

## AN ANALYSIS OF FACEBOOK POSTS ON INCREASE IN FUEL PRICE IN NIGERIA

JOSHUA, RINARIMAM

Department of English, Faculty of Arts,  
National Open University of Nigeria, Abuja, Nigeria

### Abstract

*This study examines language use on increase in fuel price by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. The data were selected Facebook posts by Nigerians to show support or displeasure regarding the increase in fuel price. The study used Sperber & Wilson (1986) Relevance Theory as its theoretical framework. It was discovered that most of the comments are either supporting or against the decision of president Bola Ahmed Tinubu to remove the fuel subsidy. It is also discovered most of the authors of the authors of the comment share the same cognitive environment and are aware of the topic of the discourse therefore tailored their comments towards the discuss. The author therefore recommended that peoples' comments on social media which is the major channel people can air their view and will get to the government should be properly studied to determine the effects this comments can have on the decisions of the government.*

**Keywords: Fuel hike, Fuel Subsidy, Facebook posts, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.**

### 1. INTRODUCTION

It is not possible to live without social media. In fact, social media is very crucial to all spheres of human endeavor, thus it is hard for someone to fully discount their benefits. Any doubt would be dispelled if one tried to imagine a day without spending a single moment on any of the various forms of social media for any of the following purposes: shopping, bank transactions, checking/sending emails, chatting, placing orders, making reservations for hotels, taking pleasure in the company of friends, or using social media (Skype, Google, Facebook, Twitter, Google) for leisure. According to Benamara, Inkpen, and Taboada (2018), social media is a multimedia platform that offers a multitude of communication opportunities. In its essence, pragmatics is all about communication and effective communication in the real world has always been valued in non-transient environments (long-lasting settings). Among other things, this is what users of social media platforms—especially those of Facebook, Whatsapp, Twitter, and Instagram—have access to. According to Giles, Stommel, Paulus, Lester, and Reed (2015), as referenced in Khasanah (2019), social media serves as a platform for seamless interaction and communication between users, regardless of language barriers. It also serves as a replica of "real world" conversation. Because of their diverse cultural upbringings, systems, and beliefs, they contribute to the creation of a new cultural web that lessens the prominence of English as the only language used by native speakers and instead makes it a universal online lingua franca (Lantz and Anderson, 2017).

Although language is of enormous importance in communication, the medium of communication through which it is expressed is of equal significance. One of the medium of communication that has gained considerable attention in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is the Facebook, invented by Mark Zuckerberg in 2001 (Duru, 2014). Nigerians, especially the youth have embraced this channel of communication for social, political, economic, religious and other

uses. One feature of the “blue app” as it is fondly called by its users is posts, which can be viewed by a particular community on the application. These communities range from one’s friends on the application, the public and social groups. While some Facebook posts are adequately comprehended and used positively by its users, others are misinterpreted in the process of decoding the message by the listener or reader. Hence the need for pragmatic analysis, which is concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker or writer and interpreted by a listener or reader (Yule, 2016). The way words are structured help in effective communication or otherwise; Ugoala (2022) points out that words are so powerful that they can ignited tension, and can also douse tension.

According to Ogala (2015), Facebook’s daily users are more in Nigeria than South Africa, Kenya and other African countries. In the same year, statistics indicate that at least 7.1 million people use Facebook daily in Nigeria, making the country Africa’s biggest user of the social media platform. This buttresses the relevance of Facebook as a medium of communication in Nigeria. Sequel to this, government institutions and parastatals also use the app to communicate vital information to the public.

Since the removal of fuel subsidy by the President Bola Ahmed Tinubu Administration, there have been numerous posts on Facebook by individuals, social groups and corporate organisations about the phenomenon. These posts have generated numerous interpretations, comments and reactions from the wide array of social media users. Hence, the need for a pragmatic analysis of some of the Facebook posts.

