USE AND ABUSE OF MODIFICATION

IN

TELL AND TIME NEWS MAGAZINES

OYEDOKUN-ALLI, WASIU ADEMOLA

A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE POST GRADUATE SCHOOL, AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY, ZARIA, NIGERIA.
IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS (M.A) IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
FACULTY OF ARTS,
AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY,
ZARIA.

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis has been written by me and that it is a record of my own research work. It has not been presented in any previous application for a higher degree. All quotations are indicated and the sources of information are specifically acknowledged by means of references.

Oyedokun-Alli, Wasiu Ademola.

Date: 11 - 12 - 98

CERTIFICATION

This thesis entitled "Use and Abuse of Modification In **Tell** and **The News** Magazines" by Oyedokun-Alli, Wasiu Ademola meets the regulations governing the award of the degree of Master of Arts (M.A.) in English Language of Ahmadu Bello University, and is approved for its contribution to knowledge and literary presentation.

DR. A. A. JOSHUA 11/12/98.
CHAIRMAN, SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE.

DR (MRS) T. O. GANI-IKILAMA
MEMBER, SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE.

Head Dept of English
A. B. U. Zaria,
Nigeria.
HEAD, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH.

09/03/02
DEAN, POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Hardly can I overstress the degree of the concerted efforts of my supervisor, Dr. Adebayo Abiodun Joshua who, among the press of daily responsibilities, so generously gave of his time to supervise this thesis. I strongly commend his effort for the eagle-eyed job, the forthright and uncompromising criticisms, easy accessibility, and the valuable suggestions, all of which have contributed immensely to the successful writing of the thesis.

I am particularly indebted to the management of The Federal Polytechnic, Kaura Namoda for granting me a one-year sponsorship for the programme, and to the Head, Department of English, Ahmadu Bello University, Dr. Tanimu Abubakar for his encouragement and support. I am also thankful to Professors J. S. Aliu (Head, Language Division, Institute of Education, A,B,U, Zaria) and Mohammed Aliu (Director, Institute of Education, A.B.U. Zaria) for their encouragement.

Many thanks are also due to other academic staff of the English department, ABU, Dr. (Mrs) Gani-Ikhilama, Mr. Surakat, Mr. Gbenga Ibileye, Mrs. Omojuwa (Mass Communication department), and all others who have in one way or the other assisted me in the course of my study at the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

I should like to thank Mr. Ade-Joshua Dada of the United States of America, and formerly Head, Department of Liberal Studies and Director, School of General Studies, The Federal Polytechnic, Kaura Namoda, who was instrumental in igniting my

interest in the course.

Mention should also be made of Mr. Alex Kure - Head, English Unit, The Federal Polytechnic, Kaura Namoda and my other colleagues in the unit for their moral support and encouragement.

My stay at the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria would have been less eventful if not for the comradeship and goodwill of the following colleagues: Mrs. Angela Ajala (for her constant support and encouragement), 'Biodun, Kola, Foye, Austin, Reeve, Mike, Josephine, Jane, Aliu and all others too numerous to mention due to space constraint.

The production of this thesis owes much to the concerted efforts and goodwill of the following people: Kunle, Oladunjoye N.A., Mallam Kabir Katsina, Kola Leshaodo, Mrs. Zainab Lawal, Olaleye, Hassan I. Tudu, Mallam Raji and Waddatau Moh'd. And, to them, I express my deep and profound gratitude.

My fiancee, Miss Ramatullahi Omosalewa Otun, deserves special encomiums "for what we share", and for her encouragement and support.

Finally, I express my profound and sincere gratitude to the Almighty Allah who, in His infinite mercies, has made it possible for me to finish the course, and has sustained me for the struggles ahead. All glory be to Him.

ABSTRACT

Today, the world over, no single agent disseminates information and controls language, as does the media. We rely much on the media for information and knowledge. Language is the sole medium through which both these can be achieved. In effect, therefore, the importance of language in the media cannot be too strongly emphasised.

However, much as we seek to be informed (and, often, act on such information) we realise that through the same medium-language - we receive wrong information. The reception of such wrong information is not inherent in the code itself, but in the manner in which it is coded.

The use of modification is **one** aspect of language that preponderates every single statement in the media - to describe, to limit, to intensify, to colour, and, above all, to achieve precision and conciseness in information dissemination. If, however, these modifiers are misused, much damage would be done to information - which is the cornerstone of the media.

This study, therefore, examines the use and abuse of modification in selected features in **Tell** and **The News** magazines with a view to inferring the possible effects such use and abuse have on communication. In Chapter one, we seek to determine:

i. Whether the structure of modification in English has fixed or regular patterns.

ii. the patterns and why they should be strictly adhered to or conformed with, and

iii. the possible effects of irregular pattern in the chosen magazines, and on communication.

In chapter two we examine the relevant approaches to the study of modification. From our analyses of the grammatical models, and in view of the complex structure of modification, it became intuitively evident that it is not possible for only one grammatical model to adequately account for all the issues raised on modification. Therefore, and as a result of this, we adopt an eclectic approach as the scaffold upon which the theoretical thrust for the study is anchored. A general approach, such as the eclectic, covers the wide spectrum of the scope of modification.

Our analysis covers such areas as syntax, Semantics, lexicon, morphology, and phonology. And, for sake of analytical expediency, these have been grouped into three:

i. Syntactico-semantics,

ii. Lexico-semantic, and

iii. Morpho-phonological.

Chapter three provides methodology for the study, using Quirk and Greenbaum's (1973) "Performance and Judgement Tests", which involve the frequency and percentage formulae for analysis. Within the scope of methodological preliminaries in chapter three, chapter four carries out the analysis of the selected four features - two each from **Tell** and **The News** magazines. The statistical analysis comes under the different linguistic analysis - syntactical, semantical, morphological, lexical, and phonological.

The study concludes that errors resulting from the use of modifiers at the different linguistic levels bring about nuances in meaning and distortions in communication, and posits that writers, especially in the media, should adhere strictly to the ordered patterns of the structure of modification, to make room for effective communication. Finally, the researcher makes strong case for further research on multiple modification, articles, squinting modifiers, dangling modifiers, attachments, misplaced structures, ambiguities, and more focus on the use of language in the media.

DEDICATION

To the memory of Late 'Bayo Ogunjimi, B. A. (Hons) Eng., (UNN); M.A. (ABU); Ph.D (ILR) - Associate Professor of English, University of Ilorin, who supervised my B.A. thesis, and who passed to the great beyond on 13th November, 1995.

May his soul rest in perfect peace.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title Page:---------- i

Declaration:---------- ii

Certification:---------- iii

Acknowledgement:---------- iv - v

Abstract:---------- vi - viii

Dedication:---------- ix

Table of Contents:---------- x - xi

List of Tables:---------- xii

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction:---------- 1

1.1 English as a Language of the Media in Nigeria:---------- 3

1.2 Features of Language of Newspaper Reporting in Nigeria:---------- 6

1.2.1 Language use in context:---------- 6

1.2.2 The Various Journalistic Styles:---------- 8

1.3 Statement of Research Problem:---------- 10

1.4 Scope and Delimitation of the Study:------- 12

1.5 Significance of the Study:---------- 13

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.0 Introduction:---------- 16

2.1 Litrature Review:---------- 16

2.1.1 Different Approaches to the Study of Modification:---------- 16 - 27

2.1.2 Types of Modification:---------- 27 - 29

2.1.3 Structure of Modification:---------- 29 - 33

2.1.4 Levels of Modification:---------- 33 - 36

2.2 Nature of Language of Newspaper Reporting:- 36 - 38

2.2.1 Graphetic and Graphonological Analysis:---- 38 - 40

2.3 Theoretical Framework:---------- 40 - 41

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Preamble:---------- 42

3.1 The Corpus Materials:---------- 42

3.2 Sampling Procedure:---------- 43

3.3 Testing Procedure:---------- 43 - 45

3.4 Analytical Procedure:---------- 45 - 46

CHAPTER FOUR

ANALYSIS, FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.0 Introduction:---------- 47

4.1 Syntactico - Semantic Analysis:---------- 48 - 52

4.2 Lexico - Semantic Analysis:---------- 53 - 58

4.3 Morpho - Phonological Analysis:---------- 58 - 63

4.4 Overall Results:---------- 63 - 73

4.5 Discussions:---------- 73 - 92

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary:---------- 93 - 95

5.2 Conclusion:---------- 95 - 96

5.3 Recommendations:---------- 96 - 97

BIBLIOGRAPHY:---------- 98 - 103

APPENDIX I:---------- 104

APPENDIX II:---------- 105 - 108

APPENDIX III:---------- 109 - 110

APPENDIX IV:---------- 111 - 113

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
I (a) Syntactico - Semantic Analysis of "Return of the Babylon":	49
I (b) Syntactico - Semantic Analysis of "Hajj Palava:-	50
I (c) Syntactico - Semantic Analysis of "Royal Roulette":	51
I (d) Syntactico - Semantic Analysis of "Abacha's Revenge":	52
II (a) Lexico - Semantic Analysis of "Return of the Babylon":	54
II (b) Lexico - Semantic Analysis of "Hajj Palava":---	55
II (c) Lexico - Semantic Analysis of "Royal Roulette:-	56
II (d) Lexico - Semantic Analysis of "Abacha's Revenge":	57
III (a) Morpho - Phonological Analysis of "Return of the Babylon":	59
III (b) Morpho - Phonological Analysis of "Hajj Palava":	60
III (c) Morpho - Phonological Analysis of "Royal Roulette":	61
III (d) Morpho - Phonological Analysis of "Abacha's Revenge":	62
IV Overall Syntactico - Semantic Analysis of all the Four Features:	64
V Overall Lexico - Semantic Analysis of all the Four Features:	65
VI Overall Morpho - Phonological Analysis of all the Four Features:	66
VII (a) Elicitation of Incorrect usages (Syntactico - Semantic):	67-69
VII (b) Elicitation of Incorrect usages (Lexico - Semantic):	70-71
VII (c) Elicitation of Incorrect usages (Morpho - Phonological):	72-73

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 I N T R O D U C T I O N

Language, undoubtedly, is the chief means by which humans communicate with one another. Bloomfield and Newmark (1963:3) give an indepth definition of language: It is "fundamentally the means by which men communicate with each other and with themselves, and by which they express themselves". It, therefore, becomes crystal clear that language is an effective tool in socialisation and social intercourse. However, for effective use of language, there is the need for one to recognise the organised patterns in which human languages are arranged. The reason being that many human languages do not use words in isolation. Such words are strung together to form larger structures - phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, and discourse.

The English Language has several of these structures. Among them are Structure of Predication, Structure of Complementation, Structure of Co-ordination, and structure of modification, Christophersen and Sandved (1963). The focus of this study is on the structure of MODIFICATION.

Language, being one of the most complex of all human phenomena, is by nature dynamic and ever open-ended. Thus, speakers of a language are able to make use of an infinite set of sentences. In other words, whatever the basic sentence patterns recognised linguistically, it is always possible to expand the structure. This is because "in our actual speaking

and writing we seldom use sentences so spare and bony. Instead, we flesh out our sentences with many kinds of modifiers", Stageberg (1981:246).

Based on this, an endocentric structure is capable of describing, limiting, intensifying or adding to the meaning of the Head. For instance, the headword "dog" can be modified by any of these structures:

i. dirty dog

ii. a dirty dog

iii. a rather dirty dog

iv. a dirty dog across the street

v. a dirty dog which was howling across the street

vi. an extremely dirty, black, fat dog ...

vii. Etc.

Arguably, the most important element for reference is the headword "dog". However, and this fact notwithstanding, the linguistic relevance of the endocentric structures cannot be too strongly emphasised. By this is meant that effective communication will be difficult or rather practically impossible if there are two or more "dogs" at the vicinity. In the words of Mandelbaum (1963:15), language as a vehicle of social intercourse or a force of socialisation is ever productive.

The function of the structure of modification is, therefore, central to reference and meaning. It is against this background that this work attempts to study the aspects of use and abuse of modification in English, using some selected Lead Stories and Features in **Tell** and **The News** magazines, as a case study. The researcher's choice or selection of the two magazines is borne out of the following reasons:

i. The circulation network of the two magazines,

ii. The editorial nuances of the publications which have a tilt towards political orientation,

iii. (Stems from (i) and (ii) above) both have the capabilities of influencing the use of English in the country or serving as role models or reference points in lingustic analyses.

1.1 ENGLISH AS A LANGUAGE OF THE MEDIA IN NIGERIA

Several scholarly works have been (and are still being) produced on the English language situation in Nigeria. For example, Bamgbose (1971), contends that of all the heritage left behind in Nigeria by the British at the end of the colonial administration, none is more important than the English language. He highlights the preponderance of the language in government and administration, business and commerce, education, the mass media, literature, and much internal as well as external communication. His words:

> For purpose of government and administration, English is the official l anguage, though this

> is not stated in the constitution. Government records, administrative instructions and minutes, legislation, court records, and proceedings (except in the customary courts) are all in English. In business and commerce, too, the situation is the same: business records, contracts, and most advertisement are written in English... In the mass media, English is again in a predominant position. All the national newspapers are published in English. On the radio, most of the non-musical programmes such as the news, announcements, reports and feature talks are in English. Television is almost entirely in English, especially since most of the films shown are imported from either Britain or the USA. Like television, the cinema is also dominated by English language films...Bamgbose (1971 :35).

It is worth mentioning that a quarter of a century after Bamgbose (1971) stated these facts, little has changed. In fact, and as will be shown presently, the proliferation of state-owned and private-owned media has not altered the situation. For example, **The Sketch** newspaper jointly owned by the governments of Ogun, Ondo, Osun and Oyo states is published in English despite the fact that Yoruba language is the major language of the citizens in all the states. Also, in Kano **Triumph** Newspaper is published in English. The English language is the language of publication for almost all Nigerian Newspapers.

Added to these, almost all the private-owned newspapers are published in English. The list includes, among others: **The Nigerian Tribune**, **Concord**, **The Reporter**, **Champion Newspaper**, **Third Eye Daily**, **This Day**, **Vanguard**, **The Guardian**, **Sunray**, **The Post Express**, **Frontline Newspaper**, **TNT (Today's News Today)**, **The Monitor**, etc. The same trend goes for magazines. Since the

debut of **Newswatch,** others like **Tell**, **The News**, **Sentinel**, **African Concord**, **African Guardian** (now distressed), **Hotline** (also distressed) are all published in English.

With the foregoing, one finds that the small chunk of publications in local languages like "Iwe Irohin," "Gboungboun," "Isokan," "Gaskiya Ta Fi Kwabo" and "Ogene", and broadcasts in local languages in some local and national media houses cannot compete favourably with the overwhelming pre-eminence of the use of the English language in the media in Nigeria.

Therefore, and as a result of this, the centrality of the English language to news and information dissemination in Nigeria cannot be too strongly emphasised. This is against the backdrop of the relevance of information to mass mobilization, political orientation and educational awareness. Even in science and Technology, as Musa (1987:35) submits, "there could be inventions without any manifest use of language (but) the transmission and development of ideas that give birth to such might well-nigh be impossible without language. ... Technology is borne out of ideas and ideas in turn needs language as a medium of expression." All these are a pointer to the fact that the use of language (or a language) has far-reaching effect on communication, and this, in turn, has much to do with the complex polity that is characteristic of the Nigerian nation.

1.2 FEATURES OF LANGUAGE OF NEWSPAPER REPORTING IN NIGERIA

1.2.1 LANGUAGE USE IN CONTEXT

Writing is a kind of contract between the writer and the reader. As a result of this, it is important for the writer to be mindful of the audience in passing the message. He does this by being mindful and conscious of the use by which he puts language. The scope of the subject-matter should, as a matter of fact, tilt towards the expectations of the readers. The first thing a writer should have in mind is what Sapir (1970) describes as "the fundamental groundwork of language". By this he means "the development of a clear-cut phonetic system, the specific association of speech elements with concepts, and the delicate provisions for the formal expression of all manner of relations - all this meets us rigidly perfected and systematised in every language known to us,"Sapir (1970:22).

The contention of Sapir (1970) is that users of a language should strive to maintain consistency with the already "perfected" and "systematised" code. However, and for the purpose of this study, it is necessary to examine the issues not just in abstraction as stated above but with some degree of specificity. And, since the medium of communication in the media in Nigeria is the English language, our focus shall be on the use of English as a language of reporting in Nigeria.

Corder and Ruszkiewicz (1985) differ in their submission of what constitutes appropriate use of language in writing. Contrary to the opinion of Sapir (1970), they argue that:

> ... using a language well depends on more than an awareness of our abilities to speak and understand varieties. It is also more than writing "complete" sentences, using correct verb forms, making verbs with their antecedents. Beyond these forms and conventions, using a language well is a matter of choosing from the broad range of our language the words and constructions that will best convey our ideas to an unspecified or a particular audience, that will best enable us to present ourselves honestly to others... Corder and Ruszkiewicz (1985:1-2).

The ability to make the right choice, they maintain, depends on the writer's knowledge and recognition of the different versions of English and how these are used in"contemporary writing and speaking". If we hold that the newspaper is a "vanguard of literacy". then the news media "cannot afford to discount the value of grammar," Hohenberg(1973:87).

Most of the newspapers and magazines produced and circulated in Nigeria are fraught with a lot of solecisms, careless writing and non-standard varieties of the English language.

Most of the newspapers and magazines, owing, perhaps, to the ideological undertone of the publishers, are "guilty" of what Corder and Ruszkiewicz (1985) would term "inappropriate use of language". This borders on using unnecessarily ambiguous or uninterpretable words which deny the readers access to information necessary for a full understanding, and trying to "coerce" the readers, with "empty noise" into unnecessary

sentiments. This, therefore, would be the focus of the researcher.

