. It draws from various disciplines for an understanding of different aspects of language in its various forms. From Human Psychology, it gains an understanding of the mental processes involved in the use of language; how language is stored, perceived and processed in the brain. From Anthropology and Sociology, it gains an understanding of human's behaviour in their use of language in various contexts, (Yul-Ifode, 2012). Hence, Linguistics has many branches which include Sociolinguistics, Pragmatics, Neurolinguistics, Anthropological Linguistics, and Stylistics (which is the focal point of this study). These branches study language with respect to the consequences of the interaction of human language with other disciplines. For example, Linguistic Stylistics which is the focus of this study is the linguistic study of the language of literature or text. In Stylistics one studies and analyses the language patterns and structure of a particular genre and in the context of this study, the genre to be examined comprises spoken texts of television.

We can therefore, posit that Stylistics builds on linguistics and in return it challenges our linguistic frameworks, reveals their deficiencies and urges us to refine them. Sometimes

Stylistics also assesses the aesthetic features of speakers' use of language and helps speakers or analysts to categorise or systemize them. This research hopes to assess the linguistic Stylistic variations found in the speeches of male and female reporters in British Broadcasting Corporation, Channels TV, and Nigerian Television Authority and attempt to analyse and systemize these variations. Stylistics is the scientific study of style and style is certainly a familiar word, but interestingly because of its multiplicity of definitions, the concept has been used to mean different things to different scholars, as such different definitions have been given to the term "Style". For the purposes of this study, it becomes expedient to consider the various definitions of Stylistics that scholars have given. The term style first referred in English to a writing implement, then to ways of using it, and to ways of doing virtually anything.

Ordinarily, the word 'style' is used to refer to the manner of doing things; speaking, writing, dressing, walking, eating, plaiting etc. Crystal and Davy (1969: 9-10) enunciate four definitions of style as follows:

i. Style as the language habit of a person.
ii. Style referring to some or all the language habits shared by a group of people at one time over a period of time.
iii. Effectiveness of mode of expression.
iv. Style as tantamount to literary language.

The former presupposition in linguistic/literary circles is that, the study of style is a viable technique of the study of literary texts. However, in the age of positivism, that is, the theory that holds that knowledge can be acquired through direct observation and experimentation, the study assumes the posture of a scientific discipline in sign. This

approach is called linguistic Stylistics, a bridge-science bordering on linguistic variation informed by certain linguistic factors, (Kwanya 1997)

When limited to literary language, Stylistics is then literary. When, however, texts for analysis are drawn from other linguistic variables, Stylistics is linguistics. Stylistic variation, especially in broadcast speech, is one of the main factors of quantitative linguistic research because in broadcast speech the Stylistic aspect is relevant to many levels of analysis; for example, setting, topic and language choices.

Another important foundation for quantitative as well as qualitative linguistic research is language variation and change. In other words, an important foundation for quantitative and qualitative linguistic research is the notion that language is inherently variable and changeable. Variation within a linguistic system or a speech community can be stable or it can be an indication of change in progress. Weinreich et al (1968:188) state that "not all variability and heterogeneity in language structure involves change; but all change involves variability and heterogeneity". Farmers and Harnish (2002:259) also posit that:

> No human language is fixed, uniform or unvarying, all languages show internal variation. Actual usage varies from group to group and speaker to speaker in terms of the pronunciation of language, the choice of words and meaning of those words, even the use of syntactic constructions.

Here variation is taken to mean any phenomenon involving more than one type of realization for a linguistic form. Variation can be found at intra-speaker level, within the speech of a single individual and at inter- speaker level between individuals. The former is related to factors in the linguistic context or in the speech situation while the latter typically correlates with social categories such as age, gender, class, etc. This study focuses on the social categories of gender at the inter-speaker level between individuals in the television reportage outfit and provides evidence that linguistic gender

variation/variability is patterned and progresses in an orderly manner. The primary data for this study were obtained from the mass media through the social variable television (The Mass Media Television). The phrase “mass media” or simply “media” is commonly used to refer to the media industry in general (Maletzke, 1984). The term mass medium as such actually denotes a technological apparatus that is of fundamental importance within the Mass Communication process.

A medium thus, is a technological transmitter of information within Mass Communication. This transmitter is constructed in such a way that it allows the mass distribution of produced media contents. Hence, we speak of a “mass medium”. In other words, mass denotes the accessibility of the medium, for example, television for a large number of people. Mass Media comprises print, electronic and social networks but among the traditional mass media press, radio and television, it is the television that is the youngest mass medium for obvious reasons of required technology (Burns 1998, Franke, 2011). As its technological processes involve the transportation of audio- visual information encoded in the television signal, its development is based on technological advances. This allows the (successful) transmission and mass distribution not simply of the printed words as in the case of the press or acoustic signal alone as in the case of radio but of both the audio and visual signals. It also allows the transmission from a (technical) sender to a (technical) receiver to be able to decode both types of signal simultaneously.

A mass medium thus is an intermediate transmitter of information that reaches the members of audience simultaneously. Mass Communication therefore, is “message communicated through a mass medium to a large number of people” (Okunna 1999). It is the use of mass media that differentiates Mass Communication from other types of

communication like interpersonal and group communication. The mass media are powerful tools for opinion moulding, agenda setting, public debate, integration, entertainment, education, motivation and mobilization. They wield a lot of power. Talking about this power, Brain Wenham (a former BBC director of programmes) says:

> Television is credited… with almost superhuman powers. It can they say start wars, and it can sap the will to continue those wars. It can prevent the society talking sensibly to itself. It can cause trouble to the streets. (Boyd 1997:167).

If the mass media have such tremendous power, it behoves any person who reports for them to appropriate such powers. To hold such powers however, the reporters have to speak well and choose words that are linguistically and contextually appropriate.

Television and the television news have been the objects of an intense ongoing debate aimed at investigating the social influence and the scope of their impact on politics, the representation of current affairs and the shaping of public opinion and culture today. We cannot provide an accurate objective description of social reality gender but we can attempt to produce a complete description of the presence of men and women and their linguistic variations in the "main window of the world", the television news reporting (Rodgers and Thornson, 2003).

The television communicative system is a one way communication which has accurately been summarized in the table below:

1.0.1. One way Communication

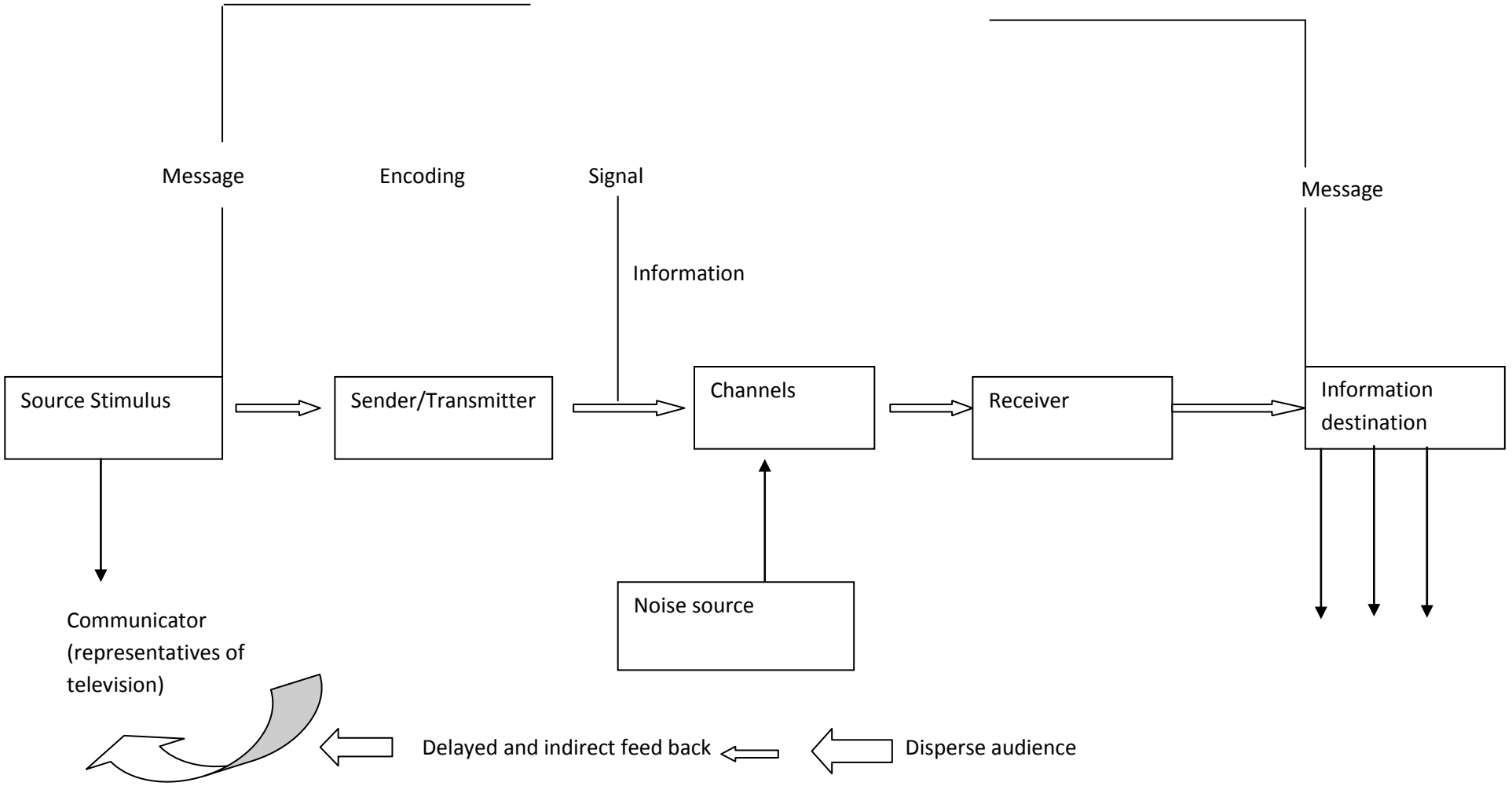


Figure 1: The way the audio-visual television signals in Mass Communication. (Adapted from Franke 2011)

Summary of figure 1

1. Absence of interaction (with the audience)
2. One way communication process-the implications of the communication process shows that recipient design is problematic and communicative needs of addressees are not known.

Another social variable that influences the use of language and also constitutes the focus of this study is gender. As a social variable, gender is based on the biological sex of the speakers. As such, gender is a relatively straightforward category in the sense that it is unproblematic to define, readily observable, and there is no doubt as to how the speakers should be categorized (in contrast to for example social class, which is notoriously difficult to define). There are only two gender categories: male and female. As a factor in sociolinguistic analysis however, gender is conceived as a social construction of sex (Eckert 1997, Cheshire 2002). Biological sex is the underlying basis for the differentiation of roles, norms and expectations that apply to men and women and it is these social and cultural factors that constitute gender. The differences in patterns of linguistic variation between men and women are then a function of gender and only indirectly a function of sex: speakers are typically classified in terms of their biological sex, but the findings are interpreted in terms of the social roles and self image of men and women.

Gender is understood to be a social concept through which society defines masculinity or feminity, a series of characteristics and behaviour through which its members are socialized from infancy; thus, the values associated with feminity do not correspond to any (anatomical or hormonal) essence. They are constitutions with cultural and social

basis which change overtime and are concerned in a variety of ways outside the western views of the cosmos. The literature in both scholarly and lay circles is replete with evidence that gender study is rife. Examples of researches in this area include: Adejoke (2010), Woofit (2005), Lakoff (2004) Eckert and McConnell-Ginet (2003) Wodak (1993), Tannen (1990; ed. 1993), Holmes (1992) Maltz and Borker (1982), Spender (1980) Kramer(1974), etc. These are some of the gender- based researches in the field of language and linguistics.

The major and common finding of these researches is that men and women behave differently when they communicate (many texts provide detailed list of such differences). For example, Eckert and McConnel Ginet (2003), Lakoff (2004) Tannen (1990) posit that comparing men and women, there are differences in phonology, grammar and vocabulary and in the body stances and movements that accompany speech. The question here is how do these differences affect the world of the media, especially the television reportage outfit of these reporters? The current study is also an interdisciplinary one, because it focuses on the inter-play of language and mass media (media linguistics). But it should be noted that the primary orientation is that of language used within the electronic media, specifically, television.

1.0.2 The Selected Television Stations

The data for the present study were drawn from recordings of reporters from three Television stations, BBC World, NTA and Channels Television. These stations were chosen because they were all available via satellite and therefore, easily accessible. They were also chosen because they are exemplary and associated with the high standard of the English language they use.

BBC world news is the British Broadcasting Corporation's 24 – hour's international current affairs TV Channel and was launched in January 1995. It was formally known as BBC World Service Television.BBC world news claim to have over one hundred and sixty journalists from the continents covering stories of the continents. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BBC_World_News)

The Nigerian Television Authority also known as NTA was inaugurated in 1977 and it is the government –owned body in charge of Television broadcasting in the country. The NTA claims to run the biggest television in Africa with stations in several parts of Nigeria. Formally known as Nigerian Television (NTV), the network began with a takeover of regional television stations in 1976 by the then Nigerian military authorities, and is widely viewed as the authentic voice of Nigerian government. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigerian_Television_Authority)

Channels Television is one of the Thirteen Independent and non-governmental Television stations currently broadcasting in Nigeria. Channels TV is a 24-hours news channel broadcasting live from Lagos, Nigeria West Africa. Channels TV has been broadcasting in Nigeria since the Federal government deregulated the broadcasting media in 1992 and the company was licensed in June 1993. Channels TV was allocated a frequency on UHF (Channel 39). It began transmission two years later and now broadcasts to a well discerning audience of over 20 million people. The station was independent and associated with standard usage of language. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Channels_TV)

1.1 Statement of the Research Problem

This study is motivated on the assumption that variety and variability are inevitable features of language use. Among the speakers of any language there are variations in the way they use language. There are also differences between the speeches of men and women. These variations are demonstrated by linguistic differences in terms of sounds (phonetics) and structures (grammar). However, these might be only slight variations between forms of a language, such as minor pronunciation of words or slight changes of grammatical structure that inhibit intergroup communication. Sometimes there are differences between the speeches of different social classes and differences between age groups. People will identify some of those features as making the 'best' or most 'beautiful' form of the language and other features will be considered nonstandard or undesirable. Some of these differences may impede intelligibility and inter group communication. The study also takes as its starting point the assumption that, different choices of Themes/Rhemes and their organization can elucidate ideological factors that underlie news reportage of the correspondents. Although many studies have been conducted in the fields of gender and news reportage, very few have attempted to investigate the roles of Themes and Rhemes in marked and unmarked thematic structure of the male and female correspondents. This is the premise upon which this research was conducted.

On the subject of linguistic gender communication, especially in the case of news reportage, one question continues to excite popular passion and command scholarly discussion; Are there meaningful gender differences in the language behaviour of the news reporters? There is no doubt that men and women speak the same language but their

articulation often times differ. To this end, the Stylistic gender variations in the speech of reporters may impact on the interest of the viewers/hearers thereby, enhancing or deterring them to get maximum satisfaction in programs or news report. This study therefore, is concerned with interrogating the extent to which variations in television news reportage contribute to the efficiency of news reports or enhances it. To this end, attempt will be made through a linguistic Stylistic study to demystify this discourse. Also, the quantitative analytical approach is adopted to gauge the impact of the variations on the viewers/listeners. The present study which is both qualitative and quantitative is then an attempt to fill some of the empirical gaps by supplying both qualitative and quantitative corpus-based data on the current linguistic gender variations in the speeches of the television correspondents.

Furthermore, news reportage is intended to serve the public in terms of nurturing a better understanding of both political and societal concern of a society. Such a goal may be stymied if reporters lack sufficient understanding of the effect gendered language may have on the conveyance and interpretation of news. The goal of this research is not just to assess the linguistic variations of the news reporters but also to offer some insights as to how these gender variations in the language of the reporters might affect the efficiency of the news reporters or enhance their professionalism.

1.2 Research Questions

The present study is concerned with answering the following questions:

1. What are the thematic and rhematic patterns of the male and female reporters of BBC, NTA and Channels Television?

2. To what extent does gender variation affect the choice of sentence patterns and lexical items of the male and female reporters of BBC, Channels TV and N.T.A?
3. To what extent does gender determine the choice of subject matters covered in the television news reportage?
4. And what are the implications of the linguistic gender differences of the television reportage outfits on the target audience?

1.3 Aim and Objectives of the Study

The aim of this study is to identify and assess the linguistic differences that contribute to gender language variations in news reportage. Specifically, the study hopes to achieve the following objectives:

i. to analyse the selection of the Themes and Rhemes in the clauses used by the male and female reporters of BBC, Channels TV and NTA (on the same beat reports)
ii. to identify the gender variations in the choice of sentence patterns and lexical items of the male and female in television news reportage on BBC, Channels TV and NTA
iii. to identify the differences in the subject matters (beats) covered by men and women in news reportage; and
iv. to examine the effect of the gender variations on the target audience.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The yardstick by which successful communication is measured is the ability of the participant communicator to speak clearly so that the recipient will not find it difficult to understand the message. Understanding therefore, the social dynamics of gendered

language in the speech of television reporters enhances the issue of professionalism and the way people construe and understand the news; hence the need for the study.

The overall intention of this study is to give insight on the effect of gender variations in the nature of television news reporting as a medium and an institution. This study is basically inter-disciplinary in character covering both linguistic and media studies and in so doing it constitutes a current contribution to contemporary media linguistics. It is hoped that the study will be of particular interest to journalists, editors and current affairs communicators because it highlights how gendered linguistics and topical differences (unconsciously) permeate reportage.

The study hopes to serve as a contribution to the efficiency of the reporters as well as the listeners in the interpretation of the news. This study will hopefully be of interest to anyone (especially reporters) whose task it is to effectively communicate information.

The study is also of importance to linguists and cognitive psychologists because it stands to better identify textual features of gendered language. Such insights may facilitate more reliable predictions regarding male and female communication, understanding and perception

1.5 Scope of the Study

The current emphasis on Linguistic Stylistic approach to language use in news reporting brought the television media to the centre stage of discourse in communication (Media Linguistics). This research was limited to a specific number of television media outfits. So the linguistic data were collected from the three television channels; one public channel, Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), one private channel, Channels Television and one

international channel, British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) news television. These channels are also exemplary and associated with the high standard of the English language they use.

The thrust of the discussion being oral (speech), in the sense that the television media are associated with the oral use of language, compelled the researcher to explore some of the linguistic features of the news reports including the syntactic and the lexical features. The study adopted the concepts of Halliday's (2004) textual themes and rhemes analysis as both its theoretical and analytical framework. Also a survey in the form of personal and structured interviews was conducted to establish the impacts of the linguistic gender variations on the audience.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.0 Preamble

This chapter reviews various works that are related to this research, such as authorial and topical reviews on variation in language use, linguistic competence and communicative competence, style and Stylistics, authorial review on gendered language, communication and gender issues, and an overview of media language. The chapter also reviews topical works on gendered differences in news reportage and presents the theoretical framework of the study.

2.1 Linguistic Competence and Communicative Competence

Radford (1995, p.3) cites Chomsky to associate communicative competence with "linguistic abilities of native speakers of a language which enable them to speak and understand their language fluently." According to him "competence" which, in other words, is the "fluent native speaker's knowledge of the language, differs from "performance" which he defines as "what people actually say or understand by what someone else says on (any) given occasion." Thus, competence is the speaker-hearer's knowledge of their language, while performance is the actual use of language in concrete situations.

There are varieties of competence; Chomsky (1965) crystallizes "grammatical competence" which, as Baldeh (1991:43) sees it, emphasizes "the formulation and studying of rules and the mechanical business of dealing with "trivial" things such as parsing, identification of parts of speech and so on". The other variety is "Communicative

competence", an expression formulated by Hymes (1968) and which currently enjoys functional applicability in language and communicological studies. Baldeh(1991:44) notes that:

> ... what communicative competence aims to do is to help the learner turn his considerable dormant grammatical competence into a real practical mastery of the language, being engaged in such everyday activities as buying stamps, going to the cinema, asking the way, visiting the dentist, going shopping, asking the time, etc., although the business of the journalist transcends these simple tasks.

In support of the above view of Hymes (1968), Dittmar (1976:162) gives a somewhat more direct definition. According to him, "communicative competence describes the ability of individuals to communicate with one another under situationally and normatively defined conditions (linguistic, psychological, social and pragmatic in nature)... As Dittmar further explains, Hymes (1968) who coined the term "communicative competence" condemns Chomsky's postulate of the ideal speaker-hearer for excluding social aspects of communication which the latter refers to as performance.

In Hymes' view, Chomsky's concept of performance is not to be seen as being of much use since it relates to psychological factors of actual speech and does not consider speech as action related to situation. Hymes sees communicative competence from a broader perspective that shows that Chomsky's bi-furcated classification of utterances into "grammaticality" achieving journalistic objectives through communicative competence and "acceptability" (which refer to competence and performance respectively) as an over-simplification. Sentences (The utterances) are not only to be viewed as grammatical and acceptable, but must be examined and assessed on the basis of the extent to which they are successful and appropriate to the context being described. For example, sentences that

are similar in their formal grammatical structure can, in accordance with the situation, be commands, requests, demands or apologies.

In defining communicative competence, Williams (1990: 16-17) states that, this refers to "the ability to use language in its socio-cultural, interpersonal aspects beyond the sentence; meaning that such language will be at the discourse level. According to him:

> Communicative competence involves the use of language in extended discourse for various types of social interaction, exhibiting such features as appropriateness of usage, conventionality of usage, transactional usage and interactional usage which are together constitutive of the essence of communicative competence.

The phrase, 'communicative competence' was formulated by Dell Hymes in 1968. Hymes formulation contrasts Chomsky's transformational generative grammar which emphasizes linguistic or grammatical competence and is based on the erroneous view that a speech community using a language is homogenous. Chomsky's postulation seems to be unaware of the socio-cultural dimension of language use; it seems to take "structure as a primary end in itself" and tends to depreciate use, while not relinquishing any of its claims to the great significance that is attached to language" Hymes (1968:272). Linguistic competence stresses rules of grammar, mechanical processes, parts of speech, vowel and consonant sounds, clausal formation, etc. The result is that learners know about the language rather than how it is used in context.

