

***TRANSITIVITY IN SELECTED NEWSPAPER REPORTS ON  
FULANI HERDSMN ACTIVITIES***

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CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research was carried out by **OLUSOLA ABIOLA OLUWAFUMILOLA** with Matric no: **ENG/14/1996** in the department of English and literary studies.

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Date

## DEDICATION

This research work is dedicated to Jesus the Author and Finisher of my life. I also dedicate this work to my parents who have made every resources available for me in order to complete this work.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title page	i
Certification	ii
Dedication	iii
Acknowledgement	iv-vi
Table of content	vii-x
Abstract	xi

## CHAPTER ONE

1.0 Introduction	1
1.1 Background to the study	1-5
1.2 Statement of the problem	5-6
1.3 Aim and objectives	6
1.4 Research Questions	6
1.5 Methodology	7
1.6 Theoretical Framework	7

1.7	Significance of the study	7-8
1.8	Scope of the research	8
1.9	Justification of research	8
1.11	References	9

**CHAPTER TWO: REVIEW OF RELEVANT LITERATURE AND THEORETICAL  
FRAMEWORK**

2.0	Introduction	10
2.1	Conceptual Framework	10
2.1.1	Language	10-13
2.2.	Media	14
<b>2.2.1</b>	<b>Newspaper as a print media</b>	14-16
<b>2.3</b>	<b>Language and the Media</b>	<b>16-18</b>
<b>2.4</b>	<b>Fulani Herdsmen Activities; Studies and Concern</b>	<b>18-21</b>
<b>2.5</b>	<b>Theoretical Framework</b>	
<b>2.5.1</b>	<b>Transitivity Analysis</b>	<b>21-26</b>
2.6	Conclusion	27
2.7	References	28-29

## CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGICAL DETAILS

3.0	Introduction	30
3.1	Methodological Details	30
<b>3.1.1</b>	<b>Vanguard Daily Newspapers</b>	<b>30-31</b>
<b>3.1.2</b>	<b>Nigerian Tribune Daily Newspapers</b>	<b>31-33</b>
<b>3.1.3</b>	<b>Daily Sun Newspapers</b>	<b>33-34</b>
<b>3.1.4</b>	<b>Punch daily newspapers</b>	<b>34-35</b>
<b>3.1.5</b>	<b>The Nation</b>	<b>35-37</b>
	<b>References</b>	<b>38</b>

## CHAPTER FOUR: PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF DATA

4.0	Introduction	39
4.1	Data Analysis.	
<b>4.1.1</b>	<b>Material processes and relational processes</b>	<b>39-40</b>
	<b>H.1: Herdsmen kill six traders in Taraba market</b>	<b>39-41</b>
	<b>H.2: Herdsmen kill 25 in Taraba</b>	<b>41-42</b>
	<b>H.3: Herdsmen attacks: Protest in plateau, 30 killed in Taraba, Benue</b>	<b>42-43</b>
	<b>H4: Anambra Lawmakers allege Rampage on community by Fulani Herdsmen</b>	<b>43</b>
	<b>H5 : Insight into Fulani Herdsmen Problem</b>	<b>43-44</b>
	<b>H6: Fulani Herdsmen: Ondo farmers move to stop invasion</b>	<b>44</b>
	<b>H7: Fulani Herdsmen and the rest of us</b>	<b>45</b>
	<b>H8: Taraba community: we've lost 62 persons to herdsmen attack</b>	<b>46</b>

<b>H9: 14 killed many injured in fresh Plateau attack</b>	<b>46-47</b>
<b>H10: Routing the Fulani herdsmen calls for external help</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>H11: Again herdsmen attack Ogun communities sack 30 schools</b>	<b>47-48</b>
<b>4.2 Mental processes: processes of sensing</b>	<b>48-50</b>
<b>CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, RECOMMENDATION AND REFERENCES</b>	
5.0 Introduction	50
5.1 Summary of the Study	50
5.2 Conclusion and Recommendation	51
5.3 References	51

## **ABSTRACT**

Reports on Fulani herdsmen activities have occupied the news media. This reports most often foregrounds power of the herdsmen and backgrounds the fear of the people. Language has a strong influence over people especially in the dissimulation of information. The language of reporting terrorism usually has a complex structure. The reporters and editors' choice of language to capture the scene and act is what makes the complexity as it put the attitude of the audience into consideration and the aftermath comments. Terrorism activities have been the major news that dominates all Nigerian newspapers headline over few years. Several deaths and casualties have been recorded in series of terrorism activities. Over the years, Boko Haram and Niger Delta militant activities play big threat to the peace of the country. Recently, Fulani herdsmen have taken prominent position in terrorism activities as they massacre from regions to regions. This study investigate reports on Fulani herdsmen activities in selected newspaper through choices from the transitivity system.

Keywords: Terrorism, Fulani Herdsmen, Nigerian Newspapers, Transitivity analysis

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter provides a general background to this project. This it achieves through the background to the study, as well in the statement of the research problem, research questions, aim and the objectives. It further gives the definition of relevant terms to the study.

### **1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

Language is basically a structure of communication where sound or signs deliver objects, actions and ideas. Language is "the necessary means of communion; it is the one indispensable instrument for creating the ties of the moment without which unified social action is impossible."

Language can thus be said to be at the core of humanity. According to Ferdinand De Saussure (1913) Language has been defined as system of communication used by a particular country or community. Communication is the wildest tool of language either in written or spoken. This definition can be observed in face-to-face conversation, a group of people, audience response to a written work. Language is the rope that bridges the members of speech communities together in having a cordial interrelationship. The society reshapes the language of the people. Language does a prominent role in the hands of man. It is a power that motivates people to question, argue, persuade, revolt, vote and negotiate on how there can be a social stability in a society.

Pearson et al (2003) write: "Language is a collection of symbols, letters or words with arbitrary meanings that are governed by rules". Language whether spoken or written has a purpose to fulfill; it is to create meaning and perfect communication. Daramola (2003) identifies four attributes of language as; to create unity in a community, facilitate sense of belonging for speaker of that language, a tool of mass mobilization and can cause disharmony if not properly guided. Adebisi and Ojo (2010) explain that language is a phenomenon which allows human being to

express their feelings, aspirations, desires, and to interact with one another as far as human society is concerned. To understand language, one needs to know how it is used to create meaning.

Newspapers can be considered as one of the fastest and most trustworthy sources of news. Although some people have turned to online news in recent years, large numbers still persist with the behavior of newspaper reading. Therefore, it can be claimed that the newspaper plays a significant role in society. Furthermore, a newspaper does not only report what is happening at that particular time but it seems that newspapers also insistently embed some ideology and perspective in their readers' perceptions. As Berger and Luckman (quoted in Conboy, 2007: 5) stated, "the language of the news plays a major part in the construction of what have been referred to as the 'social construction of reality'". That is to say, the language used in newspapers can make a great impact on the readers and the society in many different ways.

Like so many African states, Nigeria has been and is witnessing dominating and misuse of power against humankind by politicians, military ruler, tribes across the nation. This activities of those group of people against humankind and right has lured the attentions of both local and international reporters which has led to the documentations of publications across numerous newspapers in Nigeria, recently news on misuse of arms power, cruel killings, destroyed of properties by Fulani herdsmen has been reported in Nigeria across different newspapers.

The Fula people also known as Fulani in Hausa language, are a mass population widely dispersed and culturally diverse in all African, but most predominant in West African. They are cattle rearers that go through towns with their cattle looking for food or rather for a business transaction. In Nigeria the Fulani and the Hausa dominate the northern states, with a population

of a well over 30million (Adetula, 2016). The Fulani's generally speak the Fula language. Significant number of them are nomadic in nature, herding cattle, goats and sheep across the vast dry grass lands of their environment, cutting themselves off from local farming communities, makes them world's largest pastoral nomadic group (Eyekpimi, 2016).