1.2.2 THE VARIOUS JOURNALISTIC STYLES

This study examines the various journalistic styles from an eclectic point of view, since the contents of a newspaper and/or a magazine cannot be linguistically homogenous. Gidado (1986), identifies four different journalistic styles. We shall highlight these with a view to assessing the suitability of the use of language.

i. **The stiff/formal style** Here the diction structure is used for "the sake of clarity". The structure is used in such a way that the "conception of subject and predicate readily comes to the mind of the reader." Her example:

//Building Engineering/is offered/in Nigeria/at the Ahmadu Bello university//.

ii. **The playful intellectual Style** This represents conversational structure between friends. It does not adhere to the rules of good English, and it "embraces" slang expressions and the "imprecision" of word choice resultant from "spontaneous flow of talk." She gives the following as examples:-

"to sit 'kulee'"

"I painstakingly `snaked my way'"

"September visitor"

"failure phobia"

"povertophobia"

"bukamania"

"nairamania"

"common-man"

"oba-no-dey go transfer."

iii. **The Responsible/informal style** While this does not discard with "considerations of clarity", it allows some risk in giving verbal support for "spacious and elevated conceptions of serious and extensive subjects". Under the style, words, phrases, and sentence structures that "carry rhetorical meaning" are used to persuade the readers through suggestion, of ideas and provision of alternatives. Consider her examples.

"... Mr. Ikomi should not have been dismissed."

"Two occurrences in recent weeks make me shudder that unwittingly we are beginning to put the cart before the horse in matters of justices."

"punishment is supposed to come when a man has been tried under the due process of law and found guilty."

iv. **The Sensational style** Here, there is the use of "pompous", sensational words and phrases to make reports, articles, satires, etc, sound emotional and interesting. The readers' fancy is tickled. The

writer, using this style, intentionally dislocates the actual, logical sequence of events so as to raise anxiety, suspense and false hopes. Headlines in most newspapers fall into this category. More often than not, and in actual fact, the body of the report does not "reflect the headlines" even if the body is also "sensational and interesting". Yet another feature of this style is the presence of a high degree of repetition of information by representing the same facts in different colours.

However, Gidado (1986) argues that this is done "without justifiable reasons". The motive behind this is to coerce the readership into the same conceptual framework as the writer's. It is within this theoretical frame that this study examines the use of language vis-a-vis the style in the material for analysis.

1.3 STATEMENT OF RESEARCH PROBLEM

As already stated, language is the cornerstone of information and communication. The use and abuse of language have far-reaching effects on how information is passed from one person to the other. As Mittelberg (1967) suggests, the use of language in the media, as an appeal to emotions, and superficial formulations, suspends the reader's thinking. Chambers (1972), citing the authority of Mittleberg (1960) in his highlight of the "Content Analysis of Two Newspapers to Determine the Existence

of Class Specificity", writes:

> The use of a restricted code by these papersresults in unqualified descriptions of political reality which more often than not are conservatively slanted. Because of the style utilized, the reader's language does not inhibit comprehension, **but he may be manipulated through the effective application of the very stereotypes which he uses in everyday language..**
> **James Chambers(1972:140)** (Emphasis mine).

The argument that the media has strong influence on the readers through the use and abuse of language is further strengthened by the French Philosopher and Sociologist, Lefebvre (1961:226), when he claims that the media "proliferate communication and threaten coherence and reflection, vocabulary and language itself,".

As a result of this, therefore, this study answers such critical questions as:

i. Does the structure of modification in English have fixed or regular pattern(s)?

ii. If yes, what are the patterns and why should they be strictly conformed to?

iii. If no, what possible effect(s) does the irregular pattern have on language?

iv. How do i., ii., and iii. affect meaning or communication in the chosen magazines?

1.4 SCOPE AND DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The scope of this study would be an analysis of use and misuse of structure of modification in Tell and The news magazines.

The scope is limited because in a study of this type only a small sample of the main corpus of the materials can be studied for analysis.

Another limitation is that the choice of the magazines for review and the selection of the sample texts were done at the researcher's discretion. This does not imply that there are no better materials for analysis.

But, we wish to posit that the results of the analysis of our sample data are generalisable within a wider linguistic framework.

This, notwithstanding, and in spite of the argument of Freeborn (1986) that the formal study of language - linguistics - can be applied to written and spoken English in order to describe styles and varieties of language use precisely and accurately, the researcher still maintains that these limitations to the study suggest that other researchers, especially those interested in the structure of language and in the study of meaning, should research further in these areas.

1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY

As a student of language, one should be concerned with cases of solecism as they affect communication. This is against the backdrop of the fact that communication has a multiplier - effect on other facets of the nation's polity. The deliberate ruse in EMS telegram, which triggered off the First World War (1914 - 1918), provides one with an historical antecedent. In the said telegram, the use of language sparked off cataclysmic reactions that resulted in the outbreak of the war. The present study, however, focuses on the use of modification in English and how this affects communication.

Writers in the media, for instance, should be careful not to misplace a modifier so that the meaning of a statement becomes ambiguous or even "ludicrous". Compare:

i. We had **almost** seen every painting in the louvre. (ambiguous).
("almost" seems to modify "seen")

ii. We had seen **almost** every painting in the louvre (clear).

Also, the positional placement, especially in formal usage, of limiting adverbs like "only", "merely", "hardly", "just", is capable of causing misunderstanding of the author's meaning, if such adverbs are not placed immediately before the elements they modify. Compare:

iii. `Salewa has **only** Economics on Monday (emphasis on "economics")

iv. **Only** Salewa has Economics on Monday (emphasis on Salewa).

v. Salewa has Economics **only** on Monday (emphasis on the day).

Further to this, the use of language, within the purview of psychology, has a strong influence on the mind. Consider what psychological effect(s) these two sentences might produce:

vi. The American missile shot down the British plane.

vii. The American missile **accidentally** shot down the British plane.

The use of the adverbial (modifier), "accidentally" in the latter is likely to produce a calmer reaction than the former.

The ultimate aim of this inquiry is to examine the different levels of use and abuse of modification, focusing on the media, with a view to obtaining objective results which are likely to contribute to our general understanding of the use of the English language. Inferring from the foregoing, we would like to hypothesise that the use and abuse of language, whether intentionally or accidentally, are capable of producing serious reactions (responses) from the people.

Findings from this study would provide publishers in the media, students and teachers of language, and, of course, the general users of the English language with valuable information

that would enable them assess the extent to which communication has been affected, via the use of modification.

Finally, findings here would also serve as another reference point in the growing research on the structure of modification. For, if the essence of language is to communicate, then, a situation where abuse of certain aspects of language distorts communication specifically calls for investigation. Hence, the need for the study.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter is concerned with a review of some related works on modification and the nature of language of newspaper reporting. For the purpose of this study attempt was made to investigate the various elements that constitute the structure of modification, including the principles of collocation and collocational restrictions. The main foci of our review would be on the following:

i. Different approaches to the study of modification,

ii. Types and structure of modification,

iii. Levels of modification, and

iv. Nature of language of newspaper reporting.

2.1 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1.1 DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF MODIFICATION

Several scholarly works have appeared on modification. In this section we would highlight some of these with a view to providing a thorough and analytical framework for our study.

To begin with, Fries (1951:76-239) contends that it is counter-productive to attempt a study of modification based on the "conventional" definition, such as Braun's (1947) that "a modifier is a word or group of words that adds to the meaning of another word". He further strengthens his argument on the premise that "modifiers" cannot be defined in terms of meaning

content but on the basis of structures. As such, he opines that modifiers must be described in terms of the formal units of which they are composed and the characteristic arrangements of these units.

His contention against meaning-induced criterion for the study of modification is hinged on his analysis of these sets of sentences:

1. Friction made the skin **red**.

2. Friction **reddened** the skin.

Obviously based on his assumption (which, actually, is hardly contestable) that the two constructions have the same meaning, he poses some rhetorical questions: "Just why is 'red' in (1) called a 'modifier' and 'reddened' in (2) excluded from that class?". His conclusion:

> We cannot hope to define "modifiers" in terms of meaning content. We must begin with the understanding that `modification' is a structure, and that, like all structures, it must be described in terms of the formal units of which it is composed and the characteristic arrangement of these units (Fries,1951:204).

Thus, rather than adopt the conventional term, "parts of speech', he gives preference to assigning numbers to the four major parts of speech: noun, verb, adjective, and adverb; the function words are grouped (a-v).

And in the analysis of Christophersen and Sandved (1969:234-240), they maintain that a structure of modification contains a head and a modifier. For example, according to them, in "Fresh

air helps", "fresh" is the modifier of the headword "air". Although they assert that there are other types of modifier - head structures other than ones with a nominal head, much of their analysis centres on the types of modifier with a nominal head. All these would be examined later in this study. The following examples from Christophersen and Sandved (1969), would serve to illustrate their modifier + head construction:

3. old + car
4. very + good
5. much + better
6. Can/will(etc) + remember.

In addition, Cook (1969:106-9), in his Tagmemic Theory Analysis Approach, describes the modification structure as a subordinate endocentric structure in which "there is one head slot and a series of (optional) modifier slots". He goes further to sub-classify Head-Modifier constructions according to the form-class of the word filling the head slot in the construction.

Therefore, we have the Noun phrase with a noun as the head and adjectival, (determiners, quantifiers, possessives, and descriptive adjectives which may modify the noun); the Verb phrase with a verb as the head and the modifiers which may include adverbials, verbal auxiliaries, or modals, and negatives; the adjectival phrase has an adjective as the head and the modifiers to include intensifiers and the

markers for comparison when such markers are free forms; the adverbial phrase has an adverb as the head, the modifiers include intensifiers that modify adverbs and the markers for comparison when such markers are free forms.

Cook (1969) also highlights the notion of concord marking as the agreement between head and modifiers in modifiers-head phrase. In Tagmemics, according to him, concord is marked with a tie bar connecting fillers of the slots, and marked with a "c" for grammatical concord. This specification is with regards to features such as gender, number, and case. For instance, the relative agrees as far as possible in gender, number, and person with its antecedent, but its case depends on the part it plays (as subject, object, etc) in the clause. Consider the following examples:

7. The list of all ND I students which **was** pasted on the bill board **has** been removed.
8. These books, which **are** from my supervisor's library **have** helped me in writing this thesis.

Yet another reference point in our study is Matthew's (1981:146-159) propositions on modification structure, its relationship with the structure of complementation, and issues of optional and obligatory constituents. This is due to the divergent (and often contentious) views held by many linguists on the subject - matter. Examining the general

level of relationship among the constituents in a sentence structure, he reviews the notion of "endocentricity" which was introduced by Leonard Bloomfield in the 30's. In the accounts of Hockett (1958) and Robins (1964), a construction is endocentric "if at least one of its elements can be substituted for the whole", (Matthews, 1981:147). However, it is the contention of Matthews (1981) that there are a good number of cases where the endocentric structure is obligatory. Thus, we see different semantic realisations in each pair of the sentences below:

7. a. She is a **typical** case
   b. She is a case
8. a. That is a **separate** matter
   b. That is a matter.
9. a. Her hat was a **bizarrely constructed** affair
   b. ?* Her hat was an affair.
   [?* = Unacceptable construction]
10. a. - a finely wrought argument
    b - *? a wrought argument.

The unmodified noun, according to Matthews (1981) in the above examples, would always have a different sense, or might indeed be regarded as a different lexeme. For instance, (7a) is a normal sentence construction in English, but (7b) is not, except in a special sense like:

"she really is a case!" Also (7b) would be unacceptable

unless if a different lexeme entirely is meant, as in:

"What is the matter?

"A theory of matter" in chemistry.

Similar analysis goes for:

"A badly made suit"

*? a made suit".

One other thing that attracts the attention of Matthews (1981) is the "notoriety" of concord, especially in the structure of modification. He carries the argument further than Cook (1969) by asserting that agreement (in the structure of modification) is a "notoriously viable matter". To strengthen his argument, he cites certain examples which are completely at variance with the rules of agreement between Head and Head-modifier on the one hand and this and the structure of predication on the other. For instance, he maintains that even though "wine" is the headword in the pair of sentences below, the notion of concord is realised differently. Compare:

11. a. Wine of three sorts **was** served. and

b. Three sorts of wine **were** served.

Further to the above, Stageberg (1981:246-287) asserts that the use of modifiers preponderates over our sentences because in our everyday's speech and writing we seldom use sentences "so spare and bony". He proceeds to define a modifier as a subordinate element in an endocentric structure: "a word or word group that affects the meaning of a headword in that it describes, limits,

intensifies, and/or adds to the meaning of the head (Stageberg, 1981:246-7). Thus, in the noun phrase "the blue shirt", it limits by excluding all other colours; and it adds to the plain meaning of shirt.

The theoretical thrust of Stageberg (1981) is that one should not study modification in isolation since, according to him, modifiers belong to the function-classes. His argument:

> A modifier belongs not with the form-classes o r the position classes but with the function - classes, such as the subject of verb, direct object, indirect object, object complement, and object of preposition. Words... have a threefold classification - by form, by position, and by function (Stageberg, 1981:248-9).

His analysis of the following sentence corroborates his view point:

12. "The **jolly** minstrel sang a ballad lustily".

    According to him, "jolly" is an adjective by form, an adjectival by position, and a modifier by function. His classification of the types of modifiers would serve as a reference point to us later in this chapter.

Finally, we would consider the issue of obligatory and optional constituents in modification structure, as enunciated by Brown and Miller (1991:80-98). According to them, a modifier is "a constituent that restricts the possible range of reference of some other constituent-the `head'". For instance, in their example:

13. "The woman wept **in the bathroom**".

The `head' is the nuclear sentence:

"The woman wept," and the adverbial constituent "in the bathroom" modifies the head by specifying the particular place in which the action took place. In the example given they posit that since the head is a nuclear sentence, the modifying adverbial is a "sentence adverbial" or "sentence modifier". They use the term "scope" to refer to the constituents which the modifier modifies. Thus, the scope of the modifier "in the bathroom" in the example is the nuclear sentence, "The woman wept".

To test for optionality of the modifier, they paraphrase 13: thus:

13b. "The woman wept. This happened in the bathroom".

But, they assert that such paraphrasing cannot be carried out for:

14. "The dog bit the man **in the bathroom".**

15. "John stood on the table **in the bathroom".**

14b. "*? The dog bit. This happened to the man".

15b. "*? John stood. This happened on the table".

For obligatory modifier constituents, Brown and Miller (1991) give the following example:

16. "She put the lamb **in the window".**

Where the constituent "in the window" is obligatory. We possibly cannot stop at "she put the lamb" because the verb "put" is a ditransitive verb and must have two objects to complete its sense.

Up to this point we have dealt with the review of related works on modification as highlighted by the several authors whose works have been reviewed. We would now demonstrate our thorough understanding of the concept by making critical assessment on propositions of the different authors, as a basis for further evaluation of the materials.

To begin with, Fries' (1951) favoured position, that the criterion of form, rather than meaning content, should be vigorously applied in analysis of modification, is not lost on us. For a number of reasons we wish to hold that such opinion is rather too extreme. Much as we agree that it is improper to attempt to state the characteristics of a grammatical unit only in terms of meaning content, we hasten to add that in consonance with recent linguistic studies (such as Brown and Miller, 1991), it is also absurd to apply only the criterion of form.

This argument is corroborated with impressively sustained clarity and thoroughness by Katz and Postal, (1964). They propose an integrated conception to the nature of a linguistic description of a natural language. According to them, a linguistic description of a natural language consists of three components: Syntactic, semantic, and phonological. They further argue that the syntactic component is fundamental in the sense that the other two components both operate on its output. The inference form their argument is the interwoveness of the tripartite theory of linguistic description. That is to say, that each of the three components is a "functionally interdependent part of the conceptual machinery of

a single, integrated theory", Katz and Postal, (1964:2). In as much as we accept the proposition that a syntactically well ordered sentence must have a semantic value to it, we cannot, therefore, ignore the fact that form and meaning play complementary roles in linguistic description.

And, in the analysis of modification by Christophersen and Sandved (1969), we found that the test frame theory presents a somewhat simplistic view of the structure of modification. Our task, therefore, is to examine the structure within a much more detailed and thorough framework.

Further to the above, we note that the list of modifiers in Head-modifier constructions in the work of Cook (1969), is far from being exhaustive, not in the least thorough. It is instructive to note that his list omits certain, important elements, especially for the noun phrase. Consider the verbal forms, -ed2 (Past participle form), -ing, as noun modifiers:

17. no **living** man

18. the **concerned** parties

These modifiers can be post posed:

17a. no man **living**

18b. the parties **concerned.**

Matthews (1981) presents yet another contentious argument in his analysis of "notoriety" of concord in the structure of modification. He notes that there are different realisations of the notion of concord in 11(a) and (b). However, and this fact

notwithstanding, we hasten to add that not all syntacticians would agree with Matthew's (1981) point of view. The logic of the argument is simply that different syntactic constructions attract different semantic interpretations, and that constructional nuances may not necessarily give rise to fundamental differences in meaning scope.

Also, we find that there are potential pitfalls in the argument of Stageberg (1981), in his definition and classification of modifiers. If we hold constant his submission that modifiers belong to the function classes of words, then we would run into a `mine' if we also maintain that modifier "describes, limits, intensifies,and/or adds to the meaning of the head". The danger lies in his insistence that we should not categorise modifiers among form-classes or position-classes. For, in line with Fries (1951), critical (even though extreme) premise, there is virtually no difference between:

19. "The **good** boy" and

20. "The boy is **good**".

The position of "good" in (19) qualifies it as a modifier, whereas in (20) it is a complement based on function! This is despite the fact that "good" in the two constructions describe the "boy". The same argument goes for Brown and Miller (1991). Just how appropriately does one restrict "the possible range of reference?"

All these criticisms, we hope, would help guide us in our attempt at a thorough and detailed investigation of the corpus data

in chapter four.

2.1.2 TYPES OF MODIFICATION

There is, indeed, a plethora of formal classifications of modification, such that a separate study could be devoted to them. For the purpose of this study, however, the classifications made by Christophersen and Sandved (1969), Quirk and Greenbaum (1973), and Stageberg (1981), would provide us the basis for our analysis. These are itemised below:

i. **SENTENCE MODIFIERS** These are adverbials that tell something extra about the action, happening, or state described by the rest of the sentence. Examples:

   a. "**Luckily,** the man is around".

   b. "**Since the man was not around,** we left the house".

ii. **THE NOUN PHRASE PRENOMINAL MODIFIERS** These are words that immediately precede the nominals. Examples:

   a. "That low garden fence".

   b. "**Especially all the first three rotund young African Sea** HORSES".

iii. **THE NOUN PHRASE (POST NOMINAL MODIFIERS)** These are words that come after the nominals. Examples:

   a. "The apartment, **spotlessly clean**".

   b. "The weather **this morning**".

iv. **THE VERB PHRASE (ONE-WORD ADVERBIALS)** One-word adverbials are placed immediately close to the verbs they modify. Examples:

   a. "Shouted **angrily**"

b. "May dance **instead**"

v. **THE VERB PHRASE (WORDS-GROUP ADVERBIALS)** These word-group adverbials can have a number of different structures. They can be:

1. **PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES** Example:

a. Bukky was playing **with great skill.**

2. **FINITE CLAUSES** Example:

b. Bukky was playing well, **although he was very tired**.

