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The Journal

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Lexico-Semantic Analysis of ASUU-FGN Impasse in Nigerian Newspapers

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Abstract

This study undertook lexico-semantic variations of ASUU-FGN impasse newspapers. It provided the lexico-semantic variation types which ASUU and FGN used in the course of acting and reacting over the impasse between the parties. The researcher purposively collected data associated to lexico-semantic variations on the conflict discourse about ASUU and published in four national dailies. The newspapers comprised Leadership, Punch, The Guardian, and Vanguard. The researcher used Odeunmi's (2006) types of lexico-semantic variation for the qualitative and descriptive data analysis. The study revealed that the lexico-semantic variations were deployed by ASUU and FGN to address each other about their acrimony with a view to giving credence to meaning explications. Transfer, analogy, abbronymy, semantic shift, neologism, idiomaticity, proverbiality and register were indicated as employed lexico-semantic variation types to negotiate meanings in the conflict discourse. The study concluded that the types of lexico-semantic variation transcend the provided list of five by Odeunmi (2006). The study therefore added to the types, idiomaticity, proverbiality, and register.

Keywords: Semantics, Impasse, ASUU, FGN, and News Reports.

Introduction

English, the language of media in Nigeria, is explored to publish articles for consumption of readers on impasse between Academic Staff Union of Universities and Federal Government of Nigeria. Using the communication medium, the Nigerian newspapers convey the meaning explications with the chosen lexicalities by ASUU and the FGN. The use of lexico-semantic variations becomes inevitable in the language engagement of the social actors tailored to address their differences

and seek favour of the general public. The ingroup and outgroup deployed terminologies, and syntactic formations within the precinct of their socio-cultural and socio-political context to communicate with each other with a view to finding amicable resolution to the impasse which seems unending.

Wadhaugh (2006) notes that language is used to define social relationships between the interactants who make constant choice of what they say and how they say it. Both ASUU and the FGN make



conscious choice of lexis and structure which convey their intentional semantic effect about the acrimony. The language of ASUU and the FGN is usually published as news articles by the Nigerian print media in order to update the general public and to influence or elicit a change in the different beliefs of the parties involved in the conflict. Thereby, special language use of ASUU and the FGN, making lexico-semantic variation, is widely spread in the society. Adegbite (1989) submits that many factors are responsible for the causes of lexico-semantic variation in Nigerian English. The linguist, among other factors, identifies media influence as well as socio-cultural differences between the English Language and Nigerians. ASUU and FGN officials exhibit Nigerianism in their expressivity to address issues about the existing impasse between them.

This study, therefore, employs features of lexico-semantic variation within the proposition of Odebunmi's (2006) types of lexico-semantic variation to investigate language of ASUU and FGN about their impasse in selected articles from four Nigerian newspapers: *Leadership*, *Punch*, *The Guardian*, and *Vanguard*. The study identifies transfer, analogy, abbronymy, semantic shift, and neologism, the lexico-semantic variation types of Odebunmi (2006). It adds three others: idiomaticity, proverbiality and register to expand the study of the lexico-semantic variation types in use Nigerian context for meaning explications.

Related Literature Review

Many linguists have researched on lexico-semantic variations of Nigerian English. However, the conducted researches do not focus on the use of Nigerian English for meaning explications about ASUU-FGN impasse.

Bamgbose (1995) conducts semantic variants of English Words in Nigeria. The research uses lexico-semantic features to provide meanings to some words. The study concludes that the contextual use of words determines their meanings. Bamiro (2007) investigates lexico-semantic variations in Nigerian English. The study deploys lexico-semantic features to reveal that Nigerian English usage cuts across social and educational strata in Nigerian society. The study concludes that Nigerian English expressions have been institutionalised. Teilayo (2012) researches lexico-semantic interference in educated Nigerian English. The study uses lexico-semantic features to analyse the data and reveals that educated Nigerians are ones who have little or Nigerian lexico-semantic interference. Edokpayi (2023) investigates lexico-semantic analysis of Sam Ukula's *Skeleton: a Collection of Stories* to convey the theme of the text. The study uses lexico-semantic features to explicate Ukula's creative strategies and choice of words in the text. The study reveals that the writer violates rules of semantic expectancy in his linguistic and creative experimentation of skeleton. Mahvis and Hasliza (2023) researches on lexico-semantic