As pointed out by Adekunle (1976:57), "instructional materials and strategies based on the linguistic competence orientation tend to overemphasize the isolated units of language. The analytic aspect of language study is carried too far at the expense of the synthetic aspect." However, communicative competence strives to convert the learner's largely dormant grammatical competence into a living order of activities, including

"competence as to when to speak, when not, and as to what to talk about with whom, when, where, in what manner", (Hymes 1968:277). This ability comes naturally to the normal native speaker. Such a speaker would know when language has been poorly used, even without his knowing why or how. Although Wilkins (1974:25) asserts that, "it is very rare for an individual to develop as comprehensive a knowledge of a foreign language as the native speaker," a non-native speaker ought to recognize the fact that language structure is not understood in a social vacuum. The broadcaster in a third world country like Nigeria must take into consideration the differentiation between linguistic/ grammatical on the one hand and communicative competence on the other. English, a second language in Nigeria, is also the language of public and official communication. In a typical broadcasting day in Nigeria, the English language is used four times more than any mother tongue. Apart from our colonial inheritance of the English language, the multiplicity of mother tongues has made the constant use of the former rather very imperative. Therefore, the broadcaster using the English language must aim at ensuring:

> Mutual intelligibility in the language among the (listeners), who, as in Nigeria, may have whole variety of mother tongues, and on the other, international intelligibility between them and the speakers of other standard varieties of the target language, (Banjo 1970:175).

This is necessary in view of the fact that no nation using any of the metropolitan languages of the West is in any sense a closed society. As modern governments seek social and economic interactions with the outside world, Nigerian nationals must write and speak in such a way that they would maintain sufficient intelligibility in their utterances. This would necessarily call for both grammatical and communicative competence as the two need to function together for a productive and meaningful

language use. As Jowitt (1991:56) puts it, "communication adequacy entails the ability to use English effectively in "real life" situations, and is therefore a function of both spoken and written English:" The review on both linguistic and communicative competence in English language is very crucial to this research because they serve as critical factor in achieving the objectives of news reportage.

2.2 Variation in Language Use

Hudson (1996:21) contends that: "The study of language variation is an important part of Sociolinguistics, to the extent that it requires reference to social factors. Languages vary from one place to another from one social group to another and from one situation to another."

Linguistic variation entails the regional, social, or contextual differences in the ways that a particular language is used. Since the rise of Sociolinguistics the 1960s, interest in linguistic variation developed and rapidly we now realise that variation, far from being peripheral and inconsequential, is vital part of ordinary behaviour.

According to Wardhaugh (2006:4):

> Everywhere we turn we seem to find out at least a new wrinkle or a small inconsistency with regard to any rule we might propose. When we look at any language, we discover time and time again that there is considerable internal variation and that speakers make constant use of many different possibilities offered to them. No one speaks the same way all the time and people constantly exploit the nuances of the languages. They speak for a wide variety of purposes.

Recognition of variation implies that we must recognise that a language is not just some kind of abstract object of study. It is also something that people use. Similarly, Lawal (2003:27) asserts that: "variety and variability are inevitable features of language which is

a unique human attribute employed in widely differing circumstances for performing a multiplicity of social functions".

The concept of language variation is based on the fact that language varies according to the context of use. The context of formal language differs from an informal one. Likewise, the context of spoken language varies from that of the written language. Milroy (1988) tries to characterize speech event in terms of specific situational constrain such as those imposed by the different features of context. We can therefore, analyse language variation at the three levels of Syntax, Phonology and Lexis. According to Alabi (2007:27):

> It was argued that if there is variation in language context, then a kind of language should be associated with specific contexts, such as professional area, e.g. Medical language, legal language, social language, etc. and the area of use, for example Business, meeting advertisement, academics, etc.

In essence, what Alabi is trying to say here is that language variation leads to register analysis. In other words register varieties are defined according to their social and occupational origins. Milroy (1980) also argues that there is a link between social patterns and patterns of language use. These social variables of language are the social class, sex of speaker age, region of origin and the group identity of speakers which determine the way we use language. This study focuses on the gender of the television reporters specifically at the inter-speaker level in order to find out whether Milroy's proposition that there is a link between social variables of gender and patterns of language use is valid or not.

2.3 Style and Stylistics

The word style was derived from a Latin word “stilus” its variant is “stylus” which means a pointed instrument for writing or a pen; an author’s pen. It is a term generally used to mean a way of doing things appropriately, well or badly or even doing them in a distinctive way.

2.3.1 Style/Stylistics (Traditional Approach)

The traditional, literary critical attitude towards ‘Style’ is subjective and unscientific, and considers it a writer’s intuitive insight into aesthetics. This concept of style is essentially ambiguous because the reader may or may not share with the writer and critic the level and delicacy of intuitive perception. It is, therefore, hegemonic, undemocratic and imperialistic in its nature.

Style is a writer’s individual mode of expression, way of putting his conceptions into words. It involves a long list of choices at paradigmatic and syntagmatic axes: choice of lexical items, use of tropes and figures of speech, phrasal and syntactic structures and the shape of paragraphs. These choices make the writer an individual as clearly discernible and differentiable as he is in the frequency and quality of his voice, in his behavioral idiosyncrasies and ways of walking and laughing. It is the whole of man, the whole of himself that speaks through his style: “The style is the man”, says Buffon (1966). This is too sweeping a statement and carries us nowhere, though some parts of the discussion prior to it are relevant to this research.

Chambers’ Twentieth Century Dictionary defines style as “A literary composition: manner of writing, mode of expressing thought in language or of expression, execution,

action, or bearing generally: the distinctive manner peculiar to an author or other" The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English considers style as the sum of "collective characteristics of the writing or diction or way of presenting things or artistic expression or decorative method proper to a person or school or period or subject matter exhibiting these characteristics". A Dictionary of Literary Terms defines style as "The characteristic manner of expression in prose or verse; how a particular writer says things. The analysis and assessment of style involves examination of a writer's choice of words, his figures of speech, the devices (rhetorical or otherwise), the shape of his sentences, and the shape of his paragraphs-- indeed, of every conceivable aspect of his language and the way in which he uses it. Style defies complete analysis or definition… it is the tone and voice of the writer himself; as peculiar to him as his laugh, his walk, his handwriting and the expression on his face" (Sykes, 1976).

Gray (1994:66): describes style as:

> The characteristic manner in which a writer expresses himself or herself or the particular manner of an individual literary work. Each writer's style is unique, but it may be a combination of many different factors, such as typical syntactical structures, a favorite or distinctive vocabulary, kinds of imagery, attitude to subject matter, kind of subject matter, and so on

This definition comes closer to the purpose of this research though in a general way. It refers to syntactic structure, vocabulary, imagery and attitude to subject matter, and all of these elements are part of the oral text of the news reporters. Gray (1994:67) says that "Criticism often consists in description of a writer's style by analysis of syntax, tone imagery, point of view and, indeed, every characteristic linguistic feature". Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (1998) writes that style is "A particular way of doing something, or producing something, especially one that is typical of a particular period of

time or of a group of people … [It is] the particular way someone uses words to express ideas, tell stories etc"

To Crystal and Davy (1969) style from speech perspective is as follows: "Sense of style (implies) semi-instinctive knowledge of linguistic appropriateness and (more important), of the taboo, which corresponds as closely as possible to the fluent native speaker's".

They consider the cliché observation that style is the man to be mistaken and refer to it as "a selection of language habits, the occasional linguistic idiosyncrasies which characterize an individual's uniqueness". They give four senses of 'style': "some or all language habits of one person"; "some or all language habits shared by a group of people at one time, or over a period of time"; "effect of a mode of expression", and fourthly, in evaluative literary sense with the previous three meanings overlapping, they find the first and second meaning nearest to their perception. (Stephen, 1994:52) writes that in its simplest form style is "the collective impression left by the way an author writes. An author's style is usually individual, his literary fingerprint". Again the phrases 'the collective impression', 'individual's literary fingerprint' or even the four senses given above because of their impressionistic nature are off the point.

Ellis (1955) says that style is not merely an invisible transparent medium, not merely a garment of thought but the thought itself. He considers it miraculous expression of spirit possible in no other way. Henry Fielding's words are worth quoting in this respect:

> There is no branch of criticism in which learning as well as good sense is more required than to the forming an accurate judgment of style, though there is none, I believe, in which every trifling reader is more ready to give his decision", (Lodge 1966:52).

Ellis's statement, despite its beauty, is very personal and subjective. Fielding's observation on style suggests a need for accurate judgment of the phenomenon and in this respect looks forward to and anticipates linguistic treatment of the subject.

2.3.2 Subjectivity in Traditional Approach to Style

A cursory glance at some of the traditional definitions of style quoted above shows their impressionistic nature that renders them unacceptable for and inapplicable to a linguistic analysis. Style is the sum of collective characteristics of writing, diction and expression; it does consist in individual linguistic idiosyncrasies; it is the collective impression left by the way an author expresses himself; but despite all this, vagueness stays there. These pseudo-definitions neither have any scientificity and definiteness that linguistics requires nor does the researcher find any clear way to follow. One definition or two that come close to the stance of this research refer to style as choice of words, figures of speech, devices, syntax, favorite vocabulary, kinds of imagery etc.

2.3.3 Linguistic Approach to Stylistics

As linguistics studies language scientifically, it studies style as well in an impersonal and objective manner. Stylistics defines, studies and analyses style objectively and technically applying methodology of linguistics. Literature was traditionally appreciated non-technically and the critic depended on his superior vision and arbitrary good taste of the reader. Belsey, (2002:22) refers to Frye who, like New Critics, in pursuit of objectivity, considers "Existing criticism without system, atomistic, intuitive and so finally elitist, a ritual of sensibility which mystifies the possession of an illusory good taste". In place of this 'mystery religion without a gospel' he proposes that criticism should become, "a

coherent and systematic study…" Stylistics, on the other hand, evaluates a literary text precisely. Descriptive linguistics gives Stylistic analysis of a text at phonological, syntactic and semantic levels of linguistic description. Stylistics uses its own meta-language and terminology to analyze a text and to parse its items and structures. The communicative power and connotative significance of these isolated linguistic items and structures is evaluated objectively. Lyons, (1981:20) says that style implies "those components and features of a literary composition which give to it individual stamp, marking it as the work of a particular author and producing a certain effect on the readers".

According to Lodge, (2001:56), Riffaterre (2000) has well put the role and function of Stylistics: The author's encoding is permanent, but the process of decoding changes as the language changes in the course of time. Stylistics should encompass this simultaneity of permanence and change."

Lodge, (2001:56) contends that Riffaterre's definition of style is more enlightening and also suggests the function of Stylistics: "Style is the means by which the… encoder ensures that his message is decoded in such a way that the reader not only understands the information conveyed, but shares the writer's attitude towards it".

Riffateur's approach is relevant to this research in a broader perspective because metaphor does involve this simultaneity of permanence and change. According to Hill (1958) Stylistics is concerned with "all those relations among linguistic entities which are statable, or may be statable, in terms of wider spans than those which fall within the limits

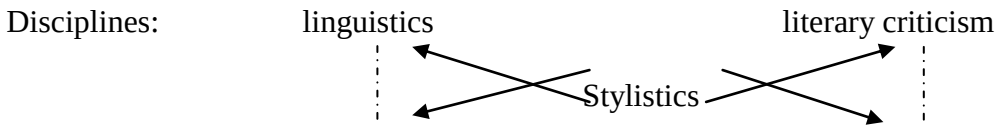
of a sentence." Malmkjær, (2004:189) similarly, defines style as a "consistent occurrence in the text of certain items and structures…"

Leech (1969:1) defines Stylistics as:

> Simply the study of literary style, or to make matters even more explicit, the study of the use of language in literature. When we discuss style, we often have in mind the language of a particular writer, a particular period, a particular genre, even a particular poem.

Leech has analyzed the elements and features of style in detail in his *A Linguistic Guide to the Study of Poetry*. According to Aitchison, (2003:148) "The linguistic analysis of literary language is known as Stylistics…the words style and Stylistics have acquired somewhat specialized, narrow usage of linguistics applied to literature . Lyons (1981:295) defines Stylistics "as the study of Stylistic variation in languages and of the way in which this is exploited by their users". But admitting that this definition is too general, he narrows it down to 'literary Stylistics': "the study of the language of a literary text". Widdowson (1992) too in the same vein speaks of the relationship between the two disciplines of linguistics and literature. Stylistics is a bridge between linguistics and literary criticism, between language and literature. To Widdowson (1992:65) "…stylistics is an area of mediation between two disciplines…stylistics can provide a way of mediation between two subjects". Widdowson is very comprehensive in his attitude towards Stylistics. He makes it an all inclusive study of linguistics, literary criticism, language and literature.

The following diagram by Widdowson(1992) illustrates this concept:



Subjects: (English) language (English) literature

As the diagram shows, Widdowson considers Stylistics a branch of linguistics that studies literary discourse from a linguistic approach. He says that "one can conduct enquiries of a linguistic kind without any reference to literary criticism" and vice versa. Another opinion is that literary criticism is impossible without any reference to language because literary interpretation does involve the study of the language of a text. This diagram implies that Stylistics is neither a discipline nor a subject in itself, "but a means of relating disciplines and subjects". He suggests that Stylistics involves both literary criticism and linguistics. Spitzer quoted by Lodge (2001:149) has also given the same solution to the problem: *"*Stylistics, I thought, might bridge the gap between Linguistics and literary history". Lodge, (2001:149) also posits that, Spitzer, the father of 'the New Stylistics', contributed to literary criticism in two ways:

> He asserted and demonstrated that in causally relating a particular literary effect to a particular order of language, criticism takes a significant step forward from impressionistic appreciation---goes perhaps as far as it can go in explaining the effectiveness of a literary text… His achievement was his development of a method for dealing with the style of long and complex structures, such as novels. It has been described as the 'linguistic' or 'philological' circle.

Similarly, Cluysenaar, as quoted by Malmakjer and Anderson, (1991:440) considers literary Stylistics "an extension of literary Criticism". Gray, (1939:142) is close to this observation when he says that "the real linguist is half a literateur and the real literateur is half a linguist". Berry (1977:22) defines Stylistics in the same vein in a more direct way: "stylistics is the application of linguistics to the study of literature". Linguistics is sometimes defined as a language for talking about language. So is the case with Stylistics: linguistics has helped literary scholars "to express their observations about literary works more neatly, more precisely and less emotively than is often the case in critical writing".

According to Fowler (1989:87), Halliday, however, considers linguistic study of a text superior to literary criticism:

> There is a difference between ad hoc, personal and arbitrary selective statements such as are sometimes offered, perhaps in support of a performulated literary thesis, as textual or linguistic statements about literature, and a description of a text based on general linguistic theory.

Fowler (1989:90) deduces Halliday's position from this statement as follows: "the literary criticism of language is logically inferior because the critic makes up his mind in advance and then supports his claims by citing selected aspects of the text".

Stephen, (1994) proposes the function of Stylistics as the analysis of a piece of literature in terms of its speech patterns, diction meter, rhythm and syntax and use of rhetorical figures of speech and other textual features.

Finch, (2000:206) defines Stylistics as the branch of linguistics that applies the methodologies of linguistics to analyze the concept of style in language. He sees Stylistics as: "A system of co-co-ordinated, interrelated and inter-conditioned language means intended to fulfill a specific function of communication aiming at a definite effect". What this entails is that Stylistics studies certain types of text discourse which due to the choice and arrangement of the language can be distinguished by the functional aspect language.

Stylistics has its own framework, approaches and techniques for interpretation and description of a literary text. The core focus of this area is to get at the very clues embedded in the text consciously or unconsciously by the creative artist. Bradford, (1997:3-4) in Stylistics traces its origin in the Greek techne rhetorike, the art of speech. "Rhetoric is an art, a necessary condition of philosophical debate. To perceive the same fact or argument dressed in different linguistic forms is not immoral or dangerous".

Perception of different literary forms is an obvious reference to variant Stylistic features of different texts. Analyzing the history of twentieth-century criticism, Bradford says that the New Critics and the Formalists inherited the tradition of rhetoric maintaining a belief in empirical difference between literary and non-literary language discipline of rhetoric, in the sense that they have maintained a belief in the empirical difference between literature and other types of language and have attempted to specify this difference in terms of style and effect.

Bradford (1997:13) divides different approaches to Stylistics into two basic categories: "textualist and contextualist" and places the Formalists and New Critics in the former one. Cleanth Brooks' *The Well Wrought Urn* is a classic of textual Stylistics. New Critical Stylistics not only identifies "linguistic features that make poetry different from other discourses, but with poetry as a form of signification which mysteriously transforms the familiar relationship between language and meaning" *(Brooks, 1968).*

Stylostatistics, the statistical study of style, is another interdisciplinary area within Stylistics that studies a text by studying frequency of a particular linguistic item e.g. word-length. It was an American geophysicist T.C. Mendenhall who gave the idea that "word-length might be a distinguishing characteristic of writers…" (Malmkjær and Anderson, James M 1991).This statistical study of Style (Stylostatistics) is pertinent to this research because the word-length (Stylostatistic) might be a distinguishing characteristic of the speeches of male and female correspondents. In summary when style is being studied empirically and objectively, it is Stylistics and when Stylistics defines, studies and analyses style objectively and technically applying the levels of linguistics, it is then linguistic Stylistics. This is what this study sets to do.

2.4 Schools of Stylistics

The term Stylistics has been variously defined by different schools of thoughts each with a focus to prioritize the study at hand, below are some of the perspectives of these school of thoughts.

2.4.1 Sociolinguistic Stylistics

Fowler (1989:65) advocates sociolinguistic frame for the study of literary style: "The literary style can be interpreted in relation to the Stylistic conventions which generate it and the historical and sociological situation which brought it into existence". Fowler believes that the ways and habits of the world and ideological and sociological registers do affect and pervade into the Stylistic character of a text. Bradford (1997:14) describes Bakhtin's concept of dialogism in the following words: "there is a competitive dialogue between the various styles in the text, supplemented by the text's attempt to alter and reshape the discourses it has borrowed from the non-fictional world". Sociolinguistics, unlike textualist Stylistics, seeks to find social and ideological context functioning behind and developing Stylistic character of a text. This is in line with the theory adopted for this research (Systemic Functional Linguistics). Therefore, sociolinguistic Stylistics is very relevant to this research.

2.4.2 Feminist Stylistics

Feminist Stylistics also believes that social and institutionalized prejudices and ideologies are embedded in a text and that Stylistic character of literature mirrors perceived gender roles of a society. However, Walters (2005:1) refers to an ironic gesture with reference to Virginia Woolf: "Curiously, one of the sharpest attacks on the word feminism came from

Virginia Woolf, who's A Room of One's Own is such an effective and engaging plea for women". Bradford quotes Woolf's observation that women writers chose the novel form because the older forms of drama and poetry were hardened and fixed and "the novel was young enough to be soft in her hands".

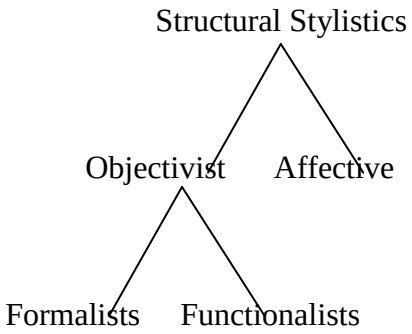
Burton quoted in Weber (1966:92) in her article on Sylvia Plath posits:

> …stylistic analysis is not just a question of discussing 'effects' in language and text, but a powerful method of understanding the ways in which all sorts of 'realities' are constructed through language. For feminists who believe that 'the personal is political' there is a burning issue which has to be investigated immediately, and in various triangulated ways. We want to understand the relationships between severe and crippling depression that many women experience and the contradictory and disenabling images of self available for woman in models of literature, media, education, folk motions of the family, motherhood, daughterhood, work, and so on .

This research sets out not to investigate all the discrepancies stated by Burton but to find out the distinguishing linguistic characteristic of the male and female correspondent's speeches in news reportage. This is the overall spin off.

2.4.3 Functional Stylistics

Functional Stylistics is an umbrella term for a number of linguistic theories of the 1950's and 1960's and their application in literary Stylistics. Taylor and Toolan (2006) observe that structural Stylistics is divided into two camps, one holding objectivist theory and the other holding an affective theory of Stylistic structure, and the former group is subdivided into formalists and functionalists.



2.4.5 Structural Stylistics

Objectivist Affective: Formalists Functionalists (Weber, 1996). The functionalist credo in Halliday's words as quoted by Fowler (1986:28) is: "The particular form taken by the grammatical system of language is closely related to the social and personal needs that language is required to serve".

Jakobsonian Formalist Stylistics excludes the reader from the consideration of a literary text. It studies all the instances of repetition and parallelism and deviant uses of language in a "mechanical, lifeless and sterile" way whereas "stylistic analysis is an interpretive act right from the beginning and hence cannot be objective and scientific" (Weber, 1996:89). Finch (2000:206) shifts the focus from the text to the reader whose assumptions and expectations are significant. But this reader-oriented or affective Stylistics involves the danger of relativism. The next significant development, orientation towards contextualization, augmented by the rise of Pragmatics and Discourse Analysis, acknowledged that text and reader's mind are two extremes far from total truth:

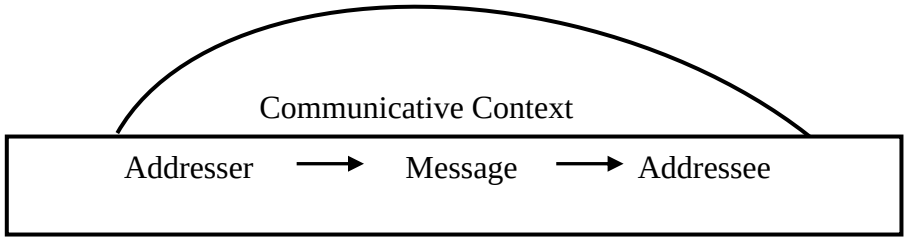
> …meaning and Stylistic effect are not fixed and stable, and cannot be dug out of the text as in an archaeological approach, but they have to be seen as a potential which is actualized in a real reader's mind, the product of a dialogic interaction between the author, the author's context of production, the text, the reader and reader's

context of reception---where context includes all sorts of socio-historical, cultural and inter-textual factors .