Consequently, this study is poised to offer a pragmatic analysis of selected Facebook posts as they relate to the hike in the price of fuel occasioned by the removal of petroleum subsidy by the President Bola Ahmed Tinubu (PBAT) administration. The final goal of this is too evaluate how language use in utterances can realistically integrate or disintegrate, interest or disinterest, and please or displease the intended audience. The responses of Facebook users, namely their comments on the chosen postings, will be used to analyze these cases.

The objectives of this research are:

- 1 To identify in the selected Facebook posts what socio-economic reason(s) are responsible for the hike in fuel price by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu (PBAT)
- 2 To analyse if the posts are pro or anti President Bola Ahmed Tinubu’s administration.

## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

According to Ogala (2015), Facebook’s daily users are more in Nigeria than South Africa, Kenya and other African countries. In the same year, statistics indicate that at least 7.1 million people use Facebook daily in Nigeria, making the country Africa’s biggest user of the social media platform. This buttresses the relevance of Facebook as a medium of communication in Nigeria. Sequel to this, government institutions and parastatals also use the app to communicate vital information to the public.

Ijebononwu and Ugoala, (2023) did a stylistic analysis of Acceptance speech of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. This study examines the Acceptance speech of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu at the presentation of certificate of return to him by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). The objectives of the study are to examine the rhetorical and linguistic strategies employed in Bola Ahmed's acceptance speech and its overall effectiveness in

conveying the intended message, the work adopts the theoretical framework of Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (1985). The descriptive method of data analysis is adopted in the study and a total number of sixty (60) excerpts were analyzed. According to the study, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu used linguistic strategies and rhetorical devices to effectively communicate a message of hope, unity, and shared responsibility in his acceptance speech. He also developed his identity as a dignified, compassionate, and inclusive leader by carefully choosing which words to use and how to use them to support his ideological objectives as well as The study concluded that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu sheds light on the intricate and purposeful use of language and rhetoric by political leaders to communicate their visions, mobilize public support, convey their ideological goals with their acceptance speech and demonstrated the manifestation of political power in the speech showcasing how language can be a potent tool in influencing and persuading the masses.

In addition Igrubia (2023) in his attempt to do a pragmatic analysis of 2023 Democracy Day Speech delivered by President Bola Tinubu. The aim of this research is to show the interpretation of language and how language is used in context and president Bola Ahmed Tinubu uses language to deliver his 2023 Nigeria Democracy Day celebration speech. In its attempt to reveal the meaning through the language features in the speech delivered by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu on Democracy Day, this researcher applied a descriptive method in its analysis. Multi-modal critical pragmatics was used as the theory that guided the analysis. The results of the study revealed that the president used language in describing the state of Nigeria during and after the military rule.

Also, Amoussou et al (2023) did a Pragma-Stylistic analysis of Nigeria's President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's inaugural speech where the paper focuses on some pragmatic and stylistic resources employed by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu in his inaugural speech as the newly elected president of Nigeria. With pragma-stylistic as underpinned Black (2006) as its theoretical framework, the study seeks to look at features like tenses, speech acts, deictic expressions, and tropes encoded in the speech. The findings reveals that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu uses four out of the five illocutionary acts (representatives, expressives, commissives, and directives) in varying proportions. It also shows that the simple present, present perfect, simple past, simple future and imperative are the tenses deliberately used in the discourse. It can be inferred from the foregoing that in President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's choice of discursive patterns, he plainly focuses on the socio-political, socio-economic and geo-political context to manipulate linguistic resources for ideological purposes in order to (i) restore Nigerians' trust and faith in his forthcoming governance, (ii) persuade the audience, and overall (iii) manage his message for effective communication.