This group has caused a lot of damage to the Nigerian society as the activities of the group have led to loss of properties and goods, loss of lives and displacement of people. This group was said to have attacked plateau state on 2<sup>nd</sup> of September, 2018 in which 14 people were killed and many were injured (Punch newspaper, Monday 3 September, 2018). The extent of damage recorded from the activities of this Fulani herdsmen and the attitude of the society to the activities is usually conveyed in the reports by different newspaper outlets in the country.

Fulani Herdsmen like other social groups also uses language as means of communion and is a basic tool in carrying-out a self-governmental rule in their society. Furthermore, Fulani Herdsmen use language as power that motivates their people to question, argue, persuade, revolt, vote and negotiate on their entitlement and what seems right to them, moreover Language is also important in reporting a news, Reporters believe in power of language in communicating the activities happening in environment to the people. This is carried-out through interview, recording (audio & video) and so on. Hence, they are so mindful in using their words. This fact fetches them a strong stand in controlling people's thought and emotion about a particular people, group and society.

Nigeria society is seriously portend by Fulani Herdsmen insurgence, therefore consider as a major potential threat affecting Nigerians mostly on the part of socio-economic activities of the country (Egodi, 2010).several deaths and casualties have been recorded in series of clashes

between Fulani herdsmen and farmers. Most people attribute the clash to religious difference between Muslim and Christian (Basil 2015). Herdsmen attribute the cause of religion difference resulting in killing their cows, while the farmers see the herdsmen as a threat to their crops and agriculture produce since the herdsman allow their cows to feed on the farmers' crops. Recently in Abraka, Fulani Herdsmen attacked farmers at their farm and claimed one life which prompted the indigenes of Abraka to riot. The ongoing rampage of farmlands, properties and the killing of innocent farmers and their family members by Fulani herdsmen have been a troublesome challenge to government, security personnel and the general public at large.

Additionally, Fulani herdsmen activities news in this sense is news reporting about violent actions committed by people socially accepted as the Fulani's. When such criminal activities are committed by Fulani herdsmen, they tend to be selectively and negatively reported in newspapers especially when they involve violence. According to Kanchana Keawtep (2000 quoted in Pennapa Klaisingto, 2010: 2), the word violence means an intentional physical attack which causes injury and/or death.

This research work focuses on the Fulani herdsmen activities which is reported in Nigerian newspapers. As mentioned earlier, the researcher believes that the language used to report Fulani herdsmen activities in newspapers creates and embeds certain notions and ideologies. These notions and ideologies are able to shape the attitudes of people towards those involved in the activities. Several studies have been conducted to investigate the ideologies reflected in the newspapers used in reporting Fulani herdsmen activities. However, there are still very few studies examining the language used in reporting Fulani herdsmen activities through the newspaper medium and under the framework of Transitivity system. This study therefore

investigate reports on Fulani herdsmen activities in selected newspaper through choices from the Transitivity system.

## **1.2 STATEMENT OF THE RESEARCH PROBLEM**

Some scholars have worked on the cases of Fulani Herdsmen activities in Nigeria. Many of these studies examine the psychological and social effects of Fulani Herdsmen activities on the victims. It is well-known fact that Fulani Herdsmen has increased the problem of insecurity in the northern part of the country, Nigeria, and their activities have become a reason of concern to the nation and to scholars while the psychological and social effect has been investigated, the language of reports has not being examined.

For instance Ajibefun, M. B. (2017) study investigated the social and economic effects of the menace of Fulani herdsmen crises in Nigeria. Also, Goddard, Robinson and Parry (2003) examined the reportage of how herdsmen kill 25 in Taraba, Benue state. Williams A. Ahmed-Gamgumon (2017) his works titled Herdsmen and Farmers Conflict in Nigeria. Williams work found that the conflicts created tension not only in areas where there was direct conflict between the disputants but the conflicts terrorized every community and put them on alert to ensure that both short term and long solution was provided to return the State to a violent free community.

## **1.3 AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

This research aim to do a Transitivity analysis in selected newspaper reports on Fulani herdsmen activities in Nigeria.

The specific objectives are

1. to examine the linguistic features of headlines and report of Fulani herdsmen activities on newspapers report.
2. to explore the choices from the transitivity system employed by newspapers reporters and editors in giving an account of Fulani herdsmen activities
3. to analyze the roles of the actors, victims and other linguistic element that surround the activities of Fulani Herdsmen in Nigeria

#### **1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

1. What are the linguistic features of headlines and report of Fulani herdsmen activities in newspapers report?
2. How is the choices from the transitivity system employed by newspapers reporters and editors in giving an account of Fulani herdsmen activities?
3. How are the roles of the actors, victims and other linguistic element that surround the activities of Fulani Herdsmen analyzed in Nigeria?

#### **1.5 SCOPE OF THE RESEARCH**

This work focuses on newspaper reports on Fulani herdsmen with a view to examine the language employed by the reporters. This is done by analyzing the roles of the actors, victims and other linguistic element that surround the activities of Fulani herdsmen in Nigeria. The data will be purposively selected The Nation, The Punch, The Sun, Vanguard and Nigerian Tribune Newspapers. This study is therefore restricted to the analysis and data mentioned above. It will not consider any other theory or other newspapers apart from those mentioned above.

## **1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

This study is basically produced to fulfill an academic requirement. Nevertheless, it is hoped that it would go a long way to enlighten the general public. This study examines the language employed by the reports and meaning realized from its use. Language, here, helps the reporters to project their thought to the limelight, thereby making language a tool for analysis. This study therefore is significant in that it contributes to the on-going discourse on the issue of insecurity in Nigeria in the area of imposition of fear on the populace by a powerful group.

This work is expected to guide educationalist, Federal ministry of agriculture, scientist, planner and all those whose livelihood are affected by Fulani herdsmen crisis to gain understanding of how this crisis can disturb education sector, food security, political, economic and social development of Nigeria. The dissertation would benefit society by gaining a better understanding of how power can shape the language used in media. This research will be a contribution to the body of literature by constituting the empirical literature for future research in the subject area.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

#### **2.0 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter reviews literature and previous works done in this field of enquiry. It also takes into focus the theoretical framework adopted for this study.

#### **2.1 LITERATURE REVIEW**

Several intellectual researcher (Local& worldwide) have written on Newspaper reports and Fulani herdsmen related issues, for instance Ajibefun, M. B. (2017) study investigated the social and economic effects of the menace of Fulani herdsmen crises in Nigeria, The study make use of sample that consisted of 250 farmers and 150 respondents from Fulani tribe selected from affected Local Government areas in Southwest, Nigeria via purposive sampling technique. Ajibefun adopted a questionnaire titled Economic and Social Effects of Herdsmen Clashes Questionnaire (ESEHCQ) to collect data, his research discovered that the major cause of the conflict was destruction of crops, furthermore Ajibefun M.B concluded that the social effect of the menace of Fulani herdsmen are loss of human life, sexual harassment of human life, acquiring of weapons/arms, reduction in quality of social relationship, reduction of social support and high cases of rape whereas the economic effect of the menace of Fulani herdsmen are reduction in output and income of farmers/nomads, loss of produce in storage, displacement of farmers, scarcity of agricultural products, loss of house and properties and infrastructural damages.

Also, Williams A. Ahmed-Gamgumon (2017) his works titled *Herdsmen and Farmers Conflict in Nigeria: Another Dimension of Insecurity*. Williams's enquiry objective was to understanding the rationale and how specific persistent conflicts between herdsmen and famers in Nigeria are being resolved before 2019 election in Nigeria to enable the people to resume normal life. The study make use of data from both primary and secondary sources and the study adopted the technique of "content analysis" for data analysis. This study found that the conflicts created tension not only in areas where there was direct conflict between the disputants but the conflicts terrorized every community and put them on alert to ensure that both short term and long solution was provided to return the State to a violent free community. Williams further that Some State Governments made precise policies which include intergroup committees and or after due process of law making in a democratic society, presented open grazing prohibition and establishment of ranches laws to guide activities and the resolution of future conflicts that may arise between farmers and herdsmen in their individual States. Nevertheless pocket of threats to life and property continued in some parts of the country to ensure the laws are not enforced and "cattle colonies" were established instead.