Widdowson, (1992) giving a need and justification for Stylistics, says that a literary critic appeals to intuition to grasp the artistic value of a text but the reader may not share this intuitive judgment. Stylistics fills this gap by finding those patterns in the text on which intuitive aesthetic appreciation depends. Thus Stylistics is a bridge between trained intuition of a critic and novice observation and reading of a common reader. In essence, Halliday, Widdowson and others represent a linguistic approach to style, which is the focal point of this research.

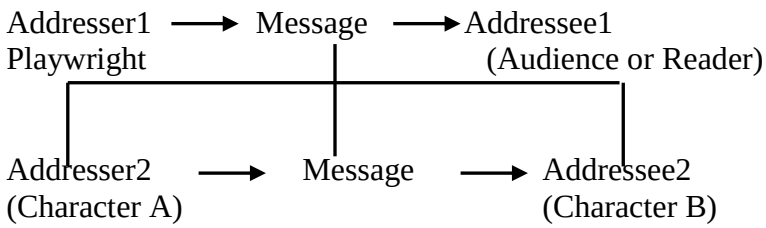
2.4.6 Pragmatic Stylistics

The growth of Pragmatics has also led to many new models and approaches to Stylistic analysis of a text. In a canonical form of a communicative event one addresser gives information to one addressee but actual life-like situations afford many deviations. The basic model is:



Drama, for instance, according to Weber, (1996) offers one (out of many) possible complexities where "a character speaks to a character and this discourse is part of what the playwright 'tells' the audience".

Short (2012:112) gives the following model to account for this complexity:



These models suggest that the focus of Pragmatic Stylistics is on the context, rather than on Syntax. Speech Act Theory further modified the mode of Stylistic study of a text. It suggested that a writer not only 'says' but also 'does' through language. The characters in a discourse interact on certain cooperative principles based upon the following maxims proposed by Grice:

i. The maxim of quality: "Speakers' contribution to a conversation ought to be true. They should not say what they believe to be false, nor should they say anything for which they lack adequate evidence."

ii. The maxim of quantity: "The contribution should be as informative as is required for the purposes of conversation. One should say neither too little nor too much."

iii. The maxim of relevance: "The contribution should clearly relate to the purpose of the exchange."

iv. The maxim of manner: "The contribution should be as orderly and brief avoiding obscurity and ambiguity" (Crystal, and Davy, 1969).

Metaphors in this regard seek special attention of the Stylisticians for pragmatic evaluation because without flouting any one of the given maxims, metaphorical expressions cannot be developed. Thus, a review on pragmatics is pertinent to this research because the investigation focuses on the media language and according to Franke (2011) (see review on media language of this research) Grice's 1975 conversational

maxims are especially helpful in describing the objective language -which is the type required in the speeches of the television reporters.

2.4.7 Pedagogical Stylistics

According to Weber, (1996:98) Pedagogical Stylistics focuses on literature where "the message is text-contained and presupposes no wider context so that everything necessary for its interpretation is to be found within the message itself". He further states that, Pedagogical reason "justifies the inclusion of Stylistics within Applied Linguistics seen as in area of enquiry which brings the findings of linguistics to bear on the practical problems of teaching". The problem with literary text is not complex because one can concentrate on the text itself without worrying about distracting social appendages.

From the foregoing it can be deduced that style is an ambiguous term, it is a word subject to different interpretations. However, Gray (1969) summarizes the situation aptly: To the PSYCHOLOGIST style is a form of behaviour, to the RETHORICIAN it is the speaker, the PHILOLOGIST defines it as the latent in contrast with the CRITICS who sees it as individuality. But the PHILOSOPER is not satisfied by any of those claims, to them style means an implicit speaker and the LINGUIST looks at the same concept and defines it as formal structures in function.

This review has successfully established that Linguistics has provided valuable modes and methods for the study of literary style text with objectivity and precision. Linguistic study of style is not a prosaic activity of converting literature or text into mathematics; it factualises fancy and imagination. It supplements the traditional treatment of literature and literary style. Stylistics functions as a bridge between literature, criticism and linguistics.

This research reviews two approaches towards style: traditional, impressionistic and objective linguistics. The purpose is to have a look at the inadequacy of the traditional approach though it definitely provides a basis for the later development of objective approach towards style known as Stylistics. Henry Fielding, David Lodge and Michael Riffaterre represent the subjectivity of the traditional approach towards style. Geoffrey N. Leech, Widdowson, Halliday, Berry and Bradford among others represent linguistic approach to style.

Various schools of Stylistics namely Sociolinguistic Stylistics, Feminist Stylistics, Functional Stylistics, Pragmatic Stylistics, and Pedagogical Stylistics have been briefly overviewed. The traditional approach to style without a clear model gives way to linguistics to tackle the subject objectively. Linguistics had offered unlimited ways of looking at a text Stylistically. To this end, the researcher shall define linguistic Stylistics as a branch of Applied Linguistics concerned with the analysis, interpretation and evaluation of texts of all categories whether literary or non literary constructed with the verbal apparatus of language from the perspective of linguistics. Linguistics itself being an eclectic subject overlapping physics, physiology, anatomy, language, criticism and literature reflects multidisciplinary approach towards style as is obvious from various schools of Stylistics discussed here. This research would focus on both sociolinguistic and Functional Stylistics to analyse the linguistic gender variations of the selected television reporters.

2.5 Language and Gender

According to Tannen (2006) Language and gender is an area of study within Sociolinguistics, Applied Linguistics, and related fields that investigate varieties of speech associated with a particular gender, or social norms for such gendered language use. A variety of speech (or sociolect) associated with a particular gender is sometimes called a genderlect.

The study of gender and language in Sociolinguistics and gender studies is often said to have begun with Robin Lakoff' (1975), as well as some earlier studies by Lakoff. The study of language and gender has developed greatly since the 1970s and prominent scholars include Deborah Cameron, Penelope Eckert, Janet Holmes, Deborah Tannen, and others.

2.5.1 Studies on Language and Gender

There is no sight or universally accepted explanation for the different linguistic behaviour of men and women, but several interpretations have been proposed. In 1975 Lakoff (1975) identified a "women's register," which she argues served to maintain women's (inferior) role in society. Lakoff argues that women tend to use linguistic forms that reflect and reinforce a subordinate role. These include tag questions, question intonation, and "weak" directives, among others (see also Speech practices associated with gender, below).

Studies such as Lakoff's have been labeled the "deficit approach," since they posit that one gender is deficient in terms of the other. Descriptions of women's speech as deficient can actually be dated as far back as Otto Jespersen's (1922) "The Woman". Jespersen's idea

that women's speech is deficient relative to a male norm went largely unchallenged until Lakoff's work appeared fifty years later. Nevertheless, despite the political incorrectness of the chapter's language from a modern perspective, Jespersen's contributions remain relevant. These include the prospect of language change based on social and gendered opportunity, lexical and phonological differences, and the idea of genderlects and gender roles influence language.

Not long after the publication of *Language and Woman's Place*, Lakoff, (1975) other scholars began to report studies that both challenged Lakoff's arguments and expanded the field of language and gender studies. One refinement of the deficit argument is the so-called "dominance approach," which posits that gender differences in language reflect power differences in society. (Obar and Brownman Atkins, 1980). Coates (1996) outlines the historical range of approaches to gendered speech. She contrasts the four approaches known as the deficit, dominance, difference, and dynamic approaches.

"Deficit" is an approach attributed to Jespersen (1922) that defines adult male language as the standard, and women's language as deficient. This approach created a dichotomy between women's language and men's language. This triggered criticism to the approach in the highlighting issue in women's language by using men's as a benchmark. As such, women's language was considered to have something inherently 'wrong' with it.

Dominance is an approach whereby, the female sex is seen as the subordinate group whose difference in style of speech results from male supremacy and also possibly an effect of patriarchy. This results in a primarily male-centered language. Scholars such as

Dale Spender (Spender, 1980) and Don Zimmerman and Candace West (West and Zimmarman, 1987) ascribe to this view.

Difference is an approach of equality, differentiating men and women as belonging to different 'sub-cultures' as they have been socialised to do so since childhood. This then results in the varying communicative styles of men and women. Tannen (1990) is a major advocate of this position. She compares gender differences in language to cultural differences. Comparing conversational goals, and argues that men tend to use a "report style," aiming to communicate factual information, whereas women more often use a "rapport style," which is more concerned with building and maintaining relationships.

The "dynamic" or "social constructionist" approach is, as Coates describes, the most current approach to language and gender. Instead of speech falling into a natural gendered category, the dynamic nature and multiple factors of an interaction help a socially appropriate gendered construct. As such, West and Zimmerman (1987) describe these constructs as "doing gender" instead of the speech itself necessarily being classified in a particular category. This is to say that these social constructs, while affiliated with particular genders, can be utilized by speakers as they see fit.

Scholars including Tannen and others argue that differences are pervasive across media, including face-to-face conversation, (Fitzpatric, et al, (1995) (Anette, 1999) written essays of primary school children, (Mulac et al, 1990) email, (Thormas and Murachver, 2001) and even toilet graffiti. (Green, 2003).

Cameron (1995), among other scholars, argues that there are problems with both the dominance and the difference approach. Cameron notes that throughout the history of scholarship on language and gender, male-associated forms have been seen as the unmarked norm from which the female deviates. For example, the norm 'manager' becomes the marked form 'manageress' when referring to a female counterpart. On the other hand, Cameron argues that what the difference approach labels as different ways of using or understanding language are actually displays of differential power. Cameron suggests:

> It is comforting to be told that nobody needs to 'feel awful': that there are no real conflicts, only misunderstandings. But the research evidence does not support the claims made by Tannen and others about the nature, the causes, and the prevalence of male-female miscommunication. (Cameron, 2007: 29).

She argues that social differences between men's and women's roles are not clearly reflected in language use. One additional example is a study carried out on call center operators in the UK, where these operators are trained to be scripted in what they say and to perform the necessary emotional labour '(smiling, expressive intonation, showing rapport/empathy and giving minimal responses) for their customer-callers. This emotional labour is commonly associated with the feminine domain, and the call center service workers are also typically females. However, the male workers in this call center do not orient to the covertly gendered meanings when they are tasked to perform this emotional labour. While this does not mean that the 'woman's language' is revalued, nor does this necessarily call for a feminist celebration, Cameron highlights that it is possible that with time, more men may work in this service industry, and this may lead to a subsequent "de-gendering" of this linguistic style, (Cameron, 2008).

Communication styles are always a product of context, and as such, gender differences tend to be most pronounced in single-gender groups. One explanation for this is that people accommodate their language towards the style of the person they are interacting with. Thus, in a mixed-gender group, gender differences tend to be less pronounced. A similarly important observation is that this accommodation is usually towards the language style, not the gender of the person. That is, a polite and empathic male will tend to be accommodated to on the basis of being polite and empathic, rather than their being male. (Thomson et al, 2001).

However, Ochs (1992) argues that gender can be indexed directly and indirectly. Direct indexicality is the primary relationship between linguistic resources (such as Lexicon, Morphology, Syntax, Phonology, dialect and language) and gender. For example, the pronouns "he" and "she" directly indexes "male" and "female". However, there can be a secondary relationship between linguistic resources and gender where the linguistic resources can index certain acts, activities or stances which then indirectly index gender. In other words, these linguistic resources help constitute gender. Examples include the Japanese particles "wa" and "ze". The former directly index delicate intensity, which then indirectly indexes the female "voice" while the latter directly indexes coarse intensity, which then indirectly indexes the male "voice".

Women are generally believed to speak a better "language" than men. This is a constant misconception, but scholars believe that no gender speaks a better language, but that each gender instead speaks its own unique language. (Azizi, 2013).This notion has sparked

further research into the study of the differences between the way men and women communicate.

2.5.2 Speech Practices Associated with Gender

Not all members of a particular sex may follow the specific gender roles that are prescribed by society. (Tennen, 1996) The patterns in gender and communication that follow are only the norms for each gender, and not every member of the corresponding sex may fit into those patterns.

2.5.2.1 Minimal Responses

One of the ways in which the communicative behaviour of men and women differ is in their use of minimal responses, that is, paralinguistic features such as ‘mhm’ and ‘yeah’, which is behaviour associated with collaborative language use. (Carli, 1990) Men, on the other hand, generally use them less frequently and where they do, it is usually to show agreement, as Don Zimmerman and Candace West’s study of turn-taking in conversation indicates, (Zimmerman et al, 1975).

While the above can be true in some contexts and situations, studies that dichotomize the communicative behaviour of men and women may run the risk of over-generalization. For example, "minimal responses appear "throughout streams of talk", such as "mm" or "yeah",which not only function to display active listening and interest and are not always signs of "support work", as Fishman (1978) claims. They can - add more detailed analysis of minimal responses show-signal understanding, demonstrate agreement, indicate skepticism or a critical attitude, demand clarification or show surprise. In other words,

both male and female participants in a conversation can employ these minimal responses for interactive functions, rather than gender-specific functions.

2.5.2.2 Questions

Men and women differ in their use of questions in conversations. For men, a question is usually a genuine request for information whereas with women it can often be a rhetorical means of engaging the other's conversational contribution or of acquiring attention from others conversationally involved, techniques associated with a collaborative approach to language use. (Barnes 1971). Therefore, women use questions more frequently, (Todd, 1983). In writing, however, both genders use rhetorical questions as literary devices. For example, Mark Twain used them in "A War Prayer" to provoke the reader to question his actions and beliefs. Tag questions are frequently used to verify or confirm information; though in women's language they may also be used to avoid making strong statements.

2.5.2.3 Turn-Taking

As the work of DeFrancisco (1991) shows, female linguistic behaviour characteristically encompasses a desire to take turns in conversation with others, which is opposed to men's tendency towards centering on their own point or remaining silent when presented with such implicit offers of conversational turn-taking as are provided by hedges such as "y' know" and "isn't it". This desire for turn-taking gives rise to complex forms of interaction in relation to the more regimented form of turn-taking commonly exhibited by men (Sacks et al 1974)

2.5.2.4 Changing the Topic of Conversation

According to Bruce and Dorval in their study of same-sex friend interaction, males tend to change subject more frequently than females (Dorval and Bruce 1990). This difference may well be at the root of the conception that women chatter and talk too much, and may still trigger the same thinking in some males. In this way, lowered estimation of women may arise. Incidentally, this androcentric attitude towards women as chatterers arguably arose from the idea that any female conversation was too much talking according to the patriarchal consideration of silence as a womanly virtue common to many cultures. Goodwin (1990), observes that, girls and women link their utterances to previous speakers and develop each other's topics, rather than introducing new topics. Not in all cases and definitely not in the field of news reportage as it was ascertain in this research.

Fishman (1978) however, in a study of young American couples and their interactions reveal that while women raise twice as many topics as men, it is the men's topics that are usually taken up and subsequently elaborated in the conversation.

2.5.2.5 Self-Disclosure

Female tendencies toward self-disclosure, that is, sharing their problems and experiences with others, often to offer sympathy, (Dindla K. and Allen, 1992) contrasts with male tendencies to non-self disclosure and professing advice or offering a solution when confronted with another's problems.

Self-disclosure is not simply providing information to another person. Instead, scholars define self-disclosure as sharing information with others that they would not normally know or discover according to Borchers (1999). Self-disclosure involves risk and

vulnerability on the part of the person sharing the information. When it comes to genderlect, self-disclosure is important because genderlect is defined as the differences in male and female communication. Men and women have completely different views of self-disclosure. Developing a close relationship with another person requires a certain level of intimacy, or self-disclosure. It typically is much easier to get to know a woman than it is to get to know a man. It has been proven that women get to know someone on a more personal level and they are more likely to desire to share their feelings.

It has also been said that people share more via technology. The phenomenon is known as Computer Mediated Communication, also known as CMC. This form of communication typically involves text only messages that tend to lose their nonverbal cues. Men and women are both more likely to self-disclose on the computer than they would be face to face. People are more confident when using Computer Mediated Communication because communication is faceless, which makes it easier to divulge information.

Research has been conducted to examine whether self-disclosure in adult friendship differs according to gender and marital status. Sixty-seven women and fifty-three men were asked about intimate and non-intimate self-disclosure to closest same-sex friends. Disclosure to spouse among married respondents was also assessed. The intimate disclosure of married men to friends was lower than that of unmarried men, married women and unmarried women; the intimate disclosure of these last three groups was similar. Married people's non-intimate disclosure to friends was lower than that of unmarried people, regardless of gender. (Delega 1993)s

Married people's intimate disclosure to their spouses was high regardless of gender; in comparison, married men's intimate disclosure to their friends was low, while married women's disclosure to their friends was moderate or even as high as disclosure to their spouses. The results suggest that sex roles are not the only determinant of gender differences in disclosure to friends. Marital status appears to have an important influence on disclosure in friendship for men but not for women. It was concluded that research on gender differences in self-disclosure and friendship has neglected an important variable, that of “marital status," (Delega, 1993).

This research goes to show that when a man is married he is less likely to have intimate self-disclosure. This could be because a man may feel he is betraying his wife's confidence by disclosing information that might be considered private. However, the research also showed that the married women didn’t change much in either situation, because women tend to self disclose more than men.

Men tend to communicate differently with other men than they do with other women, while women tend to communicate the same with both men and women. Ashida et al (2009:129) posit:

> Male and female American students who differed in masculinity and in femininity self-disclosed to a same-sex stranger in contexts that made either social/expressive motives or instrumental motives salient. The results were consistent with the primary assertion that measures of sex role identity are better predictors of contextual variations in self-disclosure than is sex per se. Sex consistently failed to predict subjects' willingness to self-disclose, both within and across contexts, whereas femininity promoted self-disclosure in the context that was clearly social and expressive in character. Although masculinity failed to exert the expected facilitative impact on self-disclosure within the instrumental context, it nonetheless influenced the results; androgynous subjects, who scored high in both masculinity and femininity, were more self-revealing across contexts than was any other group.

This research shows that people have the ability to still self disclose very clearly regardless of masculine or feminine communication traits. Displaying strictly feminine or masculine traits will not be to one's advantage in communication, because it is important to be able to recognize and utilize these traits to be an effective communicator.

From a social skills perspective, gender, tunic, and cultural differences in relationships may stem, in part, from differences in communication. The influence of biological sex on communication values has received scholarly attention. In general, women value affectively oriented communication skills more than men ,and men value instrumentally oriented communication skills more than women, although the effect size for these differences are generally small, (Anuradha, 2012).

Self-disclosure is also very important when it comes to a close dating relationship between men and women. Successful communication in relationships is one of the greatest difficulties most couples are forced to overcome. Men in relationships with women may practice self-disclosure more often than their female partner. Self-disclosure is considered to be a key factor in facilitating intimacy. For example, American heterosexual couples were studied using various measures twice a year. By using the average scores of both partners, they found that self-disclosure was higher in those couples who remained together at the second administration of the surveys than in those who broke up between two administrations. (Delega, 1993). Similarly, researchers asked heterosexual couples who had just begun dating to complete a self-disclosure measure and to answer the same questionnaire four months later. They found that couples who were still dating four months later reported greater self-disclosure at the initial contact than did

those who later broke up. This test shows self-disclosure can be beneficial to facilitating a positive relationship. Self-disclosure is a process which typically begins rapidly, but then plateaus as the couple gains more information. The initial self-disclosure is extremely important when first meeting someone. The first interactions between a potential couple could be deciding factors in the success or failure of the relationship. Self-disclosure is difficult because not all women and men communicate the same.

2.5.2.6 Verbal Aggression

Aggression can be defined by its three intersecting counterparts: indirect, relational and social. Indirect aggression occurs when the victim is attacked through covert and concealed attempts to cause social suffering. Examples are gossiping, exclusion or ignoring of the victim. Relational aggression, while similar to indirect, is more resolute in its attentions. It can be a threat to terminate a friendship or spreading false rumors. The third type of aggression, social aggression according to Blake (2011:99):

> is directed toward damaging another's self-esteem, social status, or both, and may take direct forms such as verbal rejection, negative facial expressions or body movements, or more indirect forms such as slanderous rumors or social exclusion.

This third type has become more common in adolescent, both male and female, behavior, (Cupach et al, 2011).

Dr. M.K. Underwood, leading researcher in child clinical psychology and developmental psychology, began using the term social aggression in several of her experiments, (Underwood, 2011). In one study, Underwood followed 250 third-graders and their families in order to understand how anger is communicated in relationships, especially in

face-to-face and behind-the-back situations. It was found that technology and electronic communication has become a key factor in social aggression. This discovery has been termed cyber-bullying. In another experiment, social aggression was used to see if verbal and nonverbal behaviors contributed to a person's social value, (Blake, 2011). It was found that those who communicated nonverbal signals were seen as angry and annoyed by their peers. In a third study, the experimenters determined that while socially aggressive students were vastly disliked, they were alleged to be the popular kids and had the highest marked social status. Most research has been based on teacher assessments, case studies and surveys.

For years, all research on aggression focused primarily on males because it was believed females were non-confrontational. Recently however, people have realized that while boys tend to be more overtly and physically aggressive, girls are more indirectly, socially, and relationally aggressive, (Underwood 2011). In a study done measuring cartoon character's aggressive acts on television, these statistics were found by Luther & Legg, (2010:34).

- 76.9% of physical aggression was committed by male characters
- 23.1% of physical aggression was committed by female characters
- 37.2% of social aggression was committed by male characters
- 62.8% of social aggression was committed by female characters

Physical and social aggressions emerge at different points in life. Physical aggression occurs in a person's second year and continues till preschool. Toddlers use this aggression to obtain something they want that is otherwise denied or another has. In preschool,

children become more socially aggressive and this progresses through adolescence and adulthood. Social aggression is not used to acquire materialistic things but to accomplish social goals, (Rosen et al, 2011).