3. **NON-FINITE CLAUSES** Examples:

c. Bukky was playing **to win** (an infinitive)

d. **Being captain of the team** Bukky played to win (-ing participle).

e. **When urged by his friends,** she agreed to play again (an-ed participle).

4. **VERBLESS CLAUSES** Example:

f. Bukky was playing, **unaware of the danger.**

5. **NOUN PHRASES (LESS COMMON)** Example:

g. Bukky was playing last **week**

6. **NOUN PHRASES FOLLOWED BY (ago, long,etc)**

Example:

h. **Three years ago,** Bukky was playing football regularly.

vi. **APPOSITIVE MODIFICATION** Two or more noun phrases which occur next to each other and refer to the same person or thing are said to be in APPOSITION. Examples:

a. Nigerian Head of State, **General Sani Abacha,** died this morning.

b. A friend of mine, **Chief S.A. Dada,** will be visiting us this evening.

In the two examples, it is clear that "General Sani Abacha" is the same person referred to as "Nigerian Head of State in (a) while "Chief S.A. Dada" is still the same as "the friend" of the speaker.

vii. **PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE MODIFIERS** As the name suggests, these make direct reference to the place of the action. Examples:

a. He had wandered **right** (= completely) off the path.

b. Now their footsteps could be heard **directly** above my head.

2.1.3 STRUCTURES OF MODIFICATION

In this section we would examine the form of the various elements that constitute the structure of modification, as well as the nature of relationship (if any) that exists among the various elements.

NOMINAL GROUPS

This study would examine briefly the major sub-groups of nominals, as a basis for proper understanding of the Nominal Groups.

a. **SUMMATION PLURALS**: These never, or hardly ever occur with determiners or they may be used without a determiner, (Christophersen and Sandved (1969:69). The list includes:

"Scissors", "shears", "pliers", "pincers", "tongs,", tweezers", "trousers". "breeches", "pants". "knickers", "shorts", "pyjamas", "riches", "thanks", "clothes", etc. The characteristic thing about these summation plurals, according to Christophersen and Sandved (1969:107), is that the language possesses no corresponding construction denoting half of the object in question; for instance, they claim that one cannot talk of:

*? a scissor

or

*? a trouser.

Other categories include (b) countables and uncountables, (c) pronouns as nominals, (d) adjectives as nominals, (e) verbals as nominals, (f) the forms in "-self, and '-selves' as noninals.

ADJECTIVAL GROUPS

Adjectives may occur before or after a nominal:

i. a **good** and **noble** man

ii. a man **good** and **noble**.

The various elements that constitute adjectival groups are:

a. Nouns as Adjectival:

- the **April** weather.

b. Verbs as adjectival:

- the buildings **destroyed**, (ed2)
- the pupils **going** (-ing)

c. Clauses as adjectival:

- the man **who is playing the piano** is my friend.

Further to these, there seems to be general confusion as to the ordered rules of the attributive adjectival. Even though Christophersen and Sandved, (1969:140-142), submit that there are no hard-and-fast rules as regards other adjectivals, they expatiate on the general tendencies noted in the ordering of adjectivals. Adjectivals, according to them, tend to be ranged according to meaning in conformity with the following scheme:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Other adjectives minus (2-7)	Adj. denoting temprature	Adj. of shape and size	Adj. of age	Adj. of colour	Adj. of nationality or regional origin	Adj. of materials	Nominal

Source: Christophersen and Sandved, (1969:140-1).

ADVERBIAL GROUPS

Quirk and Greenbaum (1973), classify adverbials into:

i. **ADJUNCTS**: These are time and place adverbials.

Examples:

"They are waiting **outside**".

"I can **now** understand it".

ii. **DISJUNCTS**: These express some comment on the sentence

Examples:

"**Frankly**, I am tired".

"**Fortunately,** no one complained".

iii. **CONJUNCTS:** These express a link between one part of the sentence and the other. Example:

"If they open all the windows, **then** I am leaving".

VERBAL GROUPS

The Verbal groups, like the nominal groups, constitute an obligatory constituent in a sentence structure. Tomori (1977:60-61), has the following classification:

i. **INTRANSITIVE**

a. Aux.(Modal/primary) + V.Int (present)

b. Aux.(modal/primary) + V-ing (progressive)

c. 1. Aux.(primary/modal)+V-eds (perfectors)

2. Aux.(primary+Modal)+V-ed2 (perfective)

ii. **TRANSITIVE**

a. Auxiliaries in group (a) above can be used with the form "teach".

b. Those in group (b) above can be used with the form "teaching"

c. (With the addition of be + ing (v-ing progressive)) auxiliaries in group (c) above can be used with the form "taught".

PREPOSITIONAL GROUPS

These are by far the most frequent and commonest type of postmodification in English, Quirk and Greenbaum, (1973:387). Consider the following:

"The way **to school**

"A year **before the war**"

"This thesis **on modification**"

Etc.

They can also be preposed:

"the **above** statement".

"the **in** group".

2.1.4 **LEVELS OF MODIFICATION**:

Our discussion on the structure and type of modification in English would be lacking lustre without a review of the various levels of modification. In fact, since we posit that it is possible for the native speakers of a language to produce an infinite set of sentences, it is, therefore possible to have so many layers of modification in a single sentence structure, depending, as the case may be, on the ability of the speaker to manipulate this effectively. In essence, we are saying that a sentence, just like number, may be indefinitely complex. Let us

consider these examples:

a. m h

i. a vent

where `m' is the modifier, and 'h' the headword.

ii. m m h

a vent control

iii. m m m h

a vent control knob

iv. m m m m h

a vent control knob key

v. m m m m m m h

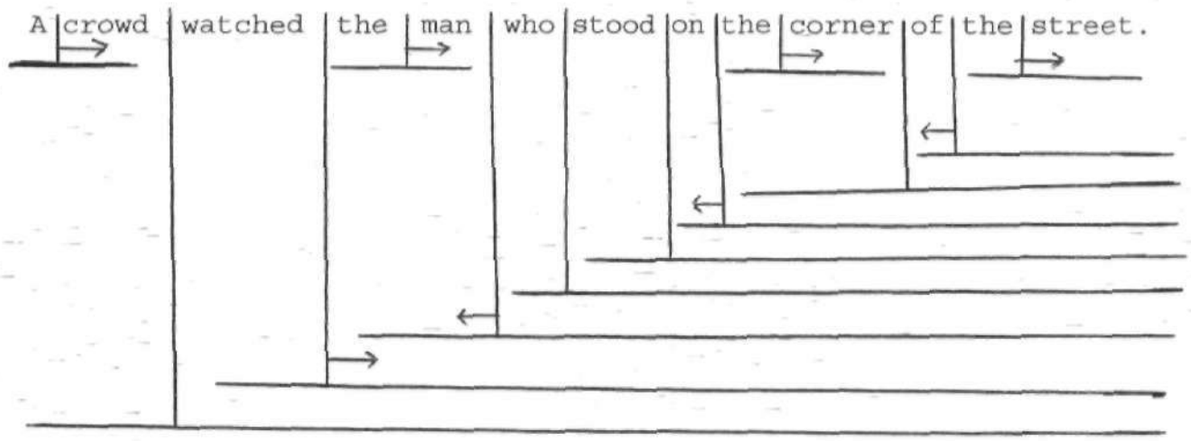
a vent control knob key lubricant can

b. Theoretically Possible "My father bought a house that is built along the road that is opposite the church which the missionaries built when there was war which broke in January during the year when my sister who is now a doctor was born ...".

We shall now carry out a review of one of the three levels of modification identified by Stageberg (1981:276-287). The other two (Co-ordination and multiple constituents) do not bear much relevance to the present study.

IMMEDIATE CONSTITUENTS

Under the Immediate Constituent Analysis (IC) a sentence is cut into two parts, or IC's, then each of these two would be cut again into two, until the individual words stand apart. Consider his example:



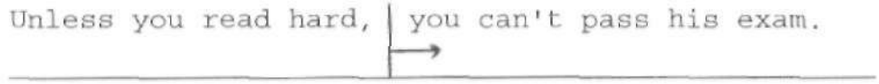
Source: Stageberg, (1981:278).

In the analysis above an arrow points from each modifier to its head, and, from the graphic representation of the total pattern of the levels of modification we could see the relationship between the modifier and the head modifiers. But, as a matter of fact, Stageberg (1981), asserts that "there is an element of arbitrariness" in the procedure. For sentences containing a sentence modifier, the first cut (IC cut) would separate the sentence modifier from the rest of the sentence. Example:

ii. In fact, | both the students and their teachers are tired.

iii. I was sleeping, | to tell the truth

iv. Unless you read hard, | you can't pass his exam.



For a sentence without a sentence modifier the first cut is made between the noun phrase functioning as the subject of the sentence and the verb phrase functioning as the object, (see (i) above).

From the analyses so far, we have come to realise that the structure of modification is a complex phenomenon, and that nuances of meaning **do** result from the complex structure of modification. We have also realised that the constructional patterns of the sentences are not arbitrary; rather they follow recognisable and fixed patterns. Thus, we have set a stage for the overall analysis of our corpus data following the methodological preliminaries in chapter three.

2.2 NATURE OF LANGUAGE OF NEWSPAPER REPORTING:

It is necessary at this stage to examine the nature of language of newspaper reporting in Nigeria. But, we should desist from a rather too presumptions and hazy conclusion that the language of newspaper reporting belongs to a tidy, categorisable class within a linguistic or stylistic analysis. In view of the heterogeneity and complexity of the scope of Features and Articles covered by newspapers and magazines, and especially considering the individual's use of language, there is the dire need to delimit our scope.

The thesis is that since a vigorous categorisation of varieties of language is a highly technical process, and virtually all these varieties find their ways into the newspapers, the language of newspaper reporting is, therefore, eclectic. In essence, the newspaper treats varied subjects like law, religion, science and technology, military, society, and so on, and there are specialised varieties of language for these. It is, therefore, on the basis of this, imprudent to issue a categorical, sweeping statement on the subject.

This is especially so since, according to Quirk (1995), "a person's use of language is as individual as his fingerprints". It is this concept of individuality, coupled with the ideology or philosophy of the individual media organisation, that makes basic generalisations on the language of the media too idiosyncratic.

We can obtain a clearer picture of this assertion if we come to terms with the general pressures facing the writer, the desk-editor, and the proof-reader, considering the urgency and time constraint; the need for compression of information into limited space; the need for clarity; the avoidance of ambiguity, and so on.

We are aware of the fact that reconciling the realities of nuances in language use (within the purview of stylistics) and ideals of correctness may seem impossible. This is not, however, to suggest that language is a territory where anything goes. Certain linguistic patterns are uncontroversially correct. The failure to conform to the structures of the language (or its variety) generates nonsense. If the essence of language is to

communicate effectively and clearly, our constructions need respond to the contexts in which they are used, since language is context-sensitive, not context-free.

Our major task here, therefore, is to provide an analytical tool with which to dissect and show the features that (in consonance with individual taste and sense of literary value) are observed primarily within the "repertoire" of English (in Newspaper reporting).

Crystal and Davy (1995:5), in their analysis of language of newspaper reporting observe that there are occasions when our writings fall short of social standards or acceptability. They cite cases of breaking conventional rules of writing letters, using slangs on a relatively formal occasion, making improper use of technical terms in a specialised context, or using language which "goes over the head" of an audience in making a speech or delivering a lecture. As a safety valve, therefore, we would limit our scope to the nature of language of newspaper reporting as found in the two magazines used for our analysis. But, our analysis would be based on the parameters set out by Davy and Crystal (1995:125-22).

2.1.1 GRAPHETIC AND GRAPHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

The headlines or the title of each feature is typed to produce "eye-catching" effects with the use of the "full range of graphetic contrasts". From our data, we find that the headlines (e.g. "Return of the Babylon", "Abacha's Revenge", "Hajj Palava", and "Royal Roulette") appear in big size types. For instance,

"Abacha's Revenge" appears in 2.3cm high, heavy bold letters, while "Return of the Babylon" is typed in 1.0 cm lower case bold letters. Even though both achieve the effect of "catching the readers' attention", the reason for the higher case type for the former centres on its being the edition's cover story, (cf. Appendices I - IV).

Apart from the headlines, what is generally observable among the features is the use of fairly-long-worded sub-heading, to sum up the import of each story. For instance, after the headline: "Abacha's Revenge" comes the sub-heading:

> Last week's verdicts show the junta believes it can always have its way. But the controversial sentences passed on Ogoni leaders have caused an uproar around the world. (Cf. Appendix XII).

This trend also goes for all but Appendix I. And, even, here, (that is, Appendix I) the major thrust of the story is encapsulated in the box, foregrounded so that the reader may have a taste of the writer's "opinion", as the title of the column rightly suggests.

Another observable point common to all the headlines is the use of very few words (which are subsequently amplified in the sub-heading). Consider:

Return of the Babylon

Abacha's Revenge

Hajj Palava

Royal Roulette.

We also note the use of alliteration:

"Royal Roulette" in the last headline.

We would, however, touch on general grammatical features common to all the four features. All the four features have long sentences and long paragraphs. The reason being, perhaps, to compress as much information as possible together, or to prevent distraction of the reader's mind. Punctuation marks are explicitly used and the general order of sentence elements: S P C runs throughout all the features, except a few cases of P S - (for example, "said Alhaji Adedibu") (Cf. Appendix III).

The use of adverbials (as noted by Crystal and Davy (1995:182) is extremely common in the features, in order to be explicit" as to the place and time of activities". Much light would be shed on these later in chapter four.

Further to this, parenthetic phrases, clauses or group are frequently used to avoid "the danger of losing the train of thought begun in the super ordinate structure", (Crystal and Davy, 1995:183).

As far as possible, the use of contrasted forms and colloquialisms is clearly avoided. But, the choice of vocabulary betrays the writer's (or even the publishers') ideological learning. Emotion-laden words (e.g. "Abacha's **Revenge,"** **"controversial** sentences") are used "to suit the temperaments of the reader", Crystal and Davy, (1975:189). All this would be our guiding framework in analysing the data in chapter four.

2.3 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

From our discussions so far on the review of literature on

modification, and, in view of the complex structure of modification, it seems intuitively evident that it is not possible for only one grammatical model to adequately account for all the issues raised concerning modification. Therefore, and as a result of this, attempt would be made, using the eclectic approach, to provide a theoretical framework for this study. The analysis would cover such areas as syntax, semantics, lexicon, morphology, and phonology. For the sake of analytical expediency, we would group theses into three:

i. Syntactico-semantic

ii. Lexicon-semantic, and

iii. Morpho-phonological.

That users of a particular language are capable of making indefinite sets of sentences, especially by modifying the various elements or components in the sentence structure provides justification for our adoption or choice of the eclectic approach. This, in our opinion, is predicated upon the fact that a general approach (such as the eclectic) covers the wide spectrum of the scope of modification.

However, and notwithstanding the claim above, our focus, even though eclectic, would be limited only to four grammatical models. These are:

a. Traditional Grammar,

b. Structural Grammar,

c. Transformational-Generative Grammar, and

d. Tagmemic Grammar.

KASHIM IBRAHIM LIBRARY

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 **PREAMBLE** This study on the use and abuse of modification in English was designed in accordance with the stated objective of collecting data from our sources: **Tell** and **The News** magazines. The choice of the two magazines was predicated up the researcher's assumptions that:

i. the two publications have a larger circulation network than any other publication in the country, and

ii. both parade a battery of seasoned writers whose works, apart from the perceptibly political undertone and orientation, have the capability of influencing use of language among their readership.

Therefore, this chapter presents the fieldwork method used for data collection: the corpus materials, the sampling procedure, and the testing procedure.

3.1 THE CORPUS MATERIALS

The corpus materials consist of four items,

two each from **Tell** and **The News** magazines From **Tell**

magazine we have the following:

i. "Return of Babylon", by Dare Babarinsa, (**Tell,** November, 13, 1995), P.6 (Appendix I).

ii. "Abacha's Revenge", by Ima Niboro.

(**Tell,** November, 13, 1995) pp 10-12 (Appendix II)

while from **The News** magazine, the following have been used.

iii. "Hajj Palava", by Wilson Uwujaren (**The News**, 6 May, 1996) pp. 17 - 18, (Appendix III).

iv. "Royal Roulette" by Seye Kehinde (**The News,** 6 May, 1996) pp 10-12 (Appendix IV).

3.2 SAMPLING PROCEDURE

From the avalanche of several Lead Stories and Feature articles in **Tell** and **The News** magazines, the corpus materials were chosen at random. This is in view of the fact that any of the texts in the two magazines could, as well, serve to provide the data for our analysis. However, notwithstanding the randomness of our choice of the data, the researcher ensured that thorough examinations of the several sources were carried out before the final choice of the corpus materials for our analysis.

3.3 TESTING PROCEDURE

Each of the four items that form the corpus materials was examined using three linguistic levels of analysis, namely: Syntactico-semantic, lexico-semantic, and morpho-phonological, under the Eclectic approach.

As indicated in chapter two, the framework of analysis adopted for this study is derived from the synthesis of the various grammatical models we reviewed. However, only areas of the grammatical models that have true relevance and meaningful application to our data would be considered. As a result of this, therefore, we have provided three frames for our analysis.

Frame I contains the syntactico-semantic analysis, and it has ten items for review. These are:

i. marked structures

ii. unmarked structures

iii. Restrictive and non-restrictive modifiers

iv. genitives and of-constructions

v. head vs wrong dependency

vi. attributive vs predicative constructions

vii. structure of co-ordination

viii. embedded and recursive processes

ix. attachment and dangling modifiers, and

x. misplaced structures.