variations in Pakistani English Newspaper Corpus. The study reveals that the Pakistani English is derived from the Standard British English. The study concludes that the new English lexemes are derived from the amalgamation of Arabic, Urdu, Punjabi and English. Ehiakhina (2024) investigates lexico-semantic features in Nigerian newspapers. The study reveals that Nigerian newspapers form words to convey indigenised meanings. The research concludes that Nigerian newspapers use the Nigerian English expressions and lexicalities to convey meanings for the understanding of Nigerians.

Methodology

This research is a descriptive study used for meaning explications between ASUU and the FGN about their impasse. The researcher collected data from published articles in four Nigerian Newspapers about ASUU-FGN impasse. The researcher purposively sampled the expressions with features of lexico-semantic variations. The population of the study is an entire print media in Nigeria but the sample size revolved around purposive sample of data in four national dailies: *Leadership*, *Punch*, *The Guardian* and *Vanguard*, which constituted data for the descriptive analysis of lexico-semantic variations. The data were coded with combination of theory, Lexico-Semantic Variations (LSV) and the first letter of the theory type, Transfer (T) whose sum up gave LSVT. The analysis was based on Odebunmi's (2006) Lexico-Semantic Variation Types.

Theoretical Framework

Odebunmi (2006) submits that inasmuch as socio-cultural variables of English users influence the variety of English they speak, lexico-semantic variations become inevitable. This is traced to the fact that each speech community possesses experiences peculiar to it. Then, differences from the Standard British English are expected to occur. Odebunmi, therefore, itemises five types of lexico-semantic variation in Nigerian English as discussed below.

Transfer refers to transfer of meanings in one's mother tongue to English, and transfer of Nigerian features of pidgin. So, the speaker forms expressions in the native language. "We are coming" for "we will be back" is an expression of transfer.

Analogy refers to words formed on partial resemblance with already existing words in either English or mother tongue. The formed new words are either in English or blend of English and mother tongue. According to Odebunmi (2006), "affixation is instrumental to the birth of the words in Nigerian English". The use of "-ism", "-ship" and the likes to generate other words with likeness of the original form of the words.

Abbronym refer to words which are formed from letters of existing words. The abbronyms can be either pronounceable or not pronounceable. Examples are ASUU and FGN.



Semantic Shift refers to the process of narrowing or broadening some words in Standard English to convey semantic effects in Nigerian English. Example is "eyeing", which means "to rely or have interest in something/somebody".

Coinage or Neologism refers to creation of new words which convey indigenised meanings in Nigeria. Odebunmi (2006) reports Adegbija (1989) that neologism is of three types: the existing lexical stock in English, the existing stock in the Nigerian mother tongue, and a hybrid of the lexical stock of English and indigenous languages. Example of neologism can be "no-pay-no-work".

Data Presentation and Analysis

The data are presented and analysed using lexico-semantic variation types propounded by Odebunmi (2006) to analyse the collected data from four national dailies in Nigeria about ASUU-FGN impasse.

Transfer

Transfer as a marker of lexico-semantic variation is noticeable in the discourse of ASUU-FGN impasse in Nigerian newspapers. The lexico-semantics is employed by ASUU and FGN to negotiate meanings. Examples are cited on table 1.

In LSVT1, meaning negotiation is substitutional using transfer. The government agent deploys syntagmatics with use of sentence construction in mother tongue to communicate meaning. The expression "the matter as far as the