Starting in first grade, research has shown that young females are more disliked when they are socially aggressive than when young males are physically aggressive. However, until the fourth grade there is an overall negative correlation between aggression and popularity. (Garandeu & Rodcum, 2011). By the end of fifth grade, aggressive children, both male and female, are more popular than their non-aggressive counterparts. This popularity does not insinuate likeability.

In the seventh grade, social aggression seems to be at its peak. When eight, eleven and fifteen-year-olds were compared, there were high reports of social aggression but no apparent statistical differences between the age groups. (Rosen et al, 2011).

Several studies have shown that social aggression and high academic performance are incompatible. In classrooms where it was a high achievement record, researchers were less likely to find social aggression. Vice versa can be found for classrooms with a low achievement record, (Garandeu & Rodcum, 2011).

In adolescence, social aggression boosts female's popularity by maintaining and controlling the social hierarchy. Furthermore, males are also ranked higher in popularity if they are physically aggressive. But, if males practice relational or social aggression then they are seen as unpopular among their peers, (Blake, 2011). When it comes to different

forms social aggression, males are more prone to use direct measures and females indirect.

In addition to gender, the conditions in which a child grows up in also affects the likelihood of aggression, (Rosen et al, 2011). Children raised in a divorced, never married or low-income family are more likely to show social aggression. This is speculated because of the higher rates of conflict and fighting already in the household. Parents who use an aversive style of parenting can also contribute to the social aggression in their children, (Rosen et al, 2011). Researchers venture that:

> perhaps children who are treated harshly by parents have a higher baseline level of anger…and may lack the opportunities to practice more direct, assertive strategies for conflict resolution so may be prone to maligning others or lashing out when they are et angry, (Rosen al, 2011:89).

Through the last couple decades, the media has increased its influence over America's youth. In a study done measuring the aggressive acts committed by cartoon characters on television, out of 8927 minutes of programming time 7856 aggressive acts took place. This is roughly .88 aggressive acts per minute, (Luther & Legg, 2010). Because television and cartoons are one of the main mediums for entertainment, these statistics can be troubling. If children relate to the characters, then they are more likely to commit similar acts of aggression. For teenagers, popular films and series such as Mean Girls (2004), Easy A (2010) and Gossip Girl (2007) have shown an exaggerated, damaging view of how society works. Already, latest studies have shown an increase of social aggression in girls. Other experiments, such as one done by Albert Bandura, the Bobo doll experiment, have shown similar results of society shaping your behavior because of the impact of a

model. The development of social aggression can be explained by the social identity theory and evolutionary perspective, (Cupach et al, 2011).

The social identity theory categorizes people into two groups, in-groups and out-groups. You see yourself as part of the in-group and people who are dissimilar to you as part of the out-group. In middle and high school these groups are known as cliques and can have several names. In the popular 2004 teen drama Mean Girls, "varsity jocks," "desperate wannabes," "over-sexed band geeks," "girls who eat their feelings," "cool Asians" and the "plastics" were several cliques from the movie, (Cupach et al, 2011). Two common middle and high school cliques seen in everyday life are the popular crowd, in-group, and everyone else, out-group. The out-group has several other divisions but for the most part the in-group will categorize the out-groups all as one.

Around this time, it becomes important for a female's social identity to be associated with the in-group. When a girl possesses qualities that are valued in the in-group, then her social identity will increase. However, if her characteristics resemble those of the out-group, then she would be attacked the out-group in order to keep her social standing within the in-group. This intergroup struggle, also known as social competition, mostly comes the in-group condemning the out-group, not the other way around, (Cupach et al, 2011).

Moreover, social aggression can lead to intragroup competition. Inside the social groups there is also a hierarchal ranking, there are followers and there are leaders. When one's position in the group does not lead to positive self-identity, then the group members will

feud with one another to increase status and power within the clique. Studies show that the closer a female is to her attacker the less likely she is to forgive, (Cupach et al, 2011).

Where the social identity theory explains direct social aggression, research done in the evolutionary perspective explains indirect social aggression. This aggression stemmed from "successful competition for scarce resources… and enables optimal growth and development." (Cupach et al, 2011:105). Two tactics used are the coercive and prosocial strategies. The coercive strategies involve controlling and regulating all resources of the out-group through a monopoly. For this scheme, one must rely heavily on threats and aggression. The other strategy, prosocial, involves helping and sharing resources. This method shows complete dominance for the in-group, because in order for others to survive they must subordinate themselves to receive resources. Ability to control resources effectively results in higher-ranking in the in-group, popular crowd.

Social aggression can be detrimental for both ends of the spectrum, the out-group and in-group members. Longitudinal studies prove that aggression can lead to victims feeling lonely and socially isolated. In addition, targets report feeling depressed and affected by other health risks such as headaches, sleepiness, abdominal pain and bedwetting, (Luther & Legg, 2010). The aggressors on the other hand, were suggested to "encounter future problems in social relationships or emotional difficulties during early childhood," Luther & Legg, (2010:89). In academics, victims were reported to having below average test scores and low achievement.

Studies that measure cross-gender differences show that females find social aggression to be more hurtful than males do. The results of the hurt and pain felt by female victims can

be seen in all ages, (Cupach et al, 2011). Pre-school teachers have reported several cases of female students feeling depressed. In high school, the female victims begin to slowly isolate themselves. A year later, this seclusion has led to social phobia. Furthermore, in college, pressure and aggression from Greek life has lowered life satisfaction and increased antisocial behavior in several female students.

While social aggression has several downfalls, it has also led to a mature social competence of males and females. Being part of an in-group can increase a person's self-worth and contribute to his or her personal identity. In terms of the evolutionary perspective, being able to control definite and indefinite resources can increase a person's social competence, (Cupach et al, 2011). Some research argues that reports of social aggression and bullying can teach students in school what is considered unacceptable behavior. In a 1998 survey, 60% of students found that bullying "makes kids tougher." (Cupach et al, 2011). However, there is additional need for support on this claim.

Since 1992, there have been nine school intervention and prevention programs, which have met the rigorous criteria of efficacy, to avert social aggression. (Leff, 2010). The programs include Early Childhood Friendship Project (2009), You Can't Say You Can't Play (1992), I Can Problem Solve (2008), Walk Away, Ignore, Talk, Seek Help (2003), Making Choices: Social Problem Skills for Children (2005), Friend to Friend (2009), Second Step (2002), Social Aggression Prevention Program (2006), Sisters of Nia (2004).

When designing a prevention programme, it is important to remember to keep the programme, age and gender appropriate, (Leff, 2010). For example, Early Childhood Friendship Project and You Can't Say You Can't Play have visual activities for the

preschoolers and integrate puppet shows into the lesson plan. In addition, because males and females approach aggression differently there must be personalized plans to fit both genders.

However, intervention programs even with the best intentions can be harmful, (Underwood, 2011). For one, the progress of the intervention can be short lived. Studies have measured the effectiveness of intervention programs three separate times during the course of one year and no improvements were shown. Secondly, because social aggression is said to increase social identity and belonging to a group, many students have tried to disrupt the programmes. A third implication is that the interventions need to study how adverse behaviours develop. Otherwise the solution might not fit the problem. Lastly, the programs must be designed to fit the needs of girls and boys and not the ones of the researchers. If the intervention program is designed to give insight for research rather than reducing and bettering aggression, then it can be detrimental to society.

Although a few forms of behavior may be sex-specific, in general they reflect patterns of power and control between the sexes, which are found in all human groups, regardless of sex composition. These modes of behaviors are perhaps more appropriately labeled 'powerlects' instead of 'genderlects', (lamb, 1981).

2.5.2.7 Listening and Attentiveness

In a conversation, meaning does not reside in the words spoken, but it filled in by the person listening. Each person decides if they think others are speaking in the spirit of differing status or symmetrical connection. The likelihood that individuals will tend to interpret someone else's words as one or the other depends more on the hearer's own

focus, concerns, and habits than on the spirit in which the words were intended, (Thomson et al, 2001).

It appears that women attach more weight than men to the importance of listening in conversation, with its connotations of power to the listener as confidant of the speaker. This attachment of import by women to listening is inferred by women's normally lower rate of interruption — i.e., disrupting the flow of conversation with a topic unrelated to the previous one (Fishman, 1980) and by their largely increased use of minimal responses in relation to men. Men, however, interrupt far more frequently with non-related topics, especially in the mixed sex setting and, far from rendering a female speaker's responses minimal, are apt to greet her conversational spotlights with silence, as the work of Victoria DeFrancisco demonstrates.

When men talk, women listen and agree. However men tend to misinterpret this agreement, which was intended in a spirit of connection, as a reflection of status and power. A man might conclude that a woman is indecisive or insecure as a result of her listening and attempts of acknowledgment. When in all actuality, a woman's reasons for behaving this way have nothing to do with her attitudes toward her knowledge, but are a result of her attitudes toward her relationships. The act of giving information frames the speaker with a higher status, while the act of listening frames the listener as lower. However, when women listen to men, they are not necessarily thinking in terms of status, but in terms of connection and support.

2.5.2.8 Dominance versus Subjection

This, in turn, suggests a dichotomy between a male desire for conversational dominance – noted by Helena Leet-Pellegrini with reference to male experts speaking more verbosely than their female counterparts – and a female aspiration to group conversational

participation, (Leet & Helena, 1980). One corollary of this is, according to Jennifer Coate, that males are afforded more attention in the context of the classroom and that this can lead to their gaining more attention in scientific and technical subjects, which in turn can lead to their achieving better success in those areas, ultimately leading to their having more power in a technocratic society, (Coate, 1993).

Conversation is not the only area where power is an important aspect of the male/female dynamic. Power is reflected in every aspect of communication from what the actual topic of the communication, to the ways in which it is communicated. Women are typically less concerned with power more concerned with forming and maintaining relationships, whereas men are more concerned with their status. Girls and women feel it is crucial that they be liked by their peers, a form of involvement that focuses on symmetrical connection. Boys and men feel it is crucial that they be respected by their peers, as form of involvement that focuses on asymmetrical status, (Tennen, 2002). These differences in priorities are reflected in the ways in which men and women communicate. A woman's communication will tend to be more focused on building and maintaining relationships. Men on the other hand, will place a higher priority on power, their communication styles will reflect their desire to maintain their status in the relationship. This research though not dealing or focusing on communication for maintaining relationship will still examine and find out whether this higher priority on power in the communicative styles of men extends to the field of news reportage.

According to Tannen's research, men tend to tell stories as another way to maintain their status. Primarily, men tell jokes, or stories that focus on themselves. Women on the other

hand, are less concerned with their own power, and therefore their stories revolve not around themselves, but around others. By putting themselves on the same level as those around them, women attempt to downplay their part in their own stories, which strengthens their connections to those around them.

2.5.2.9 Politeness

Lakoff (1975), identifies three forms of politeness: formal, deference, and camaraderie. Women's language is characterized by formal and deference politeness, whereas men's language is exemplified by camaraderie.

Politeness in speech is described in terms of positive and negative face. (Brown & Levinson, 1978). *Positive face* refers to one's desire to be liked and admired, while *negative face* refers to one's wish to remain autonomous and not to suffer imposition. Both forms, according to Penelope Brown's study of the Tzeltal language, are used more frequently by women whether in mixed or single-sex pairs, suggesting for Brown a greater sensitivity in women than have men to face the needs of others, (Brown, 1980). In short, women are to all intents and purposes largely more polite than men. However, negative face politeness can be potentially viewed as weak language because of its associated hedges and tag questions, a view propounded by O'Barr and Atkins (1980) in their work on courtroom interaction.

2.5.2.10 Gender-Specific Vocabulary

Some natural languages have intricate systems of gender-specific vocabulary.

i. Sumerian women had a special language called *Emesal*, distinct from the main language, *Emegir*, which was spoken by both genders. The women's language had a distinct vocabulary, found in the records of religious rituals to be performed by women, also in the speech of goddesses in mythological texts.

ii. For a significant period of time in the history of the ancient languages of India, after the formal language Sanskrit diverged from the popular Prakrit languages, some Sanskrit plays recorded the speech of women in Prakrit, distinct from the Sanskrit of male speakers. This convention was also used for illiterate and low-caste male speakers.

iii. Garifuna has a vocabulary split between terms used only by men and terms used only by women. This does not however affect the entire vocabulary but when it does, the terms used by men generally come from Carib and those used by women come from Arawak.

iv. The indigenous Australian language Yanyuwa has separate dialects for men and women, (Jean F Kirton, 1988)

v. In Ancient Greek there is evidence for some difference between the speech of men and women, as evidenced for example in the comedies of Aristophanes.

2.6 Theory of Ideology

A vast majority of works on ideologies pay extensive attention to the social, political, economic and cultural dimensions of ideology and relations of power and domination in society. Very few works have focused on ideology as an interface between social structure and social cognition. Among these works are Hall (1996) and van Dijk (1998). Hall (1996: 26) defines ideology as:

> The mental frameworks – the languages, the concepts, categories, imagery of thought, and the systems of representation – which different classes and social groups deploy in order to make sense of, figure out and render intelligible the way society works .

According to Hall (1996), ideology is a framework of mental and "social representations", i.e. ideas, beliefs and attitudes which are shared collectively by members of society. In his definition, Hall (1996) notes that the role of ideology is to make sense of the social relations, practices and structures, i.e. classes, institutions and organizations, of society. Ideology also serves to stabilize society by particular forms of power and dominance. In other words, Hall (1996) concept of ideology reflects the cognitive dimension, i.e. thoughts, ideas and beliefs, and the social dimension, i.e. social groups and power relations in society. Hall's work was further developed by van Dijk (1998) multidisciplinary approach to ideology. Van Dijk (1998) defines ideologies as social beliefs which are shared by members of society. More specifically, van Dijk (1998) locates ideology in a triangle which relates cognition, society and discourse. In his words (1998: 9): Ideologies are not merely defined in cognitive terms, but also in terms of social groups, group relations, institutions, at the macro-level and in terms of social practices at the micro-level.

In other words, there are three levels of ideology. The cognitive level involves "social representations", namely socially shared beliefs, values, attitudes and opinions31. Examples of "social representations" are religious beliefs, communism, feminism and racism. Notions which are associated with the cognitive and mental functions of ideology include truth, falsity, (false) consciousness and common sense. The social level, or the macro-level, of ideology involves the social structures of society, namely social groups, group relations, classes, institutions and organizations, such as school, church or news media. The social functions of ideology include power, control, hegemony, inculcation and imposition.

The discursive level, or the micro-level, of ideology involves language use, or discourse, among other forms of interpersonal interactions, i.e. discursive practices. According to van Dijk (1998), ideology does not only stabilize society, as noted above by Hall (1996), but also regulates social practices, and legitimate, or conceal, relations of power and dominance. This function is primarily manifested in discourse. Discursive practices among others, express, produce and reproduce ideologies through the use of language. The construction or change of ideologies can also be achieved by social practices, i.e. social actors and members of society actively participating in constructing or opposing certain ideologies. Following van Dijk (1998), the concept of ideology adopted here is defined by its three levels of cognition, society and discourse. Ideological representations refer to the socially shared beliefs, values and opinions which are expressed at the textual, structural and linguistic levels of the dyad's reports. More specifically, this study aims at investigating the linguistic choices and organization of Theme/Rheme elements in elucidating underlying ideologies regarding male and female news reportage.

2.7 Communication and Gender Issues

Communication is the process which human beings transmit, exchange, disseminate, and share ideas, facts, images, messages, data, and meaning. It takes place in many settings: within the person, between persons, among groups, in public places, in the family, and in communities. Communication also lakes place in educational institutions, healthcare centres, and religious gathering, in government and in business/commercial organizations. However, the major channels of communication are the media of Mass Communication namely: newspapers, magazines, books (print media), radio, television, film, video

(electronic/broadcast media), telecommunications, the Internet, interactive computers (new media), advertising, and public relations.

Communication affords human the opportunity to generate and disseminate information. It allows for the expansion of knowledge through education. It permits people to form attitudes, sharpen their perceptions, and modify their behaviours. It provides opportunities for governments, civil society groups, and other social institutions to offer welfare services and institute support systems to targets in society. Communication is of utmost importance if leaders must show sensitivity and commitment to gender issues in society. It is also crucial if the citizenry must be mobilized to know and to act in ways that are gender-friendly. Communication is equally critical if people must acquire the right knowledge, attitudes, and engage in practices that promote gender equity in society, Communication, according to UNICEF (2002) does all these through the following three adapted ways:

Advocacy: This is an ongoing and adaptive process of collecting, arranging, and conceptualizing information into arguments to be communicated through various interpersonal and media channels. This is done with a view to raising resources or gaining political and social leadership acceptance and commitment for gender mainstreaming thereby, preparing a society for acceptance of gender equality programme projects and interventions.

Social Mobilization: This is a process which brings together all feasible inter-sectored social partners and allies to identify needs and raise awareness of and demands for gender equity. It involves enlisting the participation of such actors (including institutions, groups,

networks, and communities) in identifying, raising and managing human and material resources, thereby increasing and strengthening self-reliance and sustainability of achievements made.

Programme Communication. This is a research-based consultative process of addressing knowledge, attitudes, and practices on gender issue through identifying, analyzing, and segmenting audiences and participants in programmes and by providing them with relevant information and motivation through well-defined strategies, using an appropriate mix of interpersonal group and mass media channels, including participatory methods. (Adapted from UNICEF, 2002, p. x).

In sum from the time of Lakoff, (1975) seminal researches into gendered language provide evidence that male language is more direct, more likely to have physical topics, more likely to include quantifiable elements (e.g sport , money business time) and more likely to feature destructive aspects (e.g military matters) by contrast, female language is more likely to be supportive and polite, more likely to include elements of home and family and more likely to be evaluative. Given this breadth of findings, it is reasonable to assume that gendered language extends into news reportage.

Taken as a whole , this study build tradition of assessing gender differences of the news reporters but fills a gap in the literature by focusing on the styles of the reporters. The linguistic features that may be indicative of gender specifically were investigative of news reportage so as to address the previous primary questions with both empirical and theoretical significances.

2.8 What is News and why Study News Media?

News is a late Middle English word which means new information about recent events (Reah 2002). This definition may indicate that news includes any happening anywhere in the world over the last 24 hours. However, this is not the case. News does not include everything. Decisions about what to include and exclude in a specific media have to be made. According to Osinuga and Ogbonna (2015:13), "the question of what news is and what is not is as old as human civilization. Just as news reporting is as old as human communication itself". This explains why as early as 351BC, the Athenians wandered through the street asking questions on what news is.

In order to understand what news is and how it is presented, it is necessary to take account of the different, yet interrelated, communities involved in the study of news media. According to Fowler et al. (1979), there are at least three communities. First, there are the communities of news producers and receivers who constitute the act of communication. The study of news media in terms of processes of news production and reception, i.e. how news is produced, received and constructed. The study of news media should also consider the structures of the news, i.e. how news is globally and locally structured and presented in discourse. Second, there is the implied community which is created, reported and recorded by the news media, i.e. the social relations and events of the people and the world implied in the content of the news. Finally, there is the real-world community, which represents the real actions, events and relations involving the people, who are accurately or inaccurately, reported in the news.

The implied world and the real world communities should be understood within the context of male and female reportages and their linguistic characteristics. News media,

such as radio, television and newspapers, attract a large number of audiences, hence referred to as "mass media" (Breen 2007). They also offer linguists and analysts great deal of advantages. Unlike face-to-face communication, Mass Communication and mass media in particular have the advantages of availability and accessibility (Bell 1991). The language of the news is largely available and easily accessible by large numbers of hearers and readers. The advanced technology of the twenty-first century, including the World Wide Web and the international news broadcasting on television through satellites, what is referred to nowadays as "new media", has made it very easy to access the latest news anywhere in the world and at any time (Breen 2007). Moreover, news discourse, written and spoken, provides a good quality of recorded language (Bell 1991). This enables linguists to study and analyse the intended message behind the news without the interference of what Labov (1978) calls the "observer‟ s paradox", i.e. when speakers are aware of their speech being recorded and observed.

Another advantage of studying news media is its similarity to ordinary speech and everyday use of language (Bell 1991). It also helps to study how news media can affect the language, mirror the culture, and manipulate the readers into constructing certain beliefs, attitudes and opinions, i.e. social representations, towards certain events in society.

2.9 A Beat as a Concept

Not all news stories come knocking on the newsroom door in the form of press releases, reporters still have to find them out. This is done through a systematic and routine procedure called 'a beat system'. (Osinuga and Ogbonna 2015). The search for news takes reporters to various locations and organizations. News beats in the opinion of

Nwodu as quoted in Osinuga and Ogbonna (2015:64) are "special interest areas where reporters are assigned to for purposes of continuous coverage". A reporter assigned to a particular beat is responsible for the gathering of most information from such beat and reporting them to the public through his medium (in this context television).

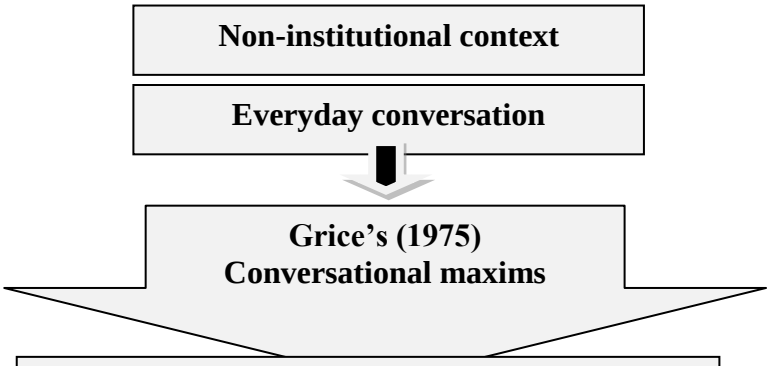
2.10 The Media Language

According to Franke (2011) since the news format classically fulfils television's information function, it is here that we would expect the application of institutional talk as the form of language that is appropriate for the objective information of the audience.

In this connection Grice's (1975) conversational maxims are especially helpful in describing the character of objective language. That is, they can be used to illustrate the requirements placed on objectively produced, strictly informative and therefore effective communicative acts for the (ideal) execution of the information function by the news format.