Frame II contains the lexico-semantic analysis, and it also has ten items for review. They are:

i. function words and lexical words

ii. adjectivals

iii. determiners

iv. quantifiers and intensifiers

v. relatives and clause connectors

vi. adverbials

vii. comparatives and superlatives

viii. collocations and extension of meaning.

ix. redundant modifiers, and

x. ambiguities at the lexical level.

Frame III contains the morpho-phonological analysis of the following six items:

i. supra-segmentals as disambiguating elements

ii. wrong compounding

iii. wrong compound loan-words

iv. misuses of syntactically formed (but morphologically bound) structure in journalese.

v. genitives, and

vi. numerals.

3.4 ANALYTICAL PROCEDURE

For the actual analysis of instances of misuse of modification, the errors were categorised into different groups depending on whether they (such errors) were (i) lexically, (ii) syntactically, (iii) semantically, or (iv) morphologically deficient.

Even though there are a great deal of overlap of these linguistic levels of analysis, the categorisation has provided a much more thorough and indepth method of analysis. In this case, we found that the Quirk and Greenbaum's (1973) "Performance and Judgement Tests", using the frequency and percentage formulae, is

adequate to our analysis. Thus, the following frame was used:

No	ITEM	FREQUENCY OF OCCURENCE	FREQUENCY OF INCORRECT USAGES	% OF INCORRECT USAGES

CHAPTER FOUR

ANALYSIS, FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.0 INTRODUCTION

> This tempts me into moralising about the duty of anyone who writes about the use of English for the g eneral practitioner. He must, ... have the courage of his convictions, but must not express them too dogmatically on points which fairly admits of a different opinion. He must avoid pedantry, and must also recognise that what seems obviously right to one man seems pedantic to another. He must offer resistance to undesirable innovations, but must not assume that every innovation is sure to be undesirable. He must respect the genius of the language, which includes a wonderful capacity for change. All this requires personal judgement, and every man's judgement is fallible,
> (Roger and Linda Flavell, 1981:284).

This chapter contains the analysis of the four selected feature articles, two each from **Tell** and **The News** magazines. The analysis carried out in this chapter is predicated on three levels of analysis:

i. Syntactico-semantic,

ii. lexico-semantic, and

iii. morpho-phonological.

A separate section containing general discussions then followed. Even though we are aware of the fact that the findings and discussions are limited only to the feature articles in the selected magazines, we wish to posit that such findings and discussions are generalisable within the context of language use in journalism.

4.1 SYNTACTICO-SEMANTIC ANALYSIS

As indicated in chapter three, the syntactico-semantic analysis would feature ten items: marked structures, unmarked structures, restrictive and non-restrictive modifiers, genitives and of-constructions, head vs wrong dependency, attributive and predicative constructions, co-ordination, embedded and recursive processes, attachment and dangling modifiers, and misplaced structures. All the four selected articles would be examined within the context of the ten items above. The articles are:

i. "Return of Babylon", by 'Dare Babarinsa.
Tell, November, 13, 1995, page. 6.

ii. "Hajj Palava", by Wilson Uwujaren
The News, 6 May, 1996, pages 17 - 18.

iii. "Royal Roulette", by Seye Kehinde.
The News, 6 May, 1996, pages 10-12.

iv. "Abacha's Revenge", by Ima Niboro,
Tell, November 13, 1995, Pages 10-12.

4.1.1 "RETURN OF THE BABYLON"

Table I(a) below presents the syntactico-semantic analysis of "Return of the Babylon", (Cf. Appendix. I):

No	Item	Frequency of occurrence	Frequency of incorrect usage	% of incorrect usage
1.	Marked Structures	01	01	100%
2,	Unmarked structures	86	-	0%
3.	Restrictive and non-restrictive modifiers	56	06	10.71%
4.	Genitives and of-constructions	36	-	0%
5.	Head vs wrong dependency	40	04	10%
6.	Attributives and predicative constructions	79	01	1.26%
7.	Structure of co-ordination	09	-	0%
8.	Embedded and Recursive Processes	24	04	16.6%
9.	Attachment and dangling modifiers	11	05	45.45%
10.	Misplaced structure	-	-	-

4.1.2 "Hajj Palava"

Table I(b) below presents the syntactico-semantic analysis of "Hajj Palava" (Cf Appendix II):

TABLE I(B)

No.	Item	Frequency of occurrence	Frequency of incorrect usage	% of incorrect usages
1.	Marked structures	01	01	100%
2.	Unmarked structures	37	-	0%
3,	Restrictive and non-restrictive modifiers	17	-	0%
4.	Genitives and of-construction	15	03	20%
5.	Head vs wrong dependency	30	01	3.33%
6.	Attributive and predicative constructions	21	-	0%
7.	Structure of co-ordination	-	-	-
8.	Embedded and recursive processes	13	-	0%
9.	Attachment and dangling modifiers	02	02	100%
10.	Misplaced structure	02	02	100%

4.1.3 "ROYAL ROULETTE"

Table I(c) below presents the syntactico-semantic analysis of "Royal Roulette", (Cf Appendix III).

TABLE I (C)

No.	Item	Frequency of occurrence	Frequency of incorrect usages	% of incorrect usages
1.	Marked structures	03	-	0%
2.	Unmarked structures	78	-	0%
3.	Restrictive and non-restrictive modifiers	43	04	7.54%
4.	Genitives and of-constructions	27	-	0%
5.	Head vs wrong dependency	20	02	10%
6.	Attributives and predicative constructions	57	04	7.17%
7.	Structure of co-ordination	03	02	66,6%
8.	Embedded and recursive processes	39	05	12.8%
9.	Attachment and dangling modifiers	05	04	80%
10.	Misplaced structures	02	02	100%

4.1.4 **"ABACHA'S REVENGE"**

Table I(d) below presents the syntactico-semantic analysis of "Abacha's Revenge", (Cf Appendix iv).

TABLE I(D)

No.	Item	Frequency of occurrence	Frequency of incorrect usages	% of incorrect usages
1.	Marked structures	04	-	0%
2.	Unmarked Structures	60	-	0%
3.	Restrictive and non-restrictive modifiers	51	02	3.92%
4.	Genitives and of-constructions	23	-	0%
5.	Head vs wrong dependency	04	-	0%
6.	Attributive and predicative constructions	112	02	1.78%
7.	Structure of co-ordination	04	04	100%
8.	Embedded and recursive processes	12	-	0%
9.	Attachment and dangling modifiers	01	01	100%
10.	Misplaced structure	-	-	-

4.1.5 SYNTACTICO-SEMANTIC DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

From the syntactico-semantic analysis of the four features, we observed that item (1) records 100% of incorrect usages in tables I(a) and (b) but 0% of incorrect usages in tables I(c) and (d). Item (2) records 0% throughout the four tables - (IIa) - (d), while item (4) records 0% in tables I(a), (c), and (d) and just 20% in table I(b). Also, item (7) records 0% in tables I (a) and(b) but very high percentage of misuse in table I (c) and (d). Item (11), too, records nil (incorrect usage) in tables I(a) and (d) but 100% (of incorrect usage) in tables I(b) and (c). All these would attract special focus in our discussion in (4.5.1).

4.2 LEXICO-SEMANTIC ANALYSIS

Under lexico semantic analysis, ten items were also considered. These are: function words and lexical words, adjectivals, determiners, quantifiers and intensifiers, relatives and clause connectors, adverbials, comparatives and superlatives, collocations and extension of meaning, redundant modifiers, and ambiguities at the lexical level. And, as in (4.1) above, all the four feature articles were examined within the context of the above listed items.

4.2.1 "RETURN OF THE BABYLON"

Table II (a) below presents the lexico-semantic analysis of "Return of the Babylon", (Cf Appendix I):

TABLE II (A)

No.	Item	Frequency of occurrence	Frequency of incorrect usages	% of incorrect usages
1.	Function words and lexical words	111	06	5.40%
2.	Adjectivals	89	02	2.25%
3.	Determiners	19	02	5.27%
4.	Quantifiers and Intensifiers	20	01	5%
5.	Relatives and clause connectors	18	-	0%
6.	Adverbials	02	-	0%
7.	Comparatives and superlatives	02	-	0%
8.	Collocations and extension of meaning	24	03	12.5%
9.	Redundant modifiers	04	04	100%
10.	Ambiguities at the lexical level.	03	03	100%

Table II (B) below presents the lexico-semantic analysis of "Hajj Palava":

TABLE II(B)

4.2.2 "HAJJ PALAVA"

No.	Item	Frequency of occurrence	Frequency of incorrect usages	% of incorrect usage
1.	Function words and lexical words	188	04	2.12%
2.	Adjectivals	35	03	8.57%
3.	Determiners	34	-	0%
4.	Quantifiers and Intensifiers	21	05	23.8%
5.	Relatives and clause connectors	22	01	4.54%
6.	Adverbials	-	-	-
7.	Comparatives and superlatives	08	-	0%
8.	Collocations and extension of meaning	07	-	0%
9.	Redundant modifiers	06	06	100%
10.	Ambiguities at the lexical level	04	04	100%

4.2.3 "ROYAL ROULETTE"

Table II(c) below presents the lexico-semantic analysis of "Royal Roulette"

No.	Item	Frequency of occurrence	Frequency of incorrect usages	% of incorrect usages
1.	Function words and lexical words	251	01	0.39%
2.	Adjectivals	22	02	9.09%
3.	Determiners	25	02	8%
4.	Quantifiers and intensifiers	07	02	28.5%
5.	Relatives and clause connectors	22	04	18.18%
6.	Adverbials	01	-	0%
7.	Comparatives and superlatives	-	-	-
8.	Collocations and extension of meaning	04	03	75%
9.	Redundant modifiers	03	03	100
10.	Ambiguities of the lexical level.	03	03	100%

4.2.4 "ABACHA'S REVENGE"

Table II (d) below presents the lexico-semantic analysis of "Abacha"s Revenge"

No.	Item	Frequency of occurrence	Frequency of incorrect usages	% of incorrect usages
1.	Function words and lexical words	236	03	1.27%
2.	Adjectivals	39	-	0%
3.	Determiners	35	03	8.57%
4.	Quantifiers and intensifiers	09	01	11.11%
5.	Relatives and clause connectors	09	01	11.1%
6.	Adverbials	03	02	66.6%
7.	Comparatives and Superlatives	10	02	20%
8.	Collocations and extension of meaning	06	03	50%
9.	Redundant modifiers	02	02	100%
10.	Ambiguities at the lexical level	-	-	-

4.2.5 LEXICO-SEMANTIC DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

From the lexico-semantic analysis of the four selected feature articles, we realised that there is a high percentage of occurrence (of usage) of item (1) but low % of incorrect usage. Also, we record low percentage of incorrect usage for items (2), (3), and

(4). Items (6) and (7), also, record 0% (of incorrect usage) in tables II (a), (b), and(c) and only 20% incorrect usage is recorded for item (9) in tables II(a) (b), (c), and (d). The same goes for item (1) in all but table II (d) where it records nil (incorrect usage). Our discussions in (4.5.2) would shed more light on these.

4.3 MORPHO-PHONOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

Six items were used under the morpho-phonological analysis. These are: supra-segmentals (as disambiguating elements), wrong compounding, wrong compound loan-words, misuse of syntactically formed (but morphologically-bound) structure in journalese, genitives, and numerals. As was the case with the earlier two levels of analysis, all the four feature articles were also examined in this section.

4.3.1 "RETURN OF THE BABYLON"

Table III (a) below presents the morpho-phonological analysis of "Return of the Babylon", (Cf Appendix I):

TABLE III(A)

4.3.1 "RETURN OF THE BABYLON"

No.	Item	Frequency of occurrence	Frequency of incorrect usage	% of incorrect usages
1.	Supra-segmentals as disambiguating elements	04	01	25%
2.	Wrong compounding	06	01	4.33%
3.	Wrong compound loan words	-	-	-
4.	Misuse of syntactically-formed (but morphologically -bound) structure in journalese	-	-	-
5.	Genitives	11	-	0%
6.	Numerals.	12	02	16.6%

Table III(b) below presents the morpho-phonological analysis of "Hajj Palava"

4.3.2 "HAJJ PALAVA"

No.	Item	Frequency of occurrence	Frequency of incorrect usages	% of incorrect usages
1.	Supra-segmentals as disambiguating elements	07	05	71.4%
2.	Wrong Compounding	12	09	75%
3.	Wrong compound loan-words	-	-	-
4.	Misuse of syntactically-formed (but morphologically -bound) structure in journalese	05	05	100%
5.	Genitives	07	06	85.7%
6.	Numerals	17	07	41.2%

Table III(c) below presents the morpho-phonological analysis of "Royal Roulette":

4.3.3 "ROYAL ROULETTE"

TABLE III (C)

No.	Item	Frequency of occurrence	Frequency of incorrect usages	% of incorrect usages
1.	Supra-segmentals as disambiguating elements	04	04	100%
2.	Wrong compounding	05	04	80%
3.	Wrong Compound loan-words	-	-	-
4.	Misuse of syntactically-formed (but morphologically -bound) structure in journalese	03	-	0%
5.	Genitives	15	01	6.6%
6.	Numerals	12	-	0%

Table III(D) below presents the morpho-phonological analysis of "Abacha's Revenge"

4.3.4 "ABACHA'S REVENGE"

TABLE III (D)

No.	Item	Frequency of occurrence	Frequency of incorrect usages	% of Incorrect usages
1.	Supra-segmentals as disambiguating elements	03	-	0%
2.	Wrong compounding	04	02	50%
3.	Wrong compound loan-words	01	01	100%
4.	Misuse of syntactically-formed (but morphologically -bound) structure in journalese	02	01	50%
5.	Genitives	08	-	0%
6.	Numerals	01	-	0%

4.3.5 MORPHO-PHONOLOGICAL DISCUSSIONS OF RESULTS

From the morpho-phonological analysis of the four features we discovered that item (1) records low % of incorrect usage in Tables III(a) and (d) but very high in tables III (b) and (C); item (2) also records low % of incorrect usage in table III (a) but very high in tables III (b), (c) and (d). One other striking occurrence is item (3) which records nil (incorrect usage) in tables III (a), (b), and (c) but 100% (incorrect usage) in table III (d). Item (4)

records 100% (incorrect usage) in table III (b), and 50% (incorrect usage) in table III (d). Item (5), too, record nil (incorrect usage) in tables III (a) and (d), high % of incorrect usage in III (b) and very low (6.6%) in table III (c). We would expatiate on these in our discussion in (4.5.3).

4.4 OVERALL RESULTS

4.4.0 In this section we would proceed to present the overall results of all the different analyses (we have carried out) of the four selected articles, under broad categorisation into the three levels of analysis. This is with a view to providing a tidy analytical framework for our discussion.

4.4.1 SYNTACTICO-SEMANTIC ANALYSIS

Table (IV) below presents the overall results of the syntactico-semantic analysis of all the four selected materials.

4.4.1 SYNTACTICO-SEMANTIC ANALYSIS (OVERALL RESULTS)

No.	Item	Frequency of occurrence	Frequency of incorrect usages	% of incorrect usages
1.	Marked Structures	09	02	22.2%
2.	Unmarked structures	261	-	0%
3.	Restrictive and non-restrictive modifiers	213	12	5.63%
4.	Genitives and of-construction	101	03	2.97%
5.	Head vs wrong dependency	94	07	7.45%
6.	Attributives and predicative constructions	159	07	4.40%
7.	Structure of co-ordination	16	08	50%
8.	Embedded and recursive processes	88	09	10.22%
9.	Attachment and dangling modifiers	20	13	65%
10.	Misplaced structures	04	04	100%

Table (V) below presents the overall results of the lexico-semantic analysis of all the four corpus materials:

TABLE (V)

4.4.2 LEXICO-SEMANTIC ANALYSIS (OVERALL RESULTS)

No.	Item	Frequency of occurrence	Frequency of incorrect usages	% of incorrect usages
1.	Function words and lexical words	786	14	1.78%
2.	Adjectivals	185	07	3.78%
3.	Determiners	113	07	6.19%
4.	Quantifiers and intensifiers	57	09	15.7%
5.	Relatives and clause connectors	71	06	8.45%
6.	Adverbials	06	02	33.3%
7.	Comparatives and superlatives	20	02	10%
8.	Collocations and extension of meaning	41	14	34.1%
9.	Redundant modifiers	15	15	100%
10.	Ambiguities at the lexical level	10	10	100%

Table (VI) below presents the overall results of the morpho-phonological analysis of all the four selected materials:

TABLE VI

4.4.3 MORPHO-PHONOLOGICAL ANALYSIS (OVERALL RESULTS)

No.	Item	Frequency of occurrence	Frequency of incorrect usages	% of incorrect usages
1.	Supra-segmentals as disambiguating elements	18	10	55.5%
2.	Wrong compounding	26	16	61.5%
3.	Wrong compound loan-words	01	01	100%
4.	Misuse of syntactically formed (but morphologically bound) structure in journalese	07	06	85.7%
5.	Genitives	41	07	17.07%
6.	Numerals	29	09	31.3%

TABLE VII (A)

ELICITATION OF INCORRECT USAGES

SYNTACTICO-SEMANTIC

No.	TABLE I(A)	TABLE I (B)	TABLE I (C)	TABLE I (D)
1.	i) *... above quotation	(i)*... facts available	(i)*2:30 pm...(ii)* April 20... (iii)* Sadiq III	(i) *Nothing wrong... (ii)*... bills of right (iii)* ... anytime soon (iv)* what exactly...
2.	"	"	"	"
3.	(*)... lamenting the fate of his people in captivity	(i)*... which the schism of the Bayero team actually meant. (ii)*... which was lucky to have had some 400 of its ... (iii) who nevertheless went embarrassed by the spate of ...	(i)* ... long-standing friend (ii)* ... which was what the whole drama... (iii)* General Ibrahim... (iv)* ... with IBB reportedly...	(i) (too long-winded constructions!)