Alawiye and Ugoala, (2023) analyse the conjunction in campaign speeches of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu at Chatham house, London. This study looks at President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's political campaign address at Chatham House in London and how he uses conjunctions. The goals of the study are to identify the kinds and purposes of conjunctions that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu employed in his Chatham House, London, campaign speech. The study uses Halliday's theory of cohesion's theoretical framework, in which he distinguished between four different kinds of conjunctions: temporal, causal, adversative, and additive. The study uses the descriptive method of data analysis. According to the analysis, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu employed a total conjunction of 135 in his speech. Bola Ahmed

employed 104 conjunctions that were additive, accounting for 77.04% of all conjunctions used. It was found that the cohesion theory of conjunction aids in our investigation of the concealed material in President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Chatham House campaign speeches. It offers a fresh perspective on how to perceive political discourse by demonstrating how the speakers use language to make their points known to the listener. According to the study's conclusions, it is advised that other politicians who speak in public venues always make sufficient use of conjunction in order to connect their thoughts effectively, as demonstrated by Bola Ahmed's actions.

In another study, Anyanwu (2023) carried out Speech Act analysis of the inaugural address of President Ahmed Tinubu with the purpose of identifying the communicative intentions and illocutionary force entrenched within his discourse. His analysis focuses on identifying the different speech acts performed by Tinubu and exploring their effects on the audience. The research work addresses the problem of understanding the persuasive power and communicative strategies used in political speeches, particularly in the context of presidential inaugurations. The study makes use of qualitative research approach and the methodology involves several steps to systematically analyze the speech and identify the speech acts performed by the Nigerian President. The research adopts Speech Act Theory as theoretical framework to analyse the performative aspects of language in political discourse. It reveals the illocutionary and perlocutionary acts embedded in the speech and their rhetorical significance. The findings shows that President Tinubu uses a number of speech acts in his address, including assurances, pledges, promises, acknowledgments, appeals to unity, and expressions of commitment and these speech acts performed various functions, such as establishing trust, inspiring hope, outlining policy priorities, and promoting national unity. The study also shows that the speech acts used address key issues such as governance, inclusivity, security, and economic development. Based on the findings, the study recommends that political leaders and speechwriters should be cognizant of the power of speech acts and their potential to shape public opinion and political discourse. The findings provide insights for political leaders, speechwriters, and researchers interested in the role of language and rhetoric in political discourse.

Acheoah (2023) conducted a speech act analysis of Bola Tinubu's election victory speech. The major aim of an election victory speech like that of Bola Tinubu is to unify, persuade and mobilize the audience. The speech analyzed in the study is the election victory speech presented by the President-elect. Selected utterances from the speech are analyzed to find out how the speaker skillfully deployed speech acts that are germane to the psychological context of the speech, occasioned by the opponents' claim that the election was rigged. Hinging on two theoretical frameworks (Bach and Harnish's Speech Act Theory as well as Stance and Engagement theory), the study concludes that speech acts have intentional contents which are products of speaker-hearer shared knowledge, and persuasive use of language in political speeches presupposes the use of different communicative strategies: skillful selection and sequencing of speech acts, personal pronouns, emotional appeals, exploring speaker-hearer shared knowledge, establishing speaker hearer bond, among other strategies.

The current study adopts Sperber and Wilson's relevance theory which was propounded in 1986. This theory did an analysis of certain pragmatic aspects of Internet-mediated communication. According to them, the Relevance theory is a cognitive theory that has made

a major contribution to our understanding of how we produce and interpret utterances. The relevance theory focuses on the recovery of intended contextual assumptions and conclusions and also the identification of explicitly communicated propositions. These give rise to implicatures and explicatures which depend on inferences. An implicature is a proposition that is not explicitly communicated while an explicature is an enrichment of an original utterance which can be carried out through decoding, disambiguation and reference assignment. The theory is guided by two principles: the cognitive and the communicative principles. A cognitive environment covers the facts that are manifest to an individual at a given time. An individual's cognitive environment is a function of his/her physical environment and cognitive abilities. It also covers the facts that s/he is capable of becoming aware of in his/her physical environment (Sperber & Wilson, 1986). A mutual cognitive environment is a shared cognitive environment that is manifest to two or more individuals at a given time. Here, the same facts and assumptions are manifest in the cognitive environment of two or more different people. For example, two persons, 'Bryan' and 'Faith' are within the same auditorium. Thus, they share a cognitive environment. In a mutual cognitive environment, every manifest assumption is called mutual manifest. For example, if a book fell from the pulpit in the auditorium, it becomes manifest to both 'Bryan' and 'Faith' that a book fell from the pulpit in the auditorium. It is also manifest to both of them that it is manifest to both of them that a book fell from the shelf in the classroom. As a pragmatic competence-based alternative to the code model of communication, the ostensive-inferential model explains human communication in terms of expressing and recognizing informative and communicative intentions, laying the foundation for comprehension on the distinction between the speaker's meaning and the literal meaning. Informative intentions are used to make it clear to the recipient what we mean to say, or what is in the message; communicative intentions are used to make it clear that we intend to communicate at all. One theory holds that human language is based on ostensive-inferential communication.