Goddard & Tyler (2008) examined the reportage of the 2003 Iraq War in the British press, using *The Sun*, *The Independent*, *Daily Mail*, *The Guardian*, *Times*, *Daily Telegraph* and *Daily Mirror* newspapers as the focus of analysis. The newspapers were selected along the lines of downmarket, upmarket and midmarket, which reflect the reporting styles and the readership profiles of the newspapers. The study was aimed at ascertaining the degree of support the newspapers gave to the involvement of the British military in the conflict. Editions of the newspapers published between March 21, 2003 and April 15, 2003 were content-analysed. Findings revealed that there were similarities in the subject agenda among the selected

newspapers. However, the tone of reporting was significantly different among the newspapers. Although the newspapers maintained distinct stance on the rationale of the war, a patriotic emphasis was common to all the newspapers as they gave support to the British military troops and their families.

Ofem, O. O. Bassey, I. (2014) in their research works on Livelihood and Conflict Dimension among Crop Farmers and Fulani Herdsmen in Yakurr Region of Cross River State, affirms that there are regular clashes of interests between the host farming communities and the nomadic cattle herders. They identified the causes of conflicts in the cross river State. These are Destruction of crops, Contamination of stream by cattle, disregard for traditional authority, Over-grazing of fallow land, sexual harassment of women by nomads, Harassment of nomads by host youths, Indiscriminate defecation on roads, theft of cattle , stray cattle, and indiscriminate bush burning. They recommend that the problem can be minimized through extension agency intervention to identify stakeholders and development trust between the disputants using the mechanism tagged —local development plans || (LDP) which is community initiated process to reduce tension over access and the use of land and effective participation in decision-making and economic activities.

Agbegbedia Oghenevwoke Anthony (2014) in his research work: A Historical Analysis of the Migration, Penetration and Diffusion of the Fulani into the Middle Belt Region of Nigeria. His study provides a socio-historical analysis of the migration of the Fulani into the Middle Belt region of Nigeria and their relationship with the indigenous people. Secondary method of data collection was implemented in this study. His Outcomes reviewed that the geographical location of the region in the transition point between the North and South coupled with its natural endowments makes it a haven for many Nigerian migratory groups in times past as well as

presently. Also, its ethno-cultural heterogeneity in addition to its structural economic backwardness makes the region a hotheaded conflict zones. In summary, the daily increase in migration should be taken into cognizance and the agrarian region should be improved in order to avoid conflicts mostly between farmers and herdsmen in Benue State and the entire Middle Belt region.

Acayo and Mnjama (2004) conducted a study on the role of the print media in the resolution of the conflict between the government and rebel groups in Northern Uganda. The researchers' content-analysed two newspapers in Uganda, sampling randomly within the study period of 15 years (between 1985 and 2000). News stories, features, editorials and opinion columns in *The Monitor*, a privately-owned newspaper, and *The New Vision*, a government-owned newspaper, were comparatively analysed. Readers, journalists and editors of the newspapers, purposively chosen, were also interviewed. Findings of the study showed that *The Monitor* published more stories relating to the conflict than *The New Vision* and, by measure of news stories appearing on the front pages of the newspapers, the former gave more prominence to the coverage of the conflict than the latter. However, it was concluded that both newspapers contributed more to the escalation of the conflict than its resolution. It was discovered that victims of the conflict, followed by government security forces and correspondents were the major sources of information for both newspapers, but information from rebels, the opposition in the context of the conflict, were less featured in the coverage of the newspapers. From the interview, it was gathered that journalists from the privately-owned newspaper were more prone to being assaulted especially when their reports go against the views of the government. The researchers recommended, among other things, that for the print media to have a more robust impact in the

resolution of conflicts in Uganda, appropriate laws must be put in place to foster media freedom in the country.

In an audience-based study, Chebii (2015) investigated the role the media may have played in the escalation of violent conflicts during and after the 2007 Kenyan general election. The researcher drew a sample of 373 respondents from a target population of 12,975 residents of three locations in Uasin Gishu County, Kenya. The survey findings revealed that 69.8 per cent of the respondents believed the media played an escalatory role while 30.2 per cent thought the media played a de-escalatory role. While 61.3 per cent of the respondents agreed that the media encouraged hate speeches during the election, 38.7 per cent of the respondents disagreed. Also, 71 per cent of the respondents believed the media promoted propaganda during the election, the remaining 29 per cent believed otherwise. Based on indicated media preference of the respondents, the researcher inferred that local (vernacular) media outlets in Kenya were more likely to contribute to the escalation of conflict than national media outlets in the country. It was also surmised that variables such as age, gender, social status and religion, to a great extent, determine what influence the media would exert on individuals during periods of conflict.

Ofuoku A. Isife B.I. (2010) work on causes, effects and resolution Of Farmers-Nomadic Cattle Herders Conflict in Delta State, Nigeria. Their study shows the secrets behind such conflicts and gives concepts on the way to prevent and solve such in the future. They make use of simple random and positive sampling techniques where 80 farmers and 20 nomadic cattle herders were selected respectively from 8 indiscriminately selected communities. Data were obtained using structured interview schedule. The causes of such conflict were destruction of crops, contamination of streams by cattle, zero grazing of land, disregard for local traditional authorities,

female harassment, harassment of nomads by host communities youths, indiscriminate bush burning, and defecation of cattle on roads, cattle theft, and straying of cattle. The socio-economic effects of this conflicts consequence is decline in crop yield and income of farmers/nomads displacement of farmers, loss of lives and properties and loss of products in the storage. T-test result showed differences in the responses of farmers and nomads in the respect to the causes of the conflicts. It was then recommended that device of local development plans should be established to reduce such conflicts. They conclude that extent of damage and reimbursement be agreed upon by both parties at the community level with the extension agents as facilitators.

Tenuche and Ifatimehin (2009) work on Resource Conflict among Farmers and Fulani herdsmen: Implications for resource sustainability In African; in their study observed that there is no resource sustainability in Nigeria. Because of this there is struggle for a majority of its citizens who require land for farming and grazing to have access to land. And this is a major cause of clashes in the Benue valley region. Subsequently they suggest that there is need for the State to review the existing laws as it relate to accessibility to land by members of community. That way there will be equity to avert constant conflict. In doing the review, issues like indigene-ship and settlers rights in communities, the land use acts which have been molested largely by the upper class should be reassessed for review in the front burner in the constitution review process.

## **2.2 THE ORIGIN OF THE FULANI**

Herdsmen are so often simply perceived as being people constantly in search of greener pasture for feeding their herds; they are seen as people whose life, survival and tradition is rooted in the value attached to the herds, and the capacity they retain to protect their way of life.. The Fula

origin also known as Fulani are a mass inhabitants widely dispersed in all of Africa, but most predominant in West Africa. The Fulani people are generation from Middle East and North Africa. However, the history of the Fulani origin began with the Berbers of North Africa around the 8th or 11th century AD, over a millennium ago from AD 900 - 1900, they spread to most parts of West Africa and to some areas of Central Africa (Anter, 2015). The Fulani migrants were predominantly Muslims.

The Fula people also known as Fulani in Hausa language, are a mass population broadly spread and culturally diverse in all Africa, but most predominant in West Africa. They are cattle rearers that go through towns with their cattle looking for food or rather for a business transaction. In Nigeria the Fulani and the Hausa dominate the northern states, with a population of a well over 30million. The Fulani's generally speak the Fula language. Massive number of them are nomadic in nature, herding cattle, goats and sheep across the vast dry grass lands of their environment, keeping detach from local farming communities, making them world's largest pastoral nomadic group (Eyekpimi, 2016).