4.	"	(i).* ... let-off's (ii)... Pilgrim's airliftment (iii)... the Saudi's (iv)... Nigerian's (v)... States muslims pilgrims welfare...	"	"
5.	(i)... to see it sealed... (ii) ... clad in battle fatigues, brandishing "koboko" and AK 47 rifles...(iii) home last Monday	(i) 1996 Hajj imbroglio	(i)* ... which began in 1988(ii)* the former sultan...	"
6.	i* Mainland Lagos	"	(i)... former sultan (3c) ii..long-standing friend	(i) pillaged minori-ties (ii) long-standing efforts
7.	"	"	(i) accompanying guards and security staff (ii) radio and television broadcast (iii) foreign governments and organi-sation	(i) gleaming leather and chromium (ii) ... the Ogoni environme nt and ecology (iii)... fellow Ogoni and compatrio ts (v) various politi-cians and business-men

8.	(i) last Monday... (ii) ... in captivity (iii)... to see it sealed up (iv) ... brandishing "koboko" out ... rifles.	"	(i) Last week Saturday... (ii) ... a family member said ... (iii) which was what... (iv) ... with IBB reportedly... (v) ... which began in 1988.	"
9.	(i)... in that institution	(i) Last week...	"	"
10.	"	(i) Last week... (ii) A probe which	(i) Last week... (ii) ... which began in 1988.	"

TABLE VII (B)

LEXICO-SEMANTIC

No.	TABLE II (A)	TABLE II (B)	TABLE II (C)	TABLE II (D)
1.	*(i)... the Jewish prophet *(ii)... this money... *(iii)... mainland Lagos xiv... second calabash	*(i)... the Islamic movement *(ii)... let-off's (iii) ... available facts (iv)... negative let-off's	*(i). the president (ii)...the spokesman (iii)... greased processes	
2.	"	*(i)... let-off's *(ii)... available	*(i)...Minna -based x(ii) ... first-hand	"
3.	*(i)... the Jewish prophet *(ii)... the metaphor	"	*(i) ...a family member *(ii)... in the ... manner	(i) the president (ii) ... the spokesman (iii) ... the telephone call.
4.	(i) ... kinds of taxation	(i)... over (ii)... some (iii)... most of (iv)... the few (v)... Actually	(i)... some words (ii)... Not a few...	"

5.	"	(i)... which the schism	(i) ...who brought the message(ii) ... who supervised the evacuation (iii) ... who is a revered...	(i)... which he couldn't relate on the phone.
6.	"	"	"	(i)...only just a few (ii)... could only grow
7.	"	"	"	(i)... more prominent.
8.	(i) military + Highness (ii) second + calabash	(i) offensive + diplomatic (contextual) (ii) hushed + up (iii) economic + truth (iv) pagan + muslims (v) embryonic + level (vi) green + light	(i) an + peugeot (ii) infact(sic) + jubilation (iii) sudden + retirement	(i) Pillaged + Minorities (ii) law and order + gradually died (iii) niggling + suspicion
9.	(i) Lagos streets... (ii) Lagos schools... (iii) parliament to report to... (iv) consulting clinic	(i) outrightly rejected... (ii) urgently to assuage... (iii) ... slammed on	(i) Babangida himself... (ii) sudden retirement (iii) same government	(i) ...very next day (ii) an incumbent one.
10.	(i) mainland Lagos... (ii) patrons (iii) calabash	(i) available facts (ii) let-off's (iii) stalled... (iv) ruffled...	(i) long-standing... (ii) failed Bank Tribunal (iii) Not a few people	"

MORPHO-PHONOLOGICAL

No.	TABLE III(A)	TABLE III (B)	TABLE III (C)	TABLE III(D)
1.	(i)... above quotation	(i) Nigerian Muslim Community (ii) United Muslim Brotherhood (iii) 1996 Hajj imbroglio (iV Nigerian Islamic Movement (v) Stalled pilgrims airliftment (vii) 3,000 Nigerian Pilgrims quota (vi) ruffled intending pilgrims	(i)... frantic telephone call (ii) ... possible suspension order (iii) ... tough-looking security agents (iv)... Failed Banks Tribunal	"
2.	"	(i) South West (3ce) (ii) spear headed (iii)so called (iv) break through (v) hushed up (vi) second rate (vii) state sponsored (viii) last minute	(i) mid day (ii) Brigade General (iii) First hand (iv) Infact	(i) face to face (ii) hard won.
3.	"	"	"	(i)defacto

4.	"	(i) State pilgrims airliftment (ii) Bayero team's "so called (iii) the approved 3,000 Nigerian pilgrims quota (iv) massive but hushed up... (v) too much of a coincidence	'	(i)...long -standing.
5.	"	(i) let-off's... (ii) Bayero team's ... (iii) 3,000 Nig. pilgrims quota (iv) ... the Saudi's ... (v) Nigerian's	(i) State's military admini-strator	"
6.	(i) 24 hours,,, (ii) 30 years	(i) 700 pilgrims (ii) 3,000 Nigerian pilgrims (iii) 84 slots (iv) 25 places (v) 55 places (v) etc.	"	"

4.5 DISCUSSIONS

4.5.1 SYNTACTICO-SEMANTIC ANALYSIS

ITEMS (1-2) MISUSES OF MARKED/UNMARKED STRUCTURES

In line with the consistent searialisation principle, the structure: "head + modifier" goes against the universal principles, Radford (1988 : 41). Therefore,

i. ... facts available (Cf Table I(b) and

ii. ... April 20/... Sadiq III (Cf Table I(c)

are "marked constructions" The contention here is that the structure: "head + modifier" is always "stylistically marked" and has "literary and archaic flavour" to it. So, if we hold constant this linguistic view, (i) and

(ii) above would be reframed"

iii. available facts, and

iv. 20 April.

But, the second item in (ii) "... Sadiq III" would remain constant, as exception rather than the norm. Even then, the postposed adjectival "available" in (i) presupposes the existence of other facts, but which are not available (Cf Appendix I).

ITEM (3) MISUSE OF RESTRICTIVE/NON-RESTRICTIVE CONSTRUCTIONS

It is not the case that we posit that non-restrictive modifiers (constructions) are entirely unnecessary; but, we wish to argue that when the non-restrictive structures do not clearly make reference to the item they modify, a loose construction or ambiguity sets in. Consider the following:

i. "The ruffled intending pilgrims went aghast with rage with their treatment as second rate muslim **which the schism of the Bayero team actually meant...**" (Cf Appendix II).

ii. "The result is that save for Ogun State **which was lucky to have had some 400 of its pilgrims airlifted...**".

iii. "It was to his long-standing friend **General Ibrahim Badamosi Babangida** in Minna" (Cf Appendix III)

iv. "And for a few minutes both of them conversed in Hausa **with Babangida reportedly telling the former Sultan that he was unaware of any development along those lines**". (Cf Appendix III).

The point of argument here is that all the four examples

demonstrate wrong use of non-restrictive modifiers. For example, in (i) the point of reference of the non-restrictive modifier is not overtly present in the construction. If a coma had been inserted after "muslim" the following structure would have been marked off as a non-restrictive modifying the "pariah-status" treatment melted to the muslims from the South-West; in (ii) the underlined non-restrictive clause is just an additional information, and, like the first example, ought to be marked off with a coma. (iii) is an apposition, since "General IBB" is the same referent as the preceding "friend", therefore, a coma need be put after "IBB". For (iv), the absence of the punctuation mark (coma) before the introduction of the non-restrictive modifier renders the construction a run-on sentence.

4. **ITEM 4 ERRORS IN GENITIVE/OF-CONSTRUCTIONS**

In our analysis, we found that the genitive and of - constructions are used as variants of the genitives, but, we observed that there are numerous environments in which only one (of the two constructions) is grammatically acceptable. For example:-

i. anguished let-off's (Table 1b) is wrongly marked for genitive. Apart from the fact that the writer intended to use plural marker, the construction "let-off" does not have the status of lexical word to carry plural marker. Further to this, we noticed that

ii. the Saudi's,and

iii. Nigerian's, are used as genitives of possession, even

though the plural markers are intended.

iv. Pilgrim's airliftment used as possessive genitive could better be constructed with an of-construction.

v. airliftment of pilgrims. Using the Transformational-Generative grammar model of analysis,

iv. could mean:

a. pilgrims airlift...

b. pilgrims are airlifted.

There is complete omission of genitive marker in

vi ... the states Muslims pilgrims Welfare Board.

With "pilgrim' premodified by "muslim" (the -s plural marker now deleted), and "board" premodified by Welfare. (vi) could be reframed:

vii. the state's Muslim Pilgrims' welfare Board. The genitive marker for "state" comes before "s" since reference is to only Ogun State.

ITEM 5 HEAD VS WRONG DEPENDENCY

We accounted for wrong dependency in the structure: "modifier + head" by isolating the individual structure for formal analyses. We also observed that wrong dependency was a major source of ambiguity in our data. Here are few examples:

i. "Last Monday, patrons of Tejuosho market in MainlandLagos got to the place **to see it sealed up by armed Soldiers**" (Cf Appendix I).

ii. "You meet his agents, clad in battle fatigues **brandishing koboko and AK 47 rifles**"...(Cf Appendix I).

iii. "In the broadcast, Col. Mu'azu gave eight reasons for the state government's decision to terminate Dasuki's reign **which began in 1988**" (Cf Appendix III).

In (i) the underlined structure seems to modify the verb "got", as adverbial of reason, whereas the sense the writer would want us to infer is:

iv. The patrons... got to the place (and) found that it had been sealed up by armed soldiers,

In other words, (i) could be expanded, (using the expansion and recursive rule of the TG grammar model). The omission of coma after "fatigues" in (ii) makes the underline structure "squint" towards "battle fatigue!", even though it is V-ing participle.

For (iii) the underlined structure "squints" towards either government's decision or Dasuki's reign. To resolve the ambiguity, the subordinate adjectival clause should be used
(a) as a non-restrictive modifier, with the insertion of coma after "reign". (b) the second possibility is very unlikely since a "decision" is "made" and does not begin. But, there may occur indeterminacy in the direction of dependency if the lexical items could collocate with the underlined structure.

ITEM 6 ERRORS IN ATTRIBUTIVE AND PREDICATIVE MODIFIERS

One of the main syntactic functions of adjectives in our data is that they were used either attributively or predicatively, Quirk and Greenbaum (1973). From the corpus materials the following have been misused as predicative adjectives:

i. **Mainland** Lagos (Table Ia)

ii. **Long-standing** friend (Table Ic)

iii. **pillaged** minorities (Table Id)

Although it is correct to say

iv. There are good road networks in mainland Lagos where the focus is on "mainland", as compared to "Island". But, in our data, reference is made to name of a particular place - "Lagos Mainland". In (ii) the "long-standing", meaning "having existed **in the same form** for a very long time" cannot premodify "friend", but "friendship".

The choice of the lexical item "pillaged" to collocate with "minorities" is anomalous "Pillaged" has a synonym "plundered", and, so, cannot collocate with "minorities".

ITEM 7 ERRORS IN STRUCTURE OF CO-ORDINATION

The relationship between the constituent structures in structure of co-ordination could be a source of ambiguity. Consider the following:

i. "accompanying guards and security staff" (Table Ic)

ii. "foreign governments and organisations" (Table Ic)

iii. "fellow Ogoni and compatriot". (Table Id)

Does the modifying adjectival "accompanying" make reference to both "guards" and "security staff?", and in (ii) are both government and organisation "foreign?", and does "fellow" modify both "Ogoni and "compatriot" in (iii)?.

Using the IC analysis, we could determine the pattern of modification in the structure of co-ordination by making the first cut after "accompanying".



or,

isolating the coordinated elements.



similar analysis goes for (ii) and (iii).

ITEM 8 MISUSE OF EMBEDDED AND RECURSIVE STRUCTURES

When a phrasal or sentential constituent is completely contained within another phrasal or sentential constitutent, ambiguity may occur (in the process of embedding and recursion), Brown and Miller (1991:115), if the multiple modifiers constitute an unordered string or sequence. Consider the following:

i. "Alhaji Adedibu accused Dasuki of betraying Muslims **in the South**".

ii. "... another Pharooh **who did not know Joseph has come**".

iii. "... they would not have treated the Sultan **who is a revered person in the disgraceful manner** (all from Appendix III)".

In (i) the structure, "in the South" seems to modify either "muslims" or "betraying". There is problem of indeterminancy of the boundary of the relative in (ii). Does "Who did not know

Joseph" modify "Pharaoh" or does the sense refer to "a Pharaoh who did not know Joseph has come"? For (iii) it is not clear whether the structure "in the disgraceful manner" modify the verbal "treated" (as adverbial of manner), or whether it is an extension of the relative.

ITEM 9 DANGLING MODIFIERS AND MISPLACED STRUCTURES

In Appendix III we observed that dangling modifiers resulted in ambiguities. Examples of such dangling or misplaced structures include:

i. "The government official who brought the message **again** stressed the urgency of the invitation...".

ii. "In the broadcast, Col. Mu'azu gave eight reasons for the state government's decision to terminate Dasuki's reign **which began in 1988**".

In (i) the adverbial "again" "squints" towards either "brought" or "stressed", and, in (ii) the clause, "which began in 1988" seems to modify either "state government's decision" or "Dasuki's reign". The latter, it seems, is more plausible.

4.5.2 LEXICO-SEMANTIC ANALYSIS

ITEM (I): MISUSE OF FUNCTION WORDS AND LEXICAL WORDS

Errors arising from the wrong use of either lexical words or function words have serious effects on meaning realisations in a given text. From our corpus materials the following present cases

of misuse of function words and lexical words:

i. "**the** Jewish prophet (Table IIa)"

ii. "What **this** money is meant for (Table IIa)"

iii. "**the** President of the movement... (Table IId)"

iv. "**negative** let-off's (Table IIc)"

v. "**greased** processes (Table IId)"

The definite article "the" in "(i) presupposes "only one" prophet (and not any other(s); the indefinite "a" would be more appropriate. Also, the demonstrative adjective "this" in (ii) is anomalous, in the sense that no specific reference was made to "money" in the text. So, "such" should replace "this", as a determiner meaning "of that kind". In (iii) the definite article should be omitted "where the nominal denotes a position that can be held by one individual at a time," Christophersen and Sandved (1969 :177 - 191). Thus,

iii. would be reframed

iv. Ken Saro Wiwa, President of the ...

The adjectival "negative" in (iv) is also anomalous in the context of "let-off's", which, in itself, cannot be used as a nominal. And, in (v) there is no clear reference to what "greased" contribute to "processes"

ITEM 2 MISUSE OF ADJECTIVALS AS MODIFIERS

Almost all arguments about the correctness of the ordering of syntactic rule in modification structure revolve around the adjectivals and the adverbials. Consider the following adjectivals

from our data:

i. "**Second** calabash (Table IIa)"

ii. "**negative** let-off's (Table IIb)"

iii. **"Minna-based** general (Table IIc)"

iv. **"greased** processes. (Table IId)".

What, for instance, does "second" have in common with "calabash", to denote "second-in-command"? And, how do we relate "negative" to let-off's, which, in itself does not have a nominal status? Further to these, is there any major point of information with the use of "Minna-based" to describe the general? What, if there are other "generals" who chose "Minna" as their base? Finally, the lexical meaning of "greased", notwithstanding nuances in journalistic styles, does not make clear reference to "processes". Therefore, and as a result of these, we found that misuse of adjectivals pose serious problems in the structure of modification.

ITEMS (3-4) MISUSE OF DETERMINERS, QUANTIFIERS, AND INTENSIFIERS AS MODIFIERS

In our analysis of modification structure we found that the use and abuse of these sets of modifiers have implications on meaning. From our corpus materials we observed that the following have been misused:

i. "**the** Jewish prophet..." (Table IIa)

ii. **"Over** 700 pilgrims..." (Table IIb)

iii. **"most of** the South Western states..." (Table IIb)

iv. **"Some** words ... (Table IIc)"

v. **"not a few** people were happy..." (Table IIc)

vi. "... which the schism of the Bayero team actually meant", (Table IIb).

The definite article "the" in (i) gives the impression that there was (at that particular time) only one Jewish prophet. The quantifier "over" in (ii) does not give appropriate figure, which is "sine qua non" to the textual analysis of news reports. So, also, are the quantifiers "most of" and "some" in (iii) and (iv) respectively. And, there is anomalous use of quantifier "not a few" in (v). "A few" means "several" whereas "few" means "not many". Which sense of usage, therefore, does the writer want us to infer? "Not a few" could be interpreted to mean? "Not several". And, if we hold this as the case, one would rather the writer used the quantifier "few". In (vi) the choice of the intensifier "actually" presupposes "facts of opinion", and this is at variance with the line of reasoning.

ITEM 5 ERRORS IN RELATIVES

The following examples from our data present cases of errors in relatives:

i. "the ruffled intending pilgrims went aghast with rage with their treatment as second rate Muslims which the schism of the Bayero team actually meant.., (Table 2)

ii. "the government official **who brought the message again** stressed ...," (Appendix III)

iii. "...**who supervised the evacuation**", (Appendix III)

iv. "... **who is a revered person in the disgraceful manner**", (Appendix III).

The non-restrictive construction (underlined) in (i) "squints" towards "muslims" and, does not have a clear nominal to attach to. In the construction, the point of reference of the non-restrictive modifier, "the Pariah-status" treatment melted on the Muslims from the South Western States", is clearly absent. And, in (ii) it is not clear whether the structure of the relative includes the adverbial "again". The relative in (iii) seems to modify "Aliyu Dasuki" and not "Ahmed". For (iv), owing to the absence of a coma to mark off the clause as non-restrictive, it is not clear whether the prepositional phrase "in the disgraceful manner" is included in the relative, or not.

ITEM 6 ERRORS IN ADVERBIALS

Adverbials like "so", "only", and "as" used as modifiers somehow present some difficulties as to the exact reference intended by the writer. From our corpus materials, one might ask:

i. to what extent has "Abacha's eyes hardened ever **so** imperceptibly?" What is the degree of "so" in the sentence? (Table 4).

ii. What exact measure of degree is deducible from "**only**" in "only a few weeks before"? Would we not rather use "just" in place of "only" in this context?

ITEM 7 WRONG COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES

Even though we favour the argument that both comparatives and"represent two alternative ways of comparing things (or person, etc)", Christophersen and Sandved,(1969:40-41) it is however evident from our source materials that in certain circumstances, the basis for comparison is lacking or vague. Consider:

i. ... he could at least nominate one of his **more prominent** followers.

Here, it is not clear whether the candidate to be nominated is "more prominent" than Ken Saro Wiwa, or "more prominent" than other members of Movement for the Survival of Ogoni people (MOSOP).