According to Wilson (1998), inferential communication is a message-conveying mechanism that functions outside of the boundaries of vocalizations or coded, semantic gestures. It interprets informational meaning by integrating context and previously learned information. Although we do not claim that all communicative interactions in any species, including humans, involve inferential communication, we offer this model as an explanatory and heuristic tool to study communicative behavior in which successful information transmission necessitates inferential leaps of understanding on the part of both signalers and recipients. Higher-order cognitive systems, including mental state interpretation, prosociality, and—most importantly—rational reasoning, can be studied when other explanations for seemingly successful communication behavior are ruled out. Both the signaler, who must take into consideration the leaps in understanding the recipient might make when determining the degree of ambiguity in the signal, and the recipient, who must deduce the meaning of the information being given, must use inferential thinking.

Relevance Theory bases a major concept on inferential communication, or what it calls ostentative-inferential communication since it adds another level of purpose. The components of ostentative-inferential communication are: the informative intention which is the intention to inform an audience of something, and the communicative intention which is the intention to inform the audience of one's informative intention.

### 3. METHODOLOGY

The data for this study were Facebook posts on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu regarding the increase in fuel prices (PBAT). The researcher, who uses Facebook regularly, took screenshots of these comments two weeks after the increment was announced. A deliberate selection of twenty comments was made for pragmatic examination based on the relevance theory of Sperber & Wilson (1986). To determine the intention and the relevance of the comments whether they are anti or pro Tinubu administration the comments were grouped into three during the analysis process. At the beginning of the study, more than one hundred comments were retrieved from [\(1\) tinubu speech on subsidy - Search Results | Facebook](#). Upon applying the criteria for included comments in this study, 15 appropriate remarks were found. The primary factor used to determine an appropriate statement was its comedy, and it solely addressed different political subjects. Joking remarks that did not touch on political matters being discussed were among the remarks that were also included to know whether they are pro or anti President Bola Ahmed Tinubu administration.

Before the analysis, the researcher identified the use of language used in selected Facebook posts on hike in fuel price by PBAT. The next step involved analysis of the posts to show those who are in support of the removal of the fuel subsidy and those who are against President Bola Ahmed Tinubu (PBAT) administration on hike in fuel price. Finally, the researcher drew the conclusion on the results findings.

### 4. ANALYSIS OF THE HIKE IN FUEL PRICE BY PRESIDENT BOLA AHMED TINUBU (PBAT).

#### *Excerpt 1*

*He said it before he enter please you people should rest.*

[\(Nigeria's Tinubu: Will remove fuel subsidy, deregulate gas prices if elected | Reuters\)](#)

This post is pure pro Tinubu administration. He is not worried and sees nothing about the removal of fuel subsidy. He affirms that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu actually hinted the country during his campaign that he would remove the fuel subsidy so there should be no unnecessary uproar.

#### *Excerpt 2*

*It's good that's gone. We would know our stand now. Giving us head about removing of subsidy all this while, I hope it ll rest now.*

[\(Nigeria's Tinubu: Will remove fuel subsidy, deregulate gas prices if elected | Reuters\)](#)

The above post suggests that it is good that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration removes the subsidy now since many past presidents have been trying to remove but they could not. He believes that now that the subsidy is removed, everybody will go back to his or her corner and plan his life according to the aftermath of the removal of fuel subsidy. The post is neither pro or anti President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration.