Pastoral nomadism in Africa like in all other continents rove diverse lands to find pasture for their animals since their primary occupation revolves around domesticated livestock. They hardly occupy a particular territory for a long time before migrating; hunting and gathering, engaging in agricultural exercises, and trading part of their herds for other goods they need. They are majorly found among the Fulanis (otherwise known as Fulbe or Peuls) in Western part of Africa (Senegambia) to Chad in the east (some groups reaching as far as the Nile river in the countries of Sudan and Ethiopia); largest settle in

Nigeria, Senegal, and Guinea (Akinyetun, 2002). The Fulani in the 18th century represented a sizeable minority in the Hausa states, as well as in the empires of Borno and Jukun. Apart from the herders, there were Mohamedian scholars and artisans among these people who remained in an underprivileged position within the existing social order, into which they were not integrated by adaptation, but rather, retained their special status at courts and in the towns by preserving their Mohamedian beliefs.

Fulani (Fulbe, Fula) are nomadic people. Fulbe inhabits many countries of Western Africa, but most of them concentrate in the North of Nigeria and Senegal. Anthropologists say that the origin of Fula is linked with Egypt. The others call them as gypsies' generations or sons of Roman legionaries lost in Sahara. Some even postulate that Fulani is one of the Israel tribes. Legends of Islamization time suggest that Arabs, in order to convert the local pagans to Islam, married their women. Other experts believe that Fula originated from the region of present Northern Senegal (Elizabeth Soriola, 2001).

Elizabeth Soriola (2001) further that gradually, an era after the era they wandered with their herds in the West Africa savannas occupying new territories. They mingled with Berbers of Northern Africa and other nomadic Sahara tribes. Then Fula was divided into a large number of groups with different names, including Fulbe, Gourma, Fellata, Fula, Bororos, Voda, Peul, Pular. But all of them are distinguished by a noble appearance, proud posture and a lighter skin. Fulani had a very developed culture. Fulbe created thousands of legends and fairy tales, invented hundreds of proverbs and sayings. They speak rich and imaginative Fula language. The mysterious Holy Book is written in the Fula language. It's also titled Pharaohs Book or Egyptian magicians. The existence of this script has led researchers to the idea that in ancient times a

homogeneous population lived in North-Eastern Africa. Scientists call it Mediterranean contact race. Fulbe people are representatives of this race.

The Fulani are an important population group found mainly in the Northern part of the country, Nigeria, as well as the Middle Belt region. They are also with or without justification, recognized with rearing of cattle in these areas. Also the variety of names given to them in different countries indicates the extent of their living areas. For instance, they call themselves Fulbe (Fricke 1993). According to Tauxier (1937:7 quoted in Fricke, 1993), only the area of their origin in the Fouta Djallon is historically proven, and they have continued to spread from this area since the eight century. They however penetrated into the Hausa States in a peaceful manner in the 13th century.

The Middle Belt region of Nigeria is regarded to be the area, which since 1967 belongs to various states which earlier belonged to the provinces of Plateau, Benue, Niger, Kwara States as well as the Southern part of Zaria. These are areas where the Fulani are predominant as regards cattle breeding. These are also areas of dispersion resulting from a spontaneous heavily scattered propagation of nomadic or semi sedentary full time cattle breeders without adequately fixed legal ownership rights to the land they use. In essence, this constitutes a transition to a penetration area in various partial areas of the Jos Plateau, since the peaceful penetration of the settlement areas of other people has developed into an undisputed possession of grazing areas. This has been legitimated by the administration at least, since they have been formed into Ardorates according to Fricke (1993:203) as regards the Fulani population. In other words, these are not demarcated grazing areas as on the Mambila Plateau with the result that uncertainty still exists between the cattle breeders and the field cultivators as regards legal title to the land.

### **2.3 FULANI TRADE/OCCUPATION**

Fulani herdsmen or Fulani pastoralists are nomadic or semi nomadic Fulani herders whose primary occupation is raising livestock. The pure Fulani pastoralist engages in random movement of cattle while the semi-nomadic makes transhumance migration and return to their camps or homes. The Fulani herdsmen are largely located in the Sahel and semi-arid parts of West Africa but due to changes in climate patterns many herdsmen have moved further south into the savannah and tropical forest belt of West Africa. The herdsmen are found in countries such as Nigeria, Niger, Senegal, Guinea, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Cameroon. In Senegal they inhabit northeastern Ferlo and the southeastern part of the country. In many of these countries the Fula often constitute a minority group. In Nigeria, the livestock supplied by the herdsmen provide a bulk of the beef consumption in the country.

Fulani herdsmen's engage in both random and planned transhumance movements. Random movements are usually taken by the pure nomadic Fulani herdsmen while planned movements are taken by the semi nomadic pastoralist. A primary reason for the migratory nature of the herdsmen is to reach areas with abundant grass and water for the cattle. The herdsmen also move to avoid tax collectors, harmful insects and hostile weather and social environment. A major benefit of the movement for the herdsmen is to maximize the availability food resources for the cattle and reduce excessive grazing. Before moving new areas, the herdsmen send a reconnaissance team to study the area for availability of resources such as grass and water (Ismail, 1994).

## **2.4 CASES OF HERDSMEN ACTIVITIES IN NIGERIA**

The Fulani unarguably symbolize a significant part of the economy of Nigeria. They are the major breeders of goats, sheep and cattle as those animals are the major source of meat and affordable source of animal proteins ate by Nigerians. The Fulani own over ninety percent of the livestock population which accounts for one-third of agricultural GDP and 3.2% of the entire GDP in Nigeria (Fabiya & Otunuga, 2016).

In 2015, Chidi Nkwopara, Anayo Okoli, Francis Igata & Peter Okutu on their work titled “Menace of Fulani herdsmen: Tales of woes from the East” validate that cattle rearing and cattle rearers have over the years contributed their own quota to the economy of the South-East and the country at large. The role of Fulani herdsmen is inevitably important as they have sustained the production and sales of meat in markets across the country. However, despite their various importance, the recent activities of Fulani cattle rearers in the South-East obviously threaten the life and existence of those living within their areas of grazing, especially in the rural areas. It is not in doubt that there is hardly any community in the South-East geo-political zone where you will not find Fulani herdsmen. What is however most disturbing to farmers and land owners is the way they forcefully colonize, kill, maim and allow their cattle to destroy farm crops wherever they set their feet (Chidi, Francis & Peter 2015).

Fulani pastoralists started migrating into Northern Nigeria from the Senegambia region around the thirteenth or fourteenth century. After the Uthman dan Fodio jihad, the Fulani became integrated into the Hausa culture of Northern Nigeria. Thereafter, during the dry season when tsetse fly population is reduced, Fulani pastoralists began to drive their cattle into the middle belt zone dominated by non-Hausa groups returning to the north at the onset of the rainy season. But

while managing the herd and driving cattle, cattle grazing on farmlands sometimes occur leading to destruction of crops and becoming a source of conflict.

Nigeria's implementation of the land use act of 1978 allowed the state or federal government the right to assign and lease land and also gave indigenes the right to apply and be given a certificate of occupancy to claim ownership of their ancestral lands. This placed the pastoral Fulani in a difficult position because most did not apply for lands of occupancy of their grazing routes and recurring transhumance movement will lead to encroachment of the properties of others. The Nigeria government designed some areas as grazing routes but this has not reduced clashes. From 1996 to 2006 about 121 people lost their lives in Bauchi and Gombe states as a result of conflicts between pastoralists and farmers

Fulani herdsmen activities have caused religious conflict, the conflicts in most part of Nigeria especially the Fulani herdsmen and farmers clash are largely uncalled for. Farmers can no longer farm peacefully because of Fulani herdsmen. These Fulani herdsmen and farmers clashes have caused Christians and Muslims to fight against each other. The killings recorded by Fulani herdsmen and farmers clash has rampaged most communities displacing them of their farmlands and loss of their major source of livelihood. This is becoming unbearable with the Fulani herdsmen always having their ways leaving the farmers at their mercy. Herdsmen attribute the roots of the crisis to religious differences resulting in the killing of their cows while the farmers see the herdsmen as a threat to their crops and agricultural produce since the herdsmen allow their cows to feed on the farmer crops (Bello (2013). This recent wave of violence in Nigeria as observed by Kasarachi (2016) has disrupted socio economic, religious and educational activities, political instability and threatened the national unity in Nigeria. Herdsmen clashes, killings,

destruction of property and violation of human right are gradually drifting Nigeria to a conflict society and a vulnerable nation.