ITEM 8 WRONG COLLOCATIONS AND EXTENSION OF MEANING

The following examples from our corpus materials are wrong collocations:

i. Military + Highness: "highness" is restricted or exclusive only to monarchs (Cf. Table I).

ii. Second + Calabash: evidence of Yoruba Linguistic artefacts in English: "Igba" (calabash) + "keji" (second), Meaning (in Yoruba)'deputy' (Cf. Table I)

iii. diplomatic + offensive: "offensive" here used to mean "causing offences;' unpleasant" cannot collocate with "diplomatic" because, according to the text, the team's diplomatic mission abroad (in Saudi) is to appeal, and not to attack (Cf. Table II).

iv. an + peugeot: ("an" (indefinite article) collocates with nouns with vowel beginnings, or consonants with vowel pronounciation (Cf. Table III).

v. infact + jubilation: "infact," wrong form of emphasiser "in fact" cannot premodify "jubilation" (Cf. Table III).

vi. etc.

ITEM 9 REDUNDANT MODIFIERS

Examples from the data include:

i. **Lagos** streets/schools: Since the reference, in so many places in the text is to **Lagos** state, the repetition becomes abnormal or redundant, (Cf. Table II).

ii. Parliament **to report to**: Afterall, it is a common knowledge that the executive "report to" parliament, (Cf. Table II).

iii. **Consulting** clinics: Clinics are said to be places where one can "consult" a specialist for medical attention. (Cf. Table II).

iv. **Outrightly** rejected: what with the mention made of the number of seats allocated, and were rejected;"outrightly" becomes redundant, (Cf. Table II).

v. Babangida **himself**: Note that the reflexive pronoun "himself" used predicatively was repeated: "Babangida **himself** confessed that he was **himself** confused about all the signals..., (Cf. Table II)

vi. An incubent **one**: The use of the indefinite article "an" renders the numeral "one" redundant, (Cf. Table II).

vii. Sudden retirement: In this context,"retirement" was "unexpected" but, not "sudden". "Retirement", in itself, is not a gradual process, (Cf. Table II).

ITEM (10) AMBIGUITIES AT THE LEXICAL LEVEL

Highlighting the relationship between word meaning and sentence meaning in our corpus materials, we observed that the following are ambiguous:

i. "Stalled pilgrims airliftment", (Table II)

ii. "Ruffled intending pilgrims", (Table II)

iii. "Failed Bank Tribunal", (Table III)

iv. "Not a few people", (Table III)

The constructional ambiguities in (i) - (iii) is resultant from the (-ed2) Participle which could modify the second or the third elements in the constructions. Thus, it is not clear whether reference in (i) is to "stalled pilgrims" or "stalled airliftment". In (ii) does "ruffled" modify "intending" or "pilgrims"? The sense in the latter, using our intuitive notion, is more appropriate. (But this is hazy in linguistic analysis!) Also, we do not know whether reference in (iii) is to "Failed bank" or "Failed Tribunal". The ambiguity in (iv) is predicated upon the use of confusing quantifiers not + a few, which could mean: - ?not several.

4.5.3 MORPHO-PHONOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

ITEM 1 SUPRA SEGMENTALS AS DISAMBIGUATING ELEMENTS

Using the supra-segmentals - the terminals rising, sustained or falling, we could resolve ambiguities in the following (from our source data):

i. "stalled pilgrims airliftment", (ed2 participle + N + N) (Table IIIb)

ii. "Failed Banks Tribunal", (ed2 participle + N + N) Table IIIc)

iii. "Frantic telephone call", (ed2 + N + N) (Table IIIc)

Here we found that the modifier + noun stress pattern [^/] (Stalled pilgrims; Failed Banks, frantic telephone) overlaps with that of the compound-noun (Pilgrims airliftment' Banks Tribunal; telephone call)

2. **WRONG COMPOUNDING**

In line with the standard morphological rules in English, the following examples from our data are examples of wrong compounding:

i. "South West" to be compounded" South-west" or "Southwest", (Table IIIb)

ii. "So called" to be compounded, using hyphen "so-called", (Table IIIb).

iii. "Break through", (breakthrough) (Table IIIb)

iv. "Hushed-up", (anomalous for "hush-hush") (Table IIIb)

v. "Second rate", (Second-rate) (Table IIIb)

vi. "State sponsored", (State-sponsored) (Table IIIb)

vii. "Last Minute", (Last-minute) (Table IIIb)

viii. "Mid day", (mid-day or midday) Table IIIc)

ix. "Brigade General", (anomalous for Brigadier-General), (Table IIIc).

x. "First hand", (first-hand/firsthand) (Table IIIc)

xi. "Infact", (anomalous for "in fact") (Table IIIc)

xii. "Face to face", (face-to-face), (Table IIId).

xiii. "Hard won", (anomalous construction and wrong *lexical entry*), (Table IIId).

3. **WRONG COMPOUND LOAN-WORD**.

The Latin word "de facto", meaning "in actual fact, though not perhaps justly or according to law"., was wrongly compounded as "defactor" in Table 4.

The caller indentified himself as General Sani Abacha, then Secretary of defence and the **defacto** boss of the Ernest Shonekan-led Interim National Government, (ING)... (Cf Appendix iv)

4. **MISUSE OF SYNTACTICALLY FORMED (BUT MORPHOLOGICALLY BOUND) MODIFIERS.**

i. "Bayero team's so called", (Table IIIb)

ii. "the approved 3,000 Nigerian pilgrim quota", (Table IIIb)

iii. "massive but hushed-up airlift or pigrims", (Table IIIb)

In (i) the genitive of possession is omitted after "Bayero while the "so-called" is wrongly compounded.

iv. *Could better be reframed.*

v. "the approved 3,000 quota for Nigerian pilgrims", to avoid vague and ambiguous construction.

For (iii) the "hushed-up" (ed2 participle + adv.) is

anomalous for "hush-hush". Further to this, the conjunction "but" + "hush-hush" should be enclosed in a bracket to mark the usage off, as additional information to "massiveness" of "the airliftment of muslims from the north". Thus, (iii) would be reframed:

vi. "massive (but hush-hush) airlift of pilgrims from the north".

vii. Wrong genitives.

The following constructions from the corpus materials are examples of ill-formed genitives:

i. "let-off's", (Table IIIb)

ii. "State's military administrator", (Table IIIc)

iii. "Bayero team's `so-called' breakthrough", (Table IIIc)

iv. "the states muslims pilgrims welfare Board", (Table IIIb)

v. "... the new age rule introduced by the Saudi's", (Table IIIb).

vi. "... that makes only Nigerian's between...", (Table IIIb)

In (i) the supposed nominal "let-off" carries the genitive of possession ('s) instead of the plural marker (-s) after it. The genitive of possession in "state" in (ii) is unnecessary. Thus, (ii) would be reframed

vii. "The state military administrator. For (iii), since there are two "possessor - possession" elements:

a. "Bayero's team", and

b. "team's `so-called' breakthrough...",

it becomes imperative to use two genitive

markers. The construction now becomes:

viii. "Bayero's team's so-called...",

Another wrong omission is evident in (iv). Since reference is made to only Ogun State, the plural marker in "state" would now become genitive of possession - "state's"; and, in so far as there are three nominals used as adjectivals before "Board", the plural marker in "Muslims" would be deleted, and the genitive marker placed after the plural marker "-s" in "pilgrims". Thus, iv. now becomes:

ix. "The State's Muslim Pilgrims' Welfare Board".

Using the expansion and re-write rules of the Transformational-generative grammal model, (ix) could be expanded:

x. "State's muslim pilgrims",

xi. "Muslim pilgrim's welfare", and

xii. "pilgrims' Welfare Board".

For (v) and (vi) the genitive of possession (rather than the plural marker) has been used. (v) and (vi) would, therefore, be re-framed:

xiii. "... the new age-rule introduced by the Saudis", and

xiv. "... that makes only Nigerians between...",

respectively.

5. **NUMERALS AS MODIFIERS**

Perhaps for reasons of nuances in journalistic style, the following form our data have been written in figures, rather than in words:

i. "700 pilgrims", (Table IIIb).

ii. "3,000 Nigerian pilgrim quota", (Table IIIb).

iii. "84 slot", (Table IIIb).

iv. "25 places", (Table IIIb)

v. "55 places", (Table IIIb)

vi. "24 hours", (Table IIIa)

vii. "30 years", (Table IIIa)

viii. Etc.

Agreed that dates and titles of monarchs (e.g. Abubakar III) are written in figures, we would still regard the above as morphologially or lexically deficient, since, in writing, as far as possible, cardinals, and ordinals are written in words.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 SUMMARY

This study has examined the use of modification in language of journalism. We carried out the analysis of four selected feature articles, two each from **Tell** and **The News** magazines, using the Eclectic approach. From the onset we set out to determine:

i. whether the structure of modification in English has fixed or regular pattern.

ii. the patterns and why they should be strictly adhered to or conformed with,

iii. the possible effect(s) of irregular pattern in the chosen magazines, and

iv. the effect(s) of (i), (ii), and (iii) on meaning or communication.

The study further examined relevant approaches to the study of modification and later opted for an Eclectic approach, considering the complexities involved in the structure of modification. From the review of relevant literature on the subject-matter, we provided a theoretical framework for the study. For our methodology we found that the Quirk and Greenbaum's (1973) "Performance and Judgement Tests", using the frequency and percentage formulae is adequate to our analysis. We, therefore,

used the frame below:

No.	Item	Frequency of Occurence	frequency of incorrect responses	% of incorrect responses.

In chapter four we carried out the analysis of the four selected articles, two each from **Tell** and **The News** magazines, using the Eclectic approach. In the first section we carried out a statistical analysis of the errors, stating whether such error was syntactico-semantic, lexico-semantic, or morpho-phonological. For the statistical analysis of syntactico-semantic errors, ten items were considered. Ten items were also considered under lexico-semantic analysis, while six items were examined under morpho-phonological analysis.

Further to these, the selected four corpus materials; namely:

i. "Return of the Babylon", by Dare Babarinsa, **Tell**, November 13, 1995.

ii. "Hajj Palava", by Wilson Uwujaren, **The News**, 6 May, 1996,

iii. "Royal Roulette", by Seye Kehinde, **The News**, 6 May, 1996.

iv. "Abaha's Revenge", by Ima Niboro, **Tell**, November 13, 1995; were each analysed under the three levels of analysis.

The over-all results of the error analysis were also presented. A separate section containing the elicitation of incorrect responses was also included.

5.2 CONCLUSION

We have been able to demonstrate the fact that the structure of modification is preponderant in language of journalism, and that misuse of these modifiers has serious effects on information, which the news reports and features are all about.

One inference from our analysis is the disparity in the frequencies of occurence of errors among the features we discussed. For instance, at the syntactico-semantic level, item (1) records 100% incorrect usage in tables I(a) and (b), but nil in (c), and (d). Item (2) records 0% in all the four tables. From the lexico-semantic analysis, items (1) and (2) record a very high percentage of occurence but very low percentage of incorrect usage, while item (3) records 100% incorrect usage in all the four tables. Item (1v) also records 100% incorrect usage in tables II(a), (b), and (c) but nil in (d). And, from the morpho-phonological analysis, item (3) records nil (occurence and incorrect usuage) in tables III (a), (b) and (c) but 100% (incorrect usage) in table III (d). Further to this, whereas item (2) records a high percentage of incorrect usage in tables III (b), (c), and (d), it records a very low percentage of incorrect usage in table III (a).

At the syntactico-semantic level, we discovered that attachments, dangling modifiers, and misplaced structures are the commonest (and the most frequent) errors in modification. At the lexico-semantic level, redundant modifiers and lexically ambiguous words constitute the highest number of misused modifiers, while wrong compound loan-words constitute the highest percentage of misused modifiers at the morpho-phonological level.

From the analysis we found that errors resulting from the use of modifiers at the lexical, semantic, morphological and syntactical levels bring about nuances in meaning, and that these account for misrepresentation of the message in the media. Therefore, and from the foregoing, it has become evident that the structure of modification is an ordered pattern, despite the fact that there occur certain exceptions to the rule.

In conclusion, then, the researcher posits that writers, especially in the media, should adhere strictly to the ordered patterns of the structure of modification, to make room for a more effective communication.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Sequel to our findings in this study the researcher wishes to make strong case for:

i. Further research on modification, especially in areas of multiple modification, articles, Squinting modifiers, dangling modifiers, misplaced structures, attachment, ambiguities, etc.,

ii. More scholarly works and focus on use of language in the media. All this with a view to minimising cases of solecism in language of the media.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bittner, R.J. (1989) **Mass Communication: An Introduction** New Jersy; Prentice Hall, Inc.

Bloomfield, M.W. and Newmark, L. (1963) **A Linguistic Introduction History of English** New York; Alfred Knopf Inc.

Bolinger, D. ed., (1972) **Intonation**. London: Penguin.

---- (1980) **Language The loaded Weapon: The Use and Abuse of Language Today.** London: Longman.

Brown, K. and Miller, J. (1991) **Syntax: A Linguistic Introduction To Sentence Structure** London; Routledge.

Chamber, J. (1972) **The Content Analysis of Two Newspapers To Determine the Existence of Class-Specificity.** M. A. Thesis; New York; Hunter College.

Chomsky, N. (1957) **Syntactic Structures** New York; Gregory Lounz Book Company.

---- (1965) **Aspects of the Theory of Syntax** Cambridge; M.I.T. Press.

Christophersen, P. and Sandved, A,O. (1969) **An Advanced English Grammar.** London; Macmillan.

Cook, W. A. (1969) **Introduction to Tagmemic Analysis** New York; Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc.

Corder, J.W. and Ruszkiewicz, J.J. (1985) **Handbook of Current English.** USA; Scott, Freeman & Co.

Crystal, D and Davy, D. (1969) **Investigating English Style** London; Longman.

Fillmore, C.J. and Langendsen, D.T. (eds) (1971) **Studies In Linguistic Semantics** New York; Rinchart and Winston Inc.

Fowler, R. (1971) **An Introduction to Transformational Syntax** London;Routledge and Kegan Paul.

Freeborn, D. (1986) **Varieties of English** London; Macmillan.

Fries, C.C. (1951) **The Structure of English** Michigan; Ann Arbor.

Harrison, B. (1972) **An Introduction to the Philosophy ofLanguage** London; Macmillan.

Hawkings, J.A. (1976) **Definiteness and Indefinitness:A Study in Reference and Grammatical Predictions.** London; Croon Helm Ltd.

Hendon, J.A, (1970) **A survey of Modern Grammars (Second Edition)** New York; Holt, Rinehart and Winston Inc.

Hill, A.A. (1957) **Introduction to Linguistic Structures** New York; Harcourt, Brace and World, Inc.

Hohenbery (1973) **The Professional Journalist** New York; Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc.

Hogg, R.M. (1977) **English Quantifier System** Amsterdam: New York; North Holland Pub. Co.

Hornby, A.S. (1975) **Guide to Pattern and Usage in English** London; ELBS/OUP.

Householder, F.W. (ed.) (1972) **Syntactic Theory 1: Structuralist** London; Penguin Books Ltd.

Huddleston, R. (1976) **An Introduction to English Tranformational Syntax** London; Longman.

Kac, M.B. (1978) **Presentation of Grammatical Structures** USA; University of Minnesota Press;

Katz, J.J. and Postal, P.M. (1964) **An Integrated Theory of Linguistic Descriptions** London; Cambridge University Press.

Kempson, R. (1977) **Semantic Theory**. Cambridge; Cambridge Univ. Press,

Kimball, J.P. ed. (1973) **Syntax and Semantics** New York: London; Seminar Press.

Lakoff, G. (1970) **Irregularity In Syntax**. New York; Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc.

Leech, G. and Starvik, J. (1975) **A Communicative Grammar of English**; London; Longman.

Lefebvre, H. (1961) **Critique de la vie Quotidine** Tome II Paris; Arche Editeur.

Longman's Dictionary of Contemporary English (1995) edition London; Longman Group,

Lyons, J. (1968) **An Introduction to Theoretical Linguistics** Cambridge; Cambridge University Press.

----- (1974) **Semantics Vol.1** Cambridge; Cambridge University Press.

----- (1981) **Language and Linguistics: An Introduction.** Cambridge; Cambridge University Press.

Mandelbaum, D.G. ed., (1963) **Selected Writings of Edward Sapir In Language, Culture and Personality**. Berkeley: Los Angeles; University of California Press.

Martinet, A. (1962) **A Functional View of Language** Oxford; Oxford University Press.

Matthews, P. H. (1981) **Syntax.** Cambridge; Cambridge: New York; University Press.

Mittleberg, E. (1967) **Wortschartz Und Syntax der Bildzertung** Marbung Wart Verlag.

Namoda Techscope, Vol. 1 No. (1987): Kaura Namoda; Federal Polytechnic, Kaura Namoda.

Onion, C.T. (1971) **Modern English Syntax.** London: Henley; Routledge and Kean Paul.

Palmer, F.R. (1971) **Grammar,** London; Longman.

Pandey, A. (1989) **A Lexico-Semantic and Syntactic Analysis of Errors In Selected Nigerian Newspapers: A Systemic Approach.** B. A. English Thesis (Unpublished) A.B.U. Zaria.

Pugh, A.K. and Lee, V.J. (1980) **Language and Language Use** London; Heinemann.

Quirk, R. and Greenbaum, S. (1970) **Elicitation Experiments in English: Linguisitic Studies in Use and Attitude** London; Longman Group.

---- (1973): **A University Grammar of English** London; ELBS/Longman.

Radford, A. (1988) **Transformational Grammar** Cambridge; Cambridge University Press; Cambridge.

Roberts, P. (1964) **English Syntax: An Introduction to Transformational Grammar** New York; Harcourt, Brace and World, Inc.

Sapir, E. (1970) **Language: An Introduction to the Study of Speech.** New York; Harcourt, Brace and World, Inc.

Seuren, P.A.M. (1969) **Operators and Nucleus: Contribution to The Theory of Grammar.** Cambridge; Cambridge University Press.

Sinclair, J.M.H. (1972) **A Course in Spoken English: Grammar.** Oxford; Oxford University Press; Oxford.

Spencer, J. ed., (1971) **The English Language in West Africa.** London; Longman Group.