#### *Excerpt 3*

*May God strengthen him and give him the wisdom to rule. Nobody is perfect even Atiku or Obi let's just pray for God to use anybody that is there.*

The above poster prays that God will strengthen President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. He believes that divine wisdom to pilot the country is what he needs. The above post suggests that no one

is perfect and that perfections belong to divinity. It added that those clamouring for the emergence of Peter Obi or Atiku Abubakar may not make any positive difference. They are all human and to err is human. The post concludes by pleading on the masses to pray for whosoever is in power to make a positive difference in the lives of the citizens.

***Excerpt 4***

***Well, I completely believe his words.***

The author of the above post is neither quite indifferent about what might happen to Nigerians if the fuel subsidy is removed rather he took the development and believe it hook line and sinker.

***Excerpt 5***

***May God give you long life so you can lead this great country to the promise land.***

This post is pro President Bola Ahmed Tinubu administration and did not see the removal of fuel subsidy as a bad move, rather he pray for long life for the president so as to lead the country to the promise land.

***Excerpt 6***

***Good one from an administration that wants to work***

The above post suggest that it is good that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu' administration removes the subsidy now since many past presidents have been trying to remove but they could not. He believes that now that the subsidy is removed, everybody will go back to his corner and plan his life according to the aftermath of the removal of fuel subsidy. The post is a pro President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration and commend on the bold step taken by the president. In fact, he sees the president as a serious president who is ready to work for the growth of the nation. In fact, he sees the president who is well prepared to take the mantle of leadership of the country.

***Excerpt 7***

***God bless Tinubu, the best man for the job... Our incoming disaster, the otapiapia of our destiny.***

From the above excerpt, we can say that the language of the post was not only derogatory but also sarcastic. The posters can be seen as anti-President Bola Ahmed Tinubu administration who sees his emergence as Nigeria President as a disaster and the worst thing that can ever happen to a nation. The poster uses 'OTAPIAPIA" (an Igbo word meaning 'general destruction'). The metaphorical use of this word means that the president is not only going to ruin the lives of Nigerians but his administration will surely kill peoples' destiny, vision and ambition.

***Excerpt 8***

***Contract signed in 2015 has been delivered! My happiness is that both supporters and non supporters will enjoy the good or bad governance aftermath.***

Looking at the above post, the posts suggest that the emergence of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is as a result of contract signed in 2015 between former President Muhammed Buhari and President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. One can infer from this statement that there was a contract signed in 2015 which contributed to the emergence former President Muhammed Buhari which is to support President Bola Ahmed Tinubu political ambition of becoming the

president of Nigeria after his tenure. The implication of this post is that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu did not win the election on the field but by political permutation.

The poster concludes that even though the emergence of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu was a delivery of contract signed in 2015. The poster did not fail to add that the administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu will be enjoyed or suffered by both the supporters and non-supporters of his administration. This post is a witty saying and anti-Tinubu's administration

**Excerpt 9**

***It's gone and Jonathan removed it they protested, called it fraud that nothing like subsidy.***

The above post takes us back the memory lane by telling us the response of the opposition party in 2012 when the then President Goodluck Jonathan removed the fuel subsidy. It should be remembered that both President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, former President Muhammed Buhari were among the people who championed the move against subsidy removal. The riots, the killings, hunger, anger, protests and other social vices that welcomed the removal of fuel subsidy then cannot be forgotten by some families who suffered from it. The opposition party sees it as a fraud only for the same set of people to come up with the same agenda years later after it was rejected. This shows how hypocritical politicians can be. It is obvious that the poster is anti Tinubu administration that believes and sees the president as liar, a deceiver and hypocrite.

**Excerpt 10**

***How would removing the Subsidy benefits common Nigerians?***

The post is a rhetorical question as the author of the did not see the rationale behind the removal of fuel subsidy. We can say this is one of the people who do not believe in the administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu as he sees the removal of fuel subsidy as another avenue for the government to loot government money. The poster believer that removal of fuel subsidy is a wrong step as it will not benefit the masses.