government side is concerned is still where they left it" is an evidence of transfer. The emboldened expression on table 1 shows transfer in many ways. It is transfer to have used "they" to make reference to government. It is also the transfer to have used "left it" to connote decision subsistence. The beta clause "where they left it" depicts lexico-semantics of "the government's decision subsists". In LSVT2, paradigmatics of transfer is deployed through the use of the expression "we are still waiting for government to respond to our proposal for the adoption of UTAS". The clause "we are still waiting for government to respond" is a signifier of transfer, a lexico-semantic variation from the lexicon of the speaker's mother tongue. It is a substitutional meaning to the linguistic unit, "we are expecting government to reply". In the context of use, the verbal elements "are waiting" give meaning to "are expecting" while the verb "respond" means "reply". LSVT3 epitomises transfer. "Let me shock you" is a grammatical structure which is used to mean "you will be surprised to know ". The latter grammatical structure meets intelligibility more than the former. The former constitutes linguistic transfer in the context. The linguistic unit "shock" denotatively means "expressing a sudden usually unpleasant or upsetting feelings of something unexpected". In the context, there is nothing unpleasant about by the correspondent: hence, the whole clause is transfer. In LSVT4, the expression, "make ASUU see reasons why (sic) it should embrace IPPIS" is



transfer of lexicon from mother tongue. "Reasons" can neither be seen nor touched but may be felt. The lexico-semantic variation implies "gain ASUU interest for IPPIS". LSVT5 is a transfer of idiomatic expression from the user's language lexicon. "Government is not looking their way", "looking one's way in Nigeria is substitutional to "have interest ". The syntagmatic example is explored to

mean "gain ASUU interest for IPPIS " in the context.

Analogy

Grammatical structures of news reports on ASUU-FGN impasse in Nigerian print media depict analogy. ASUU and FGN explore analogy to make a blend of existing and non-existing English structures with a view to making meanings. Examples are cited on table 2

Data	Newspaper	Use of Analogy	Meaning Negotiation
LSVA1	Vanguard, July 4, 2024; pg26	ASUU's grievances included non-release of third party deductions	non+ release
LSVA2	Vanguard July 5, 2024; pg3	The Minister of Education, Prof Tahir Mamman, said the event to re-engineer the governance structure of Nigerian tertiary institutions	re+engineer
LSVA3	Vanguard, July 5, 2024; pg8	I charge you to explore partnerships with private and international organizations, endowments to ensure financial sustainability	partner+ ship inter+nation+al organize+ion endow+ment finance+al sustain+able+ity
LSVA4	The Guardian, January 9, 2020; pg 33	Leadership of the union is insistent	leader+ ship
LSVA5	The Guardian, January 9, 2020; pg33	IPPIS will over-localise Nigerian academics	over+ localise

LSVA1 shows use of an affix "non-" to the base word "release". The affix is prefix added to word at the beginning. The affix is negative, meaning "not". Its attachment to the positive "release" renders the

positive base word to negative in both structure and meaning. "To get access" has changed the meaning to "to deny access". LSVA2 indicates another affix "re-" which serves as prefix as it is added to the base word



"engineer" at the beginning. The prefix "re" is positive affix in the context with the meaning "again". Its addition to the base word at the beginning of the grammatical structure suggests meaning of the new word "re-engineer" as engineer again (reform). LSVA3 epitomises use of many affixes (prefix and suffix) which form words with target meanings. "Partner" takes suffix "-ship" to negotiate meaning in relation to the base word. "Nation" takes prefix "inter" and suffix "-al" whose meaning is in-between nations. "Organise takes "-ion" to mean a group. "Endow" is base word while "-ment" is affix and suffix. "Finance" is a base word whose addition of suffix "-al" changes its class of words from noun to adjective. "Sustain" takes "-able" and "-ity", the suffixes which influence the function of a verb to noun. The affixation changes class of the words and influences their meanings linguistically. LSVA4 marks affix "-ship" in addition to "leader", a base word. Though class of the words does not change but its meaning is

affected. LSVA5 indicates "over-" as prefix to "localise", base word. The class of the word is static but the semantic implication is heavier. Analogy marks formation of new words on the basis of partial resemblance with words that exist in the language. Odebunmi (2008) notes that affixation is largely instrumental to the formation of the new words. Such formed new words as "over-localise", "non-release", "re-engineer" and others have resemblance with the existing words in English but their transformation through the process of affixation affects their meanings. The meanings revolve around the ASUU-FGN impasse.