Stageberg, N. (1981) **An Introductory English Grammar.** New York; Holt, Rinehart and Wiinston, Inc.

Stubbs, M. (1983) **Discourse Analysis** Oxford; Baso; Blackwell.

Tomori, S.H.O. (1977) **The Morphology and Syntax of Present Day English: An Introduction.** London; Heinemann.

Wimmer, R. D. and Dominick, J.R,(1987) **Mass Media Research: An Introduction.** Belmount: California; Wadsworth Pub. Co.

Wood, F.T. (1962) **Current English Usage** London; Macmillan.

Yotsukura, S. (1970) **The Articles in English: A Structural Analysis of Usage.** The Hague: Paris; Mouton Press.

MAGAZINES

Tell Magazine, Tell Communications Ltd., Ikeja, Nigeria.

The News Magazine, Independent Communications Network Ltd., Ikeja, Nigeria.

Return of Babylon

By Dare Babarinsa

Remember, O Lord, what has happened to us.
Look at us, and see our disgrace.
Happiness has gone out of our lives;
grief has taken the place of our dances.
Lamentations 5: 1, 15

The above quotation was written by Jeremiah, the Jewish prophet, lamenting the fate of his people in captivity. In 586 B.C., Jerusalem, capital of ancient Israel, was captured by the army of Nebuchadnezzar, emperor of Babylon. The victorious emperor ordered the destruction of the city, executed Zedekiah, the Jewish king, all his children and nobles, and carried the people into exile and slavery. Since then, Babylon has become the metaphor of slavery and collective suffering. Africans who were sold into slavery across the Atlantic referred to their experience as the Babylonian captivity.

For the people of Lagos and Nigeria, they have not been carried into Babylon, but Babylon has come to meet them in their homesteads. Last Monday, patrons of Tejuosho Market in Mainland Lagos got to the place to see it sealed up by armed soldiers. Colonel Olagunsoye Oyinlola, Lagos State military administrator (Milad), had ordered the place closed because, he said, it was dirty. There was no need for him to find out who were the people responsible for keeping Tejuosho clean. Everyday, different kinds of taxation (and extortions) are collected in Tejuosho but nobody dare ask what this money is meant for.

The patrons of Tejuosho have accepted their lot. They are in Babylon. The sellers of pepper and tomatoes, of vegetables, snails and other perishable items have been visited by calamity by that single closure. Many of them, breadwinners of thousands of families, would have their entire capital base wiped out. If Oyinlola cannot create employment, at least he can create unemployment. Nobody is talking about it because the closure of Tejuosho is not important. The patrons of that market are mainly those suffering from annulment and marginalisation.

> ***If Oyinlola cannot create employment, at least he can create unemployment... He does not need to build schools or roads, water works or mere consulting clinics... He only needs to please and account to one man in Nigeria, and that man is certainly not a Lagosian***

The truth is that Oyinlola knows that there is a limit to his powers. He can destroy the whole of Ajegunle and Agege. He can order the burning down of Oshodi Market and the closure of all Lagos schools for one year. He can sack all doctors and nurses and close down all hospitals. But he dare not touch Mile 12 Market again. He has learnt his lessons. The patrons of Mile 12 are the owners of Nigeria.

I am sure too that Oyinlola truly regards himself as the second calabash to His Military Highness. You see his agents on Lagos streets seizing goods from poor and helpless street traders and the children of the weakest members of this beknighted country. You meet his agents, clad in battle fatigues brandishing koboko and AK 47 rifles, like those great soldiers of Saddam Hussein. His agents are the terror of the children of the poor, except those lucky urchins in front of military barracks.

The Okuku prince is not a prince of darkness, but he surely knows his source. He is not elected by Lagos people and can neither be reprimanded nor removed by them. He is the law and he has no parliament to report to. Unlike Lateef Kayode Jakande, Second Republic governor of Lagos State, he does not need to build schools or roads, water works or mere consulting clinics. He does not need to think of the Metroline project or how to stop Lagos factories from closing down. He only needs to please and account to only one man in Nigeria, and that man is certainly not a Lagosian.

Like Lagosians, we all have our different Babylons. Ask the valiant Ogoni people and their great leader, the cerebral Ken Saro-Wiwa. Ask the Katafs. Ask the brothers and sisters of Gideon Akaluka. Ask the communities whose ancestral lands are producing the petroldollars that the rulers of Nigeria depend on. Ask those who were born in the wrong corners of Nigeria about their fate in the public service, owned and directed by those born in the right corners of Nigeria. Ask those who are slaving across the Niger in other people's backyards.

The truth of that Babylon came fatally home last Monday to Abayomi Bamidipo, celebrated physician, professor of medicine, consultant to the World Health Organisation, WHO, and the chief medical director of the Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital, ABUTH, Zaria. For Bamidipo, ABUTH meant his life. He had been a teacher of doctors in that institution for 30 years. Then last Monday, Bamidipo discovered, too late, that he was in Babylon. A mob of angry workers burst into his office, dragged him on the concrete floor, beat him into a pulp and threw him into the boot of a Peugeot car and drove away to deposit his body at the ABUTH mortuary, though he was not dead. He was soon rescued from the mortuary, taken into a private hospital where he died less than 24 hours later. Bamidipo died in Babylon.

The walls of Babylon are strong, but some Nigerians, unlike Bamidipo, are determined to breach it. Imagine that many Nigerians, on the pretence that they were going on holy pilgrimage to Jerusalem, used the opportunity to flee the stronghold. For now, Nigerians are fleeing to different countries of the world, some in as faraway as Japan, Indonesia, Australia and the former Soviet Union. These are clearly unpatriotic people.

I believe there are options open to patriots who are determined to serve their country's interest whether Moshood Abiola, the man Nigerians elected their president, likes it or not. One option is to join hands with such patriots as Tony Anenih, the former chairman of the defunct Social Democratic Party, SDP, Emeka Odumegwu Ojukwu, former head of state of the defunct Republic of Biafra, and Ernest Shonekan, former head of the illegal Interim National Government, in moving the nation forward. For those who are interested in personal demonstration of their patriotism and their love for the Maximum Leader, they can pay a solidarity visit to Aso Rock Presidential Villa, Abuja.

About solidarity visits and the science of begging, I commend those who are interested to take some briefings from the Ondo State Council of Obas and its chairman, Oba Festus Adesanoye, the Osemawe of Ondo. That way they may soon discover that all captives in Babylon are equal but some are more equal than others. ■

COVER STORY

Abacha's Revenge

Last week's verdicts show the junta believes it can always have its way. But the controversial sentences passed on Ogoni leaders have caused an uproar around the world

By IMA NIBORO

Ken Saro-Wiwa, the president of the Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People, MOSOP, and the spokesman for the Ogonis of the Niger Delta, didn't quite expect the telephone call. That day in late 1993 when the phone rang he had a premonition of an impending evil, but the news that came was too heart-warming to sustain any such misgivings. The caller identified himself as General Sani Abacha, then *secretary of defence* and the defacto boss of the Ernest Shonekan-led Interim National Government, ING, which had only a few weeks before released political detainees including Saro-Wiwa, who had been in detention since July for causing his people to boycott the June 12, 1993 presidential elections. After they exchanged pleasantries, Abacha came to the point. He said he needed to speak urgently with Saro-Wiwa on certain issues, which he couldn't relate on telephone and wondered if the Ogoni spokesman could make it to Abuja anytime soon? Saro-



Photos: Sunday Adelaja

Abacha: *A 'sympathiser' and a persecutor*



Saro-Wiwa: *To pay for "snubbing' Abacha*

Wiwa, sensing another window of opportunity to air the many grievances of his people, grabbed the invitation by both hands. The very next day, a gleaming presidential jet was despatched to Port Harcourt to fetch him to Abuja. Even before he arrived the federal capital, greased processes had been put in place. A presidential motorcade complete with liveried chauffeurs and the works whisked him straight to where the general held court. "It was a softening process that fell apart," remarked one source... "the greased processes, the gleaming leather and chromium were meant to titillate the artistic sensibilities of the writer in Ken, in preparation for what Abacha had in store."

As soon as Saro-Wiwa arrived, he was brought face to face with Abacha, who was preparing for dinner. He joined him at the table and with both men eating sparingly, Abacha gingerly opened his campaign for, as it turned out, the position of head of state.

He began by apologising to Saro-Wiwa over the treatment meted to him by the security agencies under the General Ibrahim Babangida regime, describing his arrest and detention as an "uncivilised and unintelligent" approach to solving the rather straightforward problems of the Ogonis. He hinted that he never had a hand in the more draconian aspects of Babangida's tenure, adding that as far as he was concerned, he saw nothing wrong in acceding to reasonable demands such as the Ogonis'. He then asked the Ogoni leader what exactly it was that he and his people wanted done for them.

Saro-Wiwa presented Abacha with the Ogoni bill of rights issued in 1990 and orally summarised its cardinal demands as the struggle for political control of Ogoni affairs by Ogoni people, control and use of a fair proportion of Ogoni economic resources for Ogoni development and the right to protect the Ogoni environment and ecology from further degradation.

The Ogoni leader explained that what his people demand is political autonomy within the context of a federal Nigeria, in which environment they can control a fair percentage of the royalties accruing from oil exploitation, and then link up voluntarily with other equally autonomous political groups for the purpose of development.

Halfway through dinner, Saro-Wiwa realised that Abacha had his mind elsewhere. This was evidenced by his rather elaborate nods and overtly generous and uncritical comments on the plight of the Ogonis, and indeed the pillaged minorities of the Niger Delta. By the time Saro-Wiwa finished, Abacha fired a direct question. How would he like to be a minister under a coming dispensation? The Ogoni spokesman confided in the closest circle of associates that he was taken aback by the enquiry, but only to the extent that he was being offered an appointment in a new government, when an incumbent one was in place and on which his fellow Ogoni and compatriot, I.S. Kogbara served - with much criticism from himself and fellow Ogonis. He rejected the offer outright and itemised the reasons for doing so. First, he explained that if he took appointment it would prove critics right, who say that all he is doing by the Ogoni struggle is to angle for personal political advantage. Second, and in response to Abacha's subsequent suggestion that if he couldn't come on board he could at least nominate



TELL Photo

Komo: *Mission accomplished*

one of his more prominent followers, he explained that such a nomination would compromise the ideals of MOSOP and cost it its hard-won international reputation as an independent organisation of a people agitating peacefully for a better deal from their government and fellow countrymen.

His associates say that deep inside him Saro-Wiwa already had a niggling suspicion that all Abacha wanted to do was to cage in MOSOP and break it, simply by getting it to compromise itself, and that as he gently reeled out reasons why neither he nor MOSOP could be part of the coup against Shonekan, Abacha's eyes hardened ever so imperceptibly and his manners became rather rigid and controlled. "Ken knew from that moment on that he had incurred the enmity of a very powerful man. The only thing he didn't know was how far Abacha would go to exact revenge," said a source.

For "snubbing" Abacha, even if for good reason, Saro-Wiwa had to pay, and Abacha's reprisal which fitted into the larger designs of the state against the Ogoni people was carefully choreographed, down to the last detail of the death sentence of last week. The design to get Saro-Wiwa over the personal angle was made more compelling not only because his rejection of Abacha's offer suggested that MOSOP could only grow in strength and international clout, but because it also signalled the collapse of a long-standing effort by Abacha, who always believed he would one day be head of state, to woo the Ogoni leader to his side. Indeed, long before the collapse of the Babangida regime, Abacha had begun to scout for possible allies within the polity, and he used various politicians and businessmen to reach out to selected opinion leaders with whom he struck personal friendships. Among the pointsmen so used were the Chagouri brothers - Donald and Gilbert - and it was through them that Abacha got to Saro-Wiwa. The Ogoni leader, who had for some time enjoyed a warm relationship with the Lebanese brothers, was through them inundated with views of Abacha's humaneness and how he was the rational spirit behind the Babangida regime. Through them Saro-Wiwa learnt that Abacha sympathised with the cause of the Ogonis and, in fact, when the terrorisation of the area started in 1993, one of the brothers offered to link Saro-Wiwa up with Abacha to help alleviate the problem.

It was thus that Abacha cultivated a double image - of a sympathiser to the Ogonis on the outside and, in Babangida's kitchen cabinet, a vociferous campaigner for the use of greater force against the unarmed and defenceless people. Sources claim, and later-day events seem to confirm, that Abacha had no patience with Babangida's rather guarded handling of the Ogoni situation (the ex-military president himself being a minority), and that within the National Security and Defence Council, NSDC, which supplanted the Armed Forces Ruling Council, AFRC, in 1993, Abacha campaigned vigorously for a firmer approach to the "pacification" of Ogoniland.

When he took effective charge in late 1993, one of his earliest assignments was to cage the Ogonis, and reports claim that he leaned heavily on Rivers state administrator, Lieutenant-Colonel Dauda Komo, to produce a strategy to halt the Ogoni agitations once and for all. In April 1994, Operation Order 4/94 was born. Titled Restoration of Law and Order in Ogoniland, the operation was justified on the claim that "law and order gradually died down (sic) in the area which constitutes Gokhana and Khana Local

473744

The Ogoni Verdicts

Government Areas towards the close of 1993." The order attributed this breakdown to "the unwholesome activities of some disgruntled members of the area, who inadvertently (sic) usurped governmental powers and took laws into their hands." The objectives of the operation were thus to "re-establish government presence in the area so as to bring to the knowledge of the citizenry that they are still a part and parcel of Nigeria," as well as "to restore and maintain order in Ogoniland."

The operation envisaged a joint service take-over of Ogoniland, with the Nigerian Police alone contributing 406 officers and men and the Army, Airforce and Navy contributing a similar number of troops. "The units will be a mixture of men from all the forces... and the operation will involve both vehicular and foot patrols", the order read. The impact of Operation Order 4/94, which was eventually placed under the command of Major Paul Okuntimo, was horrendous. Soon after the invading force arrived, Ogoni took on the look of a conquered territory, with Nigerian Army, Airforce, Navy and Police personnel as the conquerors. Entire communities were sacked and casually driven into the dense greenery. All able-bodied men that could be arrested were grabbed and locked up in putrid cells at Kpor in Ogoni. Women and children were routinely brutalised, and extortion rackets boomed at ubiquitous checkpoints.

Thinking that the Ogoni spirit had been broken, the state government invited Shell, sacked from the area since 1993, to return. The firm balked at the prospect of extracting oil under armed guard. "If Shell go in, it would further confirm to the world that they are stealing the oil with guns, like armed robbers," Saro-Wiwa warned. Shell decided not to.

Helpless about Shell's intransigence, the Abacha junta turned viciously on the Ogonis. Okuntimo perfected 221 ways of killing Ogonis and was to boast about this at a world press conference in Port Harcourt. "I drove them all into the bush," he exulted rather strangely for an army officer, speaking of his own countrymen. He gave a rather gory account. "I operated in the night, so nobody knew where I was coming from. I just take a detachment of soldiers and stay at the four corners of the town. They will back the town, listen, they will back the town. But they have automatic rifles that sound dead. If you hear the sound you will freeze. And then I will equally choose about 20 and give them hand grenades, explosives, very hard ones. The machine gun with 500 rounds will open up, when 4 or 5 like that open up, and you are throwing grenades into the bush making gboal and the people know I am around, what do you think they will do? And we have already put road-blocks on the main road, we didn't want anybody to run along the roads. The option we made (sic) was that we should drive all these people into the bush with nothing except the pant and the wrapper they were using that night. We got everybody into the bush," Okuntimo boasted.

But in the ensuing stampede, the weak and the infirm were trodden underfoot, and many of the strong in great confusion ran smack into a hail of bullets. With each terrible conquest, Okuntimo became even more bloodthirsty, egged on as he was by the junta he served so faithfully. On May 12, 1994, he fired off a memo to Lieutenant-Colonel Komo in which he outlined fresh and even more hideous strategies against the Ogonis. He requested an additional 400 officers and men for "ruthless operations" and "wasting of targets cutting across communities and leadership cadres, especially vocal individuals in various groups." He urged the further exploitation of "division between the elitist (sic) Ogoni leadership," and significantly recommended "wasting operations during MOSOP and other gatherings, making constant military presence justifiable."

It was clear at this point that if MOSOP will not self-destruct willingly by joining Abacha's government then the Ogonis will be cut off, caged in and killed all the same.



The accused: *Victims of state terrorism*

473744

Twelve days after Okuntimo's memo, a unique opening to "waste" Ogoni leadership first by murder and then by hanging presented itself. The Ogoni leadership in the Gokhana chiefdom were that day meeting at Giokoo to plan a reception for two of their sons who were, recent to that time, appointed into the Rivers State government. One of them was Barinem Kiobel who was appointed commissioner for commerce, industry and tourism, but who has now been sentenced to death by hanging.

Till today, not MOSOP, not the Rivers State government, nor indeed the Justice Ibrahim Auta tribunal which last week sentenced Saro-Wiwa, Kiobel and eight others to death over the incidents of May 20, has been able to say what happened. The official account, however, is that Saro-Wiwa was campaigning for the constitutional conference elections unlawfully in a neighbouring town and was apprehended and deported from Ogoni by armed troops. It adds that as he was being apprehended, he told a gathering of youths that the vultures responsible for the plight of the Ogonis

Hajj Palava

Schemed out of Hajj '96, Southern Muslims cry foul amidst fears of a deepening crack in Muslim unity

WILSON UWUJAREN

WITHIN the Nigerian Muslim community anxiety is burgeoning about the future cohesiveness of the hitherto united Muslim brotherhood. At the summit of Muslim leadership there exists palpable trepidation about a widening crack in the ranks of Muslim faithfuls. Although still at an embryonic level, it is fairly discernible to perceptive students of the Islamic movement in Nigeria that the sundry questions thrown up by the official bungling of the 1996 hajj have soured long repressed negative emotions, and might have unwillingly driven a wedge into the unity and cohesiveness of Muslims in Nigeria. Nothing demonstrates the widening gulf in the ranks of Muslim faithfuls more than the barrage of potshots, all aimed at the caliphate, that kept emanating from Muslims in the south west with an uncanny but deafening resonance. Like the botched June 12 presidential election, the intensity of the tirades of anguished let off's was enormous enough to underline the level of despair felt by the Muslims in the south. From available facts, it is unmistakable that the 1996 Hajj imbroglio may have let loosed a current of events that might perhaps forever, change the face of the Nigeria Islamic movement.