Accordingly, Klein (1998: 103) points out that Grice's (1975) maxims can be transferred to (the conditions placed on) informative media talk as used by the news format. Originally established by Grice with reference to the cooperative and hence successful communication of personal intentions in everyday situations within an overall theory of action, the conversational maxims can be applied to language use within the institutional context of television. Here they can function to illustrate on the content level the 'ideal', i.e. objectively produced and purely informative, institutional language. Thus, according to Klein (1998: 103) the maxims denote the demands classically placed on the (successful) communication of information by journalists. Hence, transferred to communication by and within the mass media, we can view the conversational maxims

prescriptively as instructions for proper informative journalistic action. Featuring the requirements placed on informative journalistic work according to Klein (1998), table 2 correspondingly illustrates how, following Grice's (1975) maxims, information should be ideally designed in institutional and non-institutional contexts so as to be communicatively most effective.



Quantity
Make your contribution as informative as is required (for the current purposes of the exchange).
Do not make your contribution more informative than is required.

Quality
Do not say what you believe to be false.
Do not say that for which you lack adequate evidence.

Relation
Be relevant.

Manner

Avoid obscurity of expression.
Avoid ambiguity.
Be brief (avoid unnecessary prolixity).
Be orderly.

(Grice, 1975: 45f.)

This review on Grices conversational maxims is very relevant to this study because all of the above principles can be related to the content of the news reports.

The requirements placed on informative journalistic work according to Klein (1998) entail two terms that are seemingly very similar: on the one hand there is the demand for "quantity" relating to the maxim of quantity; on the other hand there is the condition of potential "relation" referring to the maxim of relation. Klein, however, remains imprecise as to what exactly the two terms denote and where their possible difference lies. They are both subsumed here under the prominent notion 'newsworthiness'-a term used within news journalism that defines the quality of a potential news story in terms of how interesting it is for media practitioners to be covered by the news media.

The overall newsworthiness ascribed to a news story is defined on the basis of several criteria or 'news values' (e.g. negativity and unexpectedness). A potential news story can thus be regarded more newsworthy than another potential news story depending on its ascribed news values. It then achieves higher priority and is hence more likely to be featured in the news media.

Referring to Klein's (1998) terms we can state that the maxim of quantity transferred to media talk as the demand for informativeness describes the demand for reporting about events that are as up-to-date as possible , i.e. those events that are new and have not occurred before in the media and that are therefore newsworthy. Underlying this demand is the idea that only *that* information is potentially and truly 'informative' that is actually *new*.

Information that is *not* new, on the other hand, cannot contribute to the accumulation of new knowledge and thus lacks the requested 'informativeness'. Likewise, the maxim of relation transferred to media talk as the demand for relevance denotes that information is relevant – and consequently newsworthy – because it has been defined as being so on the basis of the aforementioned news values (whatever these may be in the concrete case). 'Relevance' then means 'worthy to be broadcast'.

As in everyday conversation the maxim of manner, transferred to informative media talk as the demand for comprehensibility, addresses the overall linguistic presentation of the broadcast information (e.g. word choice and sentence structure) by the media practitioners that should be in such a way as to allow unhindered understanding on the part of the (large number of) addressees. Hence this is a matter of 'recipient design' (cf. Sacks, Schegloff and Jefferson, 1974) that is of designing information linguistically according to the (assumed) communicative needs of the audience.

Recipient design is also strongly connected to the compliance with the maxim of quantity: be informative enough but be not too informative. Choosing the right amount of information to be transferred to the addressee fundamentally involves the assessment by the speaker of the addressee's background knowledge: what can be assumed as given because it is generally accepted world knowledge? What is special knowledge and needs explicit formulation? In media talk this assessment of speaker (i.e. audience) knowledge by media practitioners is more problematic than it is in everyday conversation.

This is fundamentally based on the nature of Mass Communication in general which shows a dislocation of space and time and the nature of the audience in the Mass Communication process in particular which consists of a large and heterogeneous number

of addressees with potentially differing degrees of (shared) background knowledge and hence different communicative needs concerning the explicit formulation of information that is to be broadcast. Media practitioners can never be sure whether their broadcast information is verbally so designed as to fulfill these communicative needs in each individual case. Television shows a general awareness of the communicative needs of its audience.

'Objectivity', aiming at the unbiased presentation of information, is another demand placed on informative journalistic work according to Klein (1998), though it is one which not directly matches the Gricean conversational maxims.

To sum up, in theory the ideal institutional language for the performance of information by the media can be explained on the basis of the Gricean (1975) conversational maxims. As illustrated by Klein (1998), they can be transferred to media practice as demands placed on the communication of information. The compliance with these demands thus results into the 'ideal' type of informative (institutional) language. That is, a language which, reduced to the content level, is ideal in executing the communicative function of information in an objective, non-emotional way.

2.10.1 The Audience for Media Language

The audience is arguably the most important and certainly the most researched component of Mass Communication. Media live by the size and composition of their audiences. In one formulation, six out of seven characteristics of Mass Communication focus on the audience (McQuail 1969:7):

- Large audience relative to other communication situations
- Public accessibility of mass media content

- Heterogeneity of the audience
- Simultaneous contact with widely separated individuals
- One directional flow and impersonality of Mass Communication
- The mass audience as a creation of modern society

Broadcasters operate from moment to moment with no assurance that they even have an audience. Burger (1984:30):

If it is difficult to say who the sender is in Mass Communication, it is much more difficult to say who the communicator is actually communicating with. Audience members can be anywhere that technology, physical conditions and social custom permit.

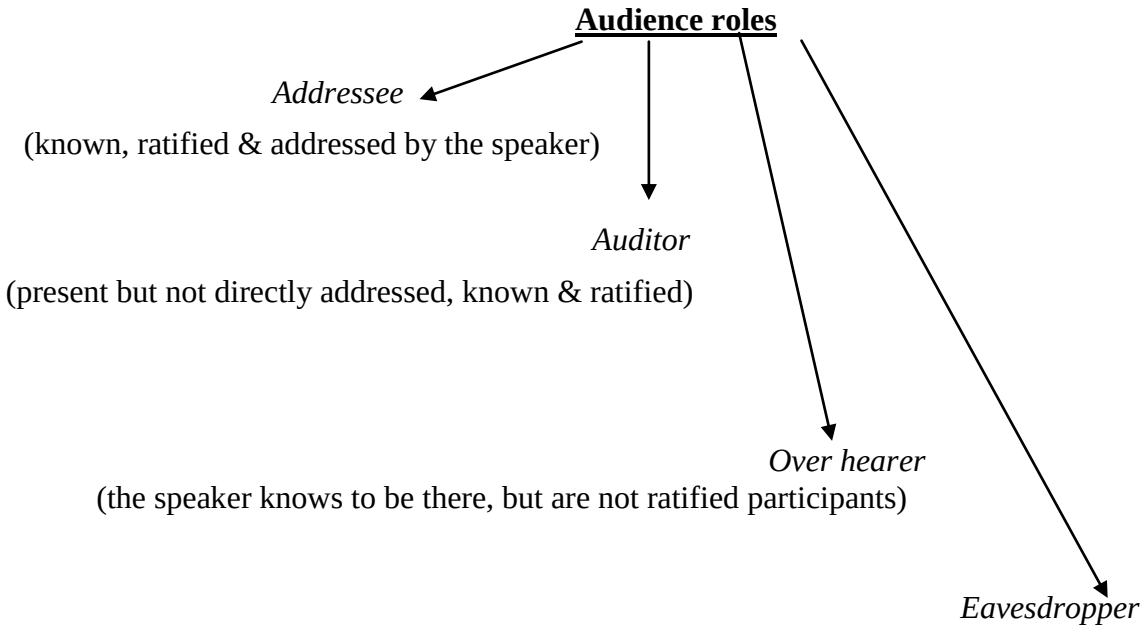
Audience members are separated not just from the communicator but from each other. The members of the mass audience, however, remain isolated from the communicator and each other.

As well as the ***disjunction of place***, there is often a ***disjunction of time*** between communicator and audience. Broadcast technology closes the gap, but even so most broadcast content is recorded rather than live. Although **feedback** is not absent from the Mass Communication process, in few cases is the audience member on equal terms with the communicators. The audiences exercise their main influence on the media just through being the audience or by deciding to be someone else audience.

Mass communicators have only the haziest concept of what kind of people make up their audience. ***Isolation*** from the audience is a characteristic of mass communicators. Ironically, the more mass the medium, the greater the isolation. Principals, editors and animators are largely housebound. The stay-at-home nature of most news workers jobs

keeps them out of contact with the audiences with whom they are communicating. The missing link between media producers and consumers is *professionalism* (Schlesinger 1987:106). Mass communicators are interested in their peers not their public. Fellow communicators and co-professionals are their *salient audience.*

Professionalism involves a consensus among communicators about how they should address different kind of audiences. *Ignorance* of the audience is no barrier to formation of a stereotyped image. We may suppose that it is even an aid.

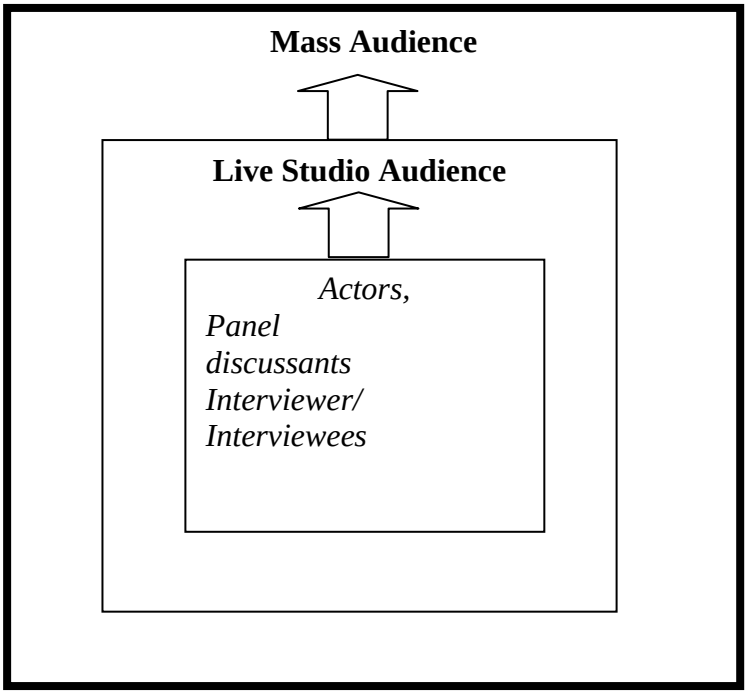


Mass Communication is for the mass. One of its defining characteristics is that it is available to everyone, but there are limits to this availability those beyond the limits, usually the young, are **eavesdroppers** in the classic sense if they do read or view the forbidden material. Between the addressee and the eavesdropper is a finely graded continuum of *audience segments.* Quite commonly the formats of the live and mass

performances are combined. We see that a TV comedy was recorded before a live audience.

This creates a triple layering of play, live audience and mass audience, (Bell,1991).

Audience Layering in Mass Communication



Details

- The role of the editors, producers, technicians and others is not to make their own verbal contribution but to facilitate communication of others contributions to the distant mass audience. These people function simultaneously as both audience and communicators. Studio audiences are both audience to the central event of an interview or play, and communicators in so far as their reactions are transmitted themselves.

- The technicians are the most obvious example of the communicator as audience. This is not surprising since Mass Communication requires technology and technology requires technicians. Their presence in the audience for Mass Communication is in fact required for the communication to take place at all. While technicians function as audience at the embedded level of communication, they are themselves simultaneously communicators to the mass audience.

- The editor's roles such as news editor or chief reporter are journalists closest, and arguably most important, audience.
- The animators are an important audience.
- The authors are also audiences of their own production.
- News workers in parallel positions in rival media are a significant and conscious audience for producers .probably the most salient audience of all, with the news world value placed on getting a story first, before rivals.
- The news outlet. principals are a significant audience/producer group. They are able to
- The final group-audience are the newsmakers themselves interfere with the process/ *post* audience.

Media try to break out of their *isolation* and *lack of feedback* and to overcome the usual limits of media communication. Communicators are in a sense *slaves to their audience*: Members of the audience have the power to switch off, to refuse to buy, to reject a media

outlet. On the other hand, they are helpless. Audience power becomes effective only if exercised en masse, which is beyond the influence of the individual media consumer.

Radio offers by far the best example of the audience as communicators: the usual way of incorporating the audience, in radio, is through telephone.

2.10.2 Audience Design

Different media regard different things as news. Still more obvious are the contrast in presentation. The differences in content and visual styles are paralleled in the language used. The foundational research on *style shift* was Labov pioneering sociolinguistic study on the stratification of English in New York City (1966, 1972). Since then sociolinguists have been accustomed to differentiate the inter-speaker and intra-speaker dimensions on language variation. The inter-speaker or social dimensions have been correlated with differences in the measurable social characteristics (age, gender, social class) of a person the speaker.

Audience design proposes that the intra-speaker variation can be primarily correlated with the attributes of the hearers. That is, speaker design their talk for their hearers. The essence of style is that speakers are responding to their audience.

Audience design suggests that communicators' strategies will sometimes be ***responsive*** and sometimes ***"initiative"*** (Bell 1984): that is, speakers are often primarily responding to their audience in the language they produce. But they also on occasion take more initiative and use language to redefine their relationship to their audience. Within the media, some genres are more prone to response and others to initiative. The more formal

genres (newscasting) are towards the responsive end of the scale. Advertising/on-air discussions are more prone to communicator initiative.

2.10.3 Accommodation Theory

Crudely characterized, speech accommodation theory proposes that speakers accommodate their speech style to their hearers (Giles&Powesland 1975)**.** The main findings in this field make it clear that speakers respond primarily to their audience in designing their talk. The Theory was largely developed to analyse and account for how speakers modify their speech in the complex dynamics of interpersonal encounters where one moment speaker becomes hearer the next moment. Accommodation theory also attempts to specify the motivations which lie behind use of particular accommodative strategies. Approval seeking has been recognised as a prime motive in accommodation. This is very powerful in Mass Communication, where we assume that communicators are always in some sense trying to win the approval of the audience (McQuail 1969b). Another prime motivation in Mass Communication is the concern for receipt of a clear signal.

The audience accommodates: Assuming that audience membership usually signifies approval of communicator style, it follows that media attract the audiences which suit them. If the communicator is unsuccessful in accommodating the audience, the *audience will do* the *accommodating.* If the style does not shift to suit the audience, the audience will shift to style that does suit. The communicator will then have an audience which was unintended but whose composition in fact suits the style or conceivably no audience at all.

To sum up, this review on the audience design is very pertinent to this research because news report is intended to serve the public in terms of nurturing a better understanding of both political and societal concern of the society. News reporters report on the society and for the society therefore, society is the audience of the news reporters. Without the audience, there will be no news reportage at all.

2.11 Gendered Differences in News Reportage

Considerable research in gendered language has been conducted in news reportage (e.g., Desmond & Danilewicz, 2009; 2009; Grabe & Kamhawi, 2006). One of the earliest examples is Soderlund et al. (1989) who conducted a content analysis of television news in Canada. Soderlund and colleagues reveal that female reportage appeared to be "softer" and more general than that of their male counterparts. More recently, Desmond and Danilewicz (2009) examined local news and found that female reporters were more likely to present human interest and health related stories, whereas male reporters tended to present political stories.

Although the concept of gender in news reporting has been explored for more than three decades, majority of the studies have focused on reportage at the *topic level*, rather than the *lexical level.* This is not to say that analysis of news reporting at the lexical level is rare. For example, O'Donnell and Todd (1980) compared prominent linguistic features of major British newspapers; and Ljung (1997) also used newspapers to assess the use of modals, relative pronouns, and sentence complexity. More recently, Haertl and McCarthy (2012) made a considerable development in lexical analysis of news reportage with their introduction of systematic computational corpus analysis. Specifically, the authors

assessed news websites and demonstrated quantifiable differences in the lexical features between northern US border and southern US border local news reportage.

Although clearly there is a history of lexical analysis of news reportage, to the best of researcher's knowledge there is one contemporary study that explores the lexical underpinnings of gender in the news. And that is the work of Wen, McCarthy, and Strain (2013) who conducted a Gramulator Analysis of Gendered Language in Cable News Reportage and that is computer based.

In their study they used the Gramulator to investigate the linguistic and topical features of male and female news reportage. Their analyses reveal evidence of gendered differences that broadly conform to an established gender divide. They found evidence that male reportage is more likely to focus on topics such as politics, crime, and the military; whereas, female reportage focused on issues such as home and education. They also reported evidence for a Male *quant*itative linguistic element and a Female *qual*itative element. This study is somehow similar to this research but through different approaches and polarities. Their research is computational, that is textual analysis system using gramulator. This research does not use gramulator but the normal tape recording of data. Also, their study is focused on and based in America while this study is being carried out in Nigeria.

2.12 Theoretical Orientation

The analysis of the Stylistic features of gender variations in news reporting without linking such features to the contextual background that underline them will undermine the social character of language; for language is socially determined and it varies according to

the social situation. In this sense, the theoretical framework adopted in this study departs from mainstream language study which takes conventions and practice at face value. Hence the choice of the model.

According to Halliday (1985), the grammar of a language is functional in the sense that it is designed to account for how the language is used. The major strength of the theory is the high premium it places on the recognition of the fact that every text, whether written or spoken, unfolds in some context of use. Thus, Halliday (1985) posits that language has evolved to satisfy human needs; and the way it is organized is functional with respect to these needs. The ways human beings use languages are classified in this theory in three broad categories known as Meta-functions and these are "ideational", "interpersonal" and "textual" functions. "The ideational function" implies that language serves as an instrument for the encoder (speaker or writer) to articulate and express his idea and experience internally. "The interpersonal function" helps to establish and sustain social relations. "The textual function" of language implies the availability of an internal structure which makes it possible for the writer or speaker to construct texts that are not only coherent but also situationally appropriate. Thus, the textual function is concerned with the organizations and cohesion of situations.

According to Fairclough (1992), it is Halliday's textual function that enables a coherent linkage of parts of texts, taking situations as given or presented as new, picking them out as topic or theme. Textual functions are identified through the analysis of thematic structures. Halliday's 2004 textual functions would serve as the guiding principle under which the study will be anchored. It is interesting to note that although Systemic Functional Linguistics recognizes both the formal and functional aspects of language

description; it accounts for the contextual hub of the formal linguistic properties in a bid to explain and understand them. Within the SFL theory, there is, therefore, a marked shift from the treatment of language as an intra-organism phenomenon to the treatment of language as an inter-organism phenomenon.

It is against this background that the study sheds light on the Linguistic Stylistic level of analysis of gender variation in news reportage and underscore how its features could be invested with certain semantic and syntactic forces. The functionalist credo in Halliday's words as quoted by Fowler (1986) is the particular form taken by the grammatical system of language is closely related to the social and personal needs that language is required to serve. Functional Stylistics is systemic because it is established that individuals have alternative choices available to produce linguistic utterances and texts. Functional Stylistics gives Stylistic analysis of a text at phonological, syntactic and semantic levels of linguistic description. The communicative power and connotative significance of these isolated linguistic items and structures will be evaluated objectively (both at the levels of form and content) using Halliday's textual approaches. The study thus finds out the consistent Stylistic differences that exist in the speeches of male and female correspondences in the news reportage. (Linguistic features that can be found indicative of gender variations).

2. 12.1 Textual Functions

According to Halliday (2004), the terms encompass all the grammatical system responsible for managing the flow of discourse. These systems create coherent text that coheres within itself and with the context of situation. They are both structural (involving choices relating to the ordering of element in the clause) and non structural, (involving

choices that create cohesive ties between unit that has no structured bond). The relevant grammatical systems include theme, given and new as well as the systems of cohesion, such as reference, substitution and ellipsis. Through the textual functions, language creates a Semiotic world of its own, a parallel universe or virtual reality in modern terms.

2.12.2 Theme and Rheme

According to Halliday (1967), the clause as a message comprises two functional units, Theme and Rheme. Halliday (1967: 212) defines the Theme as "what is being talked about" or "the point of departure for the clause as a message" and defines Rheme as what the speaker says about the Theme or the goal of the message that is, the element which fulfils the communicative purpose of the utterance. Theme and Rheme are position-bound elements which are defined according to their positions in the sentence. A Theme always occupies the first position in a sentence and is followed and commented on by a Rheme. As Halliday (2004: 64) notes, "the theme is indicated by position in the clause. In speaking or writing English, we signal that an item has thematic status by putting it first".

A Theme can be either a single word, such as "That" and "He" in examples 1 and 2 respectively, or a group of words, i.e. a nominal group such as "The Walrus and the Carpenter" in example 3. or a prepositional phrase such as "from house to house" in example 4

1. That *is what I want.*

2. He *is my good friend.*

3. The Walrus and the Carpenter *were talking close at hand.* (Nominal group)

4. From house to house, *I wend my way*. (Prepositional phrase)

According to the Hallidayan model of analysis, the speaker can choose within certain limits which element or elements in the clause are thematic, whether a Subject, a Complement, or an Adjunct. The rest of the sentence, "*were talking close at hand"* and "*I wend my way*", function as the Rhemes in examples 3 and 4 respectively. The most common type of Theme in English is a nominal group functioning as an agent, or a Subject, such as "The lecturer" and "the little boy" in the following examples:

5. The lecturer *gave a presentation on linguistics.*

6. The little boy *broke the teapot.*

Unlike the Prague School linguists who analyse verbs as transitional elements, Halliday considers verbs as part of the rhematic element, such as "*gave"* and "*broke"* in the last two examples.

The "Theme" is therefore, the starting point of the clause message which is realized in English by first position in clause which must contain a participant, process or circumstance and sometimes includes any element preceding the first participant process or circumstance. Theme sets up the local context for each clause. This local context often relates to the methods of development of the text. The theme is selected in such a way that it indicates how the clause relates to this method and contributes to the identification of the current step in the development of the various structures which when mapped on to each other make up a clause. This research will consider first the one which gives the clause its character as a message to find out the linguistic Stylistic variations of female and male reportages.