## **2.5 NEWSPAPER REPORTS ON HERDSMEN ACTIVITIES**

The print media consists of daily, weekly and monthly publications including the Guardian, This Day, Nigerian Tribune, Punch, Vanguard, Daily Trust, Leadership, Daily Independent, Guardian and The Pilot and so on. Weekly including Tell magazine, The News, The Source and so on. Most of the bi/monthly magazines are soft sell Like Celebrity, Ovation, City People and others. In print media, language of reportage and headlines writing calls for serious concern as nearly all of them care less about rules guiding language of publication. Some of these newspapers and magazines have thrown caution into the winds as they often over-sensationalize their stories with ‘complimentary’ wild headlines. The nature of mass media operation makes conflict a major stake in the affairs of the profession.

According to Webster’s college dictionary (2010) newspaper is a serial publication containing news, other informative and usually advertising and newspaper is usually printed on relatively inexpensive, low-grade paper such as newsprint. Newspapers enjoyed the position of the most preferred medium to reach a wider audience until electronic communication emerged on the media scene. In the early days, newspapers were the only medium that masses at large depended on, for daily news. A newspaper carries all kinds of communication related to a variety of topics like politics, current affairs, entertainment, finance, stocks, etc. Apart from this, it also includes topics which are in lighter vein like cartoons, crosswords, Sudoku, movie reviews, book reviews, puzzles, crosswords, etc. This captivates the imagination and interests of readers from all age groups. Newspapers are an important platform of mass communication as they reach every nook

and corner of the world where electronic media fails to reach. It plays a pivotal role in providing authentic firsthand information, building opinions, updating the knowledge of the reader, and serves as a good platform for advertisers to promote their products (Mockba 2012).

The media have been regarded to be the veritable purveyor of our collective experiences, amongst which is its framing of conflicts; Boko Haram, Militancy in the Niger Delta region, kidnapping, resurgence of Biafra protest, inter-ethnic conflicts and Herdsmen-farmers conflicts (Eyekpimi, 2016, Adisa, Mohammed and Ahmad, 2015). Most times, the way a news story is framed suggest the expected behaviour or reactions from the recipient. Hence, the incessant unrest in the country arising from reprisal killings in response to frames in reportage of events and editorial comments in the media (Adisa & Abdulraheem, 2017) Efforts of the government to tackle all these conflicts and challenges seem to yield limited positive impact because of the credibility enjoyed by the media from their strength of reach to a diverse and heterogeneous audience (Abdulbaqi, 2012).

Consequently, the herdsmen-farmer conflicts seem to have continued unabated leading to loss of both lives and properties. Once the news breaks in the media, others anticipate similar attack and tend to fortify themselves in readiness. From, Kwara state to Kogi state, Benue, Enugu, Nassarawa, Kaduna, Taraba, Kebbi, Kaduna, Delta, Ekiti, Oyo and Niger states among others have their pockets of ordeals to tell on Herdsmen-farmers conflicts in Nigeria.

The main function of the newspaper is tell its reader what is happening in the world, including the country, the state, the town or city and the locality (Okunna, 1999, p. 52). Newspapers are information carriers. People believe strongly in what they read because newspapers give the truthful comprehensive and intelligent account of the daily event in a context- which gives

meaning. The various mass media (magazines, newspapers, internets, television, etc.) have the power to direct our attention towards certain issues and this evident in the agenda-setting function of the mass media. The mass media are to help in creating awareness, accelerating information flow and mobilizing the populace towards attainment of national goals and aspirations to ensure total transformation of the society.

News is written as a way of disseminating information to a large group of people. Reporters and editors are usually conscious of the language they use in news reportage to attract popular readership. Tosanwunmi and Hyginuas (1994) say in writing for the mass media, “language plays a significant role in the organization of facts, the expression of ideas, opinion on news and events.” In addition, newspapers may also include advertisements, opinions, entertainments, and other general interest news and the language of newspapers is simple, informal, short and striking but it is quite different from business language or academic usage.

The Agatu killings in Benue state, Nimbo in Enugu state and Southern Kaduna where many were killed and properties worth millions destroyed are part of the complexities of Herdsmen-farmers conflicts in Nigeria. Little wonder that Global terrorism index ranked Herdsmen as the fourth deadliest militant group in the world with a record killing of 1229 people in 2014 (Eyekpimi, 2016). Surprisingly, some scholars argue that the media usually resort to allocate blame and once a perpetrator is identified the process of building an enemy image begins (Howard, 2003; Popoola, 2015; Ozuhu-Sulaiman, 2013) Thus, questioning the supposed umpire role of the media in conflict reporting. This becomes the bane of the ongoing debate which states that the media through it framing of conflicts, such as the Herdsmen-farmers conflict has either resulted into escalation or de-escalation (Howard, 2004; Moge kwu, 2011; Popoola, 2015; Adisa, 2012). Thus,

the process of peace building entails the media being used, responsibly, as interventionist. In a peace negotiation, media should enforce the agreement as its agenda.

In conclusion, the newspaper report language also seeks to influence public opinion on various social, political or moral matters; its language contains vocabulary with connotative words such as ‘to allege’ or ‘to claim’.

## **2.6 THE LANGUAGE OF NEWS REPORTS**

Language can also be said to be a purely human and noninstinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions and desires by means of voluntarily produced symbols (Sapir 1921). Language also refers to as a formal system of signs governed by grammatical rules of combination to communicate meaning. Language refers to the rope that ties member of a speech community together in continuing interrelationship (Odebunmi 2001). Wolfram (2012, p.8) argues that “Language is one of the most powerful emblems of social behavior. In the normal transfer of information through language, we use language to send vital social messages about who we are, where we come from, and who we associate with.” This means that language is employed for carrying out social activities among humans as well as to express human identity and how we can express things we see and feel in the society. Therefore, language has become the only process of sharing attitude and feelings among the language speakers and in their immediate environment.

The function of newspaper language is to inform and entertain people; to present them with a particular ideology and interpretation of events, even in articles that might appear to be objective. (Thorne, Mastering Advance English Language). News is usually selected by journalists and editors, on the basis of the interests and priorities of the target readership (Semino 2009), but journalists (and editors) decide what to leave in or leave out of the news thereby legitimating the

existing power structure and ways of doing things (Richardson 2007). The news reports themselves rely on extensive recontextualization of elements taken from other texts, genres and discourses. The choice of these elements are determined by the goals, values, and interests of the journalist and newspaper (text producer): this produces a sort of “layering” effect (Bell 1991) calls of earlier events according to the priorities of the current situation.

The purpose of a news report is usually to give the listener information in an interesting but objective way. To do this, they often use the passive voice and words which are near synonyms that is words which have nearly the same meaning.

Passive voice: Using the passive voice makes the report sound more formal. By putting the object of the verb at the beginning of the sentence, they take our attention away from the subject. So, although ‘Five men were arrested’ and ‘Police arrested five men’ have the same meaning, the reporter is focusing on the result of the action instead of the people doing the action. News reports often use the passive voice to avoid saying directly that someone has done something. In this way, they try to remain impartial.

Synonyms: Using words with similar meanings in a news report keeps it interesting. As there is a lot of information in a very short time, it is important that the listener pays attention. If we hear the same word being repeated more than once or twice we might get bored and stop listening. By using near-synonyms (e.g. yacht and boat), the reporter can keep us interested in the whole story.

## **2.7 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

### **2.7.1 TRANSITIVITY ANALYSIS**

Transitivity is a system which realizes the ideational meaning. There are three semantic categories which explained in a general way, how phenomena of the real world are represented as linguistics structures. They are ‘processes’ which are verbs, ‘participants’ which are nouns and ‘circumstances’ which are prepositional phrase. According to Mayr (2008: 18-20), the reason in conducting the analysis of Transitivity is to explore what social, cultural, ideological and political factors determine what process type (verb) is chosen in a particular type of discourse. Relations of power may be implicitly inscribed by the relationship between Actor and Goal.