At the epicenter of the growing unease, The*NEWS* gathered is the Ado Bayero-led Federal government delegation that spear headed the diplomatic offensive to get the authorities of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to soft-pedal on its initial wholesale ban on pilgrims from Nigeria from entering the holy land to perform the Hajj. The team which spent days in Saudi Arabia lobbying and cajoling officials of the Saudi ministry of Hajj to rescind its decision on the ban slammed on intending Nigerian pilgrims from any part of the world flew into the country 16th April with the heart thumping news of a fundamental shift by the Saudis: "Nigeria has been given the green light to commence immediate airlift of pilgrims". Bayero reportedly told the Calipha in Aso Rock. While Alhaji Ado Bayero, who is also the Emir of Kano spoke in Abuja, a simultaneous announcement of the commencement of the hitherto stalled pilgrims airlifment was announced.



• Ahaji Ado Bayero



• **Pilgrims:** *Waiting*

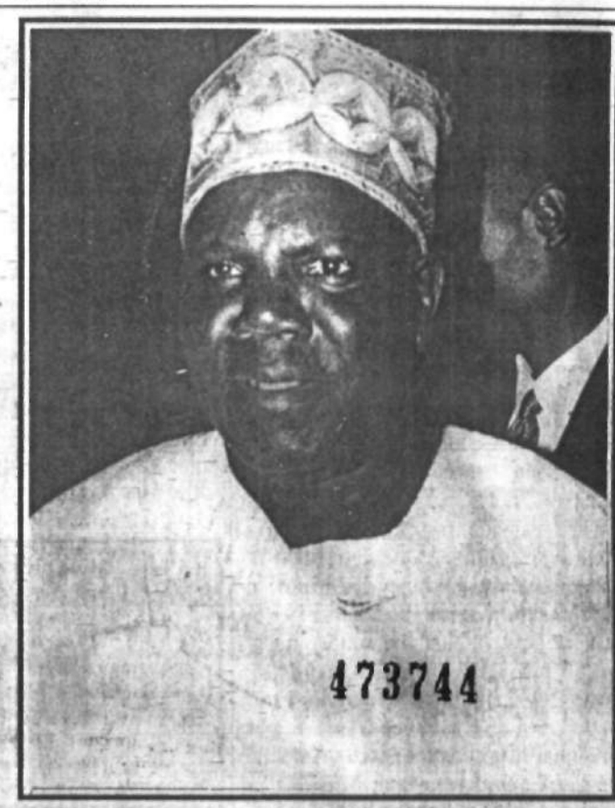
However facts available to The*NEWS* reveal that the airlift of pilgrims from the Aminu Kano Airport in Kano had commenced hours before the Bayero team's "so called break through" became public. By the time the Emir of Kano and his team reported the outcome of their mission, over 700 pilgrims from the predominantly northern states of Kano, Niger, Jigawa and Kebbi had been airlifted from the Kano Airport abroad Kabo Airline. Worst still, Muslims in the South were totally kept in the dark regarding the approved 3,000 Nigerian pilgrim quota until two days after the return of the Bayero team by which time the northern Muslims had virtually used up the approved quota through massive but hushed-up airlift of pilgrims from the Aminu Kano Airport. Sources told The*NEWS* that intending pilgrims from the south felt shortchanged when it eventually dawned on them that the Bayero team had been quite economic with the truth of their mission and that there were schemes to sideline the Muslim Arna or pagan Muslims, as the northern Muslim derisively call their southern counterpart, from benefiting from the meagre 3000 pilgrims quota.

The ruffled intending pilgrims went aghast with rage with their treatment as second rate Muslims which the schism of the Bayero team actually meant. Efforts to pacify them with a last minute ration-

ing of seats among the Muslim states of the south west proved in consequential as they were outrightly rejected. For example, Lagos state allegedly rejected the paltry 84 slots allocated to it. The same as Ondo which refused to accept the 25 places reserved for it. Ditto for Osun State which refused the meagre 55 places allocated to it. The result is that save for Ogun state which was lucky to have had some 400 of its pilgrims airlifted before the ban imbroglio, most of the south western states that habours the largest population of Muslims in the south actually pulled out of the 1996 hajj. The few that made the trip were mostly state sponsored pilgrims who nevertheless were embarrassed by the spate of deportation that affected most Nigerian pilgrims from the south parts of the country. Either by act of commission or omission, the Bayero team was silent on the new age rule introduced by the Saudi's that makes only Nigerian's between the age bracket 35-49 eligible to perform the hajj. The strict application of this rule at Jeddah, the Saudi Arabian port of entry saw the immediate deportation of key southern-pilgrims including the leaders of the Ogun state official delegation, Senator Jubril Martins Kuye and scribe of the states Muslims Pilgrims Welfare Board, Mr. R.A. Olateju.

A number of Muslim clerics in Lagos told **The*NEWS*** that the deportation of mostly southern pilgrims is too much of a coincidence to be swallowed as an act of God. Sheik Nouktar Sanusi, a Muslim scholar in Ketu, a Lagos suburb wondered why no northern pilgrims of note fell foul of the age limit restriction. "Does it mean that northern muslims are now better educated and better informed on the pilgrims logistics than their counterparts in the southern part of the country," he asked rhetorically. One of the intending pilgrims in the hajj 1996 imbroglio, Mr. Taofiki Abdulrazak of Ikorodu, Lagos State, is of the view that the Bayero team deserved to be subjected to a probe which should find out the extent of their involvement in what he called " a grand conspiracy to fool Southerners as the team's assignment may have set the muslims community on the road to a perpetual feud.

Paradoxically, it hit most of the intending pilgrims in the south with disgust that the bulk of those who made the trip to Saudi Arabia, came from the north, the supposed haven of the cerebra spiral meningitis epidemic that sparked of the ban row in the first instance. This fact itself have unwittingly smashed the CSM alibi of the Saudi's and reduced the entire episode to a macabre affair designed more to embarrass than to sanitise the hajj operation.



• Adegbite of SCIA

More than anything else, the humiliation of the southern Muslims have again brought to the fore the age long rivalry and hatred between adherents of the Muslim faith in Nigeria. Largely a function of cultural arrogance, scholars of Algerian Islamic history are of the views that Muslims in the core north or the Sokoto caliphate have as a matter of tradition never accepted their counterparts from the south as equals. They have always had it in their sub-conscious mind that those who claim to be Muslims in the south are their inferiors just as Muslims from the middle East also do not consider themselves at par with dark-skinned adherents of the faith from tropical Africa.

Obiade Oladipupo, a communications consultant told **The*NEWS*** that the stereotype is based on an erroneous premise. According to him there is nothing like a superior Muslim before Allah. "All Muslims are equal before Allah. And if we are to face the truth of the matter, southern Muslims are more pious than those who claim to own the religion". He submitted.

Efforts to get the Secretary General of the Suppress Control of Islamic Affairs, Dr. Lateef Adegbite to comment on this controversy was not successful last week. However, sources close to the organization informed the magazine that the heat so far generated by the humiliation of the southern pilgrims have placed the boss under pressure. Already, these is a sense of urgency that something has to be done urgently to assuage the southern muslims and mend the cracks in the walls of Islamic solidarity. "At a time when groups have began to question the perogative of the Sultan to be the automatic president of the supreme council for Islamic Affairs, you need no soothsayer to drum it into your head that the centre of the Nigeria Muslims community is at pains holding its own", Mr. Oladipupo said last week.

At press time, it was still not possible to discern the direction that future changes in relations within the SCIA will take, but it was fairly obvious that change is inevitable. The incontrovertible facts is that the 1997 Hajj operation will certainly draw lessons from the failings of the 1996 version.

TN

KASHIM IBRAHIM LIBRARY

of Wukari all in Taraba state. His request to take some of his hypertension drugs was turned down, so also his decision to be taken back home to pack. For the 79-year-old traditional ruler this was the ultimate in disgrace, a humiliation.

Unknown to Dasuki, as he was being ridiculed and sent into exile, the same governor from whom he received the news of his sack had gone on air, in a radio and television broadcast to give reasons for his dethronement. In the broadcast, Col. Mu'azu gave eight reasons for the state government's decision to terminate Dasuki's reign which began in 1988. According to him the Sultan's transgressions included apparent disregard for constituted authority by engaging in diplomatic matters without prior clearance from the government. Alhaji Dasuki was also alleged to have failed to account for monies donated by foreign governments and organizations for the building of mosques. He was also accused of selfishness, desecration of Islam, poor leadership and causing disaffection among Muslims. The administrator specifically stated that while in office, the sultan was in the habit of visiting foreign diplomats without government knowledge and travelling out of the country without permission from the government. Mu'azu also gave as reason, the fact that the sultan was currently standing trial before the Failed Banks Tribunal. The administrator noted that such conducts as exhibited by the former sultan was a disgrace to the institution he represented.

THE humiliation of Dasuki was completed with the men of the Sokoto state security operatives going to the sultan's palace and driving away all his personal staff, while the dethroned monarch's family members were given a 24-hour ultimatum to pack the personal belongings of the deposed king from the palace to his private residence in Meyiti - Allah area of Sokoto. It was the sultan's second son, Ahmed, a successful architect who now manages the expansive estate of his late brother, Alhaji Dasuki, who supervised the evacuation. He moved from his Kaduna base for Sokoto immediately that Saturday to take charge of the situation.

But surprisingly, all was quiet in Sokoto town and in several parts of the country; there was infact jubilation. Not a few people were happy that Dasuki at last had been removed. Understandably so. Across the country, Dasuki had always been seen as an usurper and a pretender to the throne which many people believe rightly belong to Alhaji Muhammadu Maccido, the *Serikin Kudu* and the first son of former Sultan Abubakar Siddiq III whose death triggered the 1988 succession race. So, they saw Dasuki's dethronement as an attempt to right the wrongs of the past. One Alhaji Mekera Atahiru who wanted to address a news conference was arrested. They were released two hours later, after they had made statements to the police.

Equally interesting were the comments of many Nigerians. While people like Alhaji Arisekola Alao, president of the Grand Council for Islamic Affairs of Nigeria and Islamic Missionary Alhaji Azeez Ajagbemokeferi saw the dethronement of Dasuki as unfortunate, others like Alhaji Balarabe Musa, second republic governor of Kaduna state and Alhaji Lamidi Adedibu the Balogun of Ibadanland called it a welcome development.

Alhaji Arisekola Alao attributed the dethronement of Sultan Ibrahim Dasuki to the will of Allah. "There was nothing anybody could do to change the will of Allah," he said. "The exalted position Dasuki occupied demands someone to be above board at all times but I doubt if he fulfilled that obligation; the way he handled the SCIAN money leaves much to be desired. God manifested himself by Maccido's eventual turbaning." As for Alhaji Adedibu, the dethronement served Alhaji Dasuki right as he was allegedly instrumental to the annulment of the June 12, 1993 presidential election. "You remember what Dasuki said about June 12?" he asked. "Everybody shall be judged according to his deeds and intentions". Alhaji Adedibu accused Dasuki of betraying the Muslims in the South and Abiola who was the second-in-command to him in the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs. "You should not throw stone at outsiders if you are living in a glass house. Dasuki was riding on the back of a tiger to scare other people, but eventually he was devoured by the same tiger. He was imposed on the people and also got forcefully removed. Praise be to Allah", said Adedibu. Alhaji Lamidi Adesina, a NADECO chieftain in Oyo state agreed with Adedibu, saying at last justice and truth had eventually prevailed. "Dasuki was enthroned by his friend, General Babangida, but today, another Pharaoh who did not know Joseph has come. The lesson is that we should always wait for our time and not jump the gun", he said. But Muslim cleric Alhaji Azeez Ajagbemokeferi thinks differently. He accused General Abacha's government of being disrespectful to traditional rulers, saying, "if truly they respect traditional rulers, they would not have treated the sultan who is a revered person in the disgraceful manner." He thinks the action was politically motivated. Other groups reacted too. While a human-rights group, *Irresponsible Truth Nigeria* described it as a good omen for June 12, Muslim Rights Concern sees Dasuki's removal as a dangerous trend for Islamdom.



•Abacha, and IBB

Photo:Monday Emoni/ TheNews

Nonetheless, Dasuki's removal came to Nigerians as a shock. For many could not imagine that the Abacha regime could remove the man who was believed to be easily one of the most powerful Nigerians. They had expected that the fear of negative reprisals would not have made the regime dabble into taking such a sensitive decision. But there are those who saw it coming. "The day I saw General Abacha on the front page of *The Guardian* bowing so deferentially to Dasuki, I knew Abacha was going to deal with him," explained Odia Ofeimun, former private secretary to the late Obafemi Awolowo and now chairman Editorial Board of *A.M News*: "It is simply an index of political animosity when your leader is over deferential to you. Very many Southerners interpreted it as a matter of been unduly subjecting himself to the influence of the caliphate. But what impressed me was that it gave a signal of what Abacha was going to do to Dasuki". Odia Ofeimun is right. There has been no love lost between the Abacha regime and the former sultan since Abacha came into power in November 1993. Infact, the relationship

between the two has been at best frosty. It all began when shortly after Abacha settled down to power, he began to deny Dasuki all the perquisites of office he had hitherto enjoyed under the Babangida regime. During the eight years of IBB, the regime catered to his needs. Among other things, he enjoyed the use of the presidential plane, won handsome contracts and most of his frivolities were funded by the regime. But all these soon stopped under Abacha. For he made it a point of duty to starve Dasuki of funds. That both of them were not enjoying a good relationship soon became clear when as customary, several traditional rulers began to pay solidarity visits to Abacha at Dodan Barracks when he assumed office and Dasuki did not show up until a month after. This sent tongues wagging. When Dasuki eventually visited Abacha at Dodan Barracks it was like a reluctant visit. Unknown to many people Dasuki's visit to Abacha in December 1993 was paid in sheer desperation. On two different occasions before the visit, Dasuki faced by the turn of political circumstances in the country had contacted General Abacha to convey his worries on two crucial issues. First, he wanted to know why, despite the frenzied agitations of the Northern political elite, his fledging regime had not deemed it fit to relocate from Lagos to Abuja. Again, Dasuki was also anxious to know why Abacha had spurned tradition not only by his unexplained reluctant to travel down to Sokoto to pay homage but more so, by the way he had waved aside his (Dasuki's) overtures concerning a visit. In this regard, Dasuki appeared more unsettled by the Abacha regime's earlier advertised determination not to give room to hangers-on-and sycophants and to discourage congratulatory messages and frivolous visits.

WHEN he eventually visited Abacha, Dasuki went beyond the two vexing issues which he previously had in mind to intimate Abacha of the caliphate's unhidden inconvenience with the idea of a constitutional conference, which was one of the so-called four cardinal programmes of the new administration. It was during this visit that Abacha literarily courtesied before the Sultan deferentially. Dasuki himself was said to have been so uncomfortable at Abacha's open deference to him, more so since he thought Abacha might have acted that way to humour him. Dasuki was soon to realize that Abacha never took seriously the issue of respect for the institution he represents. As events soon showed, it became clear that the strained relationship several times would degenerate to pettiness. At several public ceremonies, both of them began to show a total lack of respect for each other. Take the case of the 16 September, 1995 passing-out parade of graduands of the 42 Regular Course at the Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA), Kaduna, at which General Abacha served as the reviewing officer. After the ceremony, guests trooped to the Arewa House which was scheduled for commissioning that same day while Dasuki left for his Dogon Dutse Guest House in Malali village, on the outskirts of Kaduna to cool-off. He was to join Abacha at the ceremony much later. Abacha felt angry at Dasuki's late arrival to the venue when he had already been seated and the programme had already commenced. It was not only the fact that Dasuki came late that annoyed Abacha, it was also that, as it turned out, royal trumpeters disrupted the ceremony a bit when they began to herald the arrival of Dasuki who drove into the arena in an immaculate white Mercedes Benz car. Some of the invited dignitaries who witnessed what had happened and who were aware of the frosty relationship between Abacha and Dasuki knew that this drama was likely to worsen the situation and appealed to the Kaduna state administrator Lawal Jafaru Isa, a colonel to plead with General Abacha over this minor misdemeanor of the Sultan but Isa reportedly distanced himself from the issue on the excuse that he was too small to act as an arbiter between the two powerful players. Friends and well wishers soon prevailed on Dasuki to apologize to Abacha. Dasuki was to later despatch a written apology to the head of state over the affair, on the excuse that he was held up in a traffic jam. Dasuki followed this apology up with a friendly visit to Aso Rock which was accorded adequate coverage in the national dailies. On that occasion, the Sultan claimed he had



•Sultan Maccido

no quarrel with the head of state.

All these did not help matters, the relationship between the two further degenerated. For a few months after, another incident happened at the Sokoto Airport. The Head of State had gone to Sokoto to commission some projects, but avoided visiting the palace of the Sultan. That was not all. The head of state also refused to pick the gift item offered him by the Sultan. It was left on the tarmac moments after the presidential jet took off. All these events took place after Abacha had come to power.

But there are those who believe that limiting the genesis of the problems between Dasuki and Abacha to when the latter came to power does not present the full picture of the cold war between the two. Perhaps so.

For the root cause of the problems between the duo dates back to the early days of the Babangida regime, when Dasuki's son, Sambo, a lieutenant Colonel in the armoured corp, was still aide-de-camp (ADC) to Babangida. At that time, Sambo was very powerful and he took effective command of his posting. He commanded considerable influence and single handedly determined who saw Babangida and who didn't. As the story goes, even top men like Abacha who was then the Army Chief and the effective number 2 man often had difficulties in seeing Babangida. They all soon learnt the new survival code by heart that the fear of Sambo was the beginning of wisdom. He infact hated Abacha with a passion and he was about one of the few junior officers who could afford to be rude to their superiors then, another being Col. Lawan Gwadabe. Consider what happened between Sambo and Abacha one evening when Babangida was jetting out in one of his many restless trips abroad. The protocol file had built up to take the salute and the traditional hand shake before Babangida boarded the plane.

According to some of Sambo's colleagues, when Babangida shook Abacha's hands and turned to board his presidential jet, Sambo, trailing behind, slackened his pace and scornfully eyed Abacha whom he made a good show of by looking down on him