Abbronymy

Abbronyms constitute lexico-semantic variation which Nigerian newspapers explored for meaning negotiation. The abbronyms are meaningful to the only concerned government agents and the members of ASUU. Some of the used abbronyms with their meanings are cited in table 3.

Data	Newspaper	Use of Abbronyms	Meaning Negotiation
LSVA1	Vanguard, June 28,2024;pg9	ASUU President has slammed governors eyeing TETFund as source of funding	Tertiary Education Trust Fund
LSVA2	Vanguard, July 4,2024;pg26	The government is playing the script given by IMF	International Monetary Fund
LSVA3	Vanguard, July 4,2024; pg26.	ASUU does not have interest in IPPIS	Academic Staff Union of Universities
LSVA4	Vanguard, July 4,2024; pg26	ASUU will hold NEC meeting to decide next line of action	National Executive Council

LSVA5	The Guardian, January 9, 2020; pg33	ASUU insists that IPPIS is a scam	Integrated Personnel and Payroll Information System
LSVA6	The Guardian, January 9, 2020; pg33	IPPIS is responsible for the remittance of pension to PFAs directly	Pension Fund Administrators
LSVA7	The Guardian, January 9, 2020; pg33	There were 459 MDAs on IPPIS platform	Ministries, Department and Agencies
LSVA8	Leadership, February 17, 2020; pg2	ASUU has called on federal government to adopt UTAS	University Transparency and Accountability Solution

In table 3, LSVA1 indicates the combination of acronym and nominal to form linguistic unit "TETFund" whose full meaning is "Tertiary Education Trust Fund". The semantic implication of the abbronym is known to the parties. In the context, ASUU disagrees with governors for taking advantage of the fund primarily established for upgrade of the federal universities. LSVA2 uses IMF. This abbronym is not pronounceable. It is pronounced like alphabet. Its full meaning is "International Monetary Fund". Message of ASUU using the abbronym is decoded by the government that is familiar to the terminology of the international family from which it has been securing loans. LSVA3 explores ASUU. Its full meaning is Academic Staff Union of Universities. Anywhere it appears on the newspapers, it connotes advocacy for quality education and the first association to engage FGN endlessly on the need to facilitate public university education in Nigeria. Its use in the context is a fight against implementation of IPPIS. LSVA4 uses pronounceable

abbronym "NEC". The abbronym's full meaning is National Executive Council either for ASUU or FGN. The ASUU's NEC is the central body which approves the decision of the ASUU branches across the country. LSVA5 uses IPPIS which is either pronounced or read as letters of alphabet. The abbronym's full meaning is "Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System". ASUU describes it (IPPIS) as a scam because it is alleged to have mangled salaries of the members. LSVA6 contains PFAs which is not pronounceable. It is spelt. Its full meaning is Pension Fund Administrators. The bound morpheme 's' has its meaning. Its semantic implication signifies plurality. In the context, FGN or its agents deploy the abbronym to justify the efficiency and effectiveness of the IPPIS which ASUU rejects. LSVA7 shows another abbronym, "MDAs". It is not pronounceable but can be spelt. The bound morpheme attached to it is for plurality. Its full meaning is "Ministries, Departments and Agencies". Each of the letters is

pluralised. The FGN deploys it in the context to substantiate that many bodies of government are already enrolled in IPPIS platform, necessitating ASUU to succumb since its members are paid by the government. LSVA8 deploys "UTAS", a pronounceable abbronym. Its full

meaning is "University Transparency and Accountability Solution". Anywhere the abbronym appears in the news reports, its meaning is the payment platform ASUU proposes for its members' payment of salaries on which FGN is not pleased.

Semantic Shift

Nigerian newspapers explore semantic shift to negotiate meanings in the ASUU-FGN impasse in Nigerian news reports. Table 4 shows the examples of semantic shift.