Transitivity is itself a highly salient phenomenon, well-rooted in human experience. Langacker’s (2000: 13-14) famous “billiard-ball model” demonstrates the way in which folk models of the world motivate the conceptualization of nouns as representing discrete objects and verbs as representing energy, thus providing the basic elements that participate in transitivity. The grammatical expression of transitivity is the projection of an “abstract story” of agency and causation onto grammatical structure (Turner 1996: 140-168). Dowty (1991) identifies the properties of the “Proto-Agent” (volition, sentience, causation, movement, independence) and the “Proto-Patient” (change of state, incremental, affectedness, stationary, dependent) in the transitivity relationship. Langacker’s (1991: 285) “role archetypes” for agent and patient are very similar: “The archetype agent is a person who volitionally initiates physical activity resulting, through physical contact, in the transfer of energy to an external object. Its polar opposite is an archetypal patient, an inanimate object that absorbs the energy transmitted via externally initiated

physical contact and thereby undergoes an internal change of state.” For Langacker (2000: 69), “an essential component of transitivity is the interaction of participants.” Langacker (1991: 285-6) combines these concepts in the “canonical event model”, which contains an agent that produces an effect on a patient in a setting seen by a viewer; thus “the canonical event model represents the normal observation of a prototypical action.” Langacker’s canonical event serves as a prototype both of transitive events and of events in general, and it will serve as the starting point for our discussion of transitivity in Russian. However, Langacker (1991: 293-329) directs his discussion to the encoding of various types of semantic structures with transitive constructions, without exploring the possibility of syntactic variation in the transitivity construction. Furthermore, Langacker (1991: 321) assumes that transitivity entails the presence of both participants: “Subjects occur in both transitive and intransitive clauses, whereas only the former have direct objects – or to put it another way, a direct object presupposes a subject, but not conversely.”

Accusative: This is the case of destinations, be they of motion, purpose, or merely of the energy of an action, as we see in the prototypical direct object, which is marked with the accusative.

Dative: The dative has three overlapping roles, as the receiver of an object, the experiencer of an event, or a competitor which may be on an equal footing with or submit to the superiority of a nominative subject. Crucial to the dative is the ability to react, to serve as a potential subject.

Instrumental: An instrumental entity is a peripheral accessory to something else, be it a verb or a noun. When associated with a verb, the instrumental marks a conduit for the action of the verb, the means by which the action takes place, which can be either an instrument or the agent of an

action. When associated with a noun, the instrumental can identify a label through which another item is accessed.

**Genitive:** The genitive is usually a mental address for something else. It is the point of origin, or source of another item, or conversely the goal of an item. The genitive can also mark the whole of which another item is a part, or can just be a reference point for locating the other item. To generalize: The genitive is a backgrounded item that yields focus of attention to something else which exists or maneuvers in its proximity (Janda & Clancy 2002: 112).

**Locative:** The locative marks a place in space, time, or another metaphorical domain.

The cases and their meanings play an important role in demonstrating the relationship between semantics and syntax in the expression of transitivity. One of the functions of a clause is to represent experience: to describe the events and states of the real (and unreal) world.

• In the SFL model, a representation of experience consists of:

1. Processes: What kind of event/state is being described?
2. Participants: The entities involved in the process, e.g., Actor, Sayer, Senser, etc.
3. Circumstances: Specifying the when, where, why and how of the process.

### **Types of Process**

SFL typically recognizes 4 main types of processes:

#### **Mental processes: processes of sensing**

Mental processes refer to verbs indicating perception, cognition, affection, and desire (Halliday, 1994; Saragih, 2010:7). It enables language users to express opinion, thoughts and tastes that

help to identify their definitions of reality. This process type tends to be realized through the use of verbs like think, know, feel, smell, hear, see, want, like, hate, please, repel, admire, enjoy, fear. According to Halliday, perception like seeing, hearing, affection like fearing, liking and cognition like thinking, knowing, and understanding are subtypes of mental processes. The total number of mental processes in the report is 46. But there are only 11 processes where Herdsmen are the sensors, for most of the processes the sensors are people in the town. The function of these mental processes can be valued through some selected processes in the whole text.

– Mental (‘experiencing’ or ‘sensing’): see, hear, know, like.

Mental processes and their participants

Mental Processes: Mental Processes: processes of perception, cognition, affection

- Senser: the one who does the mental action

- Phenomenon: The thing that is perceived, thought, appreciated

### **Verbal processes**

Verbal processes involve a communication between a Sayer and an Addressee, where some message, the Verbiage, is communicated. Saragih (2010:8) states that verbal processes show activities related to information. Specifically, the process includes that of saying, commanding, asking, and offering. Verbal processes also include activities such as commanding. Verbal processes also occupies high proposition and it is necessary to study the significance of them. They are identified by verb like “say”, “tell”, “talk” etc. the content of each saying is called verbiage. Take verbal processes with “say” in them for example. Throughout the whole story, there are 30 verbal processes with “say”, but there are only two verbal processes.

– Verbal (‘saying’): say, tell, warn, argue, and ask.

### **Verbal processes and their participants**

Verbal Processes: Verbal Processes: processes of communication:

- Sayer: the one who communicates
- Addressee: the one receiving the message
- Verbiage: What they say

### **Behavioral process**

Behavioral Processes are processes of physiological and psychological behavior, like breathing, dreaming, snoring, smiling, hiccupping, looking, watching, listening, and pondering (Gerot and Wignel, 1994:60). These processes are often a source of confusion, because they border on other processes: they are similar to material processes in that they can include physical manifestation (e.g., cough, dance); they usually include the physical manifestation of verbal processes (e.g., talk, yell); and the physical manifestation of mental processes (look, listen, worry, etc.) and mental states (cry, laugh, smile). The main participant is Behaver, but may sometimes involve Behavior.

- Behavioural(laugh, talk, cry, breath),

### **Existential process**

Existential processes are processes of existence. These represent that something exists or happens. According to Hancock (2005:240), existential process is a clause that presents an entity as existing without predicating anything additional about it. It involves existential constructions which are introduced by an empty 'there' in subject position (this is sometimes called an expletive 'there'). The typical verb that is used is the "be" verb as shown.

There are few behavioral processes and existential processes in the whole reports. They are not as important as the former four processes. Sometimes they are used together with other processes.

Examples are;

– **Existential** (‘exist’. “there is.”)

– Relational (‘being’ or ‘becoming’): be, have, become, and Sometime are also recognized:

### **Relational processes and their participants**

Relational Processes: expressing possession, equivalence, attributes...

- Carrier: An entity being described

- Attribute: The description of the entity

*John is tall*

Carrier Process Attribute

-Possessor: the one owning or containing something

-Possessed: the thing owned or contained.

*John owns a Mercedes*

Possessor Process Possession

-Token: an entity being equated with another

-Value: the other description.

**Circumstances:** any kind of contingent fact or subsidiary situation which is associated with the process or the main situation.

## **2.6 CONCLUSION**

People with power can manipulate the discourse of media in a way that matches with their own interests and ideologies. There is always a relationship between language and the media because

language is a tool for them to express thoughts or what is happening around to the society. SFL, aims at looking at the role of language in society. This is done by exploiting the transitivity system at the level of the clause. This system is said to reflect ideology. Thus, it will be the focus of the next chapter.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **3.0 METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents the methodology used in this research. It contains the sources of data analytical procedure and method of data gathering adopted for this research.

### **3.1.1 METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION**

The data for this study were purposively selected from five Nigerian newspapers which has particular reports on the cases of Fulani Herdsmen activities in Nigeria. These newspapers are The Punch, the Sun, The Nation, The Vanguard and The Nigerian Tribune newspapers. Particular news items that bother on Fulani Herdsmen activities are examined and relevant excerpts are extracted for analysis. The data are news report between December 2017 to September 2018. Two samples are collected from each newspaper and this makes the total of 10 samples.