**Excerpt 11**

***Me looking at that those who believe Tinubu's promise***

The above post was also sarcastic and is of the opinion that believing President Bola Ahmed Tinubu will have a disastrous ending. Should I say that the poster knows President Bola Ahmed Tinubu so well or believe that politicians should not be trusted?

**Excerpt 12**

***After using it with his brother wale to milk the country dried***

The above post was used to taunt President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. The post suggests that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is only trying to save face after he has benefited from the proceeds of fuel subsidy. He believes that the president together with his brother Wale Tinubu (owner of Oando Petroleum) has milked the country dried and so his removal of subsidy is hypocritical. One can say that the poster is pure anti Tinubu administration.

*Excerpt 13*

*Mumu country with plenty mumu people defending APC*

*Una eye go hear am.*

From the above post, one can say that the post is anti-President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration and believes that nothing good can come out of it. He sees those supporting and defending APC as "MUMU" ( an insulting word which could mean imbecile, ignorant, novice and fools) . The author also used a pidgin expression '**Una eye go hear am**' (Pidgin is the common language use in informal situations. Many Facebook users also use it in communication) The poster did not hesitate to add that their ignorant attitude will soon land them in trouble as the government will show them their true colour and will regret their actions.

*Excerpt 14*

*Someone should help me and ask Mr President. If fuel subsidy is the problem of Nigerians, God help Nigeria my country.*

This post is appealing to anyone who cares to help him ask President Bola Ahmed Tinubu if the removal of fuel subsidy is the problem of Nigerians presently. One can infer from the post that the poster sees the president as clueless politicians who know nothing about Nigerian problem. If he does, removal of fuel subsidy wouldn't have been the right thing to do at this time. He believes the president is not bothered about the suffering and hardship Nigerians are going through. The poster choice of language is not insulting or derogatory rather, his message is embedded in carefully choice of words The poster, as a patriotic individual still pray his fatherland-Nigeria as he believes that it is only God that can help the country since the leaders have failed the citizens.

*Excerpt 15*

*Thunder strike you there Tinubu for imposing yourself on us, we don't want you, we don't want you.*

This post is derogatory and anti Tinubu administration. This post believes that people did not vote for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu but imposes himself on the country that's why he is misbehaving. He concludes that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is not wanted by people and there is nothing he can do to make people want him.

## 5. FINDINGS

Firstly, with regards to objective one of this study, it is discovered and surprisingly, only few people commented on the socio-economy effect of removal of fuel subsidy by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. One of them raises a concern on the potential increase of fuel price which can go up as high as seven hundred naira against the one hundred and sixty five naira it was selling before. Another comment warned that Nigerians should prepare their mind for the worst as fuel pump price is going to increase and be sold as high as a thousand naira. He then added that government is probably trying to look for means to pay their international debt. Another post is more or less from a critical thinker and a philosopher who suggests what must be done for Nigerians to be able to cope with the removal of fuel subsidy. The post suggests that the refineries in the country must be functioning before the subsidy is removed. The author of the post concludes that if this is not done, the consequence will be the suffering of Nigerians. Also it also seen that fuel hike will make fuel filling stations to be filled up as some filling stations will be shot down. The effect will lead to job loss and increase the number of

unemployed youth. Because of the cost of fuel, some people will sell their cars if they cannot maintain the car again. Some people will decide to run away from the country to look for a greener pasture in a foreign land- the JAPA syndrome will increase .