2.12.3 Ideational (Topical Theme)

The ideational stage of the Theme according to Halliday (2004) also known as topical Theme can be recognised as the first element in the clause that expresses some kind of "representational meaning" more technically it is a function from the transitivity structure of the clause that is to say it may be a "participant" or it might be a "circumstance" giving information about time, place, manner, cause, etc.

2.12.4 Marked and Unmarked Topical Theme

If the first topical element of a declarative clause is also the subject of the clause, then the theme choice is a neutral or "unmarked" one which gives the theme no special prominence: By making use of the system of voice (The alternation between active and passive). However, when topical Theme of a declarative cause is not the subject, it gains a greater textual prominence. Non-subject themes are "marked" themes and are often important in structuring the larger discourse. It is through the analysis of these themes(marked and unmarked) that this research will find out the linguistic gender variations of the three televisions reportage.

2.12.5 The Rheme

Every clause is organised as a message related to an unfolding text. The system of theme organises the clause to show what its local context is in relation to the general context it serves in. The local context or point of departure is theme. The rest of the message of the clause is what is presented against the background of the local context; it is where the clause moves after the point of departure. This is called RHEME.

The clause as a message is thus organised into THEME + RHEME

Theme	Rheme
Point of departure of clause as a message: local context of clause as piece of context.	Non - theme where the presentation moves after the point of departure, what is prescribed in the local context set up by theme.
Initial position in the clause	Position following initial position

Although not all encompassing, Halliday (2004) approach offers a genaralising and unified method of analysis by which the themes structure of male and female reports can be analysed and compared objectively hence, the choice of the model. Therefore, this textual analysis of themes and rhemes serve as both theoretical and analytical model for the study. The reviews in the related literature enable the researcher to identify opposing views on studies of Stylistics and gendered language respectively. The review further investigates seminal works in the study of gender difference in news reportage. The review above helps in providing the intellectual context that enables the researcher to position the theses findings in relation to other works therefore, putting the work into wider perspective.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Preamble

This chapter describes the sources, procedures for obtaining, analysing and processing the data that would be used for the present investigation. It discusses the principles of the methods of the speaker/reporters sampling, data extraction and statistical quantification as well as the caveats associated with these approaches.

The purpose of any linguistic investigation is to make generalizations about linguistic usage, at one level or the other. This presupposes that the results of the investigation are "valid" and "reliable". Validity and reliability are criteria for assessing the quality of the data collected. Validity means that the data are representative of the field of interest and that they truly provide information about what the study purports to investigate. The concept of reliability refers to the replicability of the study or the likelihood that the results reflect actual usage pattern in the relevant population and will be consistent overtime. The following sections will explain how the chosen methods of data sampling and analysis aim to secure that the study would be valid and reliable.

3.1 Selecting a Sample

In an investigation into current linguistic gender variation, the first decision to be made concerns the selection of the subject to provide the data. Television news reportage is therefore well suited as a source for observing the linguistic gender variation of the correspondents because of the presence of both male and female reporters. Moreover, the high technical quality of the sounds will enable the researcher to get good recordings.

The sampling technique to be used is judgment sampling which is a method used by the modern variationists, where the investigator defines in advance the type of speakers to be studied and then finds a sample of subjects who fit the specified criteria. According to Milroy (1987:26) "Such judgment sampling has been found to be more suitable for linguistic studies as formal representatives do not yield greater insight into linguistic usage patterns. In the present study, the selection of the reporters was made on the basis of linguistic criteria as they all speak Standard English. In addition, all channels and both genders should be equally represented.

3.2 Sources of Data Collection (The Speakers/Reporters)

The speakers which are also the reporters constitute a socially homogenous group. They all have the same occupation and are at the different level in the social hierarchy. There is also the social variable gender which is one of the most important factors of speech variation and the analysis will therefore, be focused on the variation between male and female reporters' speeches. All the speakers or reporters speak within the mainstream of Standard English.

Also the data for the present study were obtained from the three television channels; BBC, NTA and Channels Television through recording exercises. Each channel was represented with 32 reports, 16 male and 16 female reports. The reports were throughout referred by their numbers. The data used for this study were collected mainly from primary and secondary sources. The collection of data from both sources for this study was informed largely by the need to ensure validity of the outcomes of the findings.

3.2.1 List of Reporters

Reports Number	Gender	Channel
1 6	Male	BBC World
16	Female	BBC World
16	Male	N.T.A
16	Female	N.T.A
16	Male	CHANNELS TV
16	Female	CHANNELS TV

TOTAL =96 reports

3.3 Data Descriptions

The study analyses 96 news reports 48 for each of the gender variables collected from the three Channels, namely: BBC, channels TV and NTA. Table 4.1.1 presents the selected television channels and the number of reports collected from each of channels.

Table 4.1.1Television Channels and number of Reports

TV stations	No. of Reports	Female	Male
BBC	32	16	16
Channels TV	32	16	16
NTA	32	16	16
Total	96	48	48

3.4 Methods of Data Collection

The data for the present study were collected from the recordings of television news reportage of the male and female correspondents from three different channels presented in the previous section. The news reports from each channel were collected on the same dates these reports appeared on the selected TV channels. All the reports were recorded between March, 2015 and January, 2016.

The primary data were obtained from the speeches of the reporters through the audio/video recording exercise; a survey in the form of structured and unstructured interviews methods was also employed. The researcher reads the reports of both female and male to the respondents without mentioning or indicating the gender of the reporters and asked the respondents or interviewees to choose the report he/she prefers and give reasons for the choice. The major advantage of this interview is that it allows for feed back in an interpersonal communication set up and reports can be read and be repeated.

The interviewee group comprises the secondary school students, university students and the elites this is because they are likely to constitute the major parts of the news audience. Twenty four people were interviewed (12 males and 12 females) .The interview was conducted in Zaria and Abuja. These methods were employed to authenticate and validate the data. (The secondary sources were mainly, journals and reviews and all the sources of information were duly acknowledged).

3.4.1 Beats of the Reports

Newsbeats are special interest areas where reporters are assigned to for the purposes of continuous coverage. The data for the study was collected from selected reporters from different news beats. The major news beats of the reports are presented below:

1. Armed forces
2. Foreign Affairs
3. Police
4. Government House (Federal/State)
5. Legislative/Parliament (Federal/State and local councils)
6. Current affairs state
7. Sports
8. Customs/Immigration/Prison
9. The judiciary
10. Science medicine and environment
11. Business conference
12. Agriculture
13. Conflict
14. Women Affairs.

3.5 Analytical Procedure

The study adopts the theme system of analysis. The system of theme belongs to the textual metafunction of the language. It is concerned with the organization of information

within individual clauses. For example the following version of the same clause-sized piece of information embodies alternative theme choices:

- Your reporter repeatedly interrupted her replies.
- Her replies were repeatedly interrupted by your reporter.

  Repeatedly, your reporter interrupted her replies.

In order to achieve maximal degree of reliability and objectivity, both quantitative and qualitative methods were adopted in the analysis of the data. Quantitative research provides a statistical analysis of the linguistic features observed in the data; it classifies the features, assigns frequencies and constructs a complex statistical method to explain what is observed in the data. It provides as accurate picture as possible of the tendencies and linguistic varieties observed in the data.

For instance, quantitative methods were adopted to account for the thematic patterns and identify the most dominant themes in the reports of men and women, it was also used to account for the use of different lexical terms, linguistic variations and lexicalization in the thematic structure of the reporters. This will help us to know the basic linguistic differences between the reports of male and female correspondences.

Qualitative methods were adopted to analyze the thematic structures which describe the reporters' report and their linguistic variations. A qualitative analysis aims at a complete detailed description of the linguistic features in the data. It identifies and describes aspects of language use and provides examples of both rare and frequent occurrences. As McGnery and Wilson (1996:62) point out: "Qualitative analysis enables very fine distinction to be drawn since it is not necessary to shoehorn the data into a finite number

of classifications". In addition to Halliday's proposal the researcher suggests that-the identification of the dyad may be included in the theme and rheme analysis.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION OF DATA AND ANALYSIS

4.0 Preamble

This chapter presents, describes and analyses the data for the study. It identifies Halliday's Theme system approach as the model adopted in this study to analyse Theme-Rheme structures in the selected reports of the male and female reporters. The chapter also considers the topic sentences of the main clause of the reports as the thematic unit of Theme/Rheme analysis and as a tool for differentiating between male and female reports.

Specifically, this chapter sets to:

i. analyse the selection of the Themes and Rhemes in the clauses used by the male and female reporters of BBC, Channels TV and NTA (on the same beat reports).

ii. examine the gender variations in the choice of sentence patterns and lexical items of the male and female in television news reportage on BBC, Channels TV and NTA.

iii. identify the differences in the subject matters (beats) covered by men and women in news reportage.

iv. and to examine the effect of the gender variations on the target audience.

4.1 The News Reports

News reports from each of the channels were collected on the same dates they appeared on the selected TV channels. In other words, the date of the selected news reports are the same as the dates on which these reports have been collected for the study. The reports are

presented on tables by organizing the main clauses into Theme and Rheme elements. The reports were also numbered for easy references in the discussion.

The reports were also divided into two groups namely: Group I (also table 4.1.1) comprises 76 reports that depicted the Themes selection of the dyad across the same topic. And Group II comprises 20 reports that were used in the analysis of the differences of the topic and the subject matters (beats) covered by both the female and the male reporters of the selected channels. In all the total number are 96 reports. All the reports were recorded between March, 2015 and January, 2016.

4.2 Data Analysis

Below are the analysis and the corresponding conclusion of the study using Halliday (2004) Theme System approach as the model adopted to analyse Theme-Rheme structures in the selected reports of the male and female reporters.

4.2.1 Halliday's Model of Theme and Rheme

Halliday's analytical model defines Themes and Rhemes according to their positions in a given sentence. That is, a Theme always occupies the first position and is commented on and followed by Rheme (see the theoretical framework). Halliday also distinguishes between the unmarked Theme and the marked Themes. According to him (2004), the unmarked Theme represents the basic, most common and most frequent element occurring in Theme position, where any variation of the unmarked order of the element in the reports indicates a marked Theme and marked thematic structure in the selected data.

Although, Halliday (2004) considers Themes and Rhemes to operate at the level of the clause whether minor or major. It is believed that the message intended behind the news

journalists' (reporters) choices and organizations of Themes and Rhemes are more apparent and function at the level of the major clause. The thematic patterns identified in each report reflect the main topic of the news report. Therefore, the model adopted in this study considers the major clause which is also the topic sentence of the reports as the Thematic and Rhematic unit of analysis. This is because of the nature of the interactive discourse between the reporters and what they are reporting or whom they are interviewing. The Thematic and Rhematic elements of the major clauses and the topic sentences of the reports of the dyad across the same topic are presented in table 4.4.2:

4.2.2 Analysis of the Thematic and Rhematic elements of the Dyad across the same topic

No. of reports	Dyad gender	Corpus Theme	Examples Theme type	Rheme
1	Male	The army	(unmarked topical active)	honours troop fighting terror in Yobe.
2	Female	In Yobe	(marked topical passive)	the army honours troop fighting terrorism.
3	Male	Nigerians in America	(unmarked Topical active)	Mark the June twelve anniversary with sober reflections.
4	Female	Remembering June 12 in the united state,	(marked topical passive)	the Nigerians mark the day with sober reflections.
5	Male	Fifty cars	(unmarked topical passive)	were commissioned to the police by the interior minister Abba Moro .
6	Female	The Minister of interior, Abba Moro	(unmarked topical active)	has commissioned fifty cars to the police.
7	Male	The visually impaired in Lagos	(unmarked topical active)	asked for favour.
8	Female	In Lagos	(Marked topical passive)	the visually impaired asked for assistance.
9	Male	Nigerians in Washington	(unmarked topical active)	laud president on speech .

10	Female	In Washington	(marked topical passive)	Nigerians laud president Buhari on speech.
11	Male	President Buhari	(unmarkedtopical active)	Returns to the country
12	Female	The President	(unmarked topical active)	is back into the country. (longer Rheme)
13	Male	President Buhari	(unmarked topical active)	Pays tribute to the Octogenarian Vanguard publisher Chief Sam Amuka Pemu.
14	Female	President Buhari	(unmarked topical active)	Pays tribute to the Vanguard publisher Chief Sam Amuka Pemu who turns to 80 years old.
15	Male	Barrack Obama	(unmarked topical active)	Condemns blight of racism in US.
16	Female	Obama	(unmarked topical active)	Says racism remains a blight in U.S.A
17	Male	President Buhari	(unmarked topical active)	is set to study report alleging human right abuse by some top military officials.
18	Female	President Buhari	(unmarked topical active)	is to study the alleged right violation by the Nigerian military.
19	Male	John Kerry	(unmarked topical active)	Defends nuclear
20	Female	John Kerry	(unmarked topical active)	Justifies Iran deal (longer Rheme)
21	Male	Obama	(unmarked topical active)	Pays historical visit to Kenya
22	Female	The US president	(unmarked topical active)	Is on a historic trip to Kenya (longer Rheme)
23	Male	Obama's Speech	(unmarked topical active)	concludes his visit to Kenya.
24	Female	The US president	(unmarked topical active)	Concludes his vist to Kenya by giving a speech at Kasarami stadium (longer Rheme)
25	Male	Obama	(unmarked	Is the first sitting US

			topical active)	president to visit Kenya.
26	Female	Obama	(unmarked topical active)	Makes history by being the first sitting president to visit Kenya, east Africa. (longer Rheme)
27	Male	Eligible voters	(unmarked topical active)	should go and cast their votes. (command)
28	Female	Eligible voters	(unmarked topical active)	are expected to go and cast their votes (longer Rheme) (more polite).
29	Male	Oshiomhole	(unmarked topical active)	says federal government rebuffed warning on financial crisis.
30	Female	Oshiomhole	(unmarked topical active)	Says federal government did not listen to advice on financial crisis. (Longer Rheme)
31	Male	Ten	(unmarked topical active)	Killed at Mexico centre.
32	Female	Ten people	(unmarked topical active)	Were killed at Mexico centre. (Longer Rheme)
33	Male	In his speech	(marked topical passive)	the vice president says all are equal in the eye of law.
34	Female	The vice president	(unmarked topical active)	Says the rule of law should apply to all Nigerians.
35	Male	President Goodluck Jonathan	(unmarked topical active)	Bunkered the meeting
36	Female	The meeting	(unmarked topical passive)	Was held by president Goodluck Jonathan.
37	Male	Mexico	Unmarked topical	Is to extradite drug lord Elchapo Guzman to US.
38	Female	Mexican authorities	Unmarked topical(active)	Begin process of extraditing the recaptured drug lord Jaoquin Guzman to US.
39	Male	Obama	Unmarked topical(active)	Declines to back democratic candidate before the primaries.

40	Female	US president	Unmarked topical(active)	Barrack Obama declines to back any democrat candidate before the primaries.
41	Male	President Buhari	Unmarked topical(active)	Commends the gallantry armed forces capacity to unite and defend Nigeria at the 2016 armed remembrance service.
42	Female	For the armed forces remembrance day	Marked topical	President Buhari applauds heroes keeping Nigeria united.
43	Male	Angela Markel	Unmarked topical(active)	Proposes tougher migrant law.
44.	Female	German Chancellor Angela Markel	Unmarked topical(active)	Considers tougher migrant law.
45	Male	Australia bush fire	Unmarked topical(active)	Rages in and kills two.
46	Female	Several	Marked topical	Missing in Australia bush fire.
47	Male	Bayelsa rerun	Unmarked topical(active)	Was adjudged peacefully.
48	Female	The supplementary election	Unmarked topical(active)	Was conducted peacefully in Bayelsa.
49	Male	Challenges	Unmarked topical	Were encountered in deploying election materials in riverine areas in Bayelsa re-run.
50	Female	INEC commissioner Dr. Mustapha Lekky	Unmarked topical(active)	Acknowledges challenges encountered in deploying election materials in riverine areas in Bayelsa supplementary election.
51	Male	Voting	Unmarked topical(active)	Ends in Bayelsa re-run polls.
52	Female	Voting	Unmarked topical(active)	Ends in Bayelsa governorship supplementary election.

53	Male	APC	Unmarked topical(active)	Vows to wage anti-graft war to logical conclusion.
54	Female	Buhari administration	Unmarked topical(active)	Vows to wage anti-corruption war to its logical conclusion.
55	Male	The Nigerian defence headquarters	Unmarked topical(active)	Denies newspaper report of hunger strike by re-engaged soldiers.
56	Female	The Nigerian defence headquarters	Unmarked topical(active)	Denies newspaper publication that 3000 re-engaged soldiers has embarked on hunger strike.
57	Male	Egypt	Unmarked topical	Holds parliament in three years.
58	Female	For the first time in three years	Marked topical	Egypt parliament resumes.
59	Male	Three tourists	Unmarked topical(active)	were wounded in Egypt hotel attack.
60	Female	Gunmen	Unmarked topical(active)	Attack Egypt tourist hotel, one tourist killed in the attack.
61	Male	Bayelsa re-run polls	Unmarked topical(active)	Record impressive turn out of voters
62	Female	The election monitors	Unmarked topical(active)	Say there is a low turnout of voters
63	Male	Collation of results	Unmarked topical(active)	Commences in the presence of party agents
64	Female	Collation of results	Unmarked topical(active)	Commences under the watchful eyes of the party agents
65	Male	Music icon	Unmarked topical(active)	David Bowie died
66	Female	The music legend	Unmarked topical(active)	David Bowie passed away.
67	Male	23 people	Unmarked topical (active)	Were killed in Burkina Faso attacks by Islamists gunmen late Friday
68	Female	Burkina Faso hotel	Unmarked topical(active)	Siege over amid reports of new attack

69	Male	Taiwan	Unmarked topical active	Elects first female president
70	Female	First female president	Unmarked topical active	Leader voted in Taiwan
71	Male	Iran	Unmarked topical (active)	Frees four American prisoners
72	Female	Four American prisoners	Marked topical (passive)	Freed in Iran
73	Male	France	Unmarked Topical(active)	Holds final ceremony for Hebdo victims in France.
74	Female	Final ceremony	Unmarked topical (passive)	Held for Hebdo victims in France.
75	Male	Jihadists	Unmarked topical(active)	Seek the return of Sharia Law in Mali.
76	Female	In Mali	Marked Topical	The Jihadists Seek the return of Sharia Law.

4.2.3 Discussions: Theme Selections of the Dyad

The corpus above shows that the reports consist of two distinct Themes which are also topical; the marked and the unmarked. Of the 76 reports, 10 consist of marked topical Themes, 9 of these marked Themes were used by female reporters and the remaining one was used by a male reporter. The marked topical Themes, (passive) are usually mostly employed by the female reporters. They have been used in the reports to achieve different communicative functions among which are:

i. Showing the situation of the event.

ii. Identification of person

iii. Identification of time

iv. Identification of place

In the words of Halliday (2004:3), "in a declarative clause, a Theme which is something other than the subject is a marked Theme". Therefore, the marked topical Themes used by the female reporters are used for grammaticalization of the aspect of context such as place

time and person. What these reporters show through the choice of the marked Themes is that they tend to lay emphasis on the core issues as they affect listeners. From the marked Themes, the message passed across is given additional force by their fronting. According to Baker (1990:134):

> Objects and complements are not usually fronted to provide a point of orientation or method of development for a stretch of language. The effect of thematising an object or complement in English is to provide contrast and to emphasize the speaker's attitude to the message.

The female reporters employ the marked Themes in their reports to reflect identification of place and event while the male reporters Themes reflect identification of person and thing. The prepositional phrases functioning as an adverb of place (In Yobe, in Washington, in Lagos etc) which are suppose to be part of the Rheme occupy the first positions in the sentences, so the positions they occupy are marked and more meaningful. This establishes that the female reporters are more interested in the locations and the events rather than the subjects of the events as opposed to their male counterparts who are more interested in the subjects of the events

The male corpus consists of thirty seven (37) unmarked topical Themes and one (1) marked topical Theme while the female reports consist of twenty nine (29) unmarked topical Themes and nine (9) marked topical Themes.

4.2.4 Frequency ratio of the Theme selection

Dyad	Theme (topical)		
	Marked	Unmarked	Total
Female	9	29	38
Male	1	37	38

The unmarked topical Themes which are mostly employed by the male reporters in some cases are used in reflecting the key topics of the reports. That is, concentrations are given to the actual subjects performing the identification roles of what the reports are all about. This is reflected in the following:

4 .2.5 DOMINANT THEMES

Unmarked topical Themes	Types of themes
The army	Nominal group
John Kerry	Noun
Obama	Noun
Nigerians in America	Nominal group
President Buhari	Nominal group
Oshiomhole	Noun
The Vice President	Noun phrase
Eligible voters	Noun phrase
Mexico	Noun
Burkina Faso etc.	Noun

This has an implication of helping listeners to concentrate on the subjects of the reports without any form of deviation. The basic form which the unmarked Themes take in the reports is that they are mostly in the form of either a noun or a nominal group with proper noun as the head as illustrated above.

This indicates that they are the subjects of the reports and that the reporters are interested in the subjects, the implication this has for the language of the male reporters in the

sentence patterns is that concentrations are given to the key issues that surround the topic of report under discussion with emphasis on the participant with the nominal group functioning as agent. Most of the Themes are topical Themes. In essence, the various unmarked Themes function as "Some representation of some process in ongoing human experience" as posits by Halliday (2004:51).

In summary, the mapping of the thematic system on to the informational system of the reporters helps to project their view points and attitudes towards events in the report, the male reporters place emphasis on the subjects and thus, employed active voice which are realised through the unmarked Themes.

The female reporters preferred to employ passive and the marked Themes which were given additional forces by their fronting to pass across information. These show that male and female adopt distinct stances in the conveyance of information in their reports. It also establishes the fact that the Theme-Rheme units are speaker – oriented. That is, the reporters choose or select and assign the position of element in the clause structure of their reports.