### **3.1.2 METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS**

This research concentrates on the structure of language employed by newspaper reporters and editors in giving an account of Fulani herdsman activities. This is done by gathering information from newspapers. The focus of the study is on the processes emanating from media reportage of the activities of herdsman. The theoretical framework for the study is Transitivity Analysis. This is because it is a useful tool to analyze the use of language in the reporting of terrorism activities.

### **3.1.3 PRESENTATION OF DATA**

The data for analysis were collected from ten newspapers with related stories on cases of Fulani Herdsmen activities. Thus, the different Nigerian newspapers headlines which contained reports of the abovementioned stories of Fulani herdsmen are presented below;

- i. Herdsmen kill six traders in Taraba market (The Nation newspaper, Tuesday 17 July, 2018)
- ii. Taraba community: we've lost 62 persons to herdsmen attack (The Nation newspaper, Wednesday 18 July, 2018).
- iii. Herdsmen attacks: Protest in plateau, 30 killed in Taraba, Benue (The Punch newspaper, Monday 30 April, 2018).
- iv. 14 killed many injured in fresh Plateau attack (The Punch newspaper, Monday 3 September, 2018).
- v. Anambra Lawmakers allege Rampage on community by Fulani Herdsmen (The Sun newspaper, Monday 18 December, 2017).
- vi. Fulani Herdsmen: Ondo farmers move to stop invasion (The Sun newspaper, Thursday 25 January, 2018).
- vii. Insight into Fulani Herdsmen Problem (Nigerian Tribune newspaper, Thursday 25 January, 2018).
- viii. Fulani Herdsmen and the rest of us (Nigerian Tribune newspaper, Sunday 14 January, 2018).
- ix. Again herdsmen attack Ogun communities sack 30 schools (The Vanguard newspaper, Monday 5 February, 2018).
- x. Routing the Fulani herdsmen calls for external help (The Vanguard newspaper, Wednesday 17 January, 2018).

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF DATA**

## 4.0 Introduction

This chapter comprises of the presentation and analysis of research data. It captures the application of the theoretical framework in the analysis of the data which results to the understanding of elements of transitivity analysis in the headlines and report of activities of Fulani Herdsmen in Nigeria.

### 4.1 PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF DATA

#### Material processes and relational processes

Material processes show what is going on outside oneself. Stated differently, material processes basically involve a participant (the actor/agent) doing something to another participant (the goal/object). Relational processes on the other hand relate two terms in a variety of ways (similar to how the verb “to be” is used in English). Material processes and Relational processes are frequently found in the whole text, here only some of which are picked for deep analysis.

Relational processes construe the relationships of being and having between two participants. Headline (H henceforth) 1 consist of material processes and relational processes as shown below from the *Daily Nation*. The report carried a seven-page color feature dedicated to the attack that demonstrates material processes as shown below:

**H.1: Herdsmen kill six traders in Taraba market (The Nation newspaper, Tuesday 17 July, 2018)**

<b>Herdsmen</b>	<b>Kill</b>	<b>six traders</b>	<b>in Taraba market</b>
<b>Actor</b>	<b>Process</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Circumstance</b>

In H.1 the actor is “**Herdsmen**” which refers to the Fulani cattlemen. The actor is followed by the process “*kill*” to show what they have done. The process “*kill*” has a strong emotional connotation that equates to ruining hence linking the Fulani cattlemen to terminators of “*six traders’ lives*” which are the goal. The goal in H.1 is the “*six traders*” that is negatively affected by the process “*kill*”. Moreover, the goal is followed by a relational process “*in Taraba market*” that is a circumstance of place to express the location of the terror attacks.

In the first data, the first clause in the report is a material process, the Actor is “Armed *Fulani herdsmen killing activities*” which is a reporting statement and this clause tells readers what has been happening since the beginning of the activities of Fulani herdsmen in Nigeria. In the second clause, there is also a material process, here the Actor is our “whole town”, and the Goal is “Taraba”. The author uses “our whole town” as the Actor, instead of “we” or “people”, for the readers to see essence of Fulani herdsmen activities in Nigerian communities. The readers can also infer that Fulani herdsmen must be a general terrorist tormenting the peace of the Nigerian societies. The beginning sentence enables readers to go to the author’s narration fast and be involved in the story as well as causes readers’ curiosity about latest Fulani havoc.

The second paragraph consists of three sentences. The first sentence includes four processes: two relational processes and two material processes. Both the two Carriers are the “Farmers”, and the Attributes are “the priceless lives of fellow citizens”. The verb “haunted” is a transitive verb, but it is followed by a Circumstance: “by the armed pastoralists laying claim to lands they do not own” to present the “lands they do not own” is the Goal of the process. The verb “set on” is followed by a Circumstance of location: “what had once been our most select street”.

In the third sentence, there are two material processes. “Was left” is a passive voice, the environment of the house is changed, so the state of the house has to change accordingly. The

Goal of the verb “lift” is “stubborn and coquettish decay” and “above the cotton wagons and the gasoline pumps” is the Circumstance of space.

**H.2: Herdsmen attacks: Protest in plateau, 30 killed in Taraba, Benue (The Punch newspaper, Monday 30 April, 2018)**

<b>Herdsmen attacks</b>	<b>Protest</b>	<b>in plateau</b>	<b>30 killed</b>	<b>in Taraba, Benue</b>
<b>Actor</b>	<b>Sensor</b>	<b>Circumstance</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Circumstance</b>

In H.2 the actor is “**Herdsmen attacks**” which refers to the Fulani cattlemen terrorism activities in different part of the country. The actor is followed by the sensor “**Protest**” to refer to reaction and demonstration of people against herdsmen activities. The sensor is accompanied by the location of the demonstration “Circumstance”. It is thereby followed by the goal “**30 killed**” the victims of the activities of Fulani herdsmen. Moreover, the goal is followed by a relational process “**in Taraba, Benue**” that is a circumstance of place to express the location of the terror attacks.

**H.3: Anambra Lawmakers allege Rampage on community by Fulani Herdsmen (The Sun newspaper, Monday 18 December, 2017).**

<b>Anambra Lawmakers</b>	<b>Allege</b>	<b>Rampage on</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>By Fulani Herdsmen</b>
<b>Sayer</b>	<b>Process</b>	<b>Verbiage</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Circumstance</b>

In H.3 the sayer is “**Anambra Lawmakers**” which refers to the legislative body in the state. The sayer is followed by the process “*allege*” to refer to reaction and demonstration of these lawmakers against herdsmen activities. The process is accompanied by the verbiage “**Rampage on**”. It is thereby followed by the goal “*community*” the victims of the activities of Fulani herdsmen. Moreover, the goal is followed by circumstance “**By Fulani Herdsmen**”

**H.4: Insight into Fulani Herdsmen Problem (Nigerian Tribune newspaper, Thursday 25 January, 2018).**

<b>Insight</b>	<b>Into Fulani Herdsmen Problem</b>
<b>Process</b>	<b>Circumstance</b>

In H.4 the process “**insight**” is an exploration of Fulani cattlemen terrorism activities in different part of the country. The process is followed by the circumstance “**In Fulani Herdsmen Problem**”. This gives indebt caption about the calamity of the activities of Fulani Herdsmen in Nigeria as a whole

**H.5: Fulani Herdsmen: Ondo farmers move to stop invasion (The Sun newspaper, Thursday 25 January, 2018).**

<b>Fulani Herdsmen</b>	<b>Ondo farmers</b>	<b>Move</b>	<b>To stop invasion killing</b>
<b>Actor</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Process</b>	<b>Circumstance</b>

In H.5 the actor is “**Fulani Herdsmen**” which refers to the Fulani cattlemen terrorism activities in different part of the country. The actor is followed by the Goal “*Ondo farmers*” to refer to the casualties of the herdsmen activities. The goal is accompanied by the process “move” which means the remaining victims and casualties of Fulani Herdsmen attack are migrating due to the spoil. It is thereby followed by the circumstance “**To stop invasion killing**” the victims of the activities of Fulani herdsmen are migrating to escape untimely death from the persistent attack.