Secondly, considering the research objective number three, one can say that pro-President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration supports his removal of the fuel subsidy. They see it as the right step in the right direction and it comes from a president who is willing to work for the betterment and progress of Nigeria. They believe that removal of fuel subsidy will block some holes used by cronies who have been syphoning the public funds from that spot. It is also believed by them that removal of fuel subsidy will make the rumour about subsidy removal to die down. They pray that God will give the president good health, long life and wisdom to lead the country to a promise land. Also, the anti-President Bola Ahmed Tinubu administration are not smiling at all with their choice of words, the use of the word 'otapiapia' is derogatory for a president 'otapiapia'- otapiapia is an Igbo word for poison used to kill rats, the reader refer to Tinubu using otapiapia to say that Tinubu is a killer , 'shegebanza'- an insulting statement used by Hausa to mean 'bastard' indirectly calling President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and his cabinet bastard 'awonwerey'- werey is a Yoruba word to mean mad people- the author of the post refers to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and his cabinet as mad people; 'mumu' etc. They believe that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu was not elected but imposed on the country by certain people who are interested and would benefit from his emergence as the president. They also believe that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu was selected and that Nigeria will have two president- Peter Obi who was regarded as the truly elected president and President Bola Ahmed Tinubu whom he thinks was selected. They believe that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu does not have anything good to offer the country rather than hardship and suffering. They are of the opinion that the consequences of the emergence of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu would be felt by both the 'obedients' and the 'batified'. Also some people believe the emergence of President Bola Ahmed as the president of Nigeria is the delivery of the contract signed in 2015. Lastly some posts are neutral on the removal of fuel subsidy by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. They are neither in support of nor against the removal of fuel subsidy by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. These categories of people are many and they are not bothered about the removal of fuel subsidy. These people only pray for themselves for a better life under President Bola Ahmed Tinubu administration.

## 6. CONCLUSION

From our findings, it can be concluded that internet is one of the most potent forms where public opinion can be validated. The above analysis also shows that even though people know that the removal of fuel subsidy will have serious adverse effects on the economy of the nation. It was also discovered that most of the comments are either supporting or against the decision of president Bola Ahmed Tinubu to remove the fuel subsidy. It is also discovered most of the authors of the comments share the same cognitive environment (the major focus of Spencer and Welber's Relevance theory) and are aware of the topic of the discourse therefore tailored their comments towards the discuss.

It is therefore recommended that people's comments on social media which is the major channel people can air their view and will get to the government should be properly studies to determine the effects this comments can have on the decisions of the government. This study having taken the lead, the door is now open for further studies on other areas. In fact,

both graduate and post graduate students in English and Linguistics can use this research as a guide to conduct contrastive studies on Facebook comments on the hike in fuel price by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