Data	Newspaper	Use of Semantic Shift	Denotation
LSVS1	Vanguard, June 28, 2024 pg9	ASUU President slammed governors eyeing TETFund as a source of funding	Slammed: criticized someone severely Eyeing: relying/ having interest in something/somebody
LSVS2	Vanguard, June 28, 2024; pg9	Governors duplicate universities	To proliferate or create in larger quantities
LSVS3	Leadership, February 2, 2020; pg2	It (IPPIS) is not in the interest of the system	A set of things working together as parts of mechanism
LSVS4	Leadership, February 17, 2020;pg2	The lecturers have been resisting the policy	A course or principle of action adopted or proposed by an organisation
LSVS5	The Guardian, January 9, 2020; pg33	The secretariat is responsible for the payment of federal government workers	A permanent administrative office or department of government
LSVS6	The Guardian, January 9, 2020; pg33	With the scheme's claim of commitment to efficient and effective service delivery	A large scale systematic plan
LSVS7	The Guardian, January 9, 2020; pg33	The stakeholder who does not want his name in print	To write something clearly
LSVS8	The Guardian, January 9, 2020; pg33	IPPIS is alien to the university tradition	something that is unfamiliar and disturbing



LSVS1 demonstrates semantic shift using "slammed" and "eyeing" in its clause. "Slammed" denotatively means "to criticise something/somebody" severely while "eyeing" means having interest in something/somebody. "Slammed", syntagmatically, constitutes a compressed lexis deployed to report ASUU's embitterment against the governors whose interest is in the use of TETFund for the development of the state universities. The linguistic units "slammed" and "eyeing" are a language of conflict with compressed meanings. LSVS2 uses "duplicate" in the clause. Literally, "duplicate" gives meaning to "create in larger quantities". This means proliferate, the language ASUU does not want to hear as proliferation of universities, is its dislike. The clause in LSVS3 deploys "system" which literally means "a set of things working together as parts of mechanism". However, the literal meaning does not suit paradigmatic relation of words in the clause. The "system" in the clause connotatively means "university", epitomising semantic shift. The clause in LSVS4 uses "policy" which denotatively means "a course or principle of action adopted or proposed by an organisation". The reported "policy" in the clause is contextually meaning "IPPIS", showing semantic shift. In the clause of LSVS5, "secretariat" is used. Denotative meaning of "secretariat" is a permanent administrative office or department of government" whereas, the newspaper means "IPPIS", a payment platform imposed on ASUU for salary payment. The clause of LSVS6

explores "scheme". Denotative meaning of "scheme" is "a large systemic plan". The meaning does not substitute the meaning communicated by the clause which is "IPPIS", a payment platform. The clause in LSVS7 shows use of semantic shift. "Name in print" literally means to write name clearly. However, the phrase is best interpreted as "name mentioned" in the clause. The clause in LSVS8 also epitomises semantic shift with use of "alien" in the clause. "Alien" literally means "something that is unfamiliar and disturbing". However, contextually, the linguistic unit is best described or interpreted as "non-useful" to the university system. It is not unfair and disturbing in Nigeria because it has been in use for over 459 ministries, departments and agencies. IPPIS is therefore popular and probably not disturbing to the diverse workers who do not complain for its adoption for their salary payment in their domains.

Neologism

Nigerian newspapers publish articles full of neologisms or coinages to describe new experiences of either ASUU or FGN in the impasse between the two parties. The description of the new experiences results in the birth of new words with Nigerian indigenised semantic effects. However, the neologisms are of the existing lexical stock in English. They are only structured to make meaning negotiation that suits the new Nigerian experiences between the employer and employees. Examples of neologisms are cited on table 5.



Data	Newspaper	Neologism	Meaning Negotiation
LSVN1	The Guardian, January 9, 2020; pg33	IPPIS is providing a payroll service that is customer-focused .	effective
LSVN2	The Guardian, January 9,2020;pg33.	Some Vice Chancellors created threat of non-payment of salaries...	withholding
LSVN3	The Guardian, January 9, 2020	Speaking on noncompliance by some of the members of ASUU that have registered...	Negligence of directive by
LSVN4	The Guardian, January 9, 2020	We believe academics should operate a more ennobling height than the run-of-the-mill argument of he-who-pays-the-piper	ordinary
LSVN5	The Guardian, January 9, 2020; pg33	We believe academics should operate a more ennobling than the run-of-the-mill argument of he-who-pays-the-piper	on salary payment decision
LSVN6	Punch, February 16, 2022; pg	With its directive to members to enforce no-pay-no-work	industrial disharmony