4.3 The Processes of Thematization and Passivization

The process of thematization is related to the idea of Theme and Rheme. Thematization is the process by which some parts of the clause, such as the complement, object or adjunct are placed in the Theme position as in the following examples used by the female reporters.

1) Report 2 "In Yobe, The army honours troop fighting terrorism."

2) Report 8 "In Lagos, the visually impair asked for assistance."

3) Report 10 “In Washington Nigerians loud president Buhari on speech”.

4) Report 76 “In Mali Jihadists seek the return of Sharia”.

In the above examples “In Yobe”, “In Lagos”, “In Washington” and “In Mali” are the Themes of the passive surface structure. “In Yobe”, “In Lagos”, “In Washington” and “In Mali” occupy the initial positions in the sentences and they function as adjuncts or as adverbial (prepositional) phrase of place identification in the recovered deep structure of the male counterpart reports.

“The army honours troop fighting in Yobe”. (Report1)

“The visually impaired in Lagos asked for favour”. (Report 8)

“Nigerians in Washington laud president on speech”. (Report 9)

“Jihadists seek the return of shari’a law in Mali”. (Report 75)

5) “Fifty cars were commissioned to the police by the Minister of Interior Abba Moro”. (Male Report 5)

“Fifty cars” of the male report (5) is the Theme of the passive surface structure. “Fifty cars” occupies the first position and it functions as the object or the affected participant in the recovered deep structure of the female report (6): “The Minister of Interior, Abba Moro has commissioned fifty cars to the police”.

The actor, or the logical subject as referred to by (Hall 2003) in example (5) report (5) “Fifty cars” is deleted or transferred to the Rheme. The Theme attracts the listener’s attention to the main event of the report. It also reveals new information which is not predicted nor mentioned before in the report. Passivization therefore, is the process of turning an active sentence into a passive one. In English most passive sentences are agentless (Hodge and Kress 1993) Once the agent is deleted and is no longer the focus of

the sentence the agent or the cause of the actions becomes unclear this denotes avoidance or shifting of responsibilty. Passivization leaves the attributions of causality "unclear" "Mystified" and "Obfuscated" For example, in the male report 49: "Challenges were encountered in deploying election materials in the riverine areas in Bayelsa re-run." Although the impersonal style of news reports helps journalists to present "impartial" and "objective" views in the report, it is also considered as an exercise of power from the part of the news reporters. Thematization through passivization can also be ideologically motivated when the actor is transferred or deleted and the affected participants become the Themes as in the following examples from the female reports.

Report (70) four American/ prisoners freed in Iran

Report (72) First Female leader/ voted in Taiwan

Report (74) Final ceremony/ Held for Hebdo victims in France.

This process helps and raises the audience consciousness of the thematization especially when it is presented as new information, draws attention to the elements which are both thematically and informationally significant and helps in exploring both the gender and the ideological differences in the news reports of the dyad.

4.4 The Relationship between Language and Ideology

Language has a crucial role in the ideology process. It is the linking element between individual's knowledge of the world and their social practices, since it mediates individual's thought and behavior. In this context of news reportage the reporters

demonstrate how language reflects ideology and can thus be use to express how the Dyad views experience and make sense of the world.

Hodge, Kress and Jones (1979:81) draw attention to the importance of language for the study of ideology.

> Ideologies are sets of ideas involved in the ordering of experience, making sense of the world. This order and sense is partial and particular. The systems of ideas which constitute ideologies are expressed through language. Language supplies the models and categories of thought, and in part people's experience of the world is through language.

Ideological representations here are referred to the individual or stations' shared beliefs, values and opinion which are expressed in the textual, structural and linguistic level of the reporters. In other words, the way the correspondents report reveals different angle of reporting the stories, hence establishes distinct opinions or ideologies of either the reporters or their stations'. For example the male report (61) posits that: "Bayelsa Re-run records impressive turn out of voters" while the female counterpart report thus: "The election monitors say there is a low turnout of voters in Bayelsa supplementary election". These are two contradictory reports from the male and female reporters of NTA and Channels television respectively denoting the same report. Even though the female report is in the form of a reported speech it connotes a kind of detachment to the report while the male report is a direct report which depicts a level of commitment and as such opinionated. The implication here is that the linguistic variations of the dyad in the reports represent both individualistic and stations' ideological presentation.

Another instance of ideology is detected in report 37 and 38 of male and female report respectively where the male reporter uses the nick name of the drug lord, "Elchapo" and the female counterpart uses the proper name of the drug lord, Jaoquin. The female

reporter believes in using the proper name of the drug lord while the man prefers to use the nick name of the drug master thus depicting distinct ideologies. There is also another instance of ideology or a kind of evasiveness in the female report 68: “Burkina Faso hotel siege over amid reports of new attack”. As opposed to the male counterpart report67: “23 people were killed in Burkina Faso attack by Islamists gunmen late Friday”. This is commisive, direct and ideological.

4.5 The Rheme Analysis

The Rhemes in the reports present ‘given’ and ‘new information’. However, the Rheme of female reporters are mostly longer. These longer Rhemes are employed to give details or to simplify the reports as shown in the following table:

Rheme Analysis

DYAD	**RHEMES**
Female	Pays tribute to the vanguard publisher chief Sam Amuka Pemu who turns to eight years old. Longer Rheme
Male	Pays tribute to the octogenarian Vanguard publisher chief Sam Amuka Pemu.
Female	Says Federal Government did not listen to advice on financial crisis. Longer Rheme
Male	Says Federal Government rebuffed warning on financial crisis.
Female	Was held by president Goodluck Jonathan. Longer Rheme
Male	Bunkered the meeting.
Female	Says racism remains a blight in USA. Longer Rheme
Male	Condemns the blight of racism in US.

Female	Makes history by being the first president to visit Kenya, East Africa. Longer Rheme
Male	Is the first sitting US president to visit Kenya
Female	Justifies Iran deal. Longer Rheme
Male	Defends nuclear etc.

These examples and many more from the data show that women employ longer Rhemes in their reports and this makes their reports more modified, more polite, more detailed and simpler than that of men. This is perhaps as a result of the garrulous and chatty nature of the female discourse as established in many gender literatures. There is over lexicalization of the male reporters Rheme which makes their reports more blunt and forceful. By implication there is a kind of power which is associated generally with the male speeches as ascertained in gender literatures.

4.6 Lexical Features and Meaning Relations of the Dyad's Reports

The study of lexical features and meaning relations also referred to as Stylistic variations in the thematic structure of male and female reports is a significant factor in exploring the differences in male and female news report. Style or Stylistic, in this context is the result of the linguistic choices made by the speakers among optional variations in discourse forms that may be used to express more or less the same meaning (or denoting the same referent). Therefore, a given meaning can be expressed differently by various sentence patterns and words. The different choices made by the male and female reporters are both lexical and syntactic. The processes of thematization and passivization discussed above denote the syntactic characteristics (sentence patterns) of the dyads report while the

processes of synonymy, lexicalization, relexicalization, overlexicalization, collocation and misconceptions are discussed here in relation to lexical variations of the dyad's report.

4 .6.1 Synonyms

Synonymous words are defined as words which have almost the same meaning. However, absolute synonyms are rare in any language (Fair Clough 2011). Synonyms function as linguistic cohesive devices in differentiating female and male reports as can be seen from the dyad's report in the following examples:

SYNONYMS

Synonyms	Male	Female	
1	Terror	Terrorism	(Report 1 & 2)
2	Favour	Assistance	(Report 7 & 8)
3	Returns	Back	(Report 11 & 12)
4	Octogenarian	Eighty years old	(Report 13 & 14)
5	Alleging human right abuse	Alleged right violation	(17 & 18)
6	Defends	Justifies	(Report 19 & 20)
7	Rebuffed	Did not listen	(Report 29 & 30)
8	Bunkered	Held	(Report 35 & 36)
9	Gallantry armed forces	Heroes	(Report 41 & 42)
10	Proposes	Considers	(Report 43 & 44)
11	Adjudged	Conducted	(Report 47 & 48)

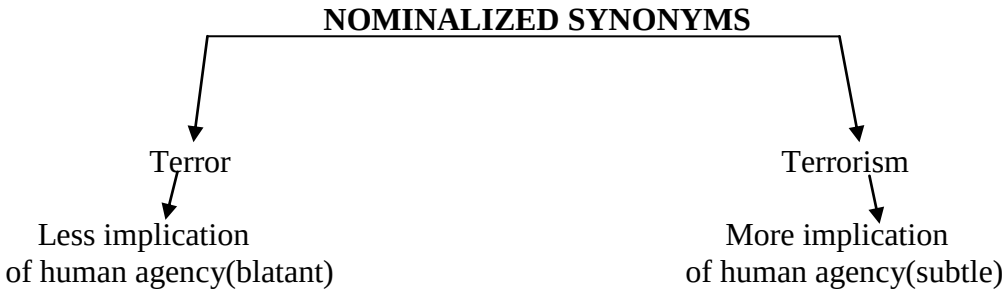
12	Anti-graft	Anti-corruption	(Report 53 & 54)
13	Polls	Election	(Report 61 & 62)
14	Icon	Legend	(Report 65 & 66)
15	Died	Passed away etc	(Report 65 & 66)

The examples from the synonyms establish that even though the two reports (information) of the dyads grow out of the same context, the reporters demonstrate different choices of lexical items in conveying their information. For example, the nominalized synonyms, "terror" and "terrorism" used in reports 1 & 2 respectively which will be discussed below. This conforms to Leeche's (2006:16) "dualism in style", according to him, "every speaker necessarily makes choice of expression, and that it is in these choices, in a particular way of putting things that style resides."

In essence, the dualist holds that there can be different ways of conveying the same content hence style is 'a manner of doing things' and 'a manner of expression as indicated above.

4.6.2 Nominalization

Nominalization is defined as a transformational process in which nouns were derived from nouns, verbs, adjectives etc. For example, "voting" (noun) derived from "voting" (verb) used as unmarked topical themes in reports 51 and 52 0f both male and female reports.



Conceptual Scale of Nominalization and Implication of Agency

The nominal term "terrorism" is derived from another noun 'terror'. The nominal term "terror" is all inclusive and is more likely to imply an agent human or non human for example: "The animal insights terror in me". "The tale of terror" etc (a concept not necessarily an act) and it may not be deliberate but "terrorism" is an act of violence which is deliberate; a process or an act by human agency. These two synonyms used in the male and female reports 1 and 2 imply different degrees of negativity.

4.6.3 Euphemism

Euphemism is another linguistic device used in differentiating female and male reports in this study. Euphemism is a mild or indirect word or expression, substituted for one considered to be too harsh or blunt when referring to something unpleasant or embarrassing. Euphemism therefore, is a polite expression used in places of words or phrases that otherwise may be considered as harsh or unpleasant. Consider the following examples in reports 65 and 66 of male and female respectively.

Report 65 Male: "Music Icon David Bowie died".

Report 66 Female: "The Music legend David Bowie passed away."

Therefore, in this context the basic word (verb) “died” which is also blunt used by the male correspondent is being substituted by the Euphemism “passed away” by the female counterpart. Perhaps this arises as a result of the polite concern for propriety by the female reporter.

4.6.4 Relexicalization

When new terms are introduced in a language, this process is called relexicalization. Relexicalization or rewording is defined as the introduction of new term to present new idea. Relexicalization is “The promotion of a new term where it is claimed that a new concept is at issue” (Fowler 1991, 85). In other words, relexicalization is the “Process of coding experience in new ways by inventing lexical terms” (Fowler et al 1979:3). In the following example in report 67 of the male report “Islamists” is an instance of relexicalization used to describe some group of people who are rebellious and working against the law. The name was coined from their religion “Islam” Also the word “Jihadists” coined from the Arabic word “Jihad” (Battle) has also taken a new ground in the male and female reports, functioning as a Theme in male report 95 and as part of the Rheme in female report 76.The two coined words “Islamists” and “Jihadists” are products of cognitive ideological conception associated with new thoughts and opinions.

4. 6.5 Over Lexicalization

Over lexicalization according to Fowler (1991:85) involves “ the existence of an excess of quasi-synonymous term for entities and ideas that are a particularly preoccupation or problem in the culture discourse”. In other words over wording or over lexicalization is the use of terms which are charged with meanings, mostly pejorative

and negative meanings such as "terror", attack" "rebuffed", "right violation", "insurgency" "condemn" etc. It can be ideologically significant in the conveyance of information , it also makes the male report blunt and forceful. As such there is persuasion through the use of emotive forceful words for example, the word "condemn" and "terror" arouse emotional response. The Rheme "should go and cast their votes" also connotes command. This finding is in conformity with Tannen (2004). According to her, men place a higher priority on power and their communication styles reflect their desire to maintain their status in communication. The use of emotive dictions and their presentation as new information in the reports of male also seeks to persuade the audience about the truthfulness of the assertions contained within these reports.

4.6.6 Collocations

Collocation is defined as the study of how words co-occur or collocate together. Collocation may sometimes affect the meaning of individual words, that is, new meaning can be introduced through the combination of the words. For example, Male report (67) associates the words "Gun men" with "Islamists" (which may lead to ideological misconception), "anti" in reports 53 and 54 of male and female collocates with "graft" and "corruption" respectively. "Armed forces" also collocate with the words "gallantry" and "heroes" in reports 41 and 42 hence creating meanings.

4.6.7 Misconceptions and Wrong Choices of Words

Misconception in this context denotes mistaken belief or wrong idea or even wrong perception of words; contextual misconception was detected in the choice of the word "democratic" from the following male report (39):

“Obama declines to back Democratic candidate before the primaries”.

The appropriate word was used in the female report (40)

“US president Barrack Obama declines to back any Democrat candidate before the primaries”.

“Democrat” in these reports is a name of a party hence, “democrat candidate” denotes a candidate of Democrat party but “Democratic candidate” within the Nigerian context entails any democratic Party candidate who may not necessarily be from the Democrat party, he may be from the Republican Party.

There is also the wrong choice of word “re-run” from the male reports 51 and 61:

(51) “Voting ends in Bayelsa re-run”.

(61) “Bayelsa re-run records impressive turn out of voters”.

The word “re-run” means bye-election and is a process of conducting a whole new election in places where election has not taken place at all, or it has taken place but been nullified due to some reasons. This is not the case in Bayelsa because the election was conducted in some areas, but it was not conducted in some parts due to the challenges or conflicts encountered during the general elections. Therefore, “supplementary” (that is additional) as rightly used by the female reporter in report 52 and 62 respectively is the appropriate word:

52 – “Voting ends in Bayelsa Governorship supplementary election”.

62 – “The election monitors say there is a low turnout of voters in Bayelsa supplementary election”.

The implication here is that female reporters are more careful in the choice of words as they are with the choices of their dresses.See reports 9&10 and reports 65&66 of the male and female reports respectively. Carelessness in the form of omission of the name of the president "Buhari" in the male report was detected. There is also the omission of a definite article "the" in the male report 65. From these evidence this research disputes what Azizi(2013) termed as "constant misconception" in saying that women speak better language than men.

To sum up, the identification of Theme and Rheme has established that the linguistic Stylistic of gender variations in the male and female reportages are consistent and straightforward because female reportage mostly adopt marked topical Themes and longer Rhemes such that their reports are longer, more detailed, more polite and simpler, while male reporters mostly employ unmarked topical Themes with Rhematic overlexicalizations, relexicalizations and collocations such that their reports are more specific ,forceful and persuasive.

4.6.8 Stylistic Variations of the Reporters Terminator Moves

The prepositions "in" and "from" are frequently used by the reporters especially of the NTA and channels TV at the end of their reports to indicate their locations. "In" is predominantly used by the Female reporters while the preposition "From" is predominantly used by the Male reporters as shown in the corpus in table 4.10.1:

	TERMINATOR MOVES
Female	In Abuja, Hauwa Gimba reporting In Lagos, Franca Uzouma In Asaba, Efeoma Okafor

	In Abuja, Rabi Abdallah In Uyo, Amaka Ukapo In Abia, Efeanyi Nsuka In Abakaliki, Blessing Anyawu etc
Male	From the house of assembly, Abdullahi Garba Birnin Kudu reporting From Sokoto, Nura Tanko Wakili reporting From Kano, Idris Jibril reporting From the army headquarters, Mohammed Abdulqadir reporting. From the state house, Aliyu Kabir etc

Although there are instances where the male reporters use the preposition "in" the research excludes it because the aim is to find out the divergences that exist in the linguistic reports of the dyad (Male and Female) and not the convergence. Although both the prepositions "In" and " From" show locations, "In" is more specific because it is used to indicate an enclosed space, while "From" is used to indicate among many other things, the starting position of a location or place. According to Leech(2004) the preposition "from" encodes a notion of source in addition to a simple locative. Content analysis also unravels the fact that this distinction in the prepositional usage is only found within the reports of the Nigerian Television reporters especially N.T.A. The female and male reporters in BBC end or terminate their reports by just announcing their names and that of the TV Channel for example:

Lyse Doucet, BBC News

Bridget Kendall, BBC news

Jim Muir, BBC news

Jerry Hill, BBC News

Orla Guerin, BBC news

Katya Adla, BBC News

Mark Loren, BBC news etc

A few number of Channels TV reporters especially the male reporters also terminate their reports without the use of the prepositions "in" or "from". For example:

Seun Okinbaloye, Channels Television

Kelven Okeke, Channels Television

Lanre Lasisi, Channels Television

When the researcher interviewed one of the reporters from NTA, Hauwa Gimba, about the use of the terminator moves, the prepositions "in" and "from" the reporter had this to say:

> The choice of the prepositions "in" is the organisational style. We were asked to end our reports by indicating the specific locations we are. And even the male correspondents are always advised by the editorials to use the preposition "in" rather than "from" because "in" is more specific than "from".

Other reasons behind the choices of the terminator prepositions are tentative, many propositions were given based on the interview conducted with the audience. Among which are rationalization, sense of belonging etc. This may open yet another fertile ground for future researches.

4.7 Analysis of Topics and Subject Matters Covered by Male Reporters (Group II Reports)

	Gender	**Corpus examples**
Harder	Male	
Politics	77 78	The North East caucus nominates senate president. DSS urges Nigerian to be vigilant during polls.

World Affairs	79 80 81	Charleston church ready to reopen. Belgium unblocks Russian account. Market steps up pressure over Greece.
Conflicts	82 83 84 85	Ashkhabad launches Mogadishu attack. Germany arrests Aljazeera reporter. Thirteen people killed and over thirty injured in Maiduguri bomb blast. Police battle the miscreant in Benin city.
Sports	87	The Super Eagles beat their Chadian counterpart 2 – 0 in AFCON 2017 Qualifier etc

4 .8 Content Analysis of Beats and Subject Matters Covered by Female Reporters (Group II Reports)

Topics(softer)	**Gender Female**	**Corpus examples**
Health	88	Tackling polio, experts urged increased effort to end the disease.
Human Interest Judiciary	89 90	Court dismisses fraud charges against Atuche and others. The tribunal chairman said it is an unimpeachable ruling.
Educational Home/Environment	91	Reports show that there are many unacademic students in the Nigerian universities.

	92 93	Abia state Governor Okezie Ikpeazu cuts his own salary by 50%. Breaking of fast, the wife of the president hosts governors' wives.
Business	94	The inter-banks are expected to normalize this week.
International Affairs	95	North Korea fourth nuclear test has angered both USA and China.
Politics	96	The House of assembly adjourns meeting to 21st of July. Etc.

A distinction between the Theme of male and female reportage in terms of subject matters covered suggests that the female correspondents report on safer aspects in a more controlled environment. Whereas, men are more likely to report on intense and dynamic active stories. In other words, the research suggests that men are more likely to report on "harder" topics (eg politics, world affairs and conflicts) and women on softer topics (for examples Health, education and Human interest etc). The corpus features ten females' reports on Health, Human interest, Judiciary, Education, Business, world affairs and politics and ten male reports on politics, World affairs, Conflict and Sports.

These findings support researches such as, Boyle and McLeod (2012) and Wen, McCarthy and Strain (2013). However, the research challenges their views that women are not likely to report on issues like International Affairs, Politics and Conflicts. Our investigations reveal that female reporters indeed report on Politics and International Affairs as all the three Channels: BBC, NTA and Channels TV have female correspondents covering international affairs. Karren Chambers is a Channel TV female

international reporter and Adeyemi Omojola Fatoba is also an NTA international female reporter. On the issue of conflict reports such as war and insurgency, Female reporters, to some extent, ventured into such fields especially on the international television like BBC where we have female international war reporters like Lyse Doucet . She has covered all major wars in the Middle East since the mid-1990s. Another outstanding conflict or war female reporter from the BBC is Orla Gueren whom recent (August 2015) and dangerous report is from Misrata where rebel fighters were running dangerously low of ammunitions. However, to the researchers best knowledge and based on the corpus recorded from the two Nigerian televisions; NTA and Channels, there are no female reporters who cover insurgency or Boko Haram terror attacks especially in Maiduguri. Although based on the interview conducted by the researcher with one of the NTA female correspondents, it was established that the NTA has a female reporter Lydia Samson who was assigned to the insurgency beat in Maiduguri before she was later changed to another beat. The reporter further said that it is the duty of the editorials to assign any correspondent to any beat they feel appropriate.

According to Wolf (2011:57) "the patterns of topic selection in the news reportage require a decoding of gender constructions and disclosing of androcentrism in news reporting practice and its selection criteria". In her opinion the news media are still contributing to gender inequality.

However, based on the survey of this research which is in the form of interview, some of the reasons why women are restricted from covering certain reports in the African setting are because of the risk involve, the dicey nature of the coverage and the ideological

perspectives which are culturally inclined. And this may open up a new productive research.