**H.6: Fulani Herdsmen and the rest of us (Nigerian Tribune newspaper, Sunday 14 January, 2018).**

<b>Fulani Herdsmen</b>	<b>And the rest of us</b>
<b>Actor</b>	<b>Goal</b>

In H.6 the actor is “**Fulani Herdsmen**” which refers to the Fulani cattlemen terrorism activities in different part of the country. The actor is followed by the goal “*And the rest of us*” to refer to the survivor of the attack and the fate of insecurity in the country as a whole.

**H.7: Taraba community: we’ve lost 62 persons to herdsmen attack (The Nation newspaper, Wednesday 18 July, 2018).**

<b>Taraba community</b>	<b>We</b>	<b>‘ve lost</b>	<b>62 persons</b>	<b>To herdsmen attack</b>
<b>Sensor</b>	<b>Actor</b>	<b>Process</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Circumstance</b>

In H.7 the sensor is “**Taraba community**” which refers to the major victims of Fulani cattlemen terrorism activities in the country. The sensor is followed by the actor “**We**” to refer to reaction and demonstration of Taraba people who are major victims of herdsmen activities. The actor is accompanied by the process “‘ve lost”. It is thereby followed by the goal “**62 persons**” the victims of the activities of Fulani herdsmen. Moreover, the goal is followed by a relational process “**To herdsmen attack**” that is a circumstance of action to express the location of the terror attacks.

**H.8: 14 killed many injured in fresh Plateau attack (The Punch newspaper, Monday 3 September, 2018).**

<b>14 killed</b>	<b>many</b>	<b>Injured</b>	<b>In fresh Plateau attack</b>
<b>Goal</b>	<b>sensor</b>	<b>Process</b>	<b>Circumstance</b>

In H.8 the goal is “**14 killed**” which refers to the victims of Fulani cattlemen terrorism activities in Plateau. The goal is followed by the sensor “**many**” to refer to other casualties that are not dead of Fulani herdsmen activities. The sensor is accompanied by the process “**injured**”. It is

finally followed by the Circumstance “**in Fresh Plateau attack**” that is a circumstance of place to express the location of the terror attacks. Passive voice creates a different effect; the agent\actor becomes less prominent and the person or thing affected by the action is the focus

**H.9: Routing the Fulani herdsmen calls for external help (The Vanguard newspaper, Wednesday 17 January, 2018).**

<b>Routing</b>	<b>The Fulani herdsmen militant</b>	<b>Calls</b>	<b>For external help</b>
<b>Sensor</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>process</b>	<b>Circumstance</b>

In H.9 the headline opens with the sensor “**Routing**” which refers to the strategies in eliminating the herdsmen terrorism activities in Nigeria. The sensor is followed by the goal “*The Fulani herdsmen militant*”. The goal is accompanied by the process “Calls”. It is thereby followed by the circumstance “**For external help**” which simply means the internal security agents may not be sufficient enough to overpower the terrorist activities in Nigeria.

**H.10: Again herdsmen attack Ogun communities sack 30 schools (The Vanguard newspaper, Monday 5 February, 2018).**

<b>Again</b>	<b>Herdsmen</b>	<b>Attack</b>	<b>Ogun communities</b>	<b>Sack 30 schools</b>
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circumstance	Actor	Process	Goal	circumstance

The circumstance *'again'* to express frequency of the attacks, In H.10 the circumstance is accompanied by **“Herdsmen”** which refers to the Fulani cattlemen terrorism activities in different part of the country. The actor is followed by the process **“Attack”**. The process is accompanied by the goal “Ogun communities” location of the demonstration. It is thereby followed by the circumstance **“Sack 30 schools”** to emphasize the negative effect of Fulani Herdsmen terrorism activities on educational sector.

#### 4.2 CONCLUSION

This research work has analyzed transitivity processes in newspaper headlines and report on the attack of Fulani Herdsmen in Nigeria. The significance of this analysis is that it helped to locate the different types of processes that are associated with the terrorism attack in Nigeria. The transitivity analysis highlights the negative image associated with the Fulani cattlemen especially with their terrorism activities.

In the headlines where the Fulani Herdsmen are the Actors, it has been found that Fulani cattlemen are always the doer of violent and chaotic acts and causes insecurity and challenges to state authority (material processes). The analysis of transitivity patterns in the data of Taraba, Benue and Plateau communities attack reveals the predominance of material processes as shown by 5 headlines and report out of 10 that were collected. The material processes associated with the terrorism of Fulani herdsmen belong to the semantic field of violence and chaos: attack, shatters, kill, massacre, claim, break, turn, injure and rears. The analysis, thus, shows that all the material processes are related to violence, destruction, and damage. Several Nigerians have been

represented as the victims of the activities of Fulani herdsmen in different part of the country. Thus, they were represented with mental processes such as; vulnerable, appeal, injured, and appeal. The data has shown predominance of the material process which signifies the negative representation of the terrorist and the positive representations of several part of the country as peaceful locations.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

#### **5.1 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

This research work examines the use of language in newspapers headlines and report of terrorism activities. Newspapers reporter report acts of terror quickly, accurately, fully and responsibly. Terrorism is a difficult and emotive subject with significant political overtones and care is required in the use of language that carries value judgments. The reporters try to avoid the use of the term "terrorist" without attribution. When they use the term in their report, they strive to do so with consistency in the stories their report in a way that does not undermine their reputation for objectivity and accuracy.

The word "terrorist" itself can be a barrier rather than an aid to understanding. We should convey to our audience the full consequences of the act by describing what happened. Newspapers reporters and editors use words which specifically describe the perpetrator such as "bomber", "attacker", "gunman", "kidnapper", "insurgent", and "militant". When investigating reporter do not employ other people's language as their own; they do this to maintain responsibility of being objective and report in ways that enable the audiences to make their own assessments about who is doing what to whom.

This study discovers that reporters and editors aim at achieving consistency and accuracy in their journalism, through the careful use of language. Moreover, reporters are editors do not change the word "terrorist" when quoting other people, but they try to avoid the word themselves; not because they are morally neutral towards terrorism, but because terrorism is a difficult and emotive subject with significant political overtones.

Reporters report acts of terror consistently in the stories they report. The use of the word "terrorist" is essential to maintain the reputation for standards of accuracy and especially impartiality. This is especially true when reporters use the word to describe a person or a group

as opposed to an action or event ("the terrorist group", say, as opposed "an act of terror" or "terrorist tactics" or "terrorism").

This study discovers that reporters use words with precision and effective to make clear what has happened and still convey the awful consequences without needing to resort to labels.

## **5.2 CONCLUSION**

The study identified the instances of Fulani herdsmen activities reported in some Nigerian dailies and an attempt was made to carry out a critical analysis of the various reports gathered using various transitivity processes. There are three semantic categories which explain in a general way how phenomena of the real world are represented as linguistics. They are 'processes' which are verbs, 'participants' which are nouns and circumstances which are prepositional phrase.

Language remains a force of harmony in the relationship between reporters and the social world. Its position remains relevant in the society, especially in the manner with which it functions as a tool of communication. In this sense language users assume the role of one who can persuade or arouse his readers or listeners' emotions, making a remarkable impression on them. Language and news reporting are inseparable, it is obvious from the analyses of the newspaper carried out in this research that the language of newspaper is more often than not exhibiting some unique features.

## **5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Modern society cannot be complete without newspapers, newspapers are publication that come at regular intervals usually daily and it provides news and information to the readers.

Newspapers typically publish stories on local and national political events, personalities, business, entertainments, sports, crime and so on. The quality of information human beings have access to greatly depend on the volume of printed materials they read.

Furthermore, editors and reporters should be careful with the use of language when reporting terrorism activities in order to prevent the image of the publishing firm from danger of misconception.

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