LSVN1 identifies the use of neologism as "customer-focused", a compound word is created to modify or describe IPPIS, a payment platform which ASUU rejects. The word "customer-focused" is generated to explain that IPPIS focuses serving its customers, Nigerian workers and renders effective and accurate services. The word "customer-focused" is indigenised negotiating semantic effect as "effective" payment platform. LSVN2 is a signifier of coinage. "Non-payment" is coined by the language orientation of use of affix "non-" as prefix to indicate negation. The "non-" affixed to "payment" has made the word negative. It is an indication of neologism though the existing lexical stock in English. The coinage "non-payment" means "withholding" in the context. LSVN3 epitomises neologism as "non-" meaning "not" is affixed to "compliance" which means "to do as directed". "Noncompliance" literally means "refusal to do as directed" meaning "negligence of directive". LSVN4 combines four words to make

a linguistic unit and performs a desired Nigerian indigenised semantic function. The four hyphenated words become a modifier describing a nominal, "argument". Directly, and literally, the word "run-of-the-mill" in the context of use conveys the semantic effect of "ordinariness". LSVN5 is another coinage through the combination of five words, "he-who-pays-the-piper". The word is created to function as a nominal group and mean "salary payment decision". LSVN6 is coined to portray new experience and convey the direct meaning of the new experience of punishment meted out on ASUU by the FGN. The hyphenated words which function as one word for meaning negotiation can mean but "industrial disharmony". The word "no-pay-no-work" is neologically formed to describe conditional situation in the acrimony between ASUU and FGN. That is, if FGN decides to withhold ASUU salaries, the union members should just opt for industrial disharmony.

Idiomatcity

There are cases of use of phrasal verbs, figurative expressions, and metaphor which constitute idiomatcity in the ASUU-FGN impasse in Nigerian newspaper reports. The language use signals meaning explications in implicit forms. The examples are cited on table 6 below.

Data	Newspaper	Idiomatcity	Meaning Negotiation
LSVI1	The Guardian, January 9, 2020;bpg33	Nigerians are worried of the constant face off between the parties	fight
LSVI2	The Guardian, January 9, 2020; pg33.	ASUU kicked against the federal government's directives	opposed
LSVI3	Punch, February 16, 2020; pg	Twice federal government bent over backwards in its directives to get university lecturers enrolled in IPPIS	made effort
LSVI4	Vanguard, February 10, 2020; pg13	ASUU raised the alarm over plots to trample on the right of its members.	exposed danger
LSVI5	The Guardian, January 9, 2020; pg33	ASUU insists that IPPIS is a scam	IPPIS is to loot funds
LSVI6	The Guardian, January 9, 2020;pg 33	Looking for peace between ASUU and FGN could be likened to asearch for a needle in an haystack	is extremely difficult

About ASUU-FGN impasse in Nigerian newspapers, phrasal verbs are explored for meaning explications. LSVI1 deploys "face off" whose contextual meaning is "fight". LSVI2 uses "kicked against" in the clause "ASUU kicked against federal government's directives". "Kicked" is a simple past tense while "against" is adverbial particle, the combination of which makes phrasal verb. Its semantic effect is "opposed", a verbal element in simple past tense form. LSVI3 is a signifier of figurative expression "bent over backwards". This indicates personification "government bent over backwards". The semantic effect is "made every effort" to please ASUU and have its members enrolled in IPPIS payment platform. LSVI4 shows use of

figurative expression "raised the alarm" meaning "exposed danger" in the plan of the government against ASUU. LSVI5 signifies the use of metaphorical expression. "IPPIS is a scam" epitomises comparison to convey meaning. IPPIS is made to possess qualities of a scam to connote the platform as a way to loot funds or rob the lecturers. LSVI6 is logic of comparison."Looking for peace between ASUU and FGN could be likened to a search for a needle in a haystack". "Search for a needle in a haystack" simply means "is extremely difficult" as needle is a tiny object which if falls, is difficult to recover. The used idiomatcity communicates meaning in the news reports of ASUU-FGN impasse but implicitly

Proverbiality

Proverbiality constitutes semantic effects in meaning explications in discourse. ASUU and FGN explore proverbs to convey

specific truth and offer advice to each other in a way to settle their impasse. Table 7 contains some used proverbs.