## REFERENCES

- Abaya, A.S. (2009). Language and Politics: An Introductory Insight. *Journal of Educational Research and Development*, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. 4 (3).
- Acheoah, J.E. et.al. (2023). A Speech Act Analysis of Bola Tinubu's Election Victory Speech. *American Research Journal of English and Literature*, (9)1.15-21.
- Anderson, J. (2014). *A Stylistic Analysis of some selected political speeches by John Evans Atta Mills*. Department of English, University of Ghana. Legon.
- Ahmed, Y. (2017). *Language, rhetoric and politics in a global context: A decolonial critical discourse Perspective on Nigeria's 2015 Presidential Campaign*. Open Access Dissertation, Michigan Technological University.
- Alawiye T. E., and Ugoala, B. (2023). An Analysis of Conjunction Found in the Campaign Speech of Bola Ahmed Tinubu at Chatham House London. *International Journal of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences* (9), 1 pp. 12-19 doi: <https://dx.doi.org/10.20469/ijhss.9.20001-1>
- Amoussou, F. et.al (2023). *A Pragmatic-Stylistic Analysis of Nigeria's President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Inaugural Speech*. *International Journal of Educational and Psychological Sciences (IJEPS) Université André Salifou (UAS) de Zinder, République du Niger* (2)1, 27-48
- Alshakhanbeh, S. and Alghazo, S. (2022). *A Pragmatic Analysis of Criticism Strategies against Government Policies on Social Media in Jordan: A Gender-Based Investigation*. Department of English Language and Literature, The University of Jordan, Jordan. *Jordan Journal of Modern Languages and Literatures*. 14(2)263-286
- Anyanwu, E. (2023). *Speech Act Theory and Political Speech: An Analysis of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Inaugural Address*. *Nigerian Journal of Arts and Humanities (NJAH)*. Department of English Language and Literature, NnamdiAzikiwe University, Awka. 3(1)
- Anyanwu, E. (2023). *Textual Analysis of Acceptance and Declaration Speeches of Selected 2023 Presidential Candidates in Nigeria*. *Nigerian Journal of Arts and Humanities (NJAH)*. Department of English Language and Literature, NnamdiAzikiwe University, Awka. (24) 1
- Ayeomoni, M. O. & Akinkuolere, O. S. (2012) *A Pragmatic Analysis of Victory and Inaugural Speeches of President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua*. *Theory and Practice in Language Studies*, 2 (3), 461-468.
- Herawati, A (2013). *The Cooperative Principle: Is Grice's Theory Suitable to Indonesian Language Culture?* *Jurnal LINGUA CULTURA*. English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Bina Nusantara University Jln. 7 (1) 43-48
- Ige, M. (2023). "Emi lokan, Yoruba lokan": Expression of Ideologies in Bola Tinubu's Political Speech. *ELS Journal on Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities*. Department of English, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria (6) 3; 202
- Igrubia, J.B.(2023). *A Pragmatic Analysis of 2023 Democracy Day Speech by President Bola Tinubu*. *Journal of Humanities, Music and Dance*. \*Department of English and Communication Art Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Port Harcourt, Nigeria (3) 4.
- Ijebuonwu, F. and Ugoala, B. (2023). *Stylistic Analysis of Acceptance Speech Of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu*. *International Journal of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences*.

- Department of English, Faculty of Arts, National Open University of Nigeria, Abuja, Nigeria. 8 (1) 28-35
- Isa, S., & Abaya, A. (2019). A Critical Discourse Analysis of Rhetorical Devices in the Campaign Speeches of Presidential Candidate Muhammadu Buhari and President Goodluck Jonathan in the 2011 Elections in Nigeria. *Journal of Languages, Linguistics and Literary Studies (JOLLS)*, 8, 132-146.
- Jones G. I. et al (2021). *The Pragmatics of Social Media Posts and Comments*. World Atlas International Journal of Education & Management. University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria. 4(1) 9
- Joshua, S. F. (2020). *A Pragmatic Analysis of the Discourse of Humour and Irony in Selected Memes on Social Media*. International Journal of Language and Literary Studies, 2(2).
- Sperber, D. & Wilson, D. (1986). *Relevance. Communication and Cognition*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Sperber, D. & Wilson, D. (1987). *Précis of Relevance. Communication and Cognition*. Behavioral and Brain Sciences 10: 697–754.
- Sperber, D. & Wilson, D. (1995). *Relevance. Communication and Cognition (2nd edition)*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Sperber, D. & Wilson, D. (1997). *Remarks on Relevance Theory and the Social Sciences*. *Multilingua* 16 (2/3): 145–151.
- Sperber, D. & Wilson, D. (2002). *Pragmatics, Modularity and Mind-Reading*. *Mind & Language* 17 (1–2): 3–23.
- Adams, T. (2006). Goodbye, cruel world... *The Observer*, 29–10–2006, Review, pp. 8–9
- Ugoala, B. (2020). *Face Mitigation Strategies in Former Nigeria President Goodluck Ebele Jonathans Memoir My Transition Hours*. *International Journal of Humanitatis Theoreticus*, 3(2), 92-108.
- Ugoala, B. (2022). Power in words: An Analysis of the Flaming Devices in President Vladimir Putin’s Speech Before the February, 2022 Attack on Ukraine. *Kampala International University Journal of Humanities*, 7 (2), 171 – 179.
- Zaid, N. M. (2021). *A Pragmatic Study of Humor in Iraqi Facebook Comments*. *International Journal of Linguistics, Literature and Translation*, Department of English, Faculty of Arts, University in Najaf, Iraq. 4(10): 53-66.