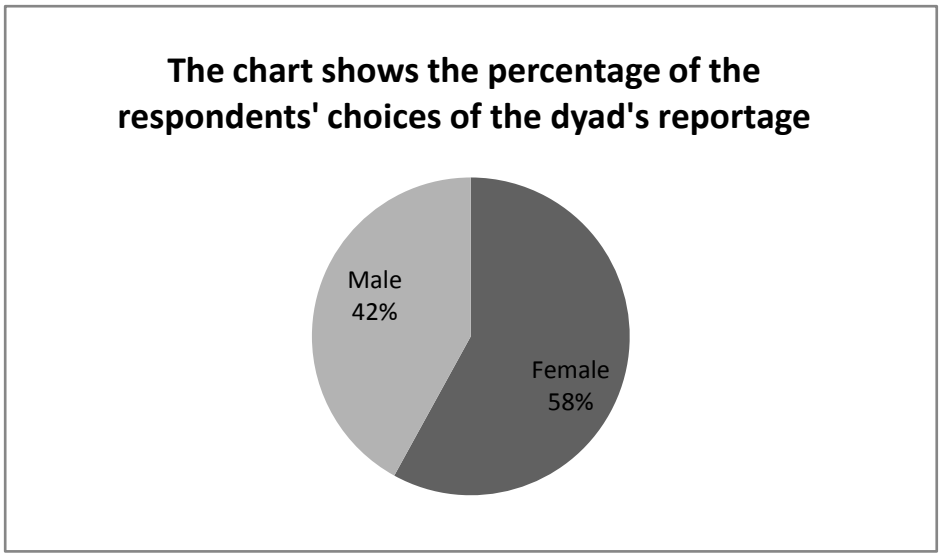
4.9 Implications of the Variations on the Target Audience

The research finds out the implications of the variations through a survey in the form of personal interviews. The researcher reads the reports of both female and male to the respondents without mentioning or indicating the gender of the reporters and asked the respondents or interviewees to choose the report he/she prefers and give reasons for the choice. The major advantage of this interview is that it allows for feed back in an interpersonal communication set up and reports can be read and be repeated. The interviewee group comprises the secondary school students, university students and the elites. This is because they are likely to constitute the major parts of the news audience. They were interviewed and their attitudes and opinions form the crux of this section of the research.

The result of the interview reveals that out of the 24 people interviewed, 14 persons (8 female, 6 males) prefer female reports while 10 persons (4 females, six males) prefer male reports. In essence 58% went for female reports while 42% went for male. So many reasons were given hence so many appellations were used to describe both male and female reports.

FIGURE

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Those who prefer male reports give justification that male reports are more direct, specific, active, forceful, less time consuming and persuasive. This category of respondents is mainly elite or scholars. According to them, any report should be as informative and less time consuming as possible thus, avoid unnecessary prolixity and reports are suppose to contain in them forceful words that catch attentions and invoke emotions or reactions.

Those who prefer female reports, mainly the secondary school students, the average literate, undergraduate students and a Professor, justify their choice by saying that female reports are more detailed, simpler, more polite, stylish and more comprehensive. According to them the essence of communication is comprehending and understanding the message .Therefore, the reporters should use simple language such that the listener does not need to go to the dictionary every time he is listening to the news. Whatever the case may be, both of the reporters have their distinct systematic linguistic Stylistic of imparting information. These findings corroborate Tannen's (1990) in which she postulates that men tend to use a "report style" aiming to communicate factual

information, whereas women more often use a "rapport style". The following reports form the basis of the above propositions postulated by the respondents:

Male: Oshiomhole says Federal government rebuffed warning on financial crisis.

Female: Oshiomhole says Federal government did not listen to advice on financial crisis.

The verb "rebuffed" and the noun "warning" are more forceful and are more likely to invoke emotional reaction than the verb "did not listen", used by the female reporter.

Male: Eligible voters should go and cast their votes (command and therefore, blunt)

Female: Eligible voters are expected to go and cast their votes (more polite)

Male: President Buhari pays tribute to the Octogenarian Vanguard publisher Chief Sam Amuka Pemu.(complicated and technical)

Female: President Buhari pays tribute to the Vanguard publisher Chief Sam Amuka Pemu who turns to eighty years old.(simpler and descriptive)

The technical term "Octogenarian" which means 80 is not a simple term that everyone can understand but the female reporter uses the words eighty years old which is simpler, therefore, simplifying the report. According to Osinuga and Ogbonna (2015:23) :

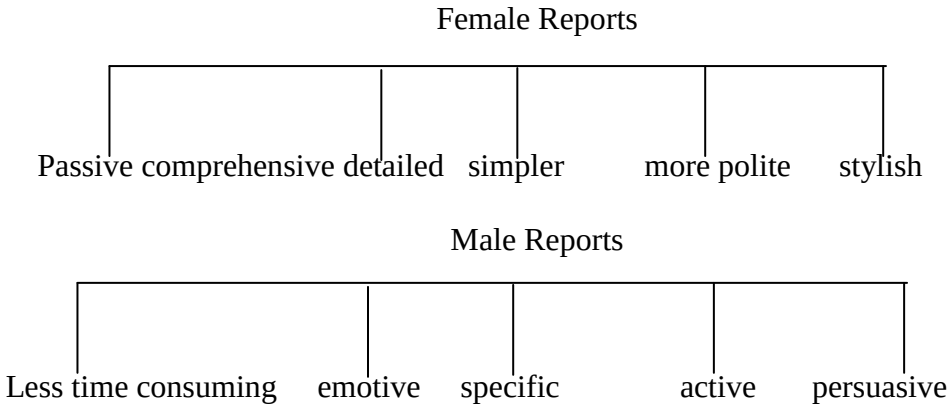
> A major characteristic of news reporting is simplicity. News is concise and clear to make the story understandable to readers. The news is meant for the mass audience with the intention that the audience will understand the report. To achieve this, the language should be concise; every word should be meant to count. Subjects should be complete and specific, opinions attributed to the source and direct quotes should rise above ordinary comments and vague information. The use of high sounding words and wordy sentences clumsily structured would defeat the purpose or intent of the news story. The reporter water down the story where it is too technical by using ordinary words the average literate person on the street can understand.

Male: Obama's speech concludes his visit to Kenya

Female: Obama concludes his visit to Kenya by giving a speech at Kasarami Stadium.

In the above reports, the female report unlike the male is more detailed as it went further to explain the venue of Obama's speech. This shows that women are more descriptive in their reports and are in love with details. These and many more examples from the corpus form the bases of the respondents' distinct attitudes, opinions and positions about male and female reports.

4. 9.1 Diagrammatic representation of the evaluation of female and male reports



4.10 Discussion of Findings

After presenting, interpreting and analysing the corpus, the research presents below the discussion of the findings for the purpose of answering the research questions and assessing the extent to which the research aim and objectives have been achieved. All the corpus on variations among the reports of female and male indicate the existence of systematic linguistic Stylistic gender variations in the reportage of the correspondents of BBC, NTA and Channels TV. These variations are manifested in the Theme/Rheme employment of the reporters.

The analysis shows that the female reporters usually employ the marked topical Themes in the (passive voices) to reflect identification of places and events. These Themes were given additional forces by their fronting, this process of thematization through passivization is sometimes ideologically motivated. Conversely, the male reporters place emphases on the subjects and adopt active voices which are realized through unmarked topical Themes in which concentrations are given to the actual subjects performing the process.

The study also finds out that synonyms function as linguistic cohesive devices in differentiating female and male reports. Through the process of relexicalization, the study also discovers that the two Arabic coined words “Islamists” and “Jihadists” from the male reports have taken new ground and hence encoded new experiences. New meanings are also introduced through the collocation of the words “Islamists” and “gun men” in the male report 67.

In addition, the study reveals contextual misconceptions and wrong choice of words in reports 40, 51 and 61 of male correspondents respectively. Furthermore, the study establishes that female reporters are more careful in the choice of lexical items in conveying their reports.

The investigation also reveals that the female reporters employ longer Rhemes which consist of modification of nominalization and simplification of words. This makes their reports longer, more detailed, more polite and simpler. On the other hand, there is Rhematic over lexicalization of the male reports through the use of powerful, forceful and

emotive words and command; this makes their report more specific, forceful and persuasive. In essence, the result establishes that male and female reporters adopt distinct stances in the conveyance of information through different sentence patterns and distinct lexical choices.

The study also unravels the way the two distinct reporters male and female especially, NTA and channels reporters (to some extent) end or terminate their reports by using the prepositions 'in' and 'from'. The corpus shows that the preposition 'in' is predominantly used by the female reporters while the preposition 'from' is frequently used by the male reporters. On the other side both the female and male reporters from BBC do not employ any preposition when ending their reports as shown in the corpus. The reason behind the usage of the two prepositions in the terminator moves of both of the reporters is based on "organisational style" as posits by one of the reporters , some of the reasons given by the audience are still tentative and as such there is a need to carry out a further research.

The research also establishes that female correspondents report on safer aspects in a more controlled environment and they are more likely to report on "softer topics"; Health, Education, State, Environment, Human Interest etc. And that males report on "hard topics" that is, intense, dynamic and active stories for example, world affairs, politics and conflict. These findings support researches such as Boyle and Macleod, (2012) and Wen McCarthy and Strain, (2013) but challenge some of their positions with regard to the topic selections and beats covered by the female reporters. According to them the female reporters do not cover conflict topics like war, Politics and International Affairs.

However, the result of this research establishes the fact that female reporters cover International Affairs, politics and to some extent conflicts because there are female

reporters like Karren chambers and Adeyemi Omojola Fatoba covering International Affairs beats for Channels TV and NTA respectively, and war female correspondents like Lyse Doucet and Ola Gueren covering conflicts beats for the BBC news.

Based on the survey carried out in the form of interview, the study finds out that 58% of the respondents prefer female reports. According to this category, the female reports are simpler, more polite, stylish, more detailed and more comprehensive. 42% of the respondents also prefer male reportages. Supporters of this group justify their choices by saying that male reportages are more specific, less time consuming, blunt, technical, forceful and persuasive. The application of Halliday's (2004) approach to the selected data also offers the following advantages:

The identification of Theme and Rheme in the selected data is consistent and straight forward because sentence elements are always defined according to their positions. The marked/unmarked Thematic structures presented by Halliday help identify the structural difference in female and male reports of the selected channels.

Halliday's approach offers a generalization and unified method of analysis by which Theme – Rheme structured of male and female reports can be analysed and compared objectively. However, Halliday's analytical model is not all encompassing for that reason; the researcher adopts Fowlers (1991) processes of lexicalizations to further assess the lexical variations of the dyad's reports.

By and large, all the findings of the research establish that there exists significant systematic linguistic gender variations in the news reportage of BBC, NTA and Channels TV in terms of Themes selection, sentence patterns, vocabulary expressions and the subject matter covered by the male and female reporters.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

5.1 Preamble.

This chapter provides the summary of the research, conclusion and suggestions for further studies.

5.2 Summary of the Study

Taken as a whole, this study builds on a tradition of assessing gender differences of news reportage but fills a gap in the literature by focusing on the textual analysis of information structure particularly, the Themes and Rhemes in the clause structures of the reporters. Specifically, the study examines ninety six news reportages from three television stations of BBC, NTA and Channels TV using recording exercise to address the research questions and realize the aim and objectives of the thesis. The study adopts Halliday's (2004) approach of the overall analysis of clause as a message using Theme and Rheme as conceptual and analytical frame work. Considerable researches in Style and Stylistics and seminal works in Gendered language in news reportage among others have been reviewed. These reviews in the related literature helps in providing the intellectual context that enables the researcher to position the research findings in relation to other works therefore, putting the work into a broader perspective. Although Halliday's (2004) approach offers a unified and objective method of the Theme and Rheme analysis which anchored on the syntactic gender variations of the dyad, the study needs to further employ Fowler (1991) methods of lexicalizations to find out the lexical variations in the dyad's reports. Therefore, the study merged Halliday's (2004) model of analysis and Fowler's

(1991) lexicalizations processes and came out with an eclectic approach to the analysis of the dyad's linguistic stylistic gender variations.

In summary, all the findings of the research established the existence of systematic linguistic stylistic gender variations in the news reportage of the correspondents of BBC, NTA and Channels TV; in terms of Themes selections, sentence patterns, vocabulary expressions and the subject matter covered by male and female reporters. These systematic differences have considerable implications on the target audience as established in the research.

5. 3 Conclusion

In our everyday life, the language we encounter can influence our perceptions and attitudes with regards to the variations on focus, order and emphasis of words and therefore, becomes a potentially powerful site for the dominance of the mind. With this linguistic Stylistic study of gender variations of the news reportage, the study finds out that, there are significant systematic linguistic differences in the way male and female impart their information in such a way that they manipulate the listeners to interpret information in certain ways. The two reporters across gender do not just convey information but they infused their ideologies through the choices of powerful emotive words (for example, "insurgency", "terror", "miscreant", "attack", "blast"," killed", "justify", "depend" etc.).

The choices of Themes the reporters make while presenting their reports can help to covertly promote meaning related to their gender. The analysis from the study shows that Halliday (2004) textual analysis of Theme is a potent tool for uncovering the stratagems

that both male and female reporters employ to impart their view points. An emphasis on the Themes (marked, unmarked, topical) and the verbal process of Rheme types alone can uncover among other things how audience are positioned to interpret the meanings of the information conveyed in the reports. From the corpus, the study establishes that the Theme system can create a texture in the fabric of the reportages. They guide our point of view as we perceive and interpret the gender differences in the flow of information in the reports. The Theme systems used in the reports help us to follow the thread of the discourse and in so doing, provide cohesion within the reports. However, Halliday's analytical model is not all encompassing for that reason; the researcher adopts Fowlers (1991) processes of lexicalizations to further assess the lexical variations of the dyad's reports.

The study of lexical features and meaning relations (stylistic variations) of the dyad's reports proved to be a significant factor in exploring the differences in male and female news reports. The processes of Thematization, passivization and the concept of ideology analysed in the data signify the syntactic characteristic of the dyad's reports while the processes of synonymy, nominalization, overlexicalization, relexicalization, collocation, misconceptions and wrong choice of words establish the lexical variations of the male and female reports in the selected television channels. The conceptual framework of Themes and Rheme analysis of the dyad proves in practice to be a meaningful resource of identifying the different ideological and linguistic gender variations and representations of the male and female reportages.

Of the distinctions between the Theme and topic selection of the male and female reports, there is a tremendous progress on the topics or subject matters covered by women when

we compare the trends of the previous researches topic selection table where women are assigned to limited beats in terms of coverages or reports. Women now engage in international, politics and conflicts news reporting to some extent so much so that there is need to conduct a rigorous statistical analysis of the beats and topic selections of female reportages across the globe.

The analysis of the thematic structure in the linguistic Stylistic of both male and female in news reporting and the choices made to assign the role of Theme/Rhemes to a sentence element, unravel different trends on news reportage of male and female reporters. Based on the recurrent preferences in the thematic structures of the selected dyad's corpus, the study concludes that these distinctions typify the male and female reportage in the three television stations of BBC, NTA and Channels TV. On the implication of such variations, the proposition made by an interviewee sums it up:

> Female reportage is more fragile, tender, simple, more detailed, more comprehensive and non confrontational even in the worst of situation and quite accommodating to viewers with more emotional out fore in whatever they are reporting. Conversely male are more direct, realistic, persuasive, idealistic and preemptive in their mode of reporting.

This study basically highlights how gendered linguistics and topical differences (unconsciously) permeate reportage and in so doing it constitutes a current contribution to the contemporary media linguistics. The study's findings and insights will be of particular interest to journalists, editors and current affairs communicators because they facilitate reliable predictions regarding male and female communication, understanding and perception. In the end, these systematic linguistic Stylistic distinctions that characterize male and female reportages in the television outfit can become the memes by which information can be interpreted and perpetuated. But even with the broad agreement

that differences exist in the reports of male and female within the television media, the study of gender language remains fraught with intense debate. The systematic identification and assessment of these differences through textual analysis is unlikely to end the debate but it may at least provide enough useful information for new and productive discussion to develop.

5.4 Suggestion for Further Studies

Although the study provides compelling and extensive evidence for the validity of the data focusing on the Themes and Rhemes analysis of the dyad and establishes an eclectic approach; further researches need to consider other levels of linguistic analysis and other theories to find out the linguistic gender variations of the dyad in the contexts of news reportage. Additionally, there is a need to examine the linguistic features across gender when different topics occur. Furthermore, there is a fertile ground for investigating the reasons behind the reporters' prepositional terminators moves especially, the NTA male and female correspondents.

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APPENDIX I: REPORTS TRANSCRIPTION: GROUP ONE

MALE: The army honours troop fighting terror in Yobe.

FEMALE: In Yobe the army honours troop fighting terrorism.

MALE: Nigerians in America mark the June twelve anniversary with sober reflections.
FEMALE: Remembering June 12 in the united state, the Nigerians mark the day with sober reflections.
MALE: Fifty cars were commissioned to the police by the interior minister Abba Moro.
FEMALE: The Minister of interior, Abba Moro has commissioned fifty cars to the police.
MALE: The visually impaired in Lagos asked for favour.

FEMALE: In Lagos the visually impaired asked for assistance.

MALE: Nigerians in Washington laud president on speech.

FEMALE: In Washington Nigerians laud president Buhari on speech.

MALE: President Buhari returns to the country

FEMALE: The President is back into the country.

MALE: President Buhari pays tribute to the Octogenarian Vanguard publisher Chief Sam Amuka Pemu.
FEMALE: President Buhari pays tribute to the Vanguard publisher Chief Sam Amuka Pemu who turns to 80 years old.
MALE: Barrack Obama condemns blight of racism in US.

FEMALE: President Buhari is to study the alleged right violation by the Nigerian military.
MALE: John Kerry defends nuclear

FEMALE: John Kerry justifies Iran deal.

MALE: Obama pays historical visit to Kenya

FEMALE: The US president is on a historic trip to Kenya

MALE: Obama's Speech concludes his visit to Kenya.

FEMALE: The US president Concludes his vist to Kenya by giving a speech at Kasarami stadium.
MALE: Obama is the first sitting US president to visit Kenya.

FEMALE: Obama makes history by being the first sitting president to visit Kenya, east Africa.
MALE: Eligible voters should go and cast their votes.

FEMALE: Eligible voters are expected to go and cast their votes.

MALE: Oshiomhole says federal government rebuffed warning on financial crisis.

FEMALE: Oshiomhole says federal government did not listen to advice on financial crisis.
MALE: Ten were killed at Mexico centre.

FEMALE: Ten people killed at Mexico centre.

MALE: In his speech the vice president says all are equal in the eye of law.

FEMALE: The vice president says the rule of law should apply to all Nigerians.

MALE: President Goodluck Jonathan bunkered the meeting

FEMALE: The meeting was held by president Goodluck Jonathan.

MALE: Mexico is to extradite drug lord Elchapo Guzman to US.

FEMALE: Mexican authorities begin process of extraditing the recaptured drug lord Jaoquin Guzman to US.
MALE: Obama declines to back democratic candidate before the primaries.

FEMALE: US president barrack Obama declines to back any democrat candidate before the primaries.
MALE: President Buhari commends the gallantry armed forces capacity to unite and defend Nigeria at the 2016 armed remembrance service.
FEMALE: For the armed forces remembrance day President Buhari applauds heroes keeping Nigeria united.
MALE: Angela Markel proposes tougher migrant law.

FEMALE: German Chancellor Angela Markel Considers tougher migrant law.

MALE: Australia bush fire Rages in and kills two.

FEMALE: Several Missing in Australia bush fire.

MALE: Bayelsa rerun was adjudged peacefully.

FEMALE: The supplementary election was conducted peacefully in Bayelsa.

MALE: Challenges were encountered in deploying election materials in riverine areas in Bayelsa re-run.
FEMALE: INEC commissioner Dr. Mustapha Lekky Acknowledges challenges encountered in deploying election materials in riverine areas in Bayelsa
MALE: Voting ends in Bayelsa re-run polls.

FEMALE: Voting ends in Bayelsa governorship supplementary election.

MALE: APC Vows to wage anti-graft war to logical conclusion.

FEMALE: Buhari administration Vows to wage anti-corruption war to its logical conclusion.
MALE: The Nigerian defence headquarters Denies newspaper report of hunger strike by re-engaged soldiers.
FEMALE: The Nigerian defence headquarters Denies newspaper publication that 3000 re-engaged soldiers has embarked on hunger strike.
MALE: Egypt holds parliament in three years.

FEMALE: For the first time in three years Egypt parliament resumes.

MALE: Three tourists were wounded in Egypt hotel attack.

FEMALE: Gunmen attack Egypt tourist hotel, one tourist killed in the attack.

MALE: Bayelsa re-run polls record impressive turn out of voters

FEMALE: The election monitors say there is a low turnout of voters

MALE: Collation of results commences in the presence of party agents

FEMALE: Collation of results commences under the watchful eyes of the party agents.
MALE: Music icon David Bowie died.

FEMALE: The music legend David Bowie passed away.

MALE: 23 people were killed in Burkina Faso attacks by Islamists gunmen late Friday.

FEMALE: Burkina Faso hotel Siege over amid reports of new attack.

MALE: Taiwan elects first female president.

FEMALE: First female president Leader voted in Taiwan.

MALE: Iran frees four American prisoners.

FEMALE: Four American prisoners Freed in Iran.

MALE: France holds final ceremony for Hebdo victims in France.

FEMALE: Final ceremony held for Hebdo victims in France.

MALE: Jihadists seek the return of Sharia Law in Mali.

APPENDIX 2: MALE REPORTS TRANSCRIPTIONS GROUP 11

The North East caucus nominates senate president.

DSS urges Nigerian to be vigilant during polls.

Charleston church ready to reopen.

Belgium unblocks Russian account.

Market steps up pressure over Greece.

Ashkhabad launches Mogadishu attack.

Germany arrests Aljazeera reporter.

Thirteen people killed and over thirty injured in Maiduguri bomb blast.

Police battle the miscreant in Benin city.

APPENDIX 3: FEMALE REPORTS TRANSCRIPTIONS GROUP 11

Tackling polio, experts urged increased effort to end the disease.

Court dismisses fraud charges against Atuche and others.

The tribunal chairman said it is an unimpeachable ruling.

Reports show that there are many unacademic students in the Nigerian universities.

Abia state Governor Okezie Ikpeazu cuts his own salary by 50%.

Breaking of fast, the wife of the president hosts governors' wives.

The inter-banks are expected to normalize this week.

North Korea fourth nuclear test has angered both USA and China.

The House of assembly adjourns meeting to 21st of July. Etc.