Data	Newspaper	Proverbiality	Meaning
LSVP1	Punch, February 9, 2020; pg16	ASUU... should be agents of moral rebirth and not obstacles of innovation...	ones who orient people about right things
LSVP2	The Guardian, January 9, 2020, pg33	There is little you can do to save someone who willingly walks into a slave camp for recruitment	deliberately submits one to be cheated
LSVP3	Leadership, February 17, 2020;pg2	It is never too late for government to listen to voice of reasoning	take wiser advice
LSVP4	Vanguard, February 10, 2020; pg13	Time and tide wait for no man	utilize an opportunity in its time

In LSVP1, pithy saying which makes general truth is noticeable. ASUU is an association of most intellectuals in Nigeria and it is expected of it to orient but not mar. A member of outgroup utters a proverb expressing that "ASUU acts contrary to the expectations. The nominal phrase "agents of moral rebirth" connotes ones who must have known the right things and should orient people accordingly. LSVP2 cleverly expresses an idea in a few words. "... willingly walks into a slave camp..." connotes "deliberately submits to be cheated" in the context of use. LSVP3 shows use of proverb. "... listen to voice of reasoning" connotes "take

wiser advice". Also "time and tide wait for no man" is a proverbial utterance which means "to utilize an opportunity in its time". The utterances are short words making wise sayings contributing to overall meanings of the texts. They are meant to state general truth and offer advice implicitly.

Register

Nigerian newspaper reports use maximum register to illustrate meanings in the ASUU-FGN impasse. The use of the register as meaning explications is cited thus in table 8.

Data	Newspaper	Register	Meaning
LSVR1	The Guardian, January 9, 2020; pg 33	argument	exchange of diverging views
LSVR2	The Guardian, January 9, 2020; pg 33	noncompliance	failure to act on directive
LSVR3	The Guardian, January 9, 2020; pg33	threat	statement of an intention to inflict pain
LSVR4	The Guardian, January 9, 2020; pg33	clash	violent confrontation
LSVR5	Punch, February 9, 2020;pg 16	jeopardy	danger of loss
LSVR6	Vanguard, June 28, 2020; pg9	slim	thin
LSVR7	Vanguard, June 28, 2020; pg9	warning	cautionary
LSVR8	Vanguard, June 28, 2020; pg9	trample on	inflict injury
LSVR9	Vanguard, June 28, 2020; pg9	slammed	criticize severely
LSVR10	Vanguard, June 28, 2020; pg 9	withheld	refused to give

The words in the table 8 above constitute register and epitomise language of conflicts. "Argument" which literally means exchange of diverging views; and "slammed" meaning criticized severely are capable of initiating conflict between the two parties. "Non-compliance" which denotatively means failure to act on directive, and "threat" meaning statement of an intention to inflict pain, are instrumental to "clash" meaning violent confrontation. In the process of clash, "jeopardy" meaning loss, "trample on", meaning inflict injury, and "withheld", which means refused to give are inevitable. There are other used words to mark register

of some other genres in the news reports about ASUU-FGN impasse. Various classes of words such as noun, adjective, verb, adverb and preposition are deployed to convey semantic effects.

Conclusion

The study indicated the lexico-semantic variation types which were deployed in Nigerian newspapers to report ASUU-FGN impasse. It identified that Nigerian newspapers used Odebunmi's (2006) lexico-semantic variation types which comprised: Transfer, Analogy, Abbronymy, Semantic Shift and Neologism. The study revealed



further that the types of lexico-semantic variation Nigerian newspapers can employ to convey meanings transcend the already identified lexico-semantic variation types. This study, therefore, added idiomaticity, proverbiality, and register which are also instrumental to meaning explications using indigenised expressions. The study has therefore added to resourceful materials in the language field of semantics, conflict discourse and conflict